



Understanding the modern world: World Depth Study

Conflict and tension in Asia, 1950-1975

Name: _____

Form: _____

Teacher: _____

Media recommendations

There is a huge collection of movies and documentaries on Vietnam.

Below is our recommended list - though we may only show a clip or two from each. 'Path to War' is our no.1 pick.



Check out our youtube channel: **GCSEHistory**

We are not responsible for the appropriateness of the content - please check yourself, before showing.



Source: imbd.com



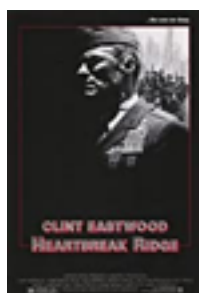
MASH

Life in a field hospital in Korea - a dark comedy.
Also a TV series



The Manchurian Candidate

An American POW in the Korean War is brainwashed as an unwitting assassin for an international Communist conspiracy.



Heartbreak Ridge

Hard-nosed, hard-living Marine Gunnery Sergeant Tom Highway (Clint Eastwood) clashes with his superiors and his ex-wife as he takes command of a spoiled recon platoon with a bad attitude.



Ayla

In 1950, amidst the ravages of the Korean War, Sergeant Süleyman stumbles upon a half-frozen little girl, with no parents and no help in sight.



Brotherhood

When two brothers are forced to fight in the Korean War, the elder decides to take the riskiest missions if it will help shield the younger from battle.

1

Korean War

1.1

Background to the Korean War

Korea has a history of being invaded and controlled by others, most notably China and Japan.

From 1910 Japan ruled Korea, until 1945 when they were defeated at the end of WWII. During this time the Japanese banned the Korean language and Japanese culture was promoted.

The Japanese surrendered to the USSR in the North and to the USA in the South.

1.2

Situation in Korea after World War II

The country was divided into two separate zones - North and South - along the 38th parallel, (the line of latitude).

Korea in 1945 was a mix of views and beliefs, some were communists some were capitalists.

The division of Korea was designed to be temporary, the plan was for Korea to be an independent united country.

In the North - communists ruled with Kim Il Sung as leader, with the support of the USSR.

In the South - Syngmann Rhee, a capitalist and anti-communist was elected and was supported by the USA.

All parties wanted a united Korea, but under different systems - communist and capitalist.

The United Nations were to organise elections in Korea.

1.3



The USA had supported the anti-communists in the Chinese civil war, but Communists had taken over China by 1950.

Why was the USA involved?

Before 1950 USA was not very interested in Korea.

BUT in 1950:

USA policy of **Containment**: stop communism spreading around the world

USA ideas in **NSC 68** which said USA needed more arms & it should 'roll back' communism.

USA believed in **Domino Theory**. If South Korea were to become communist it would spread to other countries for example Japan.

USA supported the South Korean leader **Syngman Rhee** as an anti-communist.

V

1.4



Why was the USSR involved?

Before 1950 USSR was not very interested in Korea.

BUT in 1949:

NATO was formed and Stalin was worried, plus USA was helping Japan.

Stalin thought USA was being 'aggressive' in Asia and trying to influence the region.

Stalin and the USSR supported the communist leader

When **Kim Il-Sung** leader of North Korea told Stalin he wanted to invade the South, Stalin thought it a good idea as it would cause the USA problems

USSR gave North Korea weapons and advice, but never sent Russian soldiers

1.5

Causes of the Korean War

Both the leaders in North and South Korea saw themselves as the rightful leader of a united Korea.

There were a number of incidents on the border between North and South and tension remained high from 1948-50.

Kim Il-Sung visited Stalin in 1949 to get his support to invade the South and unite Korea. Stalin was not sure at the time, but a year later gave his support as the USA had pulled its troops out of South Korea, the USSR was now its own atomic bombs to match the USA and China was now a communist country.

Stalin supported North Korea with military equipment but would not send Soviet soldiers.



**North Korea
troops invaded
South Korea
on
25th June
1950.**



1.6

Invasion of the South

The North Korean People's Army invaded across the 38th parallel with 75,000 troops.

This was a civil war - North v South, but it quickly became a 'proxy' war between the two superpowers: USA v USSR.

1.7

United Nations on Korea



UN Election Commission

The United Nations in 1947, with General Assembly Resolution 112 established a commission to oversee elections in Korea with the aim to unite Korea. North Korea refused entry to the UN.

After elections in the South UN General Assembly Resolution 148 stated that Korea should be united and the Soviet Union and the USA pull out of Korea.

UN military observers

As clashes on the border grew UN monitors were sent to the border to observe and try to prevent further incidents.

UN recognition of South Korea

UN General Assembly Resolution 293 (Oct. 1949) legally recognised the South Korean elections and therefore the government led by Syngnam Rhee. North Korea refused to accept the UN resolution and said it will 'drive out the United Nations'.

The Soviet Union boycotts the United Nations

When the communists took over China, the Security Council refused to acknowledge the new government and continued to support the Republic of China (Taiwan) as the legitimate government. The Soviet Union stormed out of the United Nations and refused to attend Security Council meetings whilst the Republic of China was recognised. This UN boycott meant the Soviet Union was not part of the Security Council when North Korea invaded the South.

UN action over the invasion by North Korea

The United Nations Security Council met on 25th June, 1950, in response to North Korea's invasion.

