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Part 1

Roger Donlon - War Heroes

Captain Roger Donlon's account of his experience in Vietnam and earning the Metal of Honor was captivating. Donlon's early comment about how a third of the Strike Force was enemy sympathizers drew my attention. Captain Donlon states "the people we thought would be shooting outward were now shooting inward." As with many of my fathers own accounts of Vietnam, sympathizers were not uncommon and extremely dangerous. The desire to not remember how George Tuan was killed gruesomely in front of him made my stomach ache. These images seem to be as clear as yesterday to Donlon. Credibility was never issue as a read this story. Donlon never claims to be a hero nor describes the experience that way, it was just his duty.

Part 2

John Singlaub - Paradise Island

John Singlaub's account is similar in tone to many veteran stories I've heard. He has an underlying tone of discontent for the people he is suppose to be helping. Singlaub say he was part of a sham resistance, which leaves a unfavorable taste in my mouth. His duties included capturing prisoners, feeding and tending to their health all while ingratiating them with the beliefs of the sham resistance. He says these people were sent off with care packages and radios to help spread the word of the sham resistance. At least the sick prisoners where treated for their conditions. As with all wars there is a place for every story and I'm sure this one does as well although disappointing to read.

Luyen Nguyen -Paradise Island

Luyen Nguyen had a very heart wrenching experience and life in the war. Unimaginable to me, Nguyen spent twenty one years as POW. His wife and family believed him to be dead and although offered the opportunity to write home Nguyen declined as not to bring grief to his family all over again. The spirit which has to live inside this man is incredible, I had to pause while reading to imagine the desire to live as he fought daily. POWs are treated with respect and compassion but I didn't find that in this story. I believe his twenty one years for torture and loyalty to worth much more than Congress award him.

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