

672 < 700 min req'd length

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Part 1 Turning Point

vo (Wayne Smith an eighteen year old combat medic that took pride in what he was doing, pride in the fact that his men trusted him, pride in saving the lives of those very same men, he was a young man who seemed to face many turning points throughout his career as a medic. He wanted to heal and save lives yet at the same time was turned into a combat soldier with the desire to kill the enemy, even wanted to lie about his desire to kill. He was proud of his country and wanted to help free the Vietnamese from communist control, he believed in what he had signed up for. He speaks with pride of the lives he saved and equally hated his association with the lies perpetrated for the body counts reported.

Smith reupped for six more months and during this time he spoke as if at last he was doing what he signed up for in the first place treating the Vietnamese he stated that "I was proud of some of the work I did." (Appy 366) Allowing him to reconcile his experiences as a combat medic this was "legitimate medicine". (Appy 366) ro

vo (Smith faced his greatest personal turning point upon returning home. After being in Vietnam witnessing the horrors of combat and then to come home and face the return to normalcy where people only cared about themselves or as Smith put it "All these sons of bitches cared about was who was going to the beach or who was dating who... I hated America. I hated our materialistic superficiality and our indifference." (Appy 366)

I have seen this in my oldest brother who served in Vietnam go into the service proud to be an American and come home unable to reconcile the horrors you've seen with small town USA and the normalcy or what he viewed as its selfishness. This can become a pivotal time in their lives if they are unable to cope with the things they have seen and done.

indiv. 2nd turning point

Part 2 Endings

Life as he knew it ended the day Colonel Earl Hopper Sr. received word that his son Earl was missing in action. The fear and pain a parent or loved one must experience when finding out that the one they loved is missing in action couldn't possibly be put into words, but Colonel Hopper and his wife Patty not only put it into words they are still fighting to find him and all those listed as MIA or POW's founding their own POW/MIA organization and finding evidence that his son did not die when his F-4D Phantom jet crashed close to the Vietnam-Laos border. This interview speaks on behalf of not only LTC Earl Hooper Jr. but all POW/MIA's.

Colonel Hooper made claims of government cover-up, with 550 military personnel missing or taken prisoner in Laos and only eight returned that leaves 442 unaccounted for. Colonel Hooper's continued search for his son has produced evidence that he was alive through the spring of 1984 and offers information that they also had information that Earl Jr. was in the hands of the Russians during the eighties. The government identified three different crash sites with an excavation of the last site that the Hoppers claim to be staged as there was a lack of corrosion; they found five teeth and 23 bone fragments not all identifiable as human, they also found Soviet ammunition at the site

with lends itself to the theory of him being taken to Russia.

The Hoppers will not have a true ending to the loss of their son until he has been found or remains sent home, but as Patty Hopper stated "The hardest thing in this entire issue is to come to grips with the fact that somebody was alive years after the end of the war. The easiest thing is to think them dead, being at peace with their God and not suffering."

Both parts
were excellent
story choices.

More time could have been
spent on ~~the~~ connecting
the stories to the "turning point"
of "ending" themes.

For ~~example~~, in
Part 2, I assume
you are hinting at
the war NOT or NEVER
"ending" for the
Hopper family.
Correct?

Big improvement
since first paper