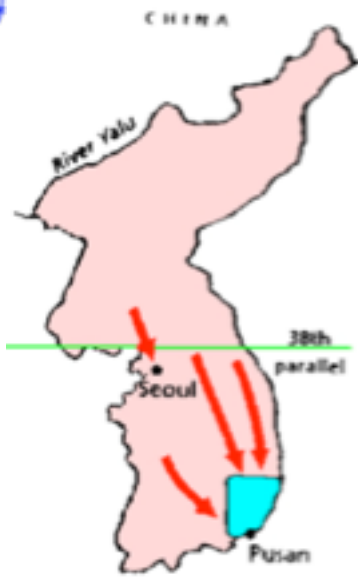
They issued UN Security Resolution 82: The resolution condemned the "armed attack on the Republic of Korea by forces from North Korea", while calling for "the immediate cessation of hostilities" and for "the authorities in North Korea to withdraw forthwith their armed forces to the 38th parallel".

The vote was 9 - 0. Under normal circumstances the USSR would have vetoed the resolution, but the Soviet Union was boycotting the United Nations Security Council.

Votes: USA, UK, France, China + Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, India, Yugoslavia, Norway
Soviet Union (absent)

2 Korean War: events

2.1



Phase One: June - Sept 1950

On 25 June 1950, the North Koreans attacked. They were very successful. The North Korean People's Army (NKPA) easily defeated the Republic of Korea's army (the ROKs). They captured most of South Korea.

The USA was shocked and alarmed. On 27 June they persuaded the United Nations to pass a resolution supporting South Korea.

The USA sent troops to Korea as part of the UN force to help the South Korean Army at Pusan.



2.2



Phase Two: Sept - Nov 1950

On 15 September, the US General MacArthur led a UN amphibious landing at Inchon (near Seoul) behind the NKPA. Out of the 300,000 UN troops, 260,000 were Americans.

In danger of being cut off, the NKPA had to retreat. The Americans drove them back and recaptured South Korea. 125,000 NKPA prisoners were taken.

On 7 October 1950 MacArthur invaded North Korea. He advanced as far as the Chinese border. He boasted that the Americans would be 'home by Christmas'.

5 Korean War: events

2.3



Phase Three: Nov 1950 - Feb 1951

The Americans landed more troops. They used bombers.

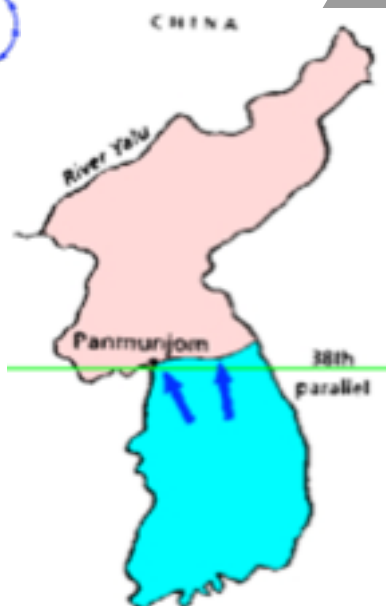
The Chinese admitted to losing 390,000 men dead - UN sources put the figure at up to a million Chinese and half a million North Koreans dead. The US drove the Chinese back, but 54,000 American soldiers died doing so.

MacArthur reached the 38th parallel in March 1951.

He threatened to invade China.



2.4



Phase Four: Feb - March 1951

Now the Chinese were alarmed.

On 25 November, 200,000 Chinese troops ('People's Volunteers') attacked MacArthur. They had modern weapons supplied by Russia, and a fanatical hatred of the Americans.

Then, on 31 December, half a million more Chinese troops entered the war and attacked the Americans. They drove the Americans back (using 'human wave tactics'). They recaptured North Korea, and advanced into South Korea.

2 Korean War: events

2.5

Phase Five: March 1951 – 1953

Truman told MacArthur to stop and not step foot in China. As a result General MacArthur was sacked by President Truman, when he publicly criticised his order.

In 1953, Eisenhower, a General in World War II, became American president. He criticised Truman's approach to the war. He visited Korea and as a result initiated peace talks that began in July 1951.

At the same time Americans hinted at the possible use of atomic bombs if China did not stop fighting in Korea. In addition, he got the South Koreans to drop some of their demands to secure a truce.

Peace and an armistice

The Chinese & Koreans agreed to an armistice, which was signed on 27 July 1953 by them and the United Nations led by the USA. This was temporary until a peaceful settlement could be reached.

As part of the armistice the following was agreed:

- . stop all fighting
- . POWs could decide where to go - North or South
- . a new border was agreed and a demilitarisation zone
- . establishment of a Military Armistice Commission (MAC) to ensure the truce held



3

Korean War: consequences



USA

- . 30,000 US troops were killed
- . USA thought the war was a success because South Korea did not become communist (Truman Doctrine)

Korea

- . North Korea seen as the 'aggressor'
- . Over 750,000 North Korean & Chinese soldiers and civilians died
- . About 70,000 South Korean soldiers were killed
- . Over 500,000 South Korean civilians died in the war
- . Up to 80% of Korean industry was destroyed
- . Many North Koreans were made homeless

United Nations

- . 4,500 United Nations troops from other countries were killed
- . United Nations showed it could be decisive and strong (though largely because the Soviet Union was boycotting the UN)
- . Some people saw the USA controlling the UN

International Relations

- . relations between the superpowers declined
- . the Cold War spread from Europe to Asia
- . USSR set-up the Warsaw Pact in Europe
- . China announced itself onto the world stage, showing it was willing to stand up to the USA
- . SEATO - South Asian Treaty Organisation (similar to NATO)
- . The Arms Race intensified after the Korean War

1a

Answer - Question: You have the ANSWER, but what is the question?

