

355 half the min length

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Part 1

To me, reading part four in Patriots, the story that told the most about a "turning point" was Douglas Kinnard's "While we had the power, it turned out they had the will." This was the time when things changed for Kinnard, he realized the Vietnamese didn't need the new technology, or the better weapons, they had something worth fighting for. The most perhaps disappointing part of the story to me was when Kinnard reported that "Probably the most startling thing to me was that almost seventy percent said they really didn't understand the war's objectives." (321). It seems disheartening to me that our government officials were keeping the men who were dying in this war so in the dark. Perhaps this is the reason we lost the war, we had no personal interests invested, and all we knew was we were being ordered to fight. The Vietnamese knew exactly what they were fighting for and they sincerely cared for that cause, enough for them to die for it. Douglas Kinnard reported that when he stated "while we had the power, it turned out they had the will." (322).

Part 2

To me, the best representation of the end in part 5 would be Alexander M. Haig JR.'s "Even the tough guys...caved in." The first paragraph really illustrated to me how unorganized the war was even in the beginning.

"I've always said, if you don't go in to win, don't go in at all. And to win you frequently have to break a lot of china. Either you conduct the conflict with all the assets the United States has at its disposal to bring about a quick and successful outcome or you stay out. We didn't do either in Vietnam." (397)

The soldiers and even the commanding officers weren't fully made aware of the fight, they only knew they were sent there to fight 'the commies'. I believe that was their first mistake, was keeping the ones who were fighting in the dark. That, to me, was when they truly lost the war.

Fine story choices, but pyran
much too brief to analyze well