

The Vietnam Experience

Experience #1: **Mark Baker's NAM**

- 1) The author states he was crazy. Was he? What elements of this excerpt surprise you? What does this excerpt provide you in terms of knowledge about the larger war?

Experience #2: **Song Lyrics** (Galveston Bay, Goodnight Saigon, Front Line)

- 1) The lyrics in each of these three songs paints a picture of the Vietnam war that is complex and also critical of at least some of the elements of the war. What do you feel the composer of the lyrics of each of the three songs is trying to convey to the listener/reader? (It may be helpful to reference lines or phrases from the lyrics that you can connect with things you know about Vietnam or the military)

Experience #3: **Vietnam Photos** ([The Vietnam War: The Pictures That Moved That Most](#))

- 1) Write five words that you feel describe the array of photos on the page you visit.
- 2) If you were to be asked to select one of these photos to describe what you feel about the Vietnam war which photo would you select? Why does this photo stand out to you as particularly relevant?

Experience #4: **NAM – Why people joined the military to fight** and **NAM – Homecoming**

- 1) Compare the two readings – as the first is before individuals went to war, the second is when they came home. What do they tell about the feelings of the war from the perspective of both the soldiers and the people on the home front?

Experience #5: **Video interview with W.D. Ehrhardt** (watch from start to 6:50 mark)

- 1) Discuss the expectations and surprises that Mr. Ehrhardt experienced in his arrival in Vietnam. How does he describe his mental state for the last 9 months of his time in Vietnam?

Experience #6: **Vietnam Photos #2** ([How Photography From the Vietnam War Changed America - The New York Times](#))

- 1) Vietnam was a war that was followed everyday by the public. What are some of the images that are shown on this site that would challenge the notion of “good” or “just” war for an observer?