	ANSWER	What is the question?
1	Armistice	
2	Demilitarisation Zone	
3	38th Parallel	
4	President Truman	
5	Military Armistice Commission	
6	UN Security Council Resolution 82	
7	Syngman Rhee	
8	SEATO	
9	Truman Doctrine	
10	Kim Il-Sung	

1b

Match-up: Match the phase with the statement

Phase: 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5	Statement
	On 25 June 1950, the North Koreans attacked.
	MacArthur reached the 38 th parallel in March 1951.
	General MacArthur led a UN amphibious landing at Inchon (near Seoul)
	The North Korean People's Army (NKPA) easily defeated the Republic of Korea's army (the ROKs). They captured most of South Korea.
	500,000 more Chinese troops entered the war and attacked the Americans. They drove the Americans back (using 'human wave tactics'). They recaptured North Korea, and advanced into South Korea.
	Truman told MacArthur to stop. MacArthur was sacked when he publicly criticised Truman's order.
	The Americans sent troops to Korea as part of the UN force to reinforce the South Korean Army at Pusan.
	In 1953, Eisenhower became American president. The Americans threatened to use the atomic bomb if China did not stop fighting.
	The Americans drove the North Koreans back and recaptured South Korea.
	200,000 Chinese troops ('People's Volunteers') attacked MacArthur's army. They had modern weapons supplied by Russia, and a fanatical hatred of the Americans.
	The Chinese & Koreans agreed to a truce, which was signed on 27 July 1953.
	MacArthur invaded North Korea. He advanced as far as the Chinese border. He boasted that the Americans would be 'home by Christmas'.

1c

Consequence: Rank the consequences in order of importance

1

2

3

4

5

6

1d

Consequence: Explain your ranking

Rank	Explanation for ranking
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

1e

Exam style questions

3. Write an account (8 marks)

- Write an account of the events leading up to war in Korea in 1950.
- Write an account of the leading events in the Korean War
- Write an account of the consequences of the Korean War.

4. How far do you agree? (16 marks)

- The USA's belief in the Truman Doctrine led to their involvement in the Korean War. How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.
- Stalin's support of Kim Il Sung led to the Korean War. How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.
- The United Nations were successful in their Korean mission. How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.
- The USA came out of the Korean War as victors. How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

Personal stories

Reflections on one South Korean family's journey through the conflict and beyond.

<https://www.wilsonquarterly.com/quarterly/korea-70-years-on/remembering-conflict-one-familys-story>

The "Frozen Chosin"

<https://homeofheroes.com/heroes-stories/korean-war/frozen-chosin/>

Serving in the Korean War

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/stories/serving-in-the-korean-war>

There is a huge collection of movies and documentaries on Vietnam.

Below is our recommended list - though we may only show a clip or two from each. 'Path to War' is our no.1 pick.



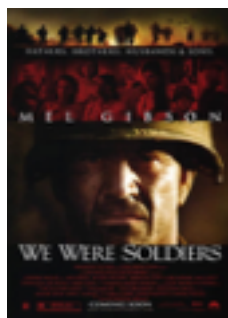
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The Quiet American

A Times reporter in Vietnam in the 1950s. A love story but shows the situation in Vietnam with the French occupation



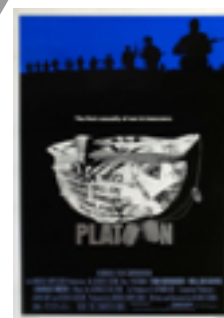
We were soldiers

The story of the first major battle of the American phase of the Vietnam War. Includes the French defeat at Dien Bien Phu



Good morning Vietnam

A new radio DJ goes to Vietnam to bring humor to Armed Forces Radio. He turns the studio on its ear and becomes wildly popular with the troops. While he is off the air, he tries to meet Vietnamese especially girls, and begins to have brushes with the real war that never appears on the radio.



Platoon

Chris Taylor is a young, naive American who gives up college and volunteers for combat in Vietnam. Excellent portrayal of conflict between the soldiers in the platoon. And as he struggles for survival, he soon realizes he is fighting two battles, the conflict with the enemy and the conflict between the men within his platoon.



Born on the 4th July

The true story of Ron Kovic. Paralysed in the Vietnam war, he becomes an anti-war and pro-human rights political activist after feeling betrayed by the country he fought for.



Path to War

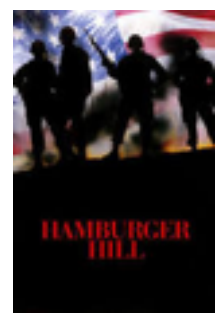
A excellent portrayal of the Johnson presidency and its spiralling descent into the Vietnam War.

Acting on often conflicting advice from his Secretary of Defence, Robert McNamara and other advisers, President Johnson finds his domestic policy agenda overtaken by the war.



