

Due date: Saturday, 20 November 2010, 09:05 PM

Last edited: Saturday, 20 November 2010, 08:16 PM (617 words)

The Palace Guard story stuck out to me as having a very visible turning point. It is about J. Shaeffer and I would say it happens in either 1967-68. In his accounts of the war he is talking about a particular time when he was on duty as a police man and the people are rioting and protesting the war, and tear gas is shot in to the crowds. He said everyone just started to run including the police. He ran a few blocks and was standing in a doorway and he looked up to see who was with him and it was two "hippies". He says they **were taking shelter together.** I can just see them huddled together in a doorway frightened and upset all at the same time. Not being hippies, or a cop just being people. I think at this point it was a shift in his gut, one that you just feel from the inside. He goes on to wrap his paragraph up with "So I just walked away thinking, what the hell is this insanity? In fact you know what? I think we are all victims together in the whole business, this whole thing..." These are a powerful few sentences, I think he is saying that we are all just trying to live in harmony, and what are we really fighting about. After having a moment like that of complete revelation how could you continue on to fight a war that makes no sense or one that you don't believe in.

Upon finishing this account I knew it was the one I wanted to talk about on the turning point. I feel very strongly on a personal note about ethics and inner peace, and doing what is right and believing in what you are trying to accomplish. It would be hard to stand up for the cause of the war during this time with the forming of the Vietnam Veterans against the War. Seeing how the veterans that were coming home were getting treated, how they were addicted to drugs, and had horrifying stories to share. I just feel that this was a good insight from a man who was actually serving.

The perfect representation of an ending for me was George Evans, "I didn't know there was a bad war." To come from his background, and childhood growing up decorating veteran's graves on Flag Day, listening to veterans reminisce war stories, to come from a patriotic community. George made the decision to volunteer and he became a medic and was then shipped to Vietnam. It seems George was doing the right thing going to fight the war. His turning point came 6 months after he was in the field, he decided he wasn't going to represent the spit polished hair cut creased uniform of a proud soldier. He had an inner shifting and decided that he was going to

continue his job but not in the “right” way. He also started posting propaganda expressing his distaste with the war. He was reprimanded when he refused to comply with his uniform and appearance.



I feel that the way he looked was such a small thing in the middle of all the chaos that was going on in medical station. I am sure the people he was helping to save didn't care what he looked like or if he had a haircut recently. It seems vain to me. I think that must be how George was feeling, what a trivial thing to experience during such a traumatic time. I think this was a way of quitting the army but still serving the people that needed help.

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