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Internet Testimonies
by Joe Escobar - Saturday, May 13, 2017, 9:45 PM

This thread is for discussions on the Internet Testimonies topic.

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Always questioning
by Mason Peckels St.onge - Sunday, May 14, 2017, 9:49 PM

In college we are taught to take things with a grain of salt. This class is a great example of that. Our materials are either from historians, journalist or first hand encounters. Each one has their strengths and weaknesses. However, I think the first hand encounters are the ones which from we should take the most “salt”. That's why when it comes to the spitting question, I think the veterans are the ones we should look for the most correct reports. We see a variety of reports, some say they experienced it and some did not. I think since practically all V-Veterans report some form of abuse while coming home; it is fair to say that spitting did occur. Even though

studies have shown that the human memory can sometimes be inaccurate, that doesn't mean all of them are. In 2016 I don't think there should be an argument as to which spitting occurred or not. If multiple veterans reported it, than it probably happened.



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Re: Always questioning

by Wenxuan Nie - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 12:03 AM

I feel the same way that spits on Veterans is true. There are posters from anti-war to irony Vietnam veterans. Also, in the video of Bullshit on Vietnam, the teller's story is based on real experience, and I would like to think he's not lying. "The women who spat in my face and called me a baby killer was no happy. She was a classy lady who was very attractively dressed in a suit. She was the last to board the plane just behind me; the flight was from Seattle to New York, they sealed the door after we boarded." (Bullshit on Vietnam, 1:48) What they been treated may be exaggerated, but the truth is here—that they are cursed and unwelcomed. It's really hurt people's feeling who really devoted for this

country.



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Why the arguing?

by Riley Ahrenkiel - Wednesday, May 17, 2017, 5:08 PM

The only possible way I can see people continue to argue whether or not soldiers did not come home to disgruntled citizens, is that it's easy to remain ignorant because it's difficult to admit that you're wrong or that you don't know enough to have a definitive answer. People may have developed what they think is right, and do no further questioning. It's hard to keep interrogating a certain topic from multiple sources until you feel you have the big picture. In a perfect world, there would be no need to argue it because everyone would've done their fair share of questioning and research to find the answer that encompasses multiple points of view from people who have had different experiences on the issue. Arguing whether or not these events occurred should not be happening because people who do their own research and do the interrogating themselves will be able to get the big picture, but sadly, this is not a perfect world. With the passing of more veterans, it brings the passing of some of their stories, making it harder to get the overall view, however, it doesn't make it impossible. People will just have to do more digging, finding multiple points of view, and learn from the soldiers who have the personal accounts archived in books or the internet.

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Why should these stories from Vietnam Vets be shared in the Appy textbook?

by Jerrel Brown - Wednesday, May 17, 2017, 5:31 PM

Why should these stories from Vietnam Vets be shared in the Appy textbook?

Among other reasons; Accuracy! Just like bull's-Hit said, the majority of Vietnam vets have already passed away (my grandpa fought in the war and is turning 75 this june) and as bleak as it sounds, we are simply running out of time to record the stories of these Vet's to create a full historical picture of what was taking place during the war in Vietnam on both our soil and on theirs. We need to record these experiences so that we don't have misinformation in place of actual

facts about these critical moments in American history. It wouldn't be fair to those who fought in those wars to not get the record straight and holds those accountable for how they treated them.

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Re: Why should these stories from Vietnam Vets be shared in the Appy textbook?

by Mason Peckels St.onge - Friday, May 19, 2017, 2:18 PM

This is so true! I'm glad we see eye to eye. The testimonies of these Vietnam Veterans are what we need to pay attention when trying to paint an accurate picture of the events that took place took place on our soil and there's. I think it would also be interested to hear some encounters that the protesters has with the Vets. I think it is possible that some of the Vets could have provoked the protesters when entering the U.S. It would make sense. Coming home to massive protests against what you were just apart of, and managed to survive. could have upset the G.I's to the point of firing back at the protester; which may have provoked the protesters enough to spit on the. I think with the help of these encounters the history would be much more clearer.