Full Metal Jacket

A pragmatic U.S. Marine observes the dehumanising effects the Vietnam War has on his fellow recruits from their brutal boot camp training to the bloody street fighting in Hue.



Hamburger Hill

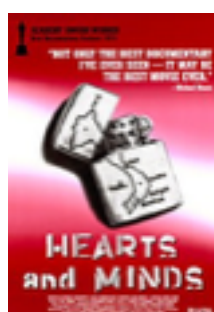
A brutal and realistic film focuses on the lives of a squad of 14 U.S. Army soldiers during the brutal 10 day (May 11-20, 1969) battle for Hill 937 fortified by the North Vietnamese.

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Hearts & Minds

This film recounts the history and attitudes of the opposing sides of the Vietnam War using archival news footage as well as its own film and interviews.
Excellent opposing views.



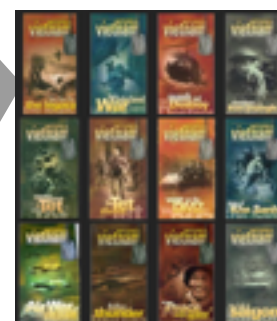
The Vietnam War

History Channel documentary covering the main aspects of the war.
Tactics, home front etc.
Good overview.



The Fog of War

Defence Sec of War Robert McNamara discusses his role under Presidents Kennedy & Johnson.



Battlefield Vietnam

Full and comprehensive coverage of the war in this 12 part series.

Websites:

Public Broadcasting Service in the USA : <http://www.pbs.org/battlefieldvietnam/>

My Lai massacre: <http://famous-trials.com/mylaicourts>

Vietnam war history: <http://www.history.com/topics/vietnam-war/famous-american-vietnam-vets>

General war history: <http://www.historynet.com/vietnam-war>

US govt records: <https://www.archives.gov/research/alic/reference/military/vietnam-war.html>

Vietnam War Museum in the US: <http://www.nationalvnwarmuseum.org>

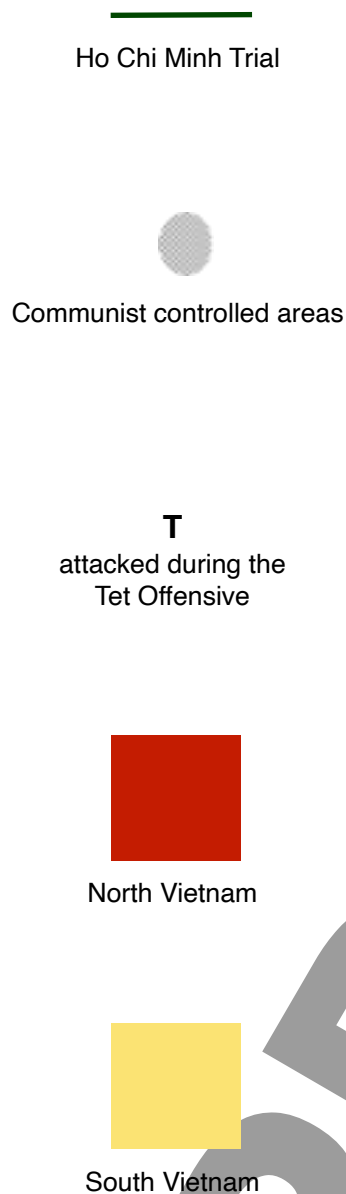
BBC timeline of events: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-16568035>

USA today timeline: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2017/09/11/vietnam-war-timeline-u-s-involvement-over-decades/653693001/>

Showing:

- . North/South border
- . Main US bases
- . Ho Chi Minh trail

Vietnam War map





The Quiet American

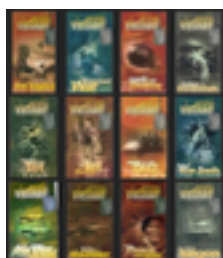
Life in Vietnam in the 1950s, under French occupation. Vietminh guerilla action is shown.

Additional notes



We were soldiers

The story of the first major battle of the American phase of the Vietnam War. Includes the French defeat at Dien Bien Phu



Documentaries

on
Battlefield Vietnam
Part 1:
Dien Bien Phu



Check out our
youtube channel:
GSCEHistory

1 Background

1.1

French Indo China

(Vietnam, Cambodia + Laos)
Indo China had:

- . rice, corn, coal & rubber
- . 1939 before WWII, Vietnam was part of French Empire: 1940 France was defeated by Germany in WWII

1941 France agreed that Japan could take resources from its colony as it was fighting China

Consequences: Vietnamese starved as the Japanese took rice - up to 2.5 million died

The Vietminh formed

1941 Ho Chi Minh + Nguyen Vo Giap (communists) set up the:

'League for the Independence of Vietnam' a nationalist movement

Aim: to establish an independent Vietnam (free from foreign rule e.g. France + Japan)

Vietminh was based in South China, but got help from the USA (training & equipment).

They then attacked French & Japanese using guerrilla tactics.

1945 Japanese takeover

Took control from the French, but in Aug. surrendered to the USA in WWII & had to withdraw from all countries inc. Vietnam

1945 Who to rule Vietnam?

Vietminh quickly took over from French & Japanese:

Sept. Ho Chi Minh announced Vietnam to be independent

USA believed people should rule themselves - not colonial countries

1.2

French return to Vietnam

1945: Dec. 50,000 French troops took control of the south of Vietnam. French commander Leclerc said he had won by March 1946.

