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Part 1:

The account that most represented a turning point for me was that of Vincent Okamoto in the section titled "You Look Like a Gook." He was born in the Poston Relocation Camp in Arizona, and two of his older brothers served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in WWII. Okamoto believed that one of the reasons that his family was allowed to get out of the camps was because his brothers served in WWII. "So growing up, I thought military service was an inevitable rite of passage. All six of my older brothers had served in the military. I could hardly wait for my turn." (Appy, pg. 357)

The first thing I noticed that signified a turn for him was when he started referring to the Vietnamese as gooks, zipperheads and slants. He himself was a Japanese American. "I should have known better, yet within a relatively short time we were all thinking alike." (Appy, pg. 358) There was something about Vietnam that caused people to change in unexpected ways.

Okamoto earned three Purple Hearts and the Distinguished Service Cross. The rule was that after two Purple Hearts, you got a noncombat job in the rear. But after Tet, it was raised to three. After his third, Okamoto was told that a soldier with three Purple Hearts also had to be in the hospital for at least seven days for each one. So he was sent out for another three months until his Distinguished Service Cross was approved. After that third wound, something really changed inside him. "But after six or seven weeks in Vietnam and you've seen a couple of napalmed villages and civilians blasted to hell...That was not what I signed up to do." (Appy, pg. 358) He just plain neglected his duties as an officer. "When they sent me back to the weeds after that third wound, I was a very unhappy person. I was so gun-shy, we'd take maybe a single sniper round and I'd hit the deck. When I hit the deck the radio operators expected me to exercise leadership. They're saying, 'Here's the handset, sir.' And I'd say, 'Get the hell away from me.'" (Appy, pg. 360)

In the year that he served in Vietnam, Okamoto went from being excited to do his duty and serve like his brothers served in the military to hiding behind trees and failing to lead his men. To me, this the sharpest turn a soldier can make without completely giving up and resigning. Or worse, deserting.

Part 2:

The account that most represented the end of the war for me was that of Daniel Ellsberg in the section titled "Watergate." Ellsberg

was part of the team that compiled the Pentagon Papers, a project started by Robert McNamara. Ellsberg was one of the few who bothered to even read it. He said it "stripped away all legitimate rationales for what we were doing' in Vietnam." (Appy, pg. 432)

After seeing Randy Kehler at a War Resisters League conference announce that he was on his way to prison for draft dodging. It hit Ellsberg hard. "I thought, we're eating our young. We're relying on them to fight the war and to end it...[I] thought it was up to older people to end the war. I asked myself, what can I do if I don't worry about what will happen to me, if I really discard and consideration of its effects on my career?...Was I willing to forfeit that? Was I willing to go to prison?" (Appy, pg. 434)

After about a month, Ellsberg decided to use the Pentagon Papers to end the war. He first went to Congress to try to expose Nixon's strategy. No one in Congress was willing to do it, so he leaked them to the New York Times, and then eventually to the Washington Post and fifteen other newspapers.

Nixon went after Ellsberg by tapping his phone and forming the Plumbers to track down any damning information on Ellsberg. "Nixon wasn't worried about the actual release of the Pentagon Papers...The reason why he was so preoccupied with me had entirely to do with his fears that I would release information about *his* plans to escalate the war...That's what led Nixon to take criminal action against me and finally made him vulnerable." (Appy, pg. 434)

Nixon's actions signaled the end of the American public's patience for the war and criminalized Nixon himself. "In those years I had been thinking a lot about an idea I called "revolutionary judo."...The Pentagon Papers were a kind of revolutionary judo against Nixon. I didn't have the power to persuade people just how bad he was, but by overreacting he did the job himself." (Appy, pg. 435) ~~This led to the resignation of Nixon and the eventual troop pull out and the end of the war.~~

here's the timeline problem.

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