

Due date: Sunday, 9 October 2011, 11:55 PM

Last edited: Sunday, 9 October 2011, 06:48 AM (553 words)

Part 1:

The story from Roger Donlon (the Medal of Honor recipient) really hit home for me.

His detail on the accounts leading to, during and after were so graphic, yet vivid in detail that it made me feel as if I was right there in the thick of things with him. The sadness I felt was so real, when he mentioned the marine that had just received a letter from his wife about them having twins, and then him subsequently dying, with one of his twins dying of a premature death. Being of a premature birth as well, that story was especially sad and touching at the same time. I think that having received the medal of honor constitutes believability as there were obvious witnesses to his actions. In the end, I believe him to be very factual with his recollections.

Part 2:

The story from Ngo Vinh Long was very frustrating to me because of the fact that he was constantly ignored by U.S. officials when he warned them about what was taking place in South Vietnam (the corruption, starvation, etc). Even though I was very frustrated in our lack of the "right" decisions, I was more so disappointed with the way things were handled with people that were accused of Communist acts (the beheadings mainly). With these people never getting a chance to defend themselves, no one will really know their true intentions. As stated in the passage, many people denied the beheadings ever happening, but as we've seen from our footage of the war, they did in fact happen, giving Ngo Vinh Long at least some credit. Of course there is reason for doubt for his recollections (what was the proof that he really had these conversations?), but it'd be hard to prove not. After all, you'd have to ask yourself, why would he lie?

The one story I liked the most was from Paul Hare, a "mostly retired" diplomat that didn't really come off as a diplomat from his exploits. He came off almost as someone neutral to the entire war, but filled with a feeling of hope. The want to help rebuild parts of South Vietnam that had been previously destroyed. He didn't have the feel of a military man (any of the officers, or militarily involved) or the reports (or anyone closely involved with either party). His interaction with the two elderly fisherman that later caused the attack on his position was a very interesting point in his segment, just for the fact that it really showed how even the people who you

thought were the least likely to cause any problems, in fact did. I believe this really showed the mistaken trust (maybe even a sense of naivety) when it came to not only soldiers (IE those that were actual spies from the north in the south ranks) but also, to civilians as well. In the end though, this segment came to as an honest recollection, with no real one-sided feeling as the other stories seemed to possess. The small recollection of his “cock fighting days” couldn’t help but bring a smile to your face even though there was a war going on around him, he was still able to make some time to have some “fun”.

[Close this window](#)

 [Moodle Docs for this page](#)