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Part One: George Watkins A father who was a coal miner for thirty-six years was just trying to save his sons from danger by telling the man who ran his division of Westmoreland Coal, "that if he hired any one of his sons, that'd be the day he'd walk out of the mines." But this father who simply was trying to save his son's life, did not know what was to come of his son, George Watkins. On June 19, 1967 George Watkins was drafted into the Vietnam War. George Watkins knew he was fighting against Communism, nothing more. His military specialty was combat engineer but when he got to Vietnam they sent him to infantry. In April 1968 George Watkins stepped on a land mine near Camp Evans in Quang Tri Province. "I knowed something was wrong with my eyes, but was telling myself that my sight wasn't gone, that it was just sand or powder burn." George Watkins had lost both eyes and had to get both of his legs amputated just a few inches below his pelvis. George Watkins' father had no idea what kind of future his son was going to have but he knew for sure that the mines were just too dangerous. The coal miners risked the dangers of the explosion of methane gas but if his father knew about the explosive booby traps in Vietnam would he have changed his mind? This is the question that grabbed my attention that made me want to know more. By this accident of getting caught in a booby trap I find George Watkins to be an extremely credible source. The Vietnamese would set up numerous amounts of different traps to kill the Americans, and vice versa. Even after being hit by a Vietnamese booby trap George Watkins does not dislike the Vietnamese he states, "They's some of the most determined people I've ever run into. I don't hate them. They did what they had to do. It's the politicians that put everybody in that place. Although I would like to get ahold of that one that set the booby trap. [Laughs.]" This quote says a lot about George Watkins' personality, even though he got sent to Vietnam to fight the war on Communism he did not take his anger out on the people living in Communism. The only part about George Watkins' story that sparked some attention to him telling the complete truth and not over-exaggerating was when he told Christian Appy too "Fancy it up." This story was very real, booby traps were set up to kill Americans and the chances of George Watkins getting hit by one was very likely. Part Two: Nog Vinh Long As Americans we were extremely smart and completely stupid to hire Nog Vinh Long to draw out maps. The United States hired Nog Vinh Long to travel the length and breadth of South Vietnam making maps for the military. Nog Vinh Long, yes was able to communicate and new more about South Vietnam than any American would ever know but at some point we had to know he was going to turn on the United States. Growing up his father told Nog Vinh Long that the United States was a "beautiful country" and a "racially harmonious country", so after the United States hired two filipinos and two filipinos

had died, Nog Vinh Long had convinced the American general to hire him. I have said before it was a very good idea for the United States to hire him but no one is going to turn on their own country. While helping the United States get a detailed map of the country of Vietnam, Nog Vinh Long thought he was overall helping the people because he states, “ Well, maybe, but if they have good, detailed maps then they’re not going to bomb or shell innocent civilians so what’s wrong with that?” When Nog Vinh Long found out that the United States was not treating the Vietnamese with the respect that he had wanted them to do then he resigned in disgust and became involved in the Saigon Student Union. After Nog Vinh Long resigned from helping the United States map out the Vietnam territory he protested strongly against the U.S. intervention and the Saigon government. When Nog Vinh Long did not agree with the constitution that the United States had written for Vietnam he started burning copies of the constitution in the streets of Saigon. I know this does not sound good, he turned his back on the United States but in return one of his American friends got him a one-way ticket to Boston. Nog Vinh Long got accepted into Harvard and became involved in the antiwar movement but also studied with professors who came to play important roles in the formulation of the U.S. policy in Vietnam. Nog Vinh Long had a choice, get arrested in Saigon or go to the United States, it was very dangerous for Nog Vinh Long to come to the United States. Nog Vinh Long had numerous threats made to him, the Vietnamese felt that he betrayed his country. Nog Vinh Long is now a college professor in Main, and I feel that he has received goodness for helping out the United States with the mapping of Vietnam considering it was the maps that the U.S. Military used in Vietnam.

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