Vietminh guerrilla

fighters disappeared when the French arrived & took back control when they left an area.

Negotiations 1946

Vietminh 'controlled' the North & the French the south. Ho went to Paris but no agreement only a ceasefire.

1.3

Vietminh success

1950: Giap had 100,000 well armed soldiers

French 100,000 soldiers + 300,000 Vietnamese BUT cover huge area.

Vietminh guerrilla tactics

Hiding in the jungles they could hit the French whenever they wanted.

Giap tried a big attack in 1950 & 1951 but lost heavily against well defended French positions.

Turning point: Dien Bien Phu

Giap was determined to win a 'big battle'. He chose Dien Bien Phu which defended one way into Laos. He had 60,000 men + 200 artillery guns. They tunnelled close to the French position. For several weeks the Vietminh attacked, until the French surrendered as they could not supply the base.

The French in Vietnam

French launch attack

1946: Nov. French troops attacked the Vietminh in the north inc. Hanoi. The Vietminh hide in the jungles - there was little fighting.

1950 Cold War

Korean War, McCarthyism, Truman Doctrine meant USA supporting French fight communists e.g. Vietminh & Ho

USA sent supplies to the French to help them defeat the Vietminh.

China

- . Communist took over in China in 1949 led by Mao Zedong
- . Mao supplied Vietminh with military equipment

- . USA scared communism would spread through Asia (domino theory)

USA not help the French

1954: France asked for US troops, but US had just fought in Korea so was not interested in another war.

Geneva Agreement

May 1954: France, UK, USA, China, Vietnam & USSR. After DBP France had had enough.

Agreement:

1. Vietnam divided into North & South
North = Ho Chi Minh
South = Ngo Dinh Diem
2. Elections to be held July 1956

Diem refused to accept the agreement & USA said they would support him (containment)

French pull out of SE Asia

For the French it was humiliating defeat & they pulled out from the rest of the countries in Indochina.

First Indochina War

French defeats & consequences

1a

Test yourself: The French in Vietnam

Multiple choice - circle or underline the correct answer

a

Hi Chi Minh & Giap set-up

- a. League for the Independence of Vietnam
- b. Vietnam Communist Party
- c. Geneva Agreement

b

In 1946 the Vietminh controlled

- a. All of Vietnam
- b. North Vietnam
- c. Indo-China

c

The Japanese took over from the French in

- a. 1944
- b. 1945
- c. 1946

d

The Geneva Agreement

- a. gave the communists control over Vietnam
- b. made Ho Chi Minh leader of Vietnam
- c. divided Vietnam into North & South

e

The Japanese took over from the French in

- a. 1944
- b. 1945
- c. 1946

f

After their defeat at Diem Bien Phu the French

- a. pulled out of South East Asia
- b. sent 100,000 soldiers to Vietnam
- c. joined with the USA to fight the Vintminh

g

The communists took over in China in

- a. 1945
- b. 1949
- c. 1952

h

The USA became involved in Vietnam because they believed in

- a. Ho Chi Minh
- b. Truman Doctrine
- c. Colonialism



Test your knowledge & understanding: The French in Vietnam

3. Write an account (8 marks)

- Write an account of the events of the Indo-China War
- Write an account of the events leading to French leaving Vietnam

4. How far do you agree? (16 marks)

- The French were doomed to fail in Vietnam.
How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.
- Stalin's support of Kim Il Sung led to the Korean War.
How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.
- The United Nations were successful in their Korean mission.
How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.
- The USA came out of the Korean War as victors.
How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

Escalation of conflict in Vietnam



The Quiet American

Life in Vietnam in the 1950s, under French occupation. Vietminh guerilla action is shown.

Additional notes

2

Background

2.1

Truman Doctrine

USA the policy of:

. containment

help those fighting communist e.g. South Vietnam

. domino theory

if South Vietnam becomes communist it will spread to Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Burma etc.

US support

. France had supported France after WWII, so this was a continuation of that

. President Eisenhower supported Diem the leader of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam).

. Diem was supported with USA money for supplies & military equipment + military advisors

. USSR & China was helping North Vietnam was USA had to help the south

Threat of communism

. China wanted to increase its influence in the region

. USA was worried about China's influence in the region

. US presidents did not want to seem weak by letting communism spread

. USA concerned about Japan's security, where it

2.2

Diem unpopular from the start

. Cheated

Diem won the election with 98% of the vote. More people voted than there were people in Saigon! He cheated & everyone knew it.

. Catholic

Diem was a catholic (like the French) when most Vietnamese were Buddhists - this made things difficult for Diem.

. Land reform

Most Vietnamese wanted land reform. They wanted land of their own to farm.

Diem was not interested in giving people their own land.

. In the North Ho Chi Minh made land reform his no.1 priority.

2.3

Ho Chi Minh Thought:

. Vietnam Workers Party (La Dong)

Party had a mix of communist ideas which was called Ho Chi Minh Thought

. Communism

North Vietnam became communist, often romanticised

. Land reforms

The North is mountainous & is a difficult place to grow food - most rice grown in the south.

Large landowners had their land taken away - sometime beaten & executed (over 50,000) if the people said they had committed crimes as landlords.

