

Rare Photos From The Vietnam War Brought To Life With Color



#LIFESTYLE #ENTERTAINMENT #HISTORY

The Vietnam War was one that changed the landscape of North America, and the entire rest of the world with it. In 20 years, some of the most iconic moments in history took place, and we were lucky enough to encapsulate some of those transforming seconds in the form of photographs.

Doughnuts, Daisies, and Delightful Derrieres



Photo Courtesy: Nautical Images

The Red Cross was a huge part of the Vietnam War, mostly made up of volunteers in every facility you can think of. And it wasn't just mainly medical aid the Red Cross offered. They had a specifically popular program in which Red Cross Girls dressed in their old-school nurse uniforms would hand deliver doughnuts, among a variety of sweets and treats, to soldiers on the front lines, along with entertainment and just overall morale-boosting socialization during such an otherwise dark and deadly time.

Raquel Welch Supports The Soldiers



Photo Courtesy: Nautical Images

Back in the 1960's, Raquel Welch was the sexiest woman in the world (to be honest, she had held this title for decades, and arguably still does even in her 70's). Right before the Vietnam War had come to its ugly head, Raquel had starred in her sexiest role to date, and following right off that, she decided to do tours overseas with actor friends, such as Bob Hope, to visit with the active soldiers. Always an avid supporter of the soldiers, Raquel was always up to do everything she could to offer any aid in any way she could.

Surf's Up, Soldiers!



Photo Courtesy: Nautical Images

Buds Up, Guns Down



Photo Courtesy: Nautical Images

In this photo, we see a woman offering a flower to a soldier. This was a common scene during protests during the Vietnam War—a strategy to offer an image of peace along with the message the protestors were trying to spread. The idea was to pick an emblem that was a complete opposite side to the coin of guns and defense, hence why “flower power” was born. At first, doves were used with this idea in mind, but flowers took on more popularity as they were easier to get for anyone, and just a more practical peace offering all together.

Bringing A Little Soul to the Jungle



Photo Courtesy: Nautical Images

Sammy Davis, Jr. was famously against the war in Vietnam, but when the President asked him if he'd be up for the challenge of traveling overseas to perform for the soldiers, Sammy's answer was an immediate yes. Much like many other performers who would tour to entertain the troops, agreeing with war wasn't hand-in-hand with being there for the soldiers when they needed it the most.

Bringing Cute and Sassy to the Jungle



Photo Courtesy: Nautical Images

Jane McClellan and her all-girls band, The Debutantes, were an obscure group who had sporadic success in and out of the 60's, but what they're best known for was the big tour they took overseas with the USO to entertain the troops during the Vietnam War. With the war raging on, smack dab in the middle of its reigning decade, the Debutantes knew how to entertain in the classic old way of the Beatles; with pizza, jokes, and playing all their own instruments.

One Stupid Decision...



Photo Courtesy: Nautical Images

Jane Fonda was a big name in the 60's and 70's, due to being born into Hollywood royalty, and also for her own work in big films opposite A-List stars at the time. Jane was extremely anti-war and spoke at several rallies. However, Jane made a decision that ultimately some would say cost her what could've been a huge career. She went to Vietnam to protest a legitimate concern over non-war targets being bombed, but when Jane decided to pose in a photo smiling with the enemy Vietnam cavalry who had killed, maimed, and bombed countless U.S. soldiers, she was re-named Hanoi Jane by practically the whole U.S. at large.

The Hanoi Taxi Lives on Past Vietnam



Photo Courtesy: Nautical Images

The Hanoi Taxi may be retired out of use now, but it still can be seen at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in Ohio today. This aircraft actually got its name from the POW's it rescued themselves, as they scrawled the words "Hanoi Taxi" on the engineer panel, forever engraving it into the legendary plane. What's especially cool about this aircraft, is that it would be used later for the same kind of rescuing mission, deployed during Hurricane Katrina to those stranded amidst the hurricane chaos.

Dropping Patriotism and Stereotypes



Photo Courtesy: Nautical Images

In a notably creative turn of phrase, Drop Acid, Not Bombs, protestors of the Vietnam War created a slogan to attempt to get a pretty solid message across—you can both be patriotic to your country while opposing the ongoing war in Vietnam. Unfortunately, the stereotype that seemed to follow hippy protesters (i.e., unemployment and heavy hallucinogenic drugs) was a hindrance in trying to spread a well-thought-out level of thought.

The Life Changing Tour of Raquel



Photo Courtesy: Nautical Images

Raquel Welch was a favorite among the guests in Bob Hope's troupe USO tour shows, but perhaps one of the best stories of her time in Vietnam was in the moments she first arrived. As told through the years by herself and her ex-husband from the time, the flight into the base was rocky, throwing Raquel all over the plane. As the aircraft descended closer to the ground, it was hard for Raquel to see anyone at first, and she started to cry that no one had even shown up. But in the seconds before landing, she truly saw the hundreds of soldiers awaiting her with big signs, and the first thing Raquel did when she got off the, was jump into the arms of 2 excited Marine soldiers awaiting her arrival.

Come on Home, Boys



Photo Courtesy: Nautical Images

It was a monumental day on April 23, 1975, when President Ford announced to the entire U.S.A. that America was absolutely, resolutely, and officially done in the

Vietnam War conflict. This poignant photo shows soldiers hearing for the first time on their static-y radios that they finally get to come home. And the U.S. wasted no time after the announcement from the president, bringing the boys out of Vietnam in huge groups on helicopters and every aircraft they could find in just a couple of weekends.

The Real Wonder Woman



Photo Courtesy: Nautical Images

Heroes weren't just the men of the Vietnam War. Iconic army nurse Kate O' Hare Palmer is a true hero, fighting along the front lines to save even those soldiers that were way beyond saving. Kate ran at least 2 field hospitals in the thick of the war, directing and mending to the worst of the worst injuries and devastating violent to be wrecked upon these human men. She survived the war herself and now, Kate is the head chair of the Women Vets Committee for the Vietnam Vets of America.

Flower Power Loses its Luster



Photo Courtesy: Nautical Images

As the war wore on, hippies began to lose a bit of that peace they'd always come to protest with. Flower power just didn't seem to be working on President Nixon to help convince him to end the Vietnam War, so protesters were upping their rally numbers, turning up the volume on their shouts against the war, and turning their marches to only taking their message as close as they could get to the President—Washington, D.C.