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Part 1: Phan Xuan Sinh "All my ancestors are buried here."

I can only imagine how a soldier from the south felt having to take up arms against his brothers to the north. Typically, you can tell friendly from foe in a conflict yet here we have a very conflicted account of one soldier's tale. Now, I pictured this man's story about the fishermen along the river they slaughtered, a boat that was supposed to have been full of the enemy, and thought how those same events would have affected an American soldier presented with the exact same scenario. Would it have been as hard to come to terms with? Would there have been the same level of grief and guilt? That day, along that river must have changed this man's life forever. He speaks very fluidly about the events yet very detached and numb.

Part 2: Richard Olsen "It was like 'Terry and the Pirates'"

Having to put yourself in harm's way continuously, for another country's war must have been a hard pill to swallow. As helicopter pilots, tasked with flying South Vietnamese into battle zones, without the authority to use force unless they were attacked in a war we were not a part of yet had to have been extremely confusing. The Viet Cong did not have to live by these rules. It is one thing to risk life and liberty for a noble or official cause yet another for a very different country in comparison. I would imagine, early pilots being furious performing their duties yet this one, seems very serene about his, like he was oblivious to the war around him. It's almost like he is painting the picture of a vacation. I know each contributor will have a different viewpoint as to their involvement, but I was very put off with his descriptions about his time there.

Having served in the military, with part of basic training consisting of military history, the Vietnam conflict was always a hard one to figure out. Here we were, the greatest war machine on the planet, yet we couldn't produce an overall victory due to political, social and global reasons. Roughly 20 years earlier, we had won what was the greatest war this planet had ever seen. Defeated a very powerful and technologically advanced Germany and its Axis allies yet it took over 20 years against a poverty stricken, technologically inferior opponent to ultimately find failure. I guess for some, finding the lighter side of things, helps deal with the atrocities surrounding them, each and every day.

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