Peasants were given land, then put into co-operatives. The results were good as production doubled but there were some protests over the reforms.

Life in South Vietnam

Life in South Vietnam

. Diem spent much of time hunting down Vietminh & re-educating them or executing them. (12,000+)

. No election took place (Geneva Agreement) as Diem cancelled it.

. Rich landowners made their poor tenants pay higher taxes

. Diem was making enemies of the peasants

Government

. When the French left Diem had to start from scratch.

. Govt. jobs went to family, friends and other catholics

. Diem claimed everything was democratic but really it was a dictatorship with rigged elections

Life in North Vietnam

Opposition

. Possible opponents

. Communists got rid of any possible opponents - catholic priests, Buddhists monks, intellectuals, academics, etc

Most were sent to re-education camps - forced labour + beatings = death.

Up to 500,000 were re-educated. Ho Chi Minh admitted that re-education may have gone too far

. Economic growth

With help from China & Russia North became more industrial inc. military, but was short of skilled workers eg engineers

Over 100 new factories were built, enabling it to continue with the war



Test yourself: Life in North and South Vietnam

The statement is linked with either North Vietnam or South Vietnam - write North or South as the answer

	Statement	North or South
1	La Dong was formed	
2	Diem was the leader	
3	Ho Ch Minh was the leader	
4	Re-education of opponents	
5	Land reform was a priority	
6	Help from USSR & China	
7	Catholics favoured over Buddhists	
8	Land reform never really happened	
9	Ho Chi Minh was the leader	
10	Help from USA	
11	Buddhist monk burns himself, in protest against treatment of Buddhists	
12	Most of the land was in the hands of large landowners	
13	Many government jobs went to the leader's family & friends	
14	Catholic priests were arrested	
15	Some protests over land reforms	



Check out our
youtube channel:
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Documentaries
on
Ho Chi Minh
from
BBC
History Channel

Battlefield Vietnam: Part 2 Undeclared War inc. Strategic Hamlets

Additional notes

3

3.1

Background

Ho Chi Minh

A teacher, sacked for not learning French - went to USA & Europe - to Versailles at the end of WWI to ask for Vietnam independence.

Founder member of French Communist Party, then to China. Returned to Vietnam to seek independence after WWII. Leader of La Dong until 1959. Was the figurehead of Vietminh until his death, but not the total leader the USA said he was.

. Known as 'Uncle Ho' to his people



June 1963; a Buddhist monk sets fire to himself, in protest against treatment of Buddhists

. End of Diem

- . Diem's rule was becoming more corrupt & less democratic
- . The USA not longer wanted to support him
- . He was anti Buddhist & had many arrested and beaten
- . Many officers in the ARVN were against Diem
- . JFK orders CIA help the ARVN to get rid of Diem
- . 1st Nov 1963: Diem & his brother were captured then murdered

3.2

National Liberation Front (NLF)

(National Front for Liberation of the South)

. NLF (Vietcong)

Founded Dec. 1960 in the South to get people to support communists. Many people were against Diem in the south.

The South & USA called the NLF the Vietcong.

Communists & non communists joined the NLF, but was controlled by the Northern Vietminh.

The Vietminh had got rid of the French, now the NLF was aiming to remove Diem & his American supporters.

Ho Chi Minh Trail

. In 1959 a series of trails were built through Laos & Cambodia to connect North Vietnam to the south.

These trails supplied the Vietcong with everything they needed.

National Liberation Front



People's Liberation Armed Forces

- . The PLAF was the military wing of the NLF
- . First major attack in 1965 at two US Army bases
- These attacks convinced US Pres. Johnson to send US soldiers to Vietnam.

Tet Offensive 1968

- . Most famous PLAF attacks during Tet religious holiday when they attacked several towns & cities at the same time.
- They lost, but their ability to attack so many places at the same time shocked the US President & people, who thought the PLAF was weak.



Ho Chi Minh
Uncle Ho as he was known was the 'father' of the nation.

3.3

South Vietnamese Army (ARVN)

. ARVN

Had 170,000 troops v 10,000 Vietcong
BUT: battle for hearts & minds not military

. Lt. Colonel Vann

US advisor Vann quit because the ARVN were so bad.

. President J F Kennedy

Kennedy using US pilots to attack NLF but kept it a secret + US helicopters took ARVN troops into battle.

Number of advisors increased.

JFK knew if advisors got killed then he would come under pressure to respond with military action.

US response to attacks



Strategic Hamlet Programme

. Diem's response

Many villages in the South were supporting the Vietcong. Diem moved the peasants to 'strategic hamlets' protected by the ARVN

. Strategic hamlets

- . Peasants most of whom did not want to move had to: pay the govt. for materials to build their new houses & the barbed wire - that was given to them by the USA!
- . Many peasants hated the hamlets & became NLF supporters
- . By 1963 3/4 of the peasants were in strategic hamlets

Test your knowledge & understanding:
escalation of conflict

3. Write an account (8 marks)

- Write an account of the Diem's rise to power in South Vietnam.
- Write an account of how the USA responded to Vietminh attacks.
- Write an account of life in North Vietnam.
- Write an account of life in South Vietnam.

4. How far do you agree? (16 marks)

- The USA's belief in the Truman Doctrine led to their involvement in Vietnam. How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.
- Diem's rule of South Vietnam was doomed to fail. How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.



