

Last edited: Sunday, 15 April 2012, 01:05 PM (531 words)

Steve Quatier

Assignment 1

April 13th, 2012

Part 1

The story Bernard Trainor tells was particularly interesting to me. The way he tells his story almost has movie like qualities. For instance, the way he was being interrogated at one point for his so called “non-aggressive campaigning”, and in the middle of that interrogation he is called out to join his unit who were in a firefight in the Que Son Mountains. Of course the firefight was a success and led to the capture of a high ranking Viet Cong intelligence officer. This intelligence officer fingers a general vicinity of an underground Vietcong headquarters. The ironic part of this story was that it wasn’t tirelessly beating the brush that led to the discovery of this cave network. It was the Snuffies that had taken a break from beating the brush for two days, and were throwing a Frisbee around. Of course a poorly thrown Frisbee lands next to a hole that is soon discovered to be one of the many entrances to this underground headquarters they were looking for. The discovery of the headquarters led to the biggest intelligence find I Corps had during the war. He doesn’t go on to say but I’m assuming this find led to the dissipation of and previous allegations against Bernard Trainor and eventually led to his promotion to General.

I said that this story had almost movie like qualities and to me personally it

does. Does that mean it's not believable or too subjective? Absolutely not. Bernard Trainor specifically commanded units that led to the discovery of massive amounts of intelligence. To me that in itself gives him all the credibility he needs.

Part 2

The story that was the most disappointing to read was the one told by Nguyen Giap. It was disappointing because it reemphasized to me that this was a war where a lot of Americans and Vietnamese lost their lives over unclear reasons. The Vietnamese wanted to be rid of outside rule and become their own country. American leaders told the American people that this was a war against communism and it was America's duty to liberate an oppressed people. Nguyen went on to say that the Vietnamese didn't want to fight the Americans but we left them no choice. I was not alive when all of this was happening but it saddens me to hear about so much loss of life on both sides and no one really knows why.

It feels almost awkward for me to say but the positive lesson that I learned came from the Vietnamese perseverance. Nguyen went on to state that the Vietnamese knew how to use their intelligence against steel but that alone was not enough. The Vietnamese people knew that they would rather die than live in slavery. If you put the deaths aside the lesson I get from the story is that if you truly believe in something and you stand up for what you believe in, other people might see something as insurmountable but you will see it as a bump in the road on the path to your goals.

Close this window

 [Moodle Docs for this page](#)