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Winds of War
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Formal Written Analysis

Have you ever wondered how you would survive every day in a war through jungles, hot weather, cold temperatures, or being held captive? How would you react to these different situations? Would you know what to do in times of trouble? How would you find edible food or clean drinking water? These are all questions that you should be able to answer before being recruited or during recruitment. Three different characters have gone through the experience of war and to this day it has affected them. In *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque, a fictional story with non-fictional elements, Paul Baumer had a hard time adapting to the war between the French and German. Tim O'Brien from *The Things They Carried* also had difficulty getting used to being in the war field every day. Ishmael Beah in *A Long Way Gone* struggled to run away from war but ends up fighting in it as well.

First, Remarque begins the story with saying what each character carries, and many of them carry friendships. "We don't talk much, but I believe we have a more complete communion with one another than even lovers have. We are two men, two minute sparks of life; outside is the night and the circle of death."p.94 Paul and Kat feel very close to one another like true friends should. Paul would take a bullet for Kat and Kat would do the same in return. Their relationship is strong and nothing or no one can break it up. They do a lot of things together; even go to the front lines together. When Kat gets hit by shrapnel in the back of the head, Paul risks his life trying to save him and brings him back to a doctor, but it was useless because Kat has already passed. "I belong to them and they to me; we all share the same fear

and the same life; we are nearer than lovers, in a simpler, a harder way; I could bury my face in them in these voices, these words that have saved me and will stand by me." P.212. Everyone knows that their lives lie in each other's hands and must trust one another in order to survive. They all share the same fears and same beliefs and only have one goal, survive the war and go home back to civilization. "They shared the weight of memory. They took up what others could no longer bear. Often, they carried each other, the wounded or weak." P 14 In this quote, one can see that brotherhood is shared by all. These men carry each other emotionally and occasionally physically. They carry the wounded or weak because they know that they should never leave a man behind, even if it puts you in danger. "The whole platoon stood watching [Rat shoot the baby water buffalo], feeling all kinds of things, but there wasn't a great deal of pity for the baby water buffalo. Curt Lemon was dead. Rat Kiley had lost his best friend in the world. Later in the week he would write to the guy's sister, who would not write back, but for now it was a question of pain. [Rat] shot off the [water buffalo's] tail. He shot away chunks of meat below the ribs." p 75 In this quote one can see that Rat Kiley couldn't bear knowing that his friend has died and is now gone forever while others don't accept that someone has died and they sing about it or pretend they still exist to avoid thinking that they are really gone.

Beah describes several friendships that he had as a young boy before he became a child soldier. He had friends in his home village before it was raided, and he ran with these friends to "safety." After he was on the run, he made several other friendships that were forced and bound by the need for survival. "The villages that we captured and turned into bases as we went along and the forests that we slept in became my home. My squad was my family, my gun

was my provider and protector, and my rule was to kill or be killed.” P 126 When a man no longer has much family left, anyone or anything will become their family, just like the squad became Beah’s family even though he really knew they were not. He did not have his father or mother there with him to protect him, so anything that can help him defend himself became his protector. “We took the guns and ammunition off the bodies of my friends and left them there in the forest, which had taken on a life of its own, as if it had trapped the souls that had departed from the dead.”p 119 Sometimes war changes a person so much that when a friend dies in the battlefield, he no longer feel anything for their death, he treats the body like it was an enemy who he feels no sympathy for. War has really changed how Beah feels for his friends.

These quotes show all the differences and similarities that some of these characters had as friends. Some had human friends and Beah had his gun as a friend, as well as human friends, but when everyone else leaves you behind, other nonhuman things become our friends. The similarity is that they all had friends to be there for them. Every author presented the top in different and similar ways.

