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Assignment 1

Escobar

After reading part one of the Appy text I found the story of Tran Thi Gung to be the most interesting. I enjoyed this story because of the female soldier perspective that it brings. I also like this story because it explores the tactics of the Cu chi with regards to their underground tunnel system. Judging by what Tran Thi Gung wrote; I believe her story especially the part about her and her comrades being stuck in a tunnel for seven days and nights with limited resources and it seems reliable however by her past experiences she would only be trustworthy to her own people. She would do anything for her people including volunteering to go and sneak onto enemy bases, "I always volunteered to sneak onto the bases at night to reconnoiter and draw maps so we could plan our attacks.(pg. 18)", because of this I find her to be credible. She seems to be very objective but with this story she does get subjective at times, "Whenever anyone asks me about the suffering of the war, I always have a terrible nightmare that very night in which I relive these experiences. I miss my comrades very much and often see them again in my dreams.(pg 19)" and with this combination of objective and subjective information it allows the story to be believable . My favorite quote from this story is "... I never felt guilty about the killing I did. It was war." because war never changes.

In part two the most disappointing story I read was the story written by Evelyn

Colbert. While the story was short the message it portrays is clear. The start of the story begins with “Dissent which contradicted the public optimism was ignored.” and I am disappointed by these events. After reading this story; it reminds of today’s issues with the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. “In 1963, during the Buddhist crisis, my shop wrote a paper which took the statistics that were being produced by the military and make the case that he’s very statistics show that the Viet Cong were doing very well. Naturally, the military got annoyed. Secretary of defense McNamara Robinette to secretary of state dean rusk say the State Department had no business producing papers on military subjects that have not been cleared of defense department.(PG 84 ) “ This quote is similar in context to the Wikileaks scandal; where certain information is not disclosed to the public if it’s not convenient to popular belief.

In the same text by Evelyn Colbert there is something positive. Evelyn Colbert retained her integrity and still published works regardless of popular optimism. People like Evelyn sadly are in short supply in today’s media environment but they still give me hope. Back in the Vietnam era information was much easier to control however in this day and age and with the invention of the Internet it is much harder for that kind of information be controlled.

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