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BOB GABRIEL

"we buried our own men right there". I really feel like Bob felt a personal turning point in the war when his platoon was under fire so badly that nobody wanted to help him get to safety. I am sure the war seemed bad before this point but it seems that this event is emphasized for a reason. It seems that everyone in his platoon was panicking and freaking out, probably because they were being hands down defeated.

It really seemed like Bob had a firm belief when he first arrived in Vietnam that his platoon was prepared, organized and strong. Two or three days after he got to LZ, he and his platoon mowed down about a hundred North Vietnamese during a routine mad minute. It seems like this initial encounter would make the platoon feel a sense of security about their position in the war. Then two or three weeks into their mission they were moved to camp Evans above Hue and all hell broke loose.

Disorder seemed to have taken over; he was left on his own with only a machine gun to fight off the enemy. This is something that I see as being a relevant event and turning point in his experience. An American soldier first denied help from his comrades then left to hold off the enemy when defeat and death was thick in the air. It seems like things just got worse from there, because then they had fourteen guys shot in the head and were unable to get air support. They had no help and the need to "get the hell out of there" so they were forced to bury their fallen men right on the spot. I really think that this single event was the red flag of a turning point in the war for this man.

BARRY ZORTHIAN

"Then—boom!—Tet comes along."As for an ending to the war, I felt like Barry had an interesting analysis of what was an ending to the war for him. He was the official voice of America in Vietnam as director of Joint United States Public Affairs Office (JUSPAO). It was routine for him to run press conferences at five o'clock every day, he would give daily briefing of statistics and progress.

After and during Tet, the media just went crazy with the situation and the acts of violence that had been cast to all of America. It took all of the progress reports and just threw them out the window. Barry personally recommended getting the South Vietnamese to take more responsibility or the U.S. need to pull out. After losses started to double between 1969 and 1972, the enemy was then able to force withdraw of the United States because of

the severe casualties inflicted to both the U.S. and South Vietnam. I just find it interesting that Barry's war was ended only after he had exhausted all of his credit with both the media and the government.

So, the thing that I recognize in this situation is that instead of referring to the Vietnam War as being over, he was referring to his position in any war. After so long of not making any progress and having a clashing opinion of what progress is, I think he has indicated that he just was not effective any longer.

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