

## ***Vietnam Security Police Association!*** ***Student/Researcher Inquiries***

*by Don Poss.*

Thank you for inquiring about the Vietnam War, and its impact upon U.S. veterans and the United States of America. Americans call the war, *The Vietnam War*, and conversely, Vietnam calls it *The American War*. Whatever a war is named, the truism that *war is hell* rings clear in this war that saw casualties of horrendous proportions: \*

Combatants Killed in Action: 1,382,430

Combatants Wounded in Action: 1,772,465

Combatants MIA/POW: 2,503 (Allied Forces)

Civilians Killed, Vietnamese: 2,000,000

Civilians Killed, Allied: 1,000 (est.)

\* ***Body Count!***: *Battle Casualties for Allied, Communist, and civilians killed and wounded*

\* ***Casualties - US vs. NVA/VC.***

**On this student/researchers' page** you will find, References, Books, Oral History, suggested lesson-plan for the Vietvet War era, and Vietnam Veterans' responses to student/researchers surveys about the United States of America's longest war. Before continuing, ***Bookmark this page!*** You will be tempted many times to link-away to references, and you want to be able to find your way back.

**Student/Researcher inquiries** are numerous and generally the same in content, or subject matter, ranging from research, reports, or personal interest. Therefore, I have attempted to compile a list of references (certainly not all encompassing) that will provide some answers and help you discover the *Who, What, Why, Where, and How* as told by Vietnam Veterans.

**Several Vietnam War and Veterans homepages** are listed on my [Personal HotList](#) pages. Before checking them out, I urge you to read the Comments and Messages left at my Email-Call pages. Many varied opinions and statements are written *by veterans* concerning the war and related issues.

**Students/Researchers:** After compiling your information into an "A" paper, consider submitting your articulate and referenced work to this site for attachment to this page. You will be credited, and others may quote you in their papers.

**Vietvets/Veterans:** Please Email your suggested references, links, and responses to questions listed on the survey below, for inclusion on this page.

### **Information, references, and books:**

- [Check out Tips To Find A Buddy!](#)
- [Check out how to get After Action Reports!](#)
- **National Archives & Records Administration:**
- [Forms Overview - Includes Records of Personnel, Medical, and other info.](#)
- **DD-214 Request Form** - Discharge information
- [Military Awards & Decorations - Where to write](#)
- [Vietnam Veterans "WHO WERE THEY; WHO DID THEY BECOME; WHO ARE THEY NOW; SOURCES."](#)
- [The Vietnam War Museum](#) Numismatic Collection; Photo Archives; Operation Homecoming; Philatelic Collection Stamps; Honor and Remember; Congressional Recognition.
  
- [History Atlas of the Vietnam War \*More than 100 four-color maps supplemented by photographs and reconstructions, History Atlas of the Vietnam War provides highly visual accounts and penetrating analysis of the successive military and political strategies of all the forces involved from the beginning.\*](#)
- [History of The Vietnam War POW/MIA Flag](#)
- [Vietnam War \(1961-1975\)](#)
- [Nolan, Keith. \*\*The Battle For Saigon: Tet 1968.\*\* \(Pocketbook\). The dramatic battle for the Saigon Circle--which includes the capital itself, the U.S. command centers at Tân Sơn Nhứt and Long Binh, and the vital Air Bases at Biên Hòa and Tân Sơn Nhứt.](#)
- [Ending the Vietnam War \*President Clinton yesterday committed America to normalizing relations with Vietnam, the final step in what has been a very long journey toward peace. Opposition runs strongest among veterans groups dissatisfied with Hanoi's accounting of POWs and MIAs.\*](#)
- [Death of the Innocent](#), by Michael W. Rodriguez

- Terry, Wallace **Bloods: An Oral History of the Vietnam War by Black Veterans.**
- Wilson, James R. **Landing Zones: Combat Vets From America's Proud, Fighting South Remember Vietnam.** (Featured vets in this oral history, **John Candler**, Platoon Leader, A/3-21st Inf, 196th LIB; and **Mary Laraine Young Hines**, a Red Cross Donut Dolly with the Americal Division)
- Goff, Stanley, and Robert Sanders, with Clark Smith, **Brothers: Black Soldiers in the Nam.** One of the two ex-GIs featured in this oral history, Goff, won a DSC while a machine gunner in 1968)
- IN HELL WITH DRAGONS, a Vietnam War Biography by Rick Shaffer. True story and daily chronicle of an Infantryman's perspective with the "Golden Dragons" of the 25th Infantry Division.
- Grant, Zalin, **Survivors: American POWs in Vietnam.** Oral history of six GIs captured in January and March 1968.
- **General Giap** is the author of a 62 pages "book" titled, "How We Won the War." Review Summary: Giap (Nguyen Giap Vo). "How We Won the War" (Philadelphia, PA: Recon Publications, 1976). You may read the summary at: [How We Won the War.](#)  
Another book by General Giap: "People's War, People's Army." A Review Summary: Giap (Nguyen Giap Vo): [The Viet Cong Insurrection Manual for Underdeveloped Countries](#) (New York, NY: Praeger, 1962).