Path to War

Follows the Johnson Presidency focusing upon the Vietnam War.



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youtube channel:
GCSEHistory

Additional notes

[illegible]

4

Background

L.B. Johnson President

Took over after JFK killed in Nov. 1963. LBJ wanted to fix problems in USA - 'Great Society'. But the situation in Vietnam was getting worse. He took advice from McNamara that winning would not be a problem. Once he committed troops - he did not want to be the first President to lose a war.



4.1

4.2

Support for South Vietnam

had supported the French before.
Needed US support to stop communists taking over

Truman Doctrine

. Containment
 . Domino Theory

Reasons why the USA became involved in Vietnam

Kennedy + Johnson

wanted to be seen as
being tough on communism

US attacked

. Gulf of Tonkin 1964
 . US soldiers 1965

4.3

Steps to War for the USA

1. 1960 - 1963: Kennedy increased military advisors
from 900 to 11,000

2. 1963: Vietcong take over 40% of S.Vietnamese

3. 1963: President Johnson sends more help to stop Vietcong

Johnson not a 'war monger' but not want to be seen as soft on communism
Defence Sec. McNamara believed war was winnable

4. Aug. 1964: Gulf of Tonkin Resolution

(still debate about circumstances of incident)

US ships attacked by North Vietnamese torpedo boats
 Johnson attacked North Vietnamese naval bases
 US congress gave permission to 'take all necessary measures' in

5. March 1965: US Marines arrive

No longer called advisors but troops
 US bombers start bombing North Vietnam called 'Rolling Thunder'
 Thought US troops, rather than the ARVN, could defeat Vietcong

6. After 1966: Total war

Over 500,000 US soldiers in Vietnam on 12 month tours

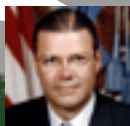
Westmoreland

Commander of Vietnam forces in 1964. He believed 'attrition', that eventually the Vietcong would not be able replace those soldiers killed.
 Aim: attack Vietcong using superior firepower. Success at La Dong in 1965, led Westmoreland to think his strategy was winning.
 BUT: Vietcong now avoided big battles to limit the numbers killed.
 By 1968, the strategy was obviously not working.
 Tet Offensive showed that the Vietcong was still strong.
 Westmoreland was replaced in March 1968.



McNamara

Sec. of Defence recommended support for South Vietnam, increased advisors from 900 to 16,000. President Johnson listened closely to McNamara, as he sent 200,000 soldiers. By 1967 he started to have doubts that USA could win the war & resigned in Nov. 1967.

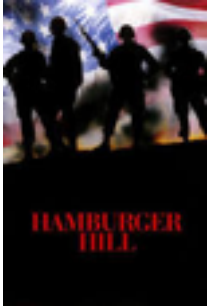


4a

Vietnam War: USA involvement in Vietnam

Rank	Reasons why USA became involved in the Vietnam & explanation of ranking
1	
2	
3	
4	

Mark /10	Steps to war: how far did each 'step' take USA closer to war (mark out of 10) Explain how it took the USA closer to war in Vietnam
	1960 -63: Kennedy increased military advisors
	1963: Johnson sent more help to South Vietnam & McNamara believed war was winnable
	1964: Gulf of Tonkin resolution
	1965: US marines arrive in South Vietnam & Rolling Thunder begins



Hamburger Hill

Close-up of 14 US soldiers during a 10 day battle



Platoon

The conflicts within
the US Army
highlighted in this film



Check out our
youtube channel:
historystudent

Additional notes

5

Turning points

5.1

My Lai Massacre 1968 - 1969

Charlie Company on search & destroy mission killed 300 - 400 villagers, mainly women, children & old men. No Vietcong were found. It was considered a success. One year later a letter was sent to politicians & Life magazine printed photos. An investigation ended in mass murder charges for Lt. Calley & others. Calley was blamed & got 20 years 'hard labour'. USA people were shocked & protests increased.

Tet Offensive 1968

On Tet religious holiday, Vietcong launched over 100 attacks across South Vietnam. Scale of offensive shocked USA. Vietcong suffered huge casualties, but USA morale badly affected. Americans now thought the war was unwinnable.

Hue Massacre

The VC & North Vietnamese troops took the city of Hue on 31 Jan. as part of the Tet Offensive. For nearly a month the US besieged the city. After they defeated the VC, mass graves were found where civilians had been killed by the VC. The numbers vary from a few hundred to several thousand.

