

Charlotte Thomas

Assignment 2

HST 195

While reading Part Three: Escalations, of Appy's book, I have noticed a theme of patriotism. I chose this theme because it seemed like the most appropriate theme to talk about. It is war and you should be patriotic if you are risking your life to defend your country.

The first story of the section caught my attention immediately because it was the story of a young Vietnamese girl, not a woman but a girl, who showed her patriotism for her country by volunteering to work on the trails. Vu Thi Vinh joined the volunteer corps when she was only fifteen years old and her life consisted of school, working on the trails, and little sleep. In the story she talks about an instance where an unexploded bomb was dropped near a bridge and everyone on the volunteer team wanted to be in the group to defuse the bomb. These are people who volunteered to help build trails and every single one of them wanted to be a part of the "dare to die" team sent in to defuse the bomb. They all wanted to risk their lives to help out. Vu and her fellow volunteers may not have been soldiers but they were still helping defend their country.

Another story that I saw a great deal of patriotism in was the story of Dennis Deal, the story about the carnage in Ia Drang Valley. He watched so many men die that day and was risking his life every second for his men and his country. While fleeing from the massive number of Vietnamese soldiers he was separated from his platoon. He was left to fire upon a group of Vietnamese and killed every one of them while he was left untouched. He did as much as he could possibly do to defend and save as many men as possible. He fought for himself, his men, and his country.

The last story that caught my attention was Jim Soular's story. He says "I knew when I quit college I'd lose my student deferment and get drafted. I had no problem with that because I was a patriot. I believed in the flag, I believed in serving my country. And I was good at it." He started off loving the war. He was the pilot of a Chinook helicopter and he enjoyed every moment of it. He enjoyed being on an M-60 machine gun and firing away and he enjoyed being able to defend his country. Jim says that he feels a "deep, deep sense of sorrow" for the Vietnamese and he doesn't hate them. He was just doing what

he was suppose to which was to defend his country and it's what he did. He defended his country against the communist Vietnamese.

All of the men and women involved in the war showed their patriotism in one way or another. Whether it was by helping build trails, by fighting on the ground or in the air, they are all patriots. They all loved their countries and fought for them and they showed a great deal of patriotism.

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