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I chose to write about Le Cao Dai, Julian Bond, and Porter Halyburton. I picked these because they all show the sickness created by the war. I do not necessarily mean a viral or bacterial sickness but illness medically, mentally, and politically which impacted these peoples' lives and the way they treated others because of it.

Le Cao Dai was part of a "jungle hospital" crew and he saw a lot of death from disease resulting from wartime. Dai helped care for the people who were injured in the war and also people who'd suffered from malaria and other noncombat related diseases, "The most common, by far, was malaria. Almost everyone got it, including the doctors and staff. I was no exception." The most thought provoking idea for me in Dai's story was the links he had referenced between Agent Orange used and Malaria. Although Dai was unsure if "...weakening of our immune systems caused by exposure to Agent Orange. In any case, there was a much higher incidence of malaria after the heavy spraying of chemical defoliants." Either way the destruction of vegetation through the use of chemicals could have aided the illnesses progression. Vegetation helps create an environment that is habitable but without plants and trees to cleanse the air and water, it created a breeding ground for diseases. Diseases were not the only hurdle that Dai talked about, he explained that the hospital workers made substitute medical supplies that were needed desperately to treat the patients because they lacked materials, "...didn't even have scalpels or other surgical instruments." Dai also talks about the risks for infection people faced after surgery. Whether because of the hand-made tools, the sanitation of the supplies and facilities, or weakness of their immune systems due to malnutrition and chemicals used in the war efforts, he did not say directly. I believe they were people who fought a war against starvation and illness as a result of the war in their country.

In the story about Julian Bond, I am talking about a different kind of sickness. The sickness of humanity with regards to the color of one's skin and the treatment they had received on that basis. The Julian Bond story tells about a man named Sammy Younge. Regardless of being a "...navy veteran who had lost the use of a kidney during his service," Sammy Younge was killed for using a white restroom because of his black skin. A man who had stood and fought for his country, and other peoples' rights, and was killed

because of racial in-differences shows how mentally ill peoples' perceptions were at the time. They forced people to go to a world they had never seen and kill people they had never met, to fight for someone else's "freedom" and "democracy", then they were sent home to a country that treated them worse than those they were forced to fight for; this is sick, "The irony of this guy having lost his kidneys in the military and then not being able to use the bathroom in his own hometown was so stark."

The torment people were put through as P.O.W. made people mentally ill, and the people doing the tormenting possibly mentally ill with revenge and desperation at the time. In the story of Porter Halyburton, he talks of the terrible places he stayed while being a prisoner and the threats of increasing torment they would make if he didn't cooperate with them. The ill will between Vietnamese people and Americans was intense in these "prisons" to where they would try to weaken the prisoners moral. They strategically tried to play a prisoners against one another and break them down emotionally and mentally by doing so, "I think they thought that would be the worst thing they could do-order a white guy to be a servant to this black guy." The Vietnamese took the time to understand what they could to use against the American's and I think this is one of the things they seen as being important to Americans at the time, racial segregation and white supremacy. The use of mental games per-say could be part of the reason they were successful with some but shows the way used it to create mental illness.

As the situation deteriorated so did the people involved, the war over all infected the people who had participated just like any illness.

The war like any illness affected people mentally, physically, and politically in ways they could not see but could be felt from the inside.

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