5.2

Bombing

Operation Rolling Thunder
(Feb. 1965 - 1972)

- . Targets:
 - . industrial & military targets initially approved by President
 - . then town & cities
 - . then in Laos & Cambodia
 - . Ho Chi Minh Trail
- Result:**
- . reduced number of soldiers needed
 - . dropped more bombs than on Germany & Japan in WWII
 - . damaged NV ability to fight the war
 - . attacked Vietcong targets in South
 - . 14,000 US bombers shot down
 - . failed to stop the communists

- . Killing civilians (women & children) turned many in USA against the war

5.3

Guerrilla tactics

- . Less soldiers & outgunned by US & South Viet forces
- . Ho Chi Minh used guerrilla tactics like Mao in China
- . Attack & disappear into jungle
- . Retreat if out numbered
- . Not always wear uniforms
- . Got peasant support - sometimes through terror

Result:

- . Very motivated fighters
- . Lower morale of US soldiers
- . Had peasant support
- . Network of informants
- . Over 1 million died

Military tactics

US tactics in Vietnam

Chemical Weapons

- . Agent Orange & Napalm
 - . It was a sort of 'weedkiller'
 - . Used to destroy the jungles, so the Vietcong had no hiding place
- Result:**
- . Destroyed thousands of sq. km of jungle
 - . Burned & killed thousands of guerrilla fighters & civilians

- . Shocking pictures of women & children burned by chemical weapons turned many people in the USA

Search & destroy

- . Bombing was not winning the war
- . USA built strong bases in the south & launched attacks via helicopters

Result:

- . Some successes against Vietcong
- . Pointless attacks based on poor information
- . Vietcong often 'vanished' before attacks
- . Many civilians killed during attacks
- . Turned many peasants against the USA/South Vietnamese
- . My Lai Massacre turned US public opinion against the war

Supply lines & tunnels

- . The Vietcong in the South were supplied via Ho Chi Minh trails in Laos & Cambodia
 - . Bombing of trail controversial as Laos & Cambodia were 'neutral' in the war.
 - . USA failed to stop the flow of supplies, often carried on bicycles, despite heavy bombing, by up to 35,000 people
 - . Underground bases & tunnels kept Vietcong safe from bombing
- Result:**
- . Vietcong constantly supplied
 - . Tunnel network destroyed US morale

Vietcong tactics

5a

Vietnam War: tactics of war

Vietcong	Success /10	Explanation
Guerilla Tactics		
Supply Lines		
USA	Success /10	Explanation
Bombing		
Chemical weapons		
Search & Destroy		

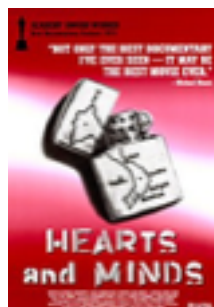
Test your knowledge & understanding: US intervention

3. Write an account (8 marks)

- Write an account of events leading to the USA becoming involved in Vietnam
- Write an account of the My Lai massacre.

4. How far do you agree? (16 marks)

- The USA's belief in the Truman Doctrine led to their involvement in Vietnam. How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.
- Vietminh tactics were well suited to fighting in Vietnam against the USA. How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.
- US tactics were not suited to fighting the Vietcong. How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.



Hearts & Minds

A look at opposing views in the Vietnam War



Platoon

The conflicts within the US Army highlighted in this film



Full Metal Jacket

Army training with shocking outcomes, plus the horror of fighting for a mixed bunch of soldiers



Check out our
youtube channel:
GCSEHistory

Additional notes

6

Why was the USA unable to win the Vietnam War?

Military situation

Communists



U.S.A.

6.1

Harsh lifestyle

- . Vietcong use to hard peasant lifestyle
- . At home in jungle environment & communal living

Win the hearts & minds

- . Communists worked hard to win over the peasants BUT treated peasants harshly if they did not support them

Serve their country

- . Patriotic soldiers fighting for their homeland
- . United against colonial rule - French, Japanese then USA

6.3

Support in Vietnam + China & Russia

- . Full support of Vietnamese people - working together
- . Many villagers hide the Vietcong from the US soldiers plus they fed them

Support from USSR & China

- . USSR & China supplied military equipment + advice throughout the war

6.2

Killing civilians

- . Bombing & chemical weapons killed civilians & turned Vietnamese against the USA

Tour of duty

- . Soldiers were in Vietnam for 365 days
- . The priority was to survive & go home, rather than win the war

US soldiers used to a comfortable life

- . Join up for different reasons: hero; patriotism; learn to fly etc
- . Life in Vietnam was harsh & uncomfortable
- . Many conscripts did not want to be there

6.4

Reaction in USA

- . Anti-war movement showed soldiers to be baby killers
- . Many soldiers were anti-war before they even went to Vietnam
- . Upon returning home not treated as heroes
- . Some soldiers became anti-war protesters!

Reaction around the world

- . Increasingly the USA become more isolated as the TV pictures showed some of the incidents like the Monk suicide, & the napalm girl



6

Why was the USA unable to win the Vietnam War?

Military situation

Communists



U.S.A.

6.5

Guerrilla warfare

- . Guerrilla warfare was central to VC tactics, though the Tet offensive showed it was capable of traditional warfare which shocked US generals and US public alike
- . US troops always scared of VC ambushes

Supplies

- . VC supplied through network of tunnels + Ho Chi Minh trails in Laos & Cambodia
- . People repaired trails after US bombing within hours or days

Military tactics

6.6

High tech weapons

- . Up to 1964 US military advisors had good relationship with Vietnamese
- . After 1965 US Marines very aggressive & came to hate Vietnamese
- . After 1965 US relied on bombing inc. chemical weapons which killed civilians
- . US forces could not tell friend or enemy apart because of Vietcong tactics

Operation Phoenix

- . CIA + special forces identify & neutralise top VC
- . Local police carry out arrests, torture & killings
- . Neutralise= torture, get information, kill
- . Over 81,000 VC captured - up to 50% killed

6.7

Unity

- . Soldiers & Vietnamese people very motivated to defeat the 'colonