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One dissapointing story I read was by Paul Hare. The reason I was dissapointed in this story was because he mentions, "I spent four and a half years in Vietnam and I never felt sure about my understanding of the Vietnamese or where they stood with respect to this conflict." This felt very wrong to me because i believe that after spending four and a half years in a place, you should be very confident in your reason for being there and know what exactly you need to be doing. It must be very discomforting as a person involved in this war to be sent to fight and not know exactly what you're fighting for. This leads me to the fact that the government and politics must be so scattered and corrupted that even the people involved could not be told exactly what they were doing in this war. This also lead to the distractions of people such as he mentions cock fighting. Although this cultural interaction was a positive for the war efforts, i feel that it must be very awkward for the men to intermingle with the Vietnamese and not know why they are there. It is almost impossible to put your 100% effort into a war if you do not know what you're fighting for.

In the story of Rufus Phillips, i feel that i gained an amount of hope and optimism. His whole story he tells about the difficulties and hardships throughout the war. He mentioned that he was brought into the war to evaluate psychological warfare, and although he knew nothing, he spent time training and learning so he could put a bigger effort into the war. He says, "The South Vietnamese government existed in name only, a collection of French-trained civil servants who didnt have a clue what to do without the French giving them orders." Rufus also mentioned, "The Vietnamese had very little self-confidence. The French had put them down so much and never really let them get into decision-making positions. All the military operations were run by French officers." The reason i mention these quotes is because the Vietnamese were completely helpless without the French. The simple fact that a man like Rufus stayed in Vietnam for as long as he did is very comforting. He was a man that gave hope to the Vietnamese as well as the Americans because he invested so much time and effort into the war it was very encouraging not to give up. He erased all pessemistic outlooks on the war just by the emotional and physical support he upheld.

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