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Part 1 The single story in part one of the Patriots book that affected me the most (other than the Tran Thi-Gung story) was that on page 12 of Roger Donlon, the first American to receive the Medal of Honor on Vietnam. Reading his account of why he received the Medal of Honor really made it clear that war is tragic. Throughout the whole account of the time leading up to the action in which he received the Medal of Honor a picture of the confusing and uncertain nature of the situation Roger Donlon was in became more and more clear to me. In most wars before Vietnam such as the two world wars, it is at least clear who the enemy is. In world war two, there was very little chance that the guy in the fox hole next to you would suddenly turn out to be fighting for the other side, and shoot you. Not so in Roger Donlon's account. Everything was very uncertain. All of the Vietnamese men who turned out to be fighting for the Viet Cong "slit the throat or broke the neck of the man next to them." Donlon estimates this number to be about a third of all the Vietnamese soldiers in the compound. Also the accounts of some of his fellow Americans dying in the action were depressing. The one that affected me the most out of these was the story of Pop Alamo the world war two and Korea veteran that died. For Pop to have survived those two wars (especially ww2) only to die in Vietnam during a conflict that is now commonly believed to have been a misguided effort at best is extremely unjust. Donlon's account of the whole thing doesn't give me any reason to doubt his credibility. It sounds to me to be a fairly objective account of a very unhappy memory. Although there has been a lot of time passed since Vietnam, I don't think that Donlon's experience is the type that is easily forgotten.

Part 2 The single story that was most disappointing for me to read from part two of the Patriots book was that of Henry Prunier one of the American men who was air dropped into Vietnam in July 1945. The team Prunier was on had the mission to support an anti-Japanese resistance movement called the Viet Minh led by none other than Ho Chi Minh. Prunier's team trained the Viet Minh in the use of modern weapons. While they were there, relations were excellent, and it was clear that Ho Chi Minh wanted US political support. It also sounds to me (and I'm reading between the lines here a bit) that during the relatively short time that Prunier spent with the Viet Minh, they gained his respect, and possibly even his liking. I would say that it would have been much preferable that the Americans would have lent their support to Ho Chi Minh and the Viet Minh, and that the Vietnam War never happened. I think there was a great opportunity lost when the Americans supported the French in their efforts to regain their colonies in Asia. I think that this decision by the American leaders of the time was very flawed, and not well in keeping with American values. It sounds to me so far doing the reading for this class that the Viet Minh were not the Communist puppets

they were made out to be, but rather more like American revolutionaries in the 1700's. They just wanted their own free government after thousands of years of being overrun and governed by outside forces. Out of all the stories in part two of the book, the only one that I could really divine any positive outcome was that of Le Lieu Brown. It isn't too hard to imagine a movie being made out of her story. Upon further consideration I would have to say that the story of Malcolm Brown also has some positive elements to it, since I think that Malcolm's work in Vietnam was highly important in revealing the truth about the whole Vietnam War. However that aside, I really got a kick out of the fact that Malcolm and Le Lieu who was supposed to be censoring him ended up getting married! I think this aspect of the story shows that although war is horrible, life does go on. PS- this doesn't look great when I paste it into moodle.

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