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The story that caught my attention in part one was Tran Thi Gung's story. Initially reading the opening sentences of the paragraph, I immediately thought she would be just a nurse. It was surprising when she stated "I was in so many fights, I can't possibly remember them all." The fact she was a woman and pulled through many brutal feats impressed me greatly. Her reason for fighting (revenge for her father and to follow his beliefs) and bluntness leads me to believe she is being trustworthy and true to what happened. I also see no reason for her to make anything up; she wasn't an important general or official. Experiencing the war gives her more credibility in my opinion, as I've stated before I believe she has no reason to lie. She seemed to remember the details, like when she shot her first American soldier, and volunteering to sneak in bases. As she said though, she's experienced so much she can't recount all of her exploits. Her tough demeanor made this my favorite interview from part one.

Rufus Phillips's interview probably disappointed me the most with its outcome. It seemed like they were doing such a good job, only for all their work to be shot down. The Vietnamese gradually accepted they were there to help them, and Lansdale was building their confidence. Then the U.S. just supports the Cao Lao, which have no democratic experience. It's frustrating to think so much could have been avoided had they just listened to Lansdale and the others. It's a depressing thought when the U.S. makes decisions that are disappointing; that make me ashamed of the choices. I know it's easy to just look back in retrospect but I wish they could have avoided the war.

When reading this I actually smiled when he said that people were coming out with bowls of water and greeting the troops. It's always nice to see progress between two strained relations, even if it might have been temporary. It just gives hope that if we take the time any two cultures can befriend each other. Even though they didn't go through with their idea at the end, their presence made southeast Asia strong, making the Communists only able to take over the remainder of Indochina.

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