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Part 1: The story that caught my attention the most was the second story, from Dang Vu Hiep, General in the North Vietnamese Army. I guess when I started reading the book "Patriots", I didn't even consider the idea of getting a story from a high ranking NVA General. His story shocked me in many ways, mostly in how he described his time in the war as the best time in his life. Most soldiers, especially those taken away from their spouse and children to fight, do not describe war as the best time in their life. I wonder if it was because he was a part of the NVA, or because he was a high ranking part of the army that he enjoyed his time there so much. I think he seemed to be a fairly accurate source. He did not seem like he was pretending that he hated killing all of the Americans, and didn't seem like he was changing any part of his story so that the Americans who would hear his story would feel sympathy for the Vietnamese.

Part 2: The story I was most disappointed in was the one about the Navy Officer, Daniel Redmond. I wasn't disappointed with Daniel himself at all. In fact, I found that he had a great story that was very empowering and showed that there were some very good people in Vietnam. However, the Navy Doctor, Dooley's story was very disappointing, for a couple of reasons. First, I was disappointed about how the Navy would kick a Doctor that it praised as highly as they praised him out simply for being gay. Even if it turned out he wasn't the greatest of guys. From Redmond's story, it made it sound like Dooley wrote a book about his experiences that really was a cash grab on his part. While it's fair for him to hold a grudge, I don't think he's justified in lying to make money.

I really liked what Henry Prunier and General Giap had to say about Ho Chi Minh. I had always pictured Ho Chi Minh as a Saddam Hussein of his time, a bitter dictator, holed up in a military fortress who was out to simply do what was best for himself, and not for his people. It turns out, based on these two accounts, he really may have been the good guy of the Vietnam war. Prunier made Minh seem very humble and down to earth. While this seems to be common with revolutionary leaders in the beginning of the quest, it is rare that they are so humble later on, when they gain more power, and Giap suggested he was until the day that he died. Minh apparently said to Prunier: "Yes, I may be a communist, but that doesn't mean we can't be friends," which is a lesson that the world was in desperate need of during the cold war and is still trying to be learned. Just because someone thinks differently than you doesn't mean you can't still work together.

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