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The story from Part 1 that had the greatest impact on me was that of Ta Quang Thinh, from the section *Paying the Price*. It was so impactful because it really shows that we are all human and gives us an idea about the "enemy" that Americans do not often hear from their own side. Thinh was paralyzed from the waist down while simply trying to help a wounded soldier when a bomb was dropped on the building he was in. He wasn't even a soldier fighting the Americans, he was just a doctor's assistant. After a period of healing he was literally carried all the way back to North Vietnam from South Vietnam by interchanging groups of men. It seems that people only really hear those stories from their own side and therefore think that their own people are so extraordinarily heroic and brave, but really those things happen on all sides. Thinh was being a healer for the country that he wanted to see grow and prosper and for that he was given a life in a wheelchair. I feel that Ta Quang Thinh's story is reliable and I do not have a problem trusting it. He was not there to hurt the Americans in the first place, he just wanted them out. He never even said anything bad about Americans so I don't believe that he would have any reason to be dishonest about his experiences. Also his story comes from a place of subjective emotion, but obviously he is going to be emotional about it with all that he lost. At the end of the story we find out that his wife only visits him once a year, so it is understandable to me that he would be coming from an emotional place. He was a victim of the Vietnam war just as many other Vietnamese people and Americans were.

The story from Part 2 that I found most disappointing was the one from Evelyn Colbert in the section *"The Emperor Has No Clothes On"*. This story addressed the fact that stories telling the Americans how bad things were in Vietnam really were being published even though the secretary of Defense, Robert McNamara, said in his memoirs that today we can see that while the war was happening we did not really know how bad things were in Vietnam. Colbert says, "that dissent which contradicted the public optimism was ignored." I found this story disappointing because it is really frustrating to see how hard some must have worked to try to convince the American government that we were not up to the war

and to find out that they were just ignored and that the public blindly followed the politicians words of optimism. Another story that I found disappointing was Richard Olsen's story in the section "*Kick the Tires and Light the Fires*". His attitude about himself and the other Americans he was with in the beginning of the war was very off putting. While the Vietnamese were struggling with their own war, all that Olsen was really concerned with was how cool he looked to the older Pilots he was working with. Also, he expresses disappointment at the fact that he was not allowed to shoot random North Vietnamese people without being shot at first. He had no compassion and did not care to have any sympathetic feelings.

Paul Hare's story from the section "*Kick the Tires and Light the Fires*" gave me hope. Paul talks about how the entire time he was in Vietnam, he was never convinced that what he and the other Americans were doing there was actually helping the Vietnamese people. While there, he treated the Vietnamese with respect, and even "rubbed elbows" with them while enjoying the local life of the small town he lived in. He recalls that even though he had experienced encounters with seemingly nice Vietnamese men that ended up being Viet Cong spies, he still kept a faith in the Vietnamese people and refused to assume the ideal that they were all evil and out to get America. Paul Hare exhibited compassion and a true goodness that people like Richard Olsen did not.

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