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In reading part three: Escalations of the book *Patriots* by Christian G. Appy there are several different types of stories from both sides of the Vietnam conflict that took place. Most noticeably were the similarities of maturing between the story's; "I was their wife, their sister, their girlfriend", "Sometimes I operated all night while the staff took turns pedaling the bicycle", and the story "A goddamn chopper was worth three times more than David." Events like combat or witnessing death, lost of family members, hard-labor, or long days with struggles will mature anyone involved in such events. But the specific ways that these individuals in the stories were maturing is eye-opening and inspiring to anyone who reads them. A northern Minnesota boy who was only nineteen years old and was in charge of a million dollar Chinook helicopter learned lessons of growing up fast during events while being deployed in Vietnam. During one mission to relocate Vietnamese civilians from a village there were about sixty Vietnamese aboard the young soldier's helicopter along with four Americans when one Vietnamese man stood up and begin yelling. Being afraid that this uprising might inspire a riot aboard the Chinook as it was airborne one of the Americans simply through the man out and he fell to his death. Another instance that shaped this young man into an adult was when he came across a man that had four or five human scalps hanging from his belt as some sort of war trophy. This would put anyone in a reality check and make most realize that they are in a serious situation that would not tolerate anyone but an adult.

A doctor that was involved in the caring and saving of people sprayed by the chemical "Agent Orange" that was used to kill of plant life that was concealing enemy forces and infected with several types disease came across many instances that would make anyone shed any skin and become a hardened person. This story is titled "Sometimes I operated all night while the staff took turns pedaling the bicycle." Having to use operating tools make from exploded bombing shells and forced to hunt elephants, monkeys, and wild pigs for food to survive would be severely challenging and require a enduring spirit/mentality to continue. It is hard for me to imagine the perseverance that it would take to keep attempting to save people with little of any resources and minimal protection from camouflage from enemy attacks.

"I was their wife, their sister, their girlfriend." was a story of a flight attendant for World Airways that had a contract with the government to ferry U.S troops to and from the war zone during Vietnam. The attendants themselves witnessed how much of alteration many U.S troops went through by simply talking with them as they came to and from the combat operations of Vietnam. Young men that had been brought up to be respectful-church going individuals in America came home after experiencing drugs, alcohol, sex, and death nearly on a daily basis which altered everyone's lives forever. Flight attendants lives went from being happy people to becoming sad to watch their distant brothers and sisters go off to combat where likely many

would die or become injured mentally/physically for eternity.

These stories tie into a common thread of development into maturation among men and women both U.S and Vietnamese. The adversity for all of these people to overcome was by no means just difficult it was amazing. They not only saved their own comrades but developed into adults during the time in doing so.

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