

Assignment 1

P20—PAYING THE PRICE—they carried me the whole way back to the North

? This story just caught my attention because the author used a real example to tell people how the army thought about war in the short story. As the author described, he was the only survivor in the bomb hit from a B-52, and he survived because he was closer to the surface of ruins of the hospital and easier to breathe and be dug out by aid workers than others. In that case, the author hates war from his bottom of heart. He doesn't like the war, and he doesn't think that anyone liked the war. This is the truth, and I do believe him. Sometimes people have ambition to attack and aggress others for some benefits, like lands, natural resources and maybe defense. Then those aggressors will use some other reasons to make the purpose of war right to avoid the name of aggression. In this story, the author knows that this was a war with its purpose and he still took part in it, and he had seen the sad result of war. Indeed, wars are cruel and absurd. The bomb hit in the story is just an epitome of all the wars in history, WWI, WWII, civil war, and so on. All the wars killed many people who could not really enjoy the benefits after the end of the war. The top commander will distribute the spoils of the war, and soldiers just paying their bloods and lives for their commanders. The most important part in the story is that the author really didn't like to be separated from his family, he could not keep in touch with his family because they were always moving during the war. The story is objective and factual. Typically, people who experienced war would not like the war and would not want to remember and memorize all the happenings and events during the war. It was same happened on the author, he said he had memories but he didn't want to remember them. This is not subjective, and this is not that author had too much things forgotten, it's just too merciless to have those people to tell the black stories from their bottom of hearts.

P84—THE EMPEROR HAS NO CLOTHES—boy, you speak just like an American.

? This story makes me feel disappointed is because all the story just talk about how terribly U.S. army prepared for the war. Firstly, they don't know about Vietnam. They don't know where Vietnam is, and even though someone shows the Asia map to the commander of U.S. Army, they will not recognize where Vietnam is and what the shape of Vietnam is. Probably they think Vietnam is weak and easy to beat. Secondly, their staff were stolen. It is important to have strong back support in the war, but U.S. Army did terribly on this one, they have two third staff got stolen, which are for South Vietnam army. Thirdly, U.S. had a terrible President—Johnson, who made people disappointed. He canceled all the reservation of the hotel for the meeting with Saigon government, which is an impulsive decision.

However, even this story shows lots of negative things, it also shows positive things. For example, U.S. Army are really strong. They have very advanced equipment, such as battleships, cruisers, and nuclear-powered submarines. Those are the equipment which will bring the victory to United States. Indeed, those strong equipment and well trained soldiers are showing a big chance to win the war, but the ego of United States government and army force is the strong weapon to beat themselves. Perhaps this kind of strong force brings both confidence and ego, unfortunately, U.S. Army had chosen ego and they paid a lot for their ego during the war.