**Poetry: War-Stories! publishes original Vietnam War Stories, and poetry. Poetry posted here is the copyright property of the poet, and include:**

**Vietnam War Poetry : A collection of poems by American poets.**

[I Remember...](#) the sound of rain... by Vietvet War Poet, Patrick Camunes

[Remembrance](#), by Patrick Cospes, Navy Hospital Corpsman

[Welcome Home!](#) by Frank Pilson

[I'll see you later Brother](#), by Dennis L. Hodo

[1st LT James R. Gilmore, Jr.](#), by Gwen Ready

**Sky Pilot , Air War Poetry collection:**

[High Flight](#), by John Gillespie Magee, Jr. (perhaps the most quoted war poem in history) [War Poem History/\[Song of the Valkyries\]](#), by Anonymous [Because I Fly](#), by Anonymous [Dakota](#), by Peter Moore

Other Poets:

[Sound of the Bamboo Flute](#), by Anonymous KIA Viet Cong soldier. A poetic letter home.

[I was not There](#), by Win Norwood

**A Collection of War Poems by English KIA Wildred Owen:**

[Wildred Owen](#) "... my subject is War, and the pity of War... the Poetry is in the pity." [KIA last week of WWI]

Although most poets featured above are not famous now, there poetry is sure to touch the hearts of veterans and civilians alike. I hope this helps.

**Media Paper**, by [Kristian Kahrs](#), a *Kristian Kahrs, Brynjeveien 12, 7060 Klaebu, Norway Journalist. Sports stringer for The Associated Press E-mail: [kkahrs@geocities.com](mailto:kkahrs@geocities.com), Phone: +47 906 45 148 URL: <http://www.geocities.com/Colosseum/Track/1007>*

**Kristian:** I find value in your paper as an example of the *media mindset* during the war. One thing you should understand: Correspondents were not, and are not, loved by those who served in Vietnam. By linking to your article you may--probably will--receive some harsh email challenging your facts and accusing you of ignoring other relevant facts. Such as in your conclusions, whereas you write, "Thus the young and idealistic correspondents in Saigon were able to make a difference on American foreign policy." Many will not dispute that statement. Others will point out most arm-chair correspondents NEVER left Saigon's comforts, and their worst offense was to deceive and lie to the American people. Some will agree that correspondents made a difference via deceptions and lies, such as telling the people that Tet 1968 was a terrible defeat. The truth, as we all know today, is that Tet was the final defeat of Viet Cong in South Vietnam.

I do not object to controversial stories and articles. I just want you to understand that you will be taken to task for "selected facts" not agreeing with individual perceptions of the war.

*Don Poss*

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**Survey Questions that students commonly ask of War Stories:** (*Vietnam Veterans: If you care to respond to this survey, please copy and drop them into the email by [Clicking Here.](#)*)

**Name and Rank**

1. What branch of the service were you in?

2. How were you recruited?
3. What was basic training like for you?
4. What did you go to tech school (if any) for?
5. What was your job in the war? eg. medic, pilot, etc.
6. What was your MOS? (If more than one name all)
7. What was your first permanent duty station?
8. How old were you when you enlisted, or were drafted?
9. How old are you now?
10. When did you join the war in Vietnam?
11. How did you come to be in the War? eg. volunteer
12. What were your first impressions of Vietnam?
13. What, if anything, do you feel that you gained from your time in Vietnam?
14. Was the war different from what you had expected before you arrived? In what ways?
15. What country were you fighting for? eg USA, Australia etc.
16. How long did you serve?
17. What was your rank in the army?
18. Did you receive any medals, if so what and what for?
19. During the war were you well informed on what was happening in the outside world?
20. What did you do when you weren't fighting?
21. What was your life like after the war?
22. How did you feel about the outcome of the war?
23. If you had to do it again, knowing what you do now, would you?
24. Name all the countries you were stationed in during the Vietnam War era.
25. How long were you in each of those countries?
26. What base were you stationed at in each of those countries?
27. Were you married when you went into the service?
28. If yes how long?
29. If you went incountry what was it like for you?
30. What was your unit name and #?(ex.Ghost Riders, 189 assault Helicopter.)
31. Did you experience any anti-war propaganda?
32. How old were you when the war began/ended?

