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Many events in many ways build up to Tet which forms what many people see as the turning point. When you read an article or saw a news broadcast about the attacks on Tet, people saw only one thing and it is not good. But what leads to that thought? Is it how people are being shown this news or what was said immediately after? After spending a lot of time coming over Christian Appy's book Patriots, part four "The turning Point" I believe the turning point was most felt in Barry Zorthian's experience as "the official voice of America in Vietnam". He really showed me how difficult it must have been for him and reporters to find proof of our "Winning" the war in Vietnam. As he said, "What do you write about in that situation? You write about what you see." And amidst the many organized attacks there was raw unedited footage of dead VC on the lawn of the American Embassy.

The quick spreading news and footage of the raw bloody carnage sent the feeling of defeat not triumph all over the world. Along with that comes the renewed view of our efforts in Vietnam, government officials and congress. The credibility and trust in them was also being lost. Progress was being claimed but I think this was because they measured their success on "the body count" and not of gained control or cleared up and secure areas. The biggest testament to this point was his account of Long An Province. He had gone there five times over the years and the briefing was roughly the same from his first visit to his fifth. "The same areas were being cleaned up and made secure, and the same degree of progress announced and yet the province still wasn't cleaned up". This simple review gives me pause for the truth. That truth is the turning point of the mind that says "we can't win this war".

As an officer at 35, Frank Maguire went to Vietnam and served three tours as an adviser to the Vietnamese. Who better to put the "end" of the war into perspective? He was there to help out the people of Vietnam, and in the beginning it seemed to be going well. However the good memories were being replaced with fresh new horror stories. In the beginning Americans went there with good intentions and good hearts in mind. However, I believe we all have a general understanding of how too much war can change people. Too often men he talked to would tell him things like the helicopter pilot after bragging about the "fifteen or twenty sampans" that he killed. After Maguire questioned him to find out if the people that he killed were VC. The pilot simply responded "Who the fuck cares?" Later Maguire reflects on what he was told when he first arrived in Vietnam. "When you call for artillery, remember who's on the other end. We're not here to mutilate or kill these people". Maguire was right when he said that somewhere along the line that kind of thinking got lost. No matter what the cause was in the beginning, it was over the moment our soldiers lost that sense of thinking of the Vietnamese as people worth respecting.

rough grammar & clarity
hurt papers readability