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80/100

(618 words) - less than min length

Part 1

The person whose story stood out to me the most in Part Four of ***Patriots***, and gave the best example of a "turning point" in the war was that of Larry Colburn's. Colburn was a helicopter door-gunner who helped eliminate the amount of killing during the My Lai massacre. One quote of his that really stood out to me was when he says; "We did our job and when we had to kill people we did. But we didn't do it for sport." It is almost as if he is saying that up until this point in the war, they only killed when they were under attack and their lives were at danger. That is one reason in particular that his story stood out to me as being a "turning point" because by this point in the war they are obviously so enraged that they are acting irrationally, wasting innocent lives of civilians that are no threat to them. He goes on later to say that "The only thing I remember feeling back then was that these guys were really out for revenge." He says that he understands the desire for revenge but cannot fathom why it was taken out on the kinds of harmless people that it was. Another part that really stuck out to me and really made me grimace as I was reading was the part where he is explaining seeing a Vietnamese woman crouched in the grass and telling her to stay down and quiet. When he returned later, she had been shot through the head. I think this story not only represents a turning point in the war for Colburn personally, but also a turning point for the American military as a whole because after the My Lai incident, soldiers were seen in a different light by society. And many people including a lot of the soldiers themselves wondered how they had been driven to such a state of anger and carelessness. Colburn states that it wasn't simply murdering civilians; but outright butchering them. (It was a very shocking thing because nothing that brutal had ever been executed against so many harmless people by the American military until then.)

Part 2

The story in Part Five in which I thought gave the best example of an "ending" of the war was Nguyen Khac Huynh's. Nguyen served as a career diplomat for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1954, and later was part of the North Vietnamese delegation at the Paris peace talks from 1968 to 1973. He says that right after the famous draft agreement of October 1972, a basic understanding was met and

every member of the delegation that Nguyen was a part of believed that peace was close at hand. But very shortly afterwards America wanted to reopen for talks after an agreement had already been reached; and furthermore renewed their bombing plans for that December. As he is explaining all of this, you cannot help but feel the sincerity in his tone and how disappointed he was when the attacks carried on even after he thought that they had settled on an agreement that would bring about a peace. Even after an agreement was met once again in January 1973, the Saigon government refused to sign it saying that they did not recognize the presence of the Provisional Revolutionary Government. You can tell it was obviously a very frustrating process to go through of trying to reach an agreement because it had to be acceptable to multiple parties. That is why I thought this story gave the best example of the "ending" of the war appearing to be close at hand.

this is a good example of an approved communist propaganda point of view

↑ better analysis needed here

sounds like anything BUT an "ending"

You made the case for your theme in Part 1 but not Part 2