### **Vietnam Veterans Responses to two Students Survey Questions:**

- [Human Shields](#)
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**References and Copyright:** All information on the above homepages are the property of that page's webmaster. Remember to give proper credit and references for material used. If you want to include icons and photos from a page, *ask* permission--it will probably be granted.

### **How to Reference a Webpage:**

- 1) Name of Page Author (if known)
- 2) Name of Web Page (if the page has a name)
- 3) URL address: This should be the homepage (1st page) menu address. If you reference a subpage (such as a story), list the name of the subpage (if given) and its URL address.

#### ***Example for Homepage Reference:***

Don Poss, War Stories, <http://www.war-stories.com> (1997)

#### ***Example for subpage story Reference:***

Don Poss, War Stories, "The sound of the bamboo flute", <http://www.war-stories.com/Bamboo.htm> , (1997)

Other Vietnam War Reference Pages:

Vietnam: A Soldier's Perspective (A research tool for students), by Gerard Bufalini, © August 15, 1996.

### **Lesson Plan (of sorts) for Class study:**

*I am a high school Literary Arts/Creative Writing teacher and am looking for poems that were written by Vietnam Vets about their experiences during and after the war for an extensive unit I am planning on the war, the music, film, literature, art, etc. for my creative writers. I would sure appreciate any*

*help you could give me. I was in college during the war, and lost several good friends over there, but really don't know how to relate this sad period in our history to my students. Could you give me some suggestions, poetry links, or whatever you can about this? My sincere thanks to you.*

Thanks for asking. I'm sure we both remember well the tragedy and turmoil our country endured from 1963-1975. In many ways it is gratifying that students and professors are now asking those who served in Vietnam their sides and versions of what happened.

For poetry, I am amazed that war poets sing the same woe over pity and human folly--through all wars, often decades apart. I recommend the WWI poetry of Wilfred Owen, killed in action, France, 1918, during the last days of that war at: <http://www.war-stories.com/poems.htm> . I am always moved by his stirring words, whereas Wilfred Owen once said: "Above all I am not concerned with Poetry--my subject is War, and the pity of War... the Poetry is in the pity."

For comparison of WWI trenches to the jungles and tropical rainforests of Vietnam, read what the common soldier and airmen have composed in heartfelt words, along with families and those left behind... beginning with a poem of love and remembrance in tribute to James R. Gilmore, Jr. 1LT, by GReady, at: <http://www.war-stories.com/t-gilmorejames.htm> .

Next, a listing of clickable favorites at Sky Pilot <http://www.war-stories.com/skypilot.htm> . Then checkout the list of poems listed on this student/researcher page, and click a few. Your students will enjoy the presentations which are colorful, accompanied by music, and insightful.

After the poetry, have your students read at least three of the short stories. All have music and photos of the events. War Stories is a G-rated Family page, so there will be zero blood and guts or profanity -- the English language is still quiet capable of conveying pain and tragedy while painting the proverbial word picture.

I suggest first reading (and perhaps discussion?): Tet1968, a battle for Saigon's Tân Sơn Nhứt Air Base, at: [Heaven's Door](#) (go ahead and be tempted with the inside story reference to "Heaven's Door").

Second, the story of a 19 year old's memorial by airmen in Vietnam (it will tug at your heart for sure), at: <http://www.war-stories.com/T-JBJ.htm> .

Third, my own High School's Welcome Home for me at [Welcome Home 1967](#).

I really must add one more---the circle is not complete without it, really -- my visit, years later, to the Washington D.C. Vietnam Veterans Memorial, commonly called "The Wall" by Vietvets, at [Autumn's Wall](#).

If your students cannot grasp the human tragedy of wars after reading these few (and hopefully other stories), then we are indeed doomed to repeat mankind's greatest injustice to itself.

I hope this helps with your lesson plan or outline.

Don Poss

*We Take Care of Our Own*

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