

Corpsman Versus a Sniper



Danny Lliteras served in Vietnam as a Navy corpsman (medic) and as a combat diver from 1969-1970. During our oral history with him, he told us about his experiences in the jungles of Vietnam with a Marine Reconnaissance unit for the first six months of his tour; and for the second half of his tour, he dove in Vietnam's rivers and canals, checking tunnels for Viet Cong and their supplies. Many of his missions were incredibly dangerous. In this photo, which Danny calls "East Meets West," Danny (right) is standing with a friend from the Army of the Republic of Vietnam during combat diver training in 1970. Watch Danny's oral history as "Doc" Lliteras

recounts the close call he had with an enemy sniper while trying to evacuate a wounded Marine. The video is available on YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/DannyLliteras> or you can click directly on this QR code from your smartphone or tablet (using either a QR reader app or your phone's camera).



Questions to consider:

1. What is the importance of oral histories? Why do we spend the time to speak with veterans about their experiences?
2. Is this oral history a primary source or secondary source? Why?
3. Danny Lliteras describes how his comrades were yelling at him to "hide for cover." He goes on to describe what he was thinking and feeling at that moment: "Something comes over you. You hear and you don't hear. You have a job to do." What do you think he means by that statement?
4. Why do you think the Marines he was with referred to him as "crazy"?
5. What did Danny do when he finally got hold of the litter?
6. Danny says he and the Marines had "good camaraderie." Why do you think that would be such an important thing to have in war?
7. Why is it important we hear this particular story, and what lessons can we take from it?