



Straight Talk

by
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A Veteran Enters the Fray

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Greetings, Gentle Reader,

May 7, 1954: After eight years of bloody aggression against the people of Vietnam, Dien Bien Phu fell to the Communists. The UN promptly legitimized their triumph, gave the fortress to the aggressors and split Vietnam in two. According to the treaty, citizens could stay in newly formed North Vietnam or migrate south. But to Communists, treaties meant nothing. Their goal was absolute power over all the people, and they achieved it as they always have, through torture and terrorism.

In operation "Passage to Freedom," the people traveling south went through Haiphong, where American Navy doctors oversaw their health and welfare. It was a gruesome job.

Dr. Tom Dooley asks, "What do you do for children who have had chopsticks driven into their inner ears? Or for old women whose brittle collar-bones have been shattered by rifle butts? How do you treat an old priest who has had nails driven into his skull to make a travesty of the Crown of Thorns?"

He says his assignment brought him face to face with misery on a horrifying scale. The people had been starved, terrorized and tortured beyond the capacity of a young Navy doctor to comprehend.

Dooley's tough, loudmouthed sailors (Dooley's own words) became tender nurses to sick babies and brutalized old men. They treated terrified old women as they would their own grandmothers. They were not — as they have been portrayed by America's traitors — fellow torturers and murderers with the Communists. They were what their good mothers had reared them to be — real Americans, caring and gentle.

During the war, a group called Vietnam Veterans Against the War demonstrated in America's large cities, carrying signs that supported the North Vietnamese, even marching under the Viet Cong flag. Their stories, later exposed as false, helped create a viciously hostile environment for returning vets.

April 3, 1971: John Kerry, a member of V V A W, testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that U.S. soldiers had "... personally raped, cut off ears, cut off heads, taped wires from portable telephones to human genitals and turned up the power, cut off limbs, blown up bodies, randomly shot at civilians, razed villages in a fashion reminiscent of Genghis Khan, shot cattle and dogs for fun, poisoned food stocks, and generally ravaged the countryside of South Vietnam." North Vietnamese General, VO Nguyen Giap, admitted that the American military was too tough for them. They were ready to give up, but American war protestors changed the face of the war so successfully, they knew that we would abandon the South Vietnamese, if they could only hold on longer.

1974: Congress forbade military action in and over Indochina, de-funded the war and abandoned the South Vietnamese, after which North Vietnam's massacre of innocent South Vietnamese began in earnest.

2004: Don Bendell, Special Forces officer and Vietnam vet, asks John Kerry, "How did we who served in Vietnam suddenly become cold-blooded killers, torturers, and rapists, of the ilk of the Nazi SS or the Taliban? Most of us were American

soldiers who grew up idolizing John Wayne, Roy Rogers, and all the other heroes. That was why I volunteered. But for political expediency, John Kerry has rewritten history, again.

"I was a Green Beret officer... and fought in the thick of it. We were the elite. We saw the most action... But we did not just kill people, we built a church, a school, treated illnesses, passed out soap, food, and clothing, and had fun and loving interaction with the indigenous people of Vietnam.

"My children and grandchildren could read your words and think those horrendous things about me, Mr. Kerry. You are a bold-faced, unprincipled liar, and a disgrace, and you have dishonored me and all my fellow Vietnam veterans."

Indeed, he has.

Any comment, Mr. Kerry?