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The most disappointing story for me to read was the story of George Watkins. He was a "grunt with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade." This statement made me think that the position the he held wasn't viewed by others, either civilians or people within the military, as one of great importance but his story has stuck with me since I first read it. At first I thought it was interesting but then I found it more disturbing. His last statement was "Fancy it up." This was his request to the author. What he saw and what he talked about was horrible. To experience something like that and then live to tell it is horrid. You can never get rid of that pain, those images, or the sounds of war.

At the end of Vo Nguyen Giap's there is a dialogue between himself and Robert McNamara. The two lines are, in my opinion, what sums up their views on the war. McNamara saw it as a "tragedy" , Giap on the other hand saw it as a "noble sacrifice". The lesson the I see in this exchange is that how the sides view war depends on which side your fighting on. As an America I would agree with McNamara. If you were to ask a Vietnamese person, they may agree with Giap. The hope that I see in these stories is that there are lessons we can learn. Knowing that I can never find out or know for sure exactly what happened, I feel that there is hope knowing that we can learn from their experiences and that we can avoid making the same mistake(s) twice. Although the way that we use and even if we use those lessons depends on us.

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