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95/100

(1069 words)

The journalist A.J. Langguth's description of his time and reporting in Vietnam was a great example of a turning point. He actually illustrates a few versions of turning points that I think as a whole represent a larger turning in the war. Early in his text, he describes the willingness of U.S. soldiers to give their life for the cause as waning around 1970. Directly after that, Langguth says he was "really annoyed by the very idea of Vietnamization." citing that a large burden of the war has always rested with the South Vietnamese and "buzzwords" ^{like} that only sound good in Washington. It demonstrates the skepticism that was growing after the Tet Offensive in the press and our own soldiers as to our real position in the war. Optimism was falling and people on all sides wanted the war to be over. ^{ww} Doubting the orders given by higher command by a grunt or not regurgitating only what the military or government wanted portrayed in the press was becoming more widespread.

It goes even further with the description of the COSVN headquarters. Langguth describes how the mood in America pushed further into protest when the invasion of Cambodia was discovered and the U.S. was also raising concerns internationally. Nixon and Kissinger were informed by the military that they could get at the heart of the communist operation with initial American strikes and end with the Vietnamization of the operation. In reality, ARVN wasn't prepared for such a long incursion into Cambodia, supply or morale wise. Also, with the numerous policies and operations that have been tried for years before by other competent government officials with little to no result, more were becoming disillusioned; especially with an end-all be-all type of situation. Some policies even had an adverse effect of what was intended. Langguth points out "The idea that somehow you were going to go in and wipe out the source of the infection once and for all was preposterous." It seems as though there were two wars, the war in reality in which soldiers, reporters, and some government officials witnessed, and the war as perceived by Washington. ^{mk}

Even though ~~before this happened~~, most media portrayed the Tet offensive as a communist win when logistically America did very well to repel the attacks. But, I think the distrust from the press of the American government ^{by} about the secret invasion of Cambodia was just. A lot of military personnel weren't even informed, and they were in country (Vietnam). I think a majority of people stateside were putting the pieces together and figuring out that they should be more forward in the criticizing of our government's actions, our elected leaders,

examples needed here

but Nixon shared this on TV, map & all

circle

and the war in general. It was harder for American soldiers to protest while on duty and with larger repercussions, but they did it anyway because they stood for their convictions and increasingly got more support amongst one another. Doing it in 1965 would have been really against the grain, but by 1970 and after more soldiers were starting to feel the same cynicisms. *ok dé*

Awk Finally when Langguth describes the teenage Vietnamese that were drafted against their will and deserting their service, he states how people were enraged by their actions. "The South Vietnamese draftees were young kids and none of them were gung-ho. Most of them wanted the war over. They didn't want to fight." I can definitely see why people would think these kids are feeling entitled since so many South Vietnamese gave their life or have family members killed but a lot of these kids have only grown up in war, even before the U.S. became involved. I think a young generation of Vietnamese also became a turning point since they were exhausted from the turmoil of an extended war and the culmination of the three swayed the tide.

While reading Appy's chapter *Endings*, I thought that for a great many people, the war would never be truly over. How can one forget a lost child or deal with a debilitating injury on a daily basis and not be constantly reminded of Vietnam? Steve Sherlock's example of turning in his medal was a strong representation of "ending" their own personal war. Vietnam veterans symbolically throwing their medals back at the Capitol was a powerful message against the policies in Vietnam and destroyed the stereotype about anti-war activists being unpatriotic.

Sherlock explained how some veterans believed their medals were "badges of dishonor" but he only felt they represented an immoral war. I understand the importance of war medals having some of my grandfather's medals from when he flew in sixty bombing missions over mainland Europe with the R.A.F. during WWII. They are important as family history and symbols of bravery and merit. My cousin also explained to me about the various medals he has earned during his tours in Iraq in 03-05 and how some soldiers won't even talk to you unless you have certain combat medals. *nice*

To give up their accolades had to be a very hard thing to do but probably helped give some vets closure on that period of their life (the description of the vet camp in Washington seemed surreal). Even though Sherlock kept his in a box, the reminder of what the medals represented to him was something that he was uncomfortable with, and shedding them would help put his connection to the war into a perspective he can live with to be able to start the next chapter of his

Awk

life. Some people interpreted the act as unpatriotic or as if the vets were abandoning and turning their backs on fellow soldiers but I don't. I feel they are so deeply involved that they want the war to end, help others come back, and stop the unneeded destruction of Vietnam. Spreading their word with this defiant act "seemed like a good chance to get national attention and credibility for the peace perspective." I think it did.

Vietnam vets against the war had the biggest metamorphosis in mindset that individuals can have about the war. From participation to protest, the journey for them is the farthest and it comes from experience. It probably happened rarely but I don't know of many instances of doves turning into hawks as the war progressed.

← ha! not as it was being lost, no doubt.

Overall very good paper.
Some awkwardly worded
phrases slightly detracted
from readability, so be
sure to proofread carefully.

Nice work

Much better than your
first paper.