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There are so many to choose from. I would have to say that in Part Four, the speaker with the best example of "Turning Point" was from Larry Colburn. (pgs.346-349) Here is an example, to me, of how the war was failing on all fronts. Larry was telling how he and some colleagues helped to rescue innocent Vietnamese civilians who were being murdered by American soldiers at My Lai. Larry describes how they courageously put their own life on the line to protect these Vietnamese women and children.

He tells how they were prepared to open fire on the American GI's if they tried to attack them for helping. He witnessed women being murdered, and knew he had to do something. Larry states that they were putting out flares for medics to signal that it was safe to come help. He soon realized that the flares were helping to assist the GI's in knowing where there were people who were still alive. I can not even imagine the guilt that you could carry with yourself after witnessing such a thing.

The reason why I chose this particular speaker was because I can see several of the ways that Americans were at a "turning point" from this one event. The massacre at My Lai, although not very publicized at the time, would prove to be significant its own way. Once the world learned of this massacre later on, a long and very public trial of Lieutenant William Calley, which led to a life sentence, once again brought out public outcries to end the war. (Herring290) There was also the fact that in this particular case, you saw descent amongst the military. Which was becoming more and more common later on in the war. There were many more reports of officers trying to kill one another. (Herring301)

There was also other accounts from another person, Michael Bernhardt, (pg349-353) who states that more higher commanding officers knew and directed this massacre. If all of this information had come out during trial, I can only imagine how much public opinion would lean more towards mistrust and disappointment from the American people. Just from this one instance there are two very compelling stories of how this one time in history had changed two lives forever.

From Part Five, my example of an "Ending" comes from Steve Sherlock. (pgs425-429) His story truly reflects that of an ending to me. In his story he speaks of going to Washington DC with other veterans to oppose the war. He states that once he got to Vietnam in 1968, it only took months for him to realize that we (Americans) should not be there. (pg425) His story is one of many where he starts out being in support of the war, only to change his opinion once he actually saw the effects of the war. Steve was literally punished for trying to be compassionate during a time of war.

Steve speaks of how he and a friend of his wanted to set up a local chapter of Vietnam Veterans Against the War. (pg427) This was helpful to him to be able to be around other people who had been through similar circumstances. He was thrilled to see so many veterans come out in support in Washington DC. He recalls feeling conflicted about throwing his medal away. He had a sense of brotherhood with the men that he had served with, but he was truly opposed of the war. The fact that so many veterans were willing to put themselves out there and admit to all of the wrongdoings that they had personally seen and done, signifies the beginning of an end to me. There was also students, media, and other politicians there for this protest. I can not imagine that the world seeing men who actually fought in the war standing up to oppose it, helped public support or opinions about what exactly our

goal was in Vietnam.

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