Narrative-Style Reflection

Friendship and brotherhood are two of the most important relationships you can have with someone. Before this course I knew that everybody has these things. After this course I learned that not everyone has the opportunity to have a friend after they have experienced war. A war can depart you from being comfortable in society or having a friend as a brother, or it can make you feel like you need someone by your side more than ever before. What I feel to be the most shocking about friendship is that a man in war will run away to save his own life rather than trying to quickly spot their buddy and quickly try to help. That is not true friendship. Another shocking and depressing thing about this is that war has a very big chance of taking away your friendship for the rest of your life and may cause you to take your own life away due to the great deal of grief. I believe that this topic is very important in everyone's life because we all go through hard times and we need a friend to be there for us and we have to do the same thing in return. "We have become wild beasts. We do not fight, we defend ourselves against annihilation." p 113 Everyone needs a friend to stick by during a war or any phase of life to stop you from doing things that no one should be doing to them. There is always someone willing to help you out through every tough thing you may be experiencing; most likely that someone is your true friend. Only true friends stick by your side when you need them most, and you better be prepared to do the same in return when they need you most. Do not use them for your own benefits and they will most likely not use you if you're loyal to one another. Friendship comes with honesty and loyalty. If you lose their loyalty and the ability of you to be trusted, then you have lost the two most important qualities of a true friendship and it may destroy that friendship forever.

Dardanelles Campaign, 1915

By: War Department



This black and white picture clearly shows that you should never leave a man behind in any kind of situations. Help others as you would like for others to help you when you are the one that is wounded. Friendship matters most in a war since it's all you have. By looking at this photo, a person can conclude that with friendship comes trust. A soldier must learn to trust his comrades that he fights with every day. They must trust each other that when one gets wounded, the other will do everything in their power to get the wounded to a safe place and survive and continue their friendship later.

<http://histomil.com/viewtopic.php?f=3&t=14047&hilit=dem>

Medics Dedicated

Photo by: AP Photo/Horst Faas

June 24, 1965



The artist is showing how these medics are risking their life under strong sniper fire from the Vietnamese to save the life of one of their own. The soldiers are centered in the picture to bring full focus of its viewer on them. They are in the jungle, which shows that they can be under severe fire but they do it anyway because you never leave a man behind. A person can see that these soldiers can depend on one another and trust each other with their lives in the hands of the other. Loyalty is also another important quality shown in this picture.

<http://www.theblaze.com/stories/2013/03/29/peace-with-honor-25-stunning-photos-to-mark-the-40th-anniversary-of-the-u-s-withdrawal-from-vietnam/05/08/2007>

By: M. Venkat Laxman



This photographer is showing that friendships last forever. Whether you may never see your friends again because you have to depart from them like Ishmael did, he still thinks of how he wishes he could be with them. By looking at this picture, a person can see that friends last for life. Friendship can be marked by a mere friendship bracelet. Some last forever and some last for a very short amount of time. Ishmael had a long distance relationship with his friends from Matru Jong but he didn't let that stop him from being friends. True buddies last forever.

<http://andromans.blogspot.com/2007/08/10-past-12-midnight.html>

Veteran Interview

The person who spoke was an Air Cavalry in the U.S. Army named Captain Ned Ricks, Vietnam War. He shared how he became the Sergeant of a company whose previous Captain was murdered by the soldiers who were in the company. When I heard about this, I was very surprised to find out that the soldiers would do such a thing to one of their own. It made me wonder why the soldiers would do such a thing. Another thing I found interesting was how the veteran was talking with such confidence about everything without holding anything back, but one part of his story made him cry and it was heartbreaking, even though this happened forty years ago. I personally never had a loved one in the war while being on this earth. I also observed that Captain Ricks was very eager to have more questions thrown at him and he would answer them with pride in his voice. Experiences like these are meant to be shared with everyone so we know the true realities of war told through the people who experienced it firsthand. It is a shame that we have to fight our own mankind to seek power and control over others when we should all be sharing and caring for one another. Then we had to deal with the unbearable grief due to this cruelty and negativity and having our entire lives changed. No one should have to go through these things in life, ever.