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The story that demonstrated a turning point in the war to me was the story told by Charley Trujillo, a "Chicano" man born in Corcoran, a cotton town in California's San Joaquin Valley. The story of Charley Trujillo is one that is filled with racism and dedication. When Charlie was young he wanted to affiliate himself with the white society. He tried hard to dress like whites and to hang out with them, he even joined the boy scouts, which at the time I assume was mostly white kids. "I really wanted to be white bad, man." Charley said. Charley was going to be drafted so he volunteered, it was his way of trying to be American and show his patriotism. When Charley got to Vietnam he talks of all "Chicanos" wanting to prove that they were really Americans. When out in the bush Trujillo said that he had never felt such affinity and togetherness with men of other cultures and races as he did in Vietnam. But as soon as they got back to the rear areas everything changed again. Trujillo talks about going out on a patrol with an Italian guy who was pretty nice, but he had a prejudice against blacks, that Italian guy would die with a black medic on top of him trying to give mouth to mouth, the medic got shot in the head while trying to save this racist mans life, it just goes to show you that race does not matter when you are in a situation like that. After all of the men with Trujillo got back from patrol they saw the South Vietnamese popular forces playing volleyball and drinking cokes and having a good old time when they were supposed to be helping the Americans to fight. When many of the men saw this I'm sure it discouraged them and made them start to wonder why they are fighting someone else's war for them, I can see how this could lead to disheartenment for the war of our own men. Trujillo says that when they got back and saw the South Vietnamese soldiers playing volleyball many of the blacks began saying "this ain't our war. Our wars at home. This is a white man's war." "It made me start to think" Trujillo said. The men were told that they were going back out in the morning, and some of the men said they were not going. They brought in a new company commander and he gave all of the men a pep talk, "it was like halftime at a football game." According to Trujillo. This to me represents a turning point because in the military you're supposed to give orders and the men are supposed to follow them, when the men are refusing to go out and fight it shows to me that the war effort is in trouble to put it lightly. The views of the men that Trujillo speaks of are like a disease in war in my opinion, once the troops start to question why there are fighting and if they are fighting for the right reasons then they are most likely to not follow orders and do what is asked of them. This was the major turning point in the Vietnam War. As soon as troops started **defecting** is when the war was lost.

The story that I thought has the best example of an "ending" of the war is the one told by CIA operative Frank Snepp. In Snepps story he says that the intelligence that they had was impeccable, because they had an agent inside the

this is all narrative

communist command. The information they would receive was up to the minute changes in communist planning. I believe that when Richard Nixon was removed from office this marked the ending of the war. The North Vietnamese thought Nixon was crazy and that he might reenter the war at any time, but with him gone they began to think that the road to Saigon might be open. Ambassador Graham Martin and CIA station Chief Thomas Polgar had convinced themselves that the South Vietnamese army was in good enough shape to hold the lines. It seems that the real situation that they didn't want to face was that the moral was down and corruption in the regime and army was huge. Snepp believed that the South Vietnamese had plenty of materials on the ground to hold the line but their commanders were stashing it away to sell for their own profit. Throughout the fall of 1974 the North Vietnamese were trying to find soft spots in the South Vietnamese defense lines. This was to see if the United States in the wake of Nixon's resignation would send aircraft in response of the provocation. The later decisions of the United States not to have evacuation plan of the South Vietnamese people who worked for the U.S during the war would have dire consequences.



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