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In Christian Appy's book Patriots, In Part Four: Turning Points, other than Tet, the best example of a turning point I could find was in the story of Douglas Kinnard. The turning point I found in this, was not only to Douglas himself personally, but I also found one for the army generals as a group. Kinnard wrote a book based on a questionnaire he sent out to all the generals. He got two thirds of the questionnaires back from them, completely filled out. "Probably the most startling thing to me was that almost seventy percent said they really didn't understand the war's objectives.....But when they thought about the overall objective they said, "Why were we doing this? What was the overall purpose?" (Appy, pg. 321). I think this was a turning point as a group for the generals because when you get the majority of the generals(seventy percent) questioning why they were in Vietnam fighting, and what the overall purpose and goals were, the will to stay in Vietnam is going to start to deplete. Douglas says that during his first tour over in Vietnam that success was measured on two things, body count, and kill ratio. He said people assumed if we hit the enemy hard enough, they would quit. Of course this was not true for the Vietcong, their numbers were so large that they just kept flooding in more troops in the place of the fallen. "We had made it a war of wills, rather than a war of power. The problem was, while we had power, it turned out they had will." (Appy, pg. 322). Of course the obvious problem with this is when the will of our generals started to falter, there was no way we could win the war. If they didn't know why we were fighting in Vietnam, and didn't want to stay there, it was a winless war(which was clear already by the fact that the Vietcong never seemed to let up), but I think this helped make it more clear that we couldn't win this, and we needed to get out. As for Douglas personally, this was a turning point in his life, after his first tour in Vietnam, " I had decided that the war was a losing proposition, that it could go on forever." (Appy, pg 322). I think this changed his outlook on what he wanted to do. He applied to Princeton, he wanted nothing more to do with the war, he wanted out. Unfortunately he had to return for a second term.



I think that an ending to the war has a lot to due with the turning point, the turning point I talked about was how the generals started to question the war and the reasons for being in Vietnam. I think an example of the ending of the war is best described as when the "will" to be at war trickled down from the generals to the soldiers. Many examples of this are in the opening to "The End Of The

Tunnel” and in the story of Judith Coburn. A colonel to a senator about the war “Well, Senator, I’ll tell you, mainly I have the feeling that one day soon if I lead my men into battle I might turn around and they won’t be there.” (Appy, pg 407). There are many examples of mutiny by soldiers at the end of the war, Judith goes on to say that some soldier were indeed, openly refusing to carry out orders. “They’d drop a group of guys into the jungle and they’d just sit there for a couple of days calling in fake coordinates, and smoking a little weed, and wait to get picked up.” (Appy, pg 408). This can’t be said for all the soldiers of course, but it is true for a vast majority of them. I feel that when soldiers are beginning to refuse their orders, are “fragging” their officers, and are calling in fake coordinates while sitting in the jungle doing drugs, that the “War” aspect of war is taken out. Meaning, yes we may still have been in Vietnam, but combat was starting to dwindle, and less and less soldiers were cooperating. I feel at this point in the war, we relied a lot more on bombings to take out the enemy, and in often cases, it was unsuccessful, or hit civilians. “South Vietnamese soldiers were deserting, shedding their uniforms, and mixing into refugee crowds for protection.....But, as it turned out, most of the civilians were being killed by artillery fire from American navy ships offshore.” (Appy, pg 410). This is just another example of how soldiers had grown sick of the war, and had lost the will to fight anymore. This also, is an example of how we often times hit civilians with our bombing/fire. I think overall, this point in Vietnam shows a good example of the war ending because troop combat started to dwindle, troops started to rebel against officers, and in turn, less enemy soldiers began to fall. Everyone was sick of the war, and wanted out.



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