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Re: Why should these stories from Vietnam Vets be shared in the Appy textbook?

by Jerrel Brown - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 5:02 PM

You make a perfectly valid point, one of the veterans who's testimony was included in the PDF admitted that once he was provoked it did indeed get messy, so it could prove very insightful to include accounts from both violent and peaceful protesters from that era to help produce an accurate picture of that time in our nations history. Obviously it is unlikely that we will find a plethora of men and woman in their twilight years lining up to admit to spitting on veterans and give their accounts of those years, but there is no denying that it would prove immensely useful to historians.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Why should these stories from Vietnam Vets be shared in the Appy textbook?

by Mason Peckels St.onge - Sunday, May 21, 2017, 9:59 PM

Jerrel

Thanks for the reply! I agree that it would be difficult to get the protesters to share their encounters, especially if they were the ones committing the wrong acts. Even if you could, I'm sure some would lie about how it happened in order to make themselves look better. However, the same could be said about the veterans. I do think it is still important to analyze them, in order to understand more clearly.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

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Re: Internet Testimonies

by Kayla Elliott - Wednesday, May 17, 2017, 8:23 PM

I don't think the information told in the short YouTube videos would go into the *Patriots* book because there wasn't really any stories of specific incidents being told. But I'm sure each one of them had a story that would be appropriate for the book.

I'm just surprised that in 2016, we are still arguing over whether or not veterans got spit on after the Vietnam War. Based on what I've seen and heard, I think it's clear that there were incidents of veterans getting spit on and harassed.

I think the historical record will only be able to be changed by people telling their stories. Or if by some miracle, new documents or any other official paperwork comes out of the White House or military. I think the only way we can correct historical information is by looking at many different sources and determining what is legitimate or which ones have a bias. It's easier to fact check things like the PBS documentary by looking at where they got their information from. It's harder to fact check videos or stories from people personally unless there is some evidence or other people to confirm what that person is saying. So, unfortunately, I don't have any good ideas to correct history except for people to keep digging for the truth.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



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Analyzing the truth of "spitting"

by Jay Autry - Wednesday, May 17, 2017, 8:36 PM

After watching the two video clips on Youtube, I could not help but to become emotional when listening to the stories the veterans told of their homecomings. Particularly in the first clip, when one of the veterans tells of his experience of getting spit on and called a "baby killer", the frustration and confusion of how someone would rationalize that behavior is beyond me.

One reason that stories of these shameful instances are not included in the *Patriots* textbook could be the American peoples hindsight that such frustration and anger was aimed wrongfully at the veterans instead of the government which eventually led to the convenient absence in historical texts. A second reason could possibly be the veteran's forgiveness of these heinous displays which helps lead to the healing process. Many veterans choose to live in the present and future instead of the past in order to move on with their lives.

As to how we can still be arguing about whether or not these spitting incidents are indeed fact or myth, we need to analyze first hand accounts from credible sources and document them. What the short documentary video has over Bull's-Hit on Vietnam video is the way the information is presented. When people are presented a story with credible backing, it bolsters a feeling of trust in the information. The Bull's-Hit video may come across to some viewers as just some crazy vet ranting on Youtube. The Bull's-Hit on Vietnam video does make a very

important point that is not stressed enough in the first video. Vietnam veterans do hold the vital keys to historical records from their first hand experiences that no historian will be able replicate.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Analyzing the truth of "spitting"

by Wenxuan Nie - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 1:55 PM

I found the same thing in Patriots book which only tells positive stories or the crucial things veterans did to local people, or they rethinking the meaning of war. But on one tells how people treat themselves so badly. "I said I'd love to, but he had to realize that I did not think the war in Vietnam was a good idea. Somewhat to my surprise, he said it doesn't make any difference." (Parties, p.279) Meantime, the Herring textbook more focuses on details of war itself, the sacrifice number and battle process. More political and natural. There's no personal room for a normal soldier's own story. That's why we all feel frustrated to see what happens to veterans. Not applause, but being called "baby-killer."

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Internet Testimonies

by Daine Taylor - Wednesday, May 17, 2017, 9:30 PM

3. Yes, I believe that those stories should be included in the video because in the first video you can see the emotions on the those men's faces that show us that their stories deserve to be heard. The truth can be harsh but it's the truth we won't let those men have to suffer like they did when they returned home. We can still be arguing because we don't listen to the men who had to deal with the hate. We listen and read to the internet and media may not have the complete story of what really happened. Like Bull's-hit on Vietnam say once all those Veterans pass away their stories go with them. We will not get to hear those first hand stories. This is the exact reason why we need to make record of these men's voices and present them to the public to show that bad things did happen to those veterans of the Vietnam war.

