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John Douglas Marshall P.328

John Douglas Marshall grew up in a family that was pro-military but John Marshall made a choice to become a conscientious objector. This choice destroyed his relationship with his grandfather who he looked up to greatly but he felt inclined to follow his own beliefs despite the pressure of his family. Marshall's account, in my opinion, represents a "turn" in the public opposition towards the war. For the most part, a conscientious objector was a privileged middle class "dove" but John Marshall was not; he was part of a military family that felt betrayed by his decision. In *America's Longest War* by George Herring it states, "Indexes of public opinion also revealed a sharp disillusionment. Support for the war itself remained remarkably steady...around 45 percent."(242). in my opinion, this statistic can be interpreted in a variety of ways but it also can represent that the war had taken a "turn" because the public continued to grow dissatisfied with the war. John Marshall graduated ROTC training in 1969 and then consciously decided that all war was wrong. John Marshall, in my opinion, does not represent what most Americans typically think of as an objector of the Vietnam War and that is why, in my opinion; his account represents a "turn" in the war. I believe this because Marshall's account shows that the objectors of the war were now being represented by people with different backgrounds and the war was becoming a huge social debate in the United States eventually leading towards complete withdrawal of all American's from Vietnam.

George Evans P. 449

George Evans was a medic during Vietnam and witnessed a number of tragedies while at Cam Rahn Bay. Evans account, in my opinion, represents the "end" of the war because it gave validation that the troops were no longer in a mental capacity to continue fighting. Evans talks about his experience as a medic and recalls his defiance towards military regulations. Evan's put anti-war posters around the base and was court marshaled for being out of uniform. He recalls washing two dead children who were ran down in what soldiers referred to as "gook hockey." Evan's account, in my opinion, represents an "end" to the war because it validates that our armed servicemen had grown "out of control." The armed

service became increasingly unfit to fight the war, in my opinion, because the American presence in Vietnam created a corrupt way of life in South Vietnam. It seems that American G.I.'s became increasingly insubordinate and began to commit atrocities that would discredit our "cause." The fact that American Soldiers could easily obtain drugs did nothing but weaken our commitment because it fueled an illegal black market. The amount of corruption that began to take place in Vietnam was at its worst towards the end of the war and in my opinion; this represents the "end" because it seems that our cause became completely "hopeless." It seems that with the amount the American presence destroyed the South Vietnamese society and created a society based on corruption. Even if South Vietnam remained an independent nation it would probably would have suffered great inflation and an out of control black market selling U.S. goods. Evan's account, in my opinion, represented the mentality of the armed forces because it showed us that the military discipline was beginning to fail and in my opinion, when discipline begins to fail in the military the war is over. I believe this because without discipline orders can not be executed and goals are unachievable because organization has failed. In order to win any military conflict organization seems important and this is why I believe Evan's account is a fair representation of the "end." Once the armed services began to act chaotically, in my opinion, the war was at an end because the troops had basically "gave up" fighting.

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