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The biggest turning point in Part Four of the Patriots book was Clark Dougan's story. He told us a story about a kid he went to school with, Greg Fischer. He said Greg was joining the Marines once he graduated because he figured he would be drafted anyway. The narrator went to college. He returned home to visit in the spring and read in the local newspaper, *The Cleveland Press* that Greg died while serving in Vietnam. The editorial's aim struck a chord with the author. It was a conservative newspaper questioning the sacrificed being made in Vietnam. *The Cleveland Press* emphasized that he was a normal kid by including his last requests like "don't forget to give Joey my hockey skates." Middle America began to feel the pain of the war. Ordinary kids were being sacrificed with very little gain to show. The tides were beginning to turn.

In the fall of 1968 the Democratic Convention was being held in Chicago. Demonstrators gathered and soon riots broke out. The police used methods like tear gas against the crowd. All of the chaos played out in the media. The anti-war effort was seen in an unfavorable light. Then in 1969 the Berkley Riots happened and over a hundred students were injured, some killed. Soon the student demonstrators were the majority. The next demographic to oppose the war was the middle class. They began participating in events like the national memorial organized by people like Sam Brown. The memorial had over a million participants. It was clear that a "body count" wasn't proof of the U.S. winning the war and the public was growing tiresome of an endless commitment with countless young American lives sacrificed.

This was a turning point for the author personally, but also for the nation as a whole. It was the first time the public disapproved of a war. Through most of the war the public's opinion had been split almost evenly, but as the war effort began to cost more fiscally and more personally the scales were tipping in disapproval. The author imagines a WWII vet who was once pro-war now saying, "Fuck this. It's not worth Greg Fischer's life or his buddy's life."

The biggest ending point was the story told by George Evans. He was raised in Pittsburg by a war vet. His neighborhood was extremely patriotic. Vets frequently surrounded him. Even at an early age he said he could see a "deep sadness" inside of them. He didn't understand what the sadness was about so, he enlisted with his childhood best friend, Billy Dick, who was drafted. They did the buddy program. Once his friend failed his physical he was left to join alone. Billy became a conscientious objector and traveled to Vietnam. His friend told him to stay away from Vietnam and that it was awful. He didn't listen. He went to Vietnam as a medic and shortly after heard of Billy's death. He worked in a hospital in Cam Ranh Bay. He tells a story of two little boys who were killed. Drunken soldiers killed them while playing a game of "gook hockey". A Vietnamese woman burst in crying over the two dead boys. The image has stuck with the author ever since. He begins letting his hair grow and puts signs of protest on the board. Even after a new company commander tried to get him to adjust his appearance (and attitude) he is resistant.

This story is the ending of George Evans enchantment with the military and war. It starts even as a child questioning the unspoken sadness of the vets he knew. The disenchantment continues with the death of his friend, Billy. The moment when he truly disconnected from the military glorification was when his staff sergeant lifer told him to "Go clean up the gook." Seeing the two boys dead and hearing how senseless their deaths were profoundly affected the author. It was after that moment that he began to feel lied to. The vets he grew up with painted a very different picture of what war meant. The author begins to show his discontent with his physical appearance until he is court-marshaled. He ended up being found guilty, was fined, and left the military. His end of enchantment with the military meant he could start a new life. He lived in San Francisco, has published poetry, and teaches.

Part 2 is simply narrative,
with little analysis. It also
feels very rushed.
More time was needed to make
the connection to "the ending"
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