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In Part 1 of the Patriots book, Tran Thi Gung's story of her experience as a guerrilla soldier was very interesting. After the death of her father she decided to join the guerillas at the age of seventeen where she talks about killing countless American soldiers with no remorse. I found it hard to believe that this women had no feelings of guilt for all of the American lives she took during the war, but I guess when your in her situation its hard to feel sorry for someone who is trying to kill you. I found her story to be extremely credible. This is a first hand story of a guerilla soldier who actually experienced combat in Vietnam. Her stories also reflect on other stories I've heard from the war in Vietnam when it comes to the brutality of their conflicts like when she describes, "They cried a lot. This made them sitting ducks. Very easy to shoot..." referring to the American soldiers.

In Part 2 by, Le Lieu Browne, I was really disappointed with the actions of the Diem government and how poorly they handled the Buddhist protests. With officers harassing demonstrators and arresting monks, it brought a lot of bad attention on Diem in a time where he really needed to gain the support of the local people. I believe if the situation was handled appropriately there was still hope for establishing a stable government in Vietnam but this, along with other factors, ultimately put an end to Diem.

When reading these stories its hard to find a lot of good in them because the war in Vietnam was so destructive but Richard Olsen's story in part two showed a brighter side. He served in the air force as a helicopter pilot and he talks about all the great times he shared with his fellow pilots. He talks about when they were given breaks they were able to shower, eat, and go to the bars and have good times. Although he does mention the hard times he faced like when he was shot or when he was sometimes a "sitting duck" when bringing in more troops, the overall tone of the story was positive.

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