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Part 1:

The story that demonstrated a turning point on the lives of someone during the Vietnam War was told by Nyugen Qui Duc. Nyugen was only a ten year old boy at the time of the Tet offensive. His father, who was a Deputy Governor for five of the northern provinces of South Vietnam, Nyugen and his family were staying in Hue at a government guest house. When Northern troops went into the city on the night of January 31st, they captured Nyugen's father and imprisoned him for 12 years. In 1975, Nyugen relocated with his Uncle to the United States where his parents later emigrated in 1984. Nyugen retells the story of he felt an alliance and trust with Americans. Up to that point his life had been what he called "sheltered". He said up to the night of Tet in 1968 "the war had been out in the fields and jungles." When the attack began in the downstairs of his home, he and his family believed it only to be fireworks in celebration of the New Year. Even when they began to see people in uniform advancing toward them, his father thought they were compound guards and nothing to be alarmed by. Nyugen goes on to explain the feelings of betrayal and abandonment by the American troops. Living as a kid in Vietnam he had been raised around American soldiers, and was heavily influenced by western culture. He grew up learning about hippies, and Peace Rallies, and was left wondering who was truthfully representing the Nation. While the men and women he was hearing about in America were advocates for humanity and freedom, the cruelty produced by some of the men in uniform was an entirely different side to the America he felt he knew.

The turning point for Nyugen was when the United States began bombing cities in retaliation to the North Vietnamese advances into the Southern Vietnam Imperial cities despite them being heavily populated with innocent civilians. This act demonstrated the true motive behind our Nation's placement in Vietnam. America showed the citizens of South Vietnam, Nyugen and his family included, just how trivial their lives were in the nature of war. When all is said and done, war is still war, and on the night of January 31st Nyugen realized just how vulnerable everyone is in the face of it. He realized his education, his father's high government status, his money, none of this was enough to protect him from the horrific realities of war and their lasting effects on those who are made to experience it.

Part 2:

For me, the end of the war was represented in Judith Coburn's story. In her account she talks about the anti-war momentum that was beginning to pulse through the American soldiers. Her father recalls his friend who was a colonel with men on the field telling him, "I'll tell you, mainly I have the feeling that one day soon if I lead my men into battle I might turn around and they won't be there." Mutiny had become a real concern by 1970, when Judith went to Vietnam on report. She said, "By then some troops really were openly refusing to carry out orders." She explains that the lack of support and the creation of the Vietnam Veterans against the War (VVAW) back in the United States began to demoralize the troops. Between 1966-1971 the military desertion rate had quadrupled to nearly 70 out of every 1000 troops. By the 1970's American soldiers became the strongest opposing voice of the war. Anti-war movements began all over the place, 71 percent of Americans polled said they "believed intervention in Vietnam had been a "mistake"", and 58 percent considered

the war to be “immoral”.

Because the Vietnam War had already been a long exhausting, unpredictable war, aside from the political agenda behind it, America was tired of fighting an uphill battle. If men and women do not support the reason their country is at war, then most will not sacrifice their lives for it. By the end of the Vietnam War, I feel the soldiers had lost their willingness to lose their life in a war whose motives were so unclear. Not only was there a lack of support for the war in the field, but when the soldiers went home they were received as monsters and murderers, not men of honor. I feel that when our country lost the support of its soldiers, our Nation was forced into reaching a compromise with North Vietnam

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