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Assignment 2

Both sides of the war were more than willing to fight for their cause, even knowing a large amount of them would die trying. My theme is that in the face of war humans will fight to the death to support their cause. I chose this theme because I was moved by the amount of perseverance kept throughout times that were unbearable. In all the accounts I've read there was a common theme of death, torture and hope; after the amount of horrible things that have happened humans hold onto hope and that is a miracle in itself.

In support of her country Vu Thi Vinh volunteered to clear trails of bombs and trees. To leave your home at 15 by your own choice to risk your life on deadly trails shows bravery and a dedication to ones country, this to me is an honorable trait. In our society girls at 15 are spending long hours wandering the mall or trying to get a date to a school dance not disarming bombs. Vietnam had its country up in arms to fight for their freedom, in comparison many US boys fled to Canada to avoid being drafted. Vinh recalls the "dare to die" team that would defuse bombs; she stated that everyone wanted to get voted onto the team. Vietnamese youth were more than willing to fight for their country in any way they could, even knowing that they could die in the process.

Dennis Deal recalls his friend Henry, a leader in combat, who made a fatal error ending in the death of himself and seven others. His dying words were " I'm glad I died for my country." This is no movie quote where a director yells "cut" and the cast goes home; Henry would never go home again. He is a prime example that even in his dying moments he had no regret of dying in support of his country. What's even more surprising is that Dennis returned to the fight just moments after witnessing the death of his 8 mates, craving revenge more than ever. Deal was heroic in that even after seeing how easily life can be taken away, he continued fighting. The jungles in which they were fighting were covered in bombs and Vietnamese guerillas hoping for a chance to maim and destroy. To be brave enough to venture on that ground takes something words cannot describe.

Sylvia Holland was an army nurse who agreed to go to Vietnam

knowing how many lives both civilians and soldiers were being lost. The TV's were all showing graphic images of one of the most horrific wars and yet she still went. What you would expect to instill fear only made some want to help their country more. Sylvia recalled seeing men dying or near death and having to make the choice of whom would be treated first. She not only had to experience death on a day-to-day basis, but she had to fear for her own life, with guerillas randomly bombing the compound. To exist in a state of constant fear, hearing the explosions and the sirens blaring, knowing someone you knew is now dead would be horrid. Sylvia was courageous in every sense and because she chose to help her country she always helped saved lives.

In all three of the stories I've presented you can see common theme that even in the worst of times humans will stand together to protect what they believe in. To me what these soldiers, nurses and children did surpasses nearly all examples of bravery I have read of to this day, and illustrates that even in the face of death some will keep going.

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