4. The only way to really rectify the historical information is to study on both sides of the war and get first hand stories to help us understand the truth. The truth will not be easy to figure out but there is a truth to the story of Vietnam. Some of the truth will be hidden in lies but after peeling the layers of information I can believe we will find the answer to questions we ask. We have to be optimistic to what we hear. Many of us believe the first thing we see on social media or the internet and that is one way Vietnam was trying to win the war. They wanted to turn the American people against one another and they somewhat did.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Internet Testimonies

by Kayla Elliott - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 7:33 PM

It's hard to tell the stories of the veterans of the Vietnam War because as time goes on, many of them are passing away. That's why it's important for people to keep digging and "peeling the layers" until we find the truth of what happened without any bias.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

0

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Re: Internet Testimonies

by Wenxuan Nie - Wednesday, May 17, 2017, 11:16 PM

As to the incidents of spitting, these events occurred through lots of proofs from own experience and videos. When the veterans suffered from bad attitude since he arrived homeland, "The women who spat in my face and called me a babykiller was no hippy. She was a classy lady who was very attractively dressed in a suit. She was the last to board the plane just behind me, the flight was from Seattle to New York, they sealed the door after we boarded. I watched her from my seat and smiled as she seemed to know everyone on the plane." (BullS-Hit. Spitting on Vietnam Vets?) This is very frustration.

The short clip usually needs to look up information on yourself, because it's not professional and could be vague. For example, the Bulls-hit is orally tells a story, you can't tell it's true or false. Meanwhile, Herring's book is more historical believable because of loads of evidence and citation.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Re: Internet Testimonies

by Mason Peckels St.onge - Friday, May 19, 2017, 2:28 PM

I think its true when that when comparing the unprofessional Youtube video and the Herring book, the Herring book does seem to be more accurate and contains lots of evidence; something the Youtube video lacks. I feel like the encounter would have been much more significant if it was used in something like the PBS documentary or the AIM video.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Re: Internet Testimonies

by Kayla Elliott - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 7:29 PM

I agree that, in my opinion, there is enough evidence to show that veterans coming back after the Vietnam War were treated horribly for the most part, and that includes being spit on. That's why I don't think it should be a debate at this point in 2016.

The short video that wasn't made professionally was still convincing to me since it was a veteran talking about what happened. However, if he thought out what he was going to say and had better skills with making a video, I think more people would listen to him. Because more people will believe things that look like effort went into it like the PBS documentary or the Herring book.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Re: Internet Testimonies

by Kelsey Gilseth - Sunday, May 21, 2017, 2:24 PM

Christian Appy put together a brilliantly executed account of personal statements from people involved in the Vietnam War. I'm sure we can all agree that's it been quite nice to be able to recall the events of the war from multiple different perspectives from all sides of the war. He had a difficult challenge though, in deciding what stories to include and which ones to leave out. The short videos we were required to watch this week were both interesting and each had their pros and cons. Then draws the question, why weren't any of these stories included in the Patriots textbook? Should they have been? It could have been that perhaps Appy just never met any of these people and if he had, they would have been included. It's hard for me to decide who should have been included and who should have been left out, because I find all the stories from different perspectives to be equally important. It doesn't matter if it was LBJ or a teenage South Vietnam soldier, their story matters.

In regards to the incidents of spitting, I don't find it surprising that we are still debating on whether or not they actually occurred. As time passes, we will most likely continue to argue about this topic. The only problem is that as more time passes, the people who were on this planet during the war are also passing. There will come a day when there is not a single Vietnam War veteran here left to tell their story and I find that is ultimately a tragedy. "Two-third of the Vietnam combat veterans are already dead that passed away so you don't have too much time to ask too many questions from people. Especially since Vietnam veterans normally don't even talk about what happened to them in Vietnam or how they were treated when they got home or how they feel about people trying to rewrite history," (Spitting on Vietnam Vets? Bull's Hit on Vietnam). This class has brought it to my attention that he is right. Now when I pass by a man wearing a Vietnam War hat, I thank them for their service. If they engage in conversation with me, I tell them I'm taking a class about the war and even then, most people don't elaborate much passed a "you're welcome" or a "that's cool you're learning about it." I don't want to invade on the privacy of strangers, so I try not to ask personal questions. I can't help but feel like time is running out though. It scares me to think that my children and my children's children may never have the opportunity to speak with a Vietnam veteran. Whether Vietnam remains the longest war until the end of time or if something else takes it's place, it doesn't make the events that transpired any less critical to our historical timeline.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



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Piecing it all together

by Kelsey Gilseth - Sunday, May 21, 2017, 2:34 PM

It's hard to rectify all the different sources of historical information that we are presented with when researching something so broad as the Vietnam war. My personal opinion is that it doesn't matter how many views a short video has or how many copies of a book have been sold. Each and every account of the war from all the different sides are of equal importance; you just have to be willing to listen. This term we have had two different text books, a video series, and multiple short videos and articles. We are fortunate enough to be subjected to so many varying sources, because they allow us to piece them all together to create a more accurate picture of what truly happened. A few weeks back when we watched the Accuracy in Media videos, it showed that one of our main sources for the class, the documentary series, may have some faults of it's own. Overall, what I'm learning this term is that it's okay that not

every source is 100% historically accurate, because there really isn't a way to come to such a conclusion. The best we can do is try to gather a little bit of information from all the sources we can get our hands on and create our own recollection of what transpired during the Vietnam War.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Re: Piecing it all together

by Riley Ahrenkiel - Sunday, May 21, 2017, 6:09 PM

Kelsey,

I agree that trying to rectify all these different sources and sometimes conflicting information can be difficult. When it comes to a topic as broad as the Vietnam War and considering it's been a little bit more than 40 years since the war ended, I believe our main focus at this point is finding how all of the information provided by our many sources coincides with one another and add to the overall truth of the of what occurred. Not a single person or group of people are going to know the entire ins and outs of the war, it was a war that was fought between millions of people and indirectly affected many more. The whole truth does not lie within a single viewpoint of the war, but within a plethora of perspectives, so the only way we can really rectify all of this information, as you said, is by gathering information from all the sources we can get.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Piecing it all together

by Mason Peckels St.onge - Sunday, May 21, 2017, 10:10 PM

Kelsey,

You make a great point, and I have to agree. The amount of content and different types of sources has proven to be a very interesting and worthwhile term. This being my first online class, has shown me how to analyze and compare the different sources and produce feedback on them. Doing this has taught me that all the sources are meaningful, some more than others, but they can all be used to piece together a clearer picture of the war.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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q's #3

by Skyler Tidwell - Sunday, May 21, 2017, 2:53 PM

There is a Greek word that describes what each of the stories shown in today's time about Vietnam. They call it Pathos; it means the use of emotion (loosely). Each story has their own stance and how they feel about it and regardless if they want it to or not they show their emotions. There were people against the war and there were the people fighting in it, their views maybe a landslide difference between them but each contain a higher level of emotion

that drove these individuals to their cause. The Appy Book has shown the depth of pathos for those people willing to share their stories. However, the videos for this week's discussion "*Vietnam Veterans never expected this*", "*Spitting on Vietnam Vets*" were not implemented into the book previously talked about. The reason I think why they are not in the book is because of the tone, the picture, and the way they were presented. I say that because yes, disrespectful things have happened and things were taken too far and "*spiting on Vietnam Vets*" from my perspective was right to say something about the problem but did not convey his message in the right way. All it would do is add fuel to the fire and reopen old wounds, which the first clip showed to a degree. I think the author was right in not putting the stories in, they do not add contrast, what the clips do hold the message is trying to be conveyed back and blur into the background. The majority of veterans are gone but that just means we have to respect and be thankful that someone was willing to fight for what they thought was the right thing. Overall the stories are the battles of emotions, some trying to clear their name of horrible accusations and others (protesters) trying to paint veterans as some bad people to justify their reasons for not going. Although it does not matter for their reason, what matters is that we give what is due.

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question 4

by Skyler Tidwell - Sunday, May 21, 2017, 3:19 PM

When considering information, we have to rely on people who are in positions to know. These people are the individuals who went through the war, the people who were able to televise it in person, and the Vietnam people. Yes, people can lie and lie about anything and everything but they are the ones who know the truth. The days in and the day out schedules that they had to do, the orders given, the people they were in charge of, and the time they spent there, gives them the credibility that they rightfully deserve. So to weed out the stories that are false we would start with the people who were not on the ground in Vietnam. After that we could look at the people and the careers that they chose after the war. Why would we do that? The reason so, is because we are more willing to trust someone who became a judge than a drug dealer. Newspapers are a hit and miss when it comes to the truth because they write a good story regardless if it is true or not. Majority of journalist want to make their name and go to the big times, but they do not care how they get there. However, not every journalist is like that though. There are some good people in the world, the ones willing to say something when it is not common or liked or wanted, but surly needed. When reading or watching news, books, interviews check for the credentials of the source to determine if they are worth trusting. We need a real story from a real person who went through it to set facts straight not some college teacher who studied the topic for ten years to share their opinion on it. That is how we rectify the Vietnam War and the people involved in it.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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How we learned understand the truth

by Jay Autry - Sunday, May 21, 2017, 8:57 PM

In order to properly rectify the historical information that comes to us from such a wide range of sources, we must first identify the commonalities of these sources. When information is presented for the first time, it is human nature to compare it to past experiences and knowledge in order to make the decision of whether or not someone accepts the content. As

an example, if I have read about the torture of POW's in Vietnam before and been exposed to many sources that concur with that idea, I am much more likely to accept new sources that share the same position on that subject. On the other hand if I come across an article that claims torture of POW's never happened, I am much less likely to accept that information. Education is vital to rectifying the inaccuracies of information that comes from certain sources. Along with that, exposure to a variety of types of sources such as YouTube clips, press articles, textbooks, and first hand accounts helps to give a well rounded view of historical events.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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