

much better than 1st paper

Part I

80/100 *994*

no 1p

red

~~I interpreted~~ Bob Gabriel's anecdote entitled "We buried our own men right there" as a story that represented a turning point in the Vietnam War. ~~For me~~ this story expressed some of the psychological trauma and change in morale that many of our troops were going through at the time of ~~The~~ Tet Offensive that ultimately led to a shift of momentum in the Vietnam War. I believe this story also revealed to the reader that some of the soldiers fighting during this time in the war began fighting for their own lives versus that of their battalions. For example, the author of this particular story cites a personal experience that happened during a battle in which he was left to fend for himself by some of his fellow soldiers in his battalion. Author Bob Gabriel recalls this painstaking instance of war in his story. He describes it by saying "...they dropped down the river and split. I mean they just took off. Left me there all by myself." (Appy 300) This personal account of abandonment during battle is pretty disheartening to say the least. It would be one thing if the soldiers that he was originally with had come back for him but instead these men relied on other American soldiers to bring him back to safety. In my opinion the author's fellow soldiers basically left him for dead in this particular situation. While in this particular instance Gabriel was ultimately escorted back to safety his life was still compromised in the very dire situation he was left in. I think this story within a story symbolizes a turning point of the Vietnam War because it made me think that if some of our men couldn't fight for each other's lives than there ~~were~~ *was* no way we could win the war. While I understand that as individuals we generally seem to put a premium on our own well being versus that of others I've always seemed to be under the impression that the military wasn't like this. This is why I think at this point in the Vietnam War soldiers began fighting solely to get home alive versus that of the winning the war against an enemy they hardly knew.

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Lastly, I think this story represented a turning point in the Vietnam War because of the psychological trauma some of the soldiers were going through. For example, Gabriel talks about some of his fellow soldiers that couldn't handle the anxiety involved with war. One of the men in his battalion became so obsessed with the notion that he was going to die in combat that the author ultimately shot him in the foot so he could return state side back to his family. To me this was a clear depiction of how some men just didn't want to be at war at all and could no longer handle the mental anguish after seeing so much death and fighting. This combination of a lack of a strong will to win the war accompanied with soldiers who didn't want to be there at all led to a turning point in the Vietnam War in favor of the North Vietnamese and their communist cohorts.

proofread

Part 2

of

While reading all the stories from part five of *Patriots* I became convinced that there wasn't one particular instance that marked the end of the Vietnam War. Obviously there were many different events and actions that occurred during and even before the Vietnam War that could be considered what led to the end of this war. However, if I were to pick one piece of writing I would point to Alexander M. Haig Jr.'s story entitled "Even the tough guys...caved in" to best represent the ending of the Vietnam War. I think this is the best representation of an ending to this war because it identified the politics behind

this war and what drove it to its end. In my opinion it is more than safe to say that this particular story symbolized a political ending of the Vietnam War. By saying this war was ended by politics I am identifying all the different decisions made by the hierarchy of the United States government that led us to never win this war. The author of this story suggests that this war was basically over before it began in the sense that we never made the drastic decisions needed to win this war. Haig Jr. describes this ideal in his story by saying "...you conduct the conflict with all the assets the United States has at its disposal to bring about a quick and successful outcome or you stay out. We didn't do either in Vietnam." (Appy 397) In essence I felt like the author was conveying the notion that while the United States remained committed to a proxy war in Vietnam we never committed to a full on victory in Vietnam. This quotation is what led me to ultimately consider this story the ending of the war. We as a country seemed to enact a tic for tat strategy that made us vulnerable in the long run of the war in Vietnam. This is why I am a firm believer that the Vietnam War was very much a quagmire and a war we never became fully committed to.

This is not to say that the actual fighting that took place in the Vietnam War was over before it ultimately ended in Saigon. Instead it is more of a theory that our political bureaucracy failed to allocate the necessary steps and drastic decisions necessary to win the Vietnam War. This is I strongly believe that the idea of winning the war in Vietnam ended at the start or even before the war. Author Haig Jr. puts it brilliantly by saying "if you don't go in to win, don't go in at all." (Appy 397)

The entire paper is your (hopefully "informed") opinion. No need to state it throughout the paper.

Part 2 - be careful.
Instead of the story serving the "ending" theme, it almost sounds as if you agree with Haig that the U.S. COULD HAVE won the war. (which is debatable & not the assignment)