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Part 1

In Clark Dougan's account, there are two examples that indicate a turning point in the attitude towards the Vietnam War. These cases interconnect in that they both have to do with the changing of opinion on the war so far away. The death of Greg Fischer, a boy just out of high school, brought the war home. One death can leave a lasting impression. The impact of this single loss affected Dougan personally, flipped the viewpoint of local war-supporters, and symbolized the changing perspective on the war across America.

When the loss of Fischer's life was plastered on the cover of local newspaper *Cleveland Press*, Dougan was shocked. The news of another fallen soldier, although common to hear, hit Dougan hard. He found greater significance in his classmate's decision to serve. No longer was the Vietnam War just an event happening ~~hundreds~~ of miles away. The proof that this tragic event was a turning point is in the fact that Dougan later went to write several books on Vietnam. Fischer's death caused Dougan to come alive. No longer was he sleeping in the midst of crisis.

Those who fully supported the war started turning from their sturdy viewpoints. Reporting on Fischer's death, the *Cleveland Press* showed signs of change. Usually a war-supporting newspaper, the article on Fischer screamed of a new perspective: anger. Even WWII veterans in Dougan's hometown were having a change of heart, thinking that the war was no longer worth losing lives, such as Fischer's. The local newspapers and veterans turning from their hardcore beliefs symbolize a turning point in American support throughout the country. The "what's the point?" feeling was certainly spreading in similar areas.

These were not shallow feelings of renewing viewpoints, but people seriously questioning something they so strongly clung to throughout their entire lives. It was changing even those who were on the opposite side of viewpoints; it was not a strengthening of opinions already set, but an extreme flip. Not only was it a personal change for Dougan himself, but was also a personal change for a great deal of his local neighbors. These people were no longer seeing any reason for being over in Vietnam if war just meant losing friends, and gaining nothing.

awkward
war zing

Dougan expressing his own change and then alternating to the transformation in the people around him, shows how far down the line the attitudes traveled. A revolution starts when one person begins to see from a new set of eyes; and not only was this one person, but a town, a chain of newspapers, and a generation of veterans. It can be said with confidence that Dougan's hometown was not the only one with perplexed people. His story symbolizes that major shift of opinion towards the Vietnam War.



Part 2

Judith Coburn, a reporter, looked into the attitudes of the troops in Vietnam. Through her father's government relations, Coburn heard of United States military leaders in Vietnam starting to fear the American soldiers. There was fear because the troops were starting to show more and more signs of not caring about the war anymore, and that led to rebellion against their orders. The troop's behavior is a great example of an ending to the war because without the support of troops, nothing can truly be accomplished.

According to Coburn's findings, the troops did not really see a point to fighting in Vietnam anymore. They were fed up with being there, and just wanted to be home. Not to say all troops felt this way, but many were antiwar. Troops started planning demonstrations in order to let their opinions be known. They no longer kept their ideas to themselves, but made sure others knew. In fact, most troops told Coburn that they thought American troops should quickly withdraw. The significance of this is that antiwar troops are *at war*. It's an oxymoron, and a dangerous one at that. Those put in a situation they don't believe in are likely to rebel, and that is what many did. *statistics? proof?*

The troop's opposition of the war went from a dull roar to a full out scream when they realized American couldn't win the war, and also what they could get away with while in Vietnam. Troops were realizing that it was difficult for the leaders to control them if the troops stuck together. Coburn reports on many scamming the leaders into thinking they were carrying out assigned tasks, when in reality they were just hanging around. Soldiers were refusing to follow orders. Such rebellions caused chaos for the American military leaders. Without the control of the troops, many antiwar movements persisted. This lack of control symbolized the "who cares anymore?" attitude of the troops, a position that gave them great power.

It was awful for military leaders when the men sent to do a certain duty, didn't do it. The troops had tremendous influence, and they

took that to their advantage. "Vietnamization" was not working, and the soldiers were the ones who could see that with their own eyes. Therefore, if the policy of the U.S. government wasn't working, then the troops asked themselves why they were even in Vietnam if the war couldn't be won. The troops had no optimism to hold onto.

This is the best example of an ending to the war because without the obedience of troops, there was no point in having them there. The lack of morale surely took a blow to what could be accomplished by the United States in Vietnam. Antiwar movements that started in America later transferred into Vietnam as well. The president can hardly do anything but withdraw when American citizens *and* American troops are against being in Vietnam. Therefore, Coburn's accounts of American soldiers symbolized an ending of the Vietnam War.



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