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PART 1

Of all the stories in the Patriot book by Christian G. Appy I found the account by Ta Quang Thinh, "Paying the Price" to be the one that grabbed and gripped my attention the most. It was astonishing to me that his last memory of the moment before he was hit at a makeshift hospital was that he remembered looking at his watch, and remembering that it was eleven o'clock. The other thing that I found interesting about this account was that of all the individuals in the building he was the only one that survived. The fact that he lay in the rubble of the building buried till the next morning with a broken back was inspirational and truly shows the strength and power the human body can withstand to survive. I found this story to have a lot of credibility for it is one man's account of an incident that happened to him. It contains no descriptions of specific battles and any other information that can be proved to be wrong by history and facts about the war. It was a bloody and messy war, many innocent victims were killed so the chances of a makeshift hospital being destroyed are pretty high, which makes this story not very subjective to dispute. Ta Quang Thinh provides a specific time that he remembers being hit with the bomb and provides exact dates and times of how long he remained hospitalized with his broken back and when he was transported home in 1971. The account by Ta Quang Thinh was very interesting and hit on the true nature of the war, in that it was messy. It's a miracle that after being hit with a bomb dropped from a B-52 that he was able to survive with a broken back, for many others' fate was not as lucky.

PART 2

The story in Part 2 that I found to be the most disappointing to read was that of Ngo Vinh Long, the now 58 year old college professor in Maine. Although the account told a very interesting and diverse story about Ngo's life and various experiences during the war, I found it to be a bit self-centered. Therefore I am most disappointed with the speaker of this story and how he addressed his time enduring the American occupation in Vietnam. I found that he went to great lengths to exclaim his own personal accomplishment during the story. For example that he was one of the smartest individuals in South Vietnam and was invited to hang out with the wealthy higher class. He states that the American girls, "thought I was cute," and that "people liked me." Personally I found these statements to be a bit much. There were certain parts of the story that were too centered around his own life and own accomplishments. I feel as if had they been left out the story would not have seemed to drag on and would in turn be more stronger to the reader.

Although the first half of the story seemed to be a bit self-centered, the second half describing Ngo's role as a map maker has some good insight and proves to be of

much interest. His opinion on the American policies taking place in Vietnam at the time brought much thought into my mind as he describes the once love and admiration he had for America to be slipping away as he sees many suffer. I found the detailed account of the “agrovilles,” or later named “strategic hamlet,” to provide a good insight into the ghettos that were formed in Vietnam. It was very interesting to me that Ngo resigned from his position as a map maker in which he had once supported the South Vietnam forces and the Americans to become a protester and leader in the antiwar movement. The disgust that he expressed with Diem and the American policies, just goes to show how the war began to slip into a downward spiral, and for Ngo the only way to escape was to denounce the war.

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