

Jennifer Lusby

Assignment #2

History 195

The theme to stories I have chosen is about women. When I thought about the Vietnam War I always thought about it involving young men heading off to a horrible place they had no idea what they were getting into. But in some of these stories there are women that were women involved in the Vietnam War in a way they either helped the men before going to war or they help the men after coming back from Vietnam. Some also involved women that went to Vietnam to help injured men with the Red Cross also there were women that went to Vietnam to help being up the morale in the troops.

The story that caught my interest the most was by Helen Tennant Hegelheimer. The reason that I found it so interesting was because I felt like her and the other stewardess did a lot for the men heading into Vietnam and the men coming back from Vietnam. Even though I might not know these stewardesses if I had not read this book or took this history class I feel that these women really helped the young men heading to war. From my own experience my father was a young man when he went into war in Vietnam and I hope that he had a stewardess like Helen that help him with his fears going into war. Also I hope that he found a stewardess like Helen to deal with being home after seeing the horrible things he saw in Vietnam before coming home.

The Next story in part three of Appy book that caught my eye was Nancy Smoyer story. The reason that I found this some interesting is that this woman Nancy was talking about the things she was doing for the Red Cross in Vietnam to help being up the morale in the soldiers. It just it amazes me that woman playing games with you could make to you feel better in a war zone but I guess it helps you get your mind off the things that are going around you. Nancy also talks about in her story about how "If I had known what I know now I couldn't have played games with them. I'd have probably been trying to warn them and warn myself." The things I feel Nancy does not understand that even if she warned the troops it would not have done any good. The men already knew way more then she could or probably can imagined what was a head of them her warning them would not have helped. I think that Nancy also did not realized if though after the fact she thought her games that she played with them was childish and did not help them at all I think it helped the men to stop fearing for their life's for a little while and being able to laugh for a second.

The last story that I chose is Vivian Rothstein story. The reason that I found this story

so interesting is that involved a woman that went to the Bratislava Conference because she was such a strong peace activist in the United States. I also found it interesting that this woman was able to stay her feeling about war and the things to do with war. The reasons why war is bad in America but the minute she had the opportunity to go to the place where war is happening she is afraid but our men are over there fight that war and not being able to be afraid like her or state there feeling about the war. If she think she should have the ability to state why the war is so bad maybe she should have to go fight in the war like the men are. Vivian went on from her experience in North Vietnam to talk about why war is bad in a different like a more positive light I would think. These three stories are different in many ways. The first story talks about a woman that was affect by the Vietnam War because she was a stewardess on a plane that transported support to and from Vietnam to America. The second story was about a woman that worked to raised morale with troops. The last was about an activist that changed the way she presented herself after being in the war zone of North Vietnam.

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