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I think a great story that underlines the devastation that was happening over there and shows a turning point into what was going to happen in the near future is on page 346. It was told by Larry Colburn, a helicopter door gunner who saw the butchering that happened to the Vietnam people. He talks about how their job was to strictly spot and take out enemy troops; there was no random killing or displays of gunfire. They would act as a scout team and fly into areas allied and their own troops were, and target enemy troops with red smoke. They would also signal out allies or civilians with green smoke allowing their own troops to approach calmly. Colburn talks about how one morning after coming to the station about seven A.M. and getting briefed right away on a mission to take place that day. He was told that they were going to put fellow company down with helicopters to sweep and village and surrounding area. The weird thing was that they usually go in first and check everything out to spot and signal enemy and allied troops or civilians. After their first sweep and seeing only a few Vietcong troops they made their way to the village where they then started to see something they never wanted to see. As they made their sweeps around the perimeter they saw woman and children as well as bodies starting to pile up closer to the village. They figured that Vietcong or militia had go to them before the American troops got their but that wasn't the case. They were flying near a rice paddy field as they saw a young woman kneeling in the grass with an evident chest wound so they smoked the area with green that meant, safe to approach. As they begin to see one of their captains on the ground approach her, he walked up to her and kicked her, then shot her to finish her off. After seeing that, they then realized what was going on and that their own troops were massacring innocent people. They then had to continue their day when they saw a group of woman and children heading toward a bunker in hills. They saw that American troops spotted them and started advancing towards the bunker so he decided to tell the pilot to take the helicopter down in front of the bunker. At this point he was in the ground troop captain's face arguing about what they were going to do with the villagers inside the bunker. They practically had a standoff with their own troops just to let innocent villagers go and not be killed. At this point it was just too much for Colburn and it has scarred him for life. It was a changing point in his life and a changing point in the war when people were coming back to the States getting triad for things like this in Vietnam. These events have struggled Larry Colburn his entire life, no matter if it was for revenge or insanity, it wasn't right. I think this story shows the brutal encounters in Vietnam and when it began to become a massacre and devastation to the people. I feel like this was a big deal because of how the war played out after this became common. Presidents were changed and things started to change which lead to the pulling out and end of the Vietnam War. I think this story was a huge turning point in both Larry Coburn's life as well as career, and a turning point in the Vietnam War as a whole.

Part 2

I think a great story that shows a great idea of how the war ended would be Nyguyen Thi Binh's story. Binh was a Vietnamese anti war protestor and was well known for her leadership in the National Liberation Front. Her beliefs were that they didn't want to start a war with the United States but when the French were invading them and the US sent political and military support to them they had no choice. Their focus wasn't just on stopping the war and ending the involvement of French on Vietnam soil, but to stop the deaths of woman and children. Her Liberation Front led the group of legislators and diplomats to negotiate with the French. The Negotiations in Paris were some of the longest peace talks in history. They started in late November, 1968 and didn't end till the start of 1973. She talks about how these negotiations lasted longer than they should have, and they would have stopped and minimized many deaths and bombings. The history might of turned out the same and the outcome of the war probably would have been the same but so many people could have been saved and so much devastation could have been stopped. Her point of view was that because of the American involvement in the war and because they didn't act upon the negotiations in Paris by making similar policies as the French, America destroyed Vietnam. After everything that happened she still would like to see Vietnam heal from its wounds and that they are very proud of standing up and fighting for their country. I think her story is a political, but great way of showing an ending and explaining it in a different point of view. Although the ending to the war would of happened no matter what, all she cared about was eliminating as much as the the destruction and deaths and came along with it This story was from the other side and point of view to this War but still relates in so many ways. A lot of things happened that shouldn't of happened and things weren't handled as they should have been, and casualties were the consequences. Also, along with many other Vietnam veterans from both America and Vietnam she ends her story believing in her country and proud to be a part of history and all she wants is peace. This was common

among a lot of stories in Appy's book from Part 1 all the way to Part 5.

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