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(705 words) - *man length*

Part 1 - Turning Point

Soldiers One of the best examples of a turning point that I found after reading part four in *Patriots* was the My Lai massacre. Larry Colburn's story in particular was pretty moving. He really described the incident in quite a bit of detail. The massacre at My Lai represents a turning point in the feelings that the Americans (or at least the brigade of American troops that were in My Lai) had towards the people of Vietnam. It shows the amount of hatred and desire for revenge that some American's came to have for the enemy. As ~~Larry~~ Colburn stated, "These guys were really out for revenge. They'd lost men to booby traps and snipers and they were ready to engage." I can only imagine that this was most likely how many - *ANK* other American troops felt as well during the course of the war. To get to know fellow troops and become close friends and then having to watch them get shot or blow up right in front of them, it's really not that hard to see why some troops came to have that much anger built up inside. Another example that comes to mind similar to the events at My Lai only not on as high of a scale, was the village raid talked about in the episode *America Takes Charge*. After being - *good* pinned down for an entire night trying to avoid enemy gun fire, the Americans went into the village and were pretty forceful with the local villagers because they were trying to figure out who was the enemy and who wasn't. Aside from being a turning point in the feelings of some of the American troops, the My Lai massacre also represents a turning point in the feelings of Larry Colburn himself. It changed his outlook on his fellow Americans. He says that, "We did our job and when we had to kill people we did. But we didn't do it for sport." He later said that he understood what it was like to want revenge, but couldn't believe why they had chosen innocent civilians most of which were women and children.

loss of focus with the theme, by the end of the #

Part 2 - Endings

For many troops (both American and Vietnamese), the end of the war came almost every day for those who were killed or lost in battle. So to find one specific example of an ending is a little challenging. One example that did come to mind after reading part 5 of *Patriots* was the stories from the prisoners of war. In a sense, it was the end of the war for them, because many of the prisoners were caught and imprisoned and the ones who managed to stay alive weren't released until the war was nearly over. For a lot of the prisoners, it felt like the end. It was all they could do to try to find something to rely on or think about to make it through each day. John McCain who was caught and taken to Hoa Lo Prison in North Vietnam, said that it was important to have spiritual faith and faith in your country because the Vietnamese, as a way of trying to discourage them and make them give up sooner, would often try to make them believe that America had abandoned them. He stated that it was also important to communicate with fellow prisoners and hold somewhat of a sense of humor. They would make fun of their captors to try to have more dominance over them mentally.

The veterans that spoke in the POW video clip described their experience in much the same way. It felt like the end was very close to them as well each day they were imprisoned. Communication was a huge relief for them. The Vietnamese tried to keep the prisoners separated, however many of them found ways to communicate with each other through a specific "knocking" system and were able to find strength through knowing that they were not alone. Some prisoners did not survive, but the ones who did were eventually released and were able to tell their experience of how the end had almost come for them.

Strange connection
to the theme in
part 2. Not
convincing.

But, good use of other class
materials, making this a
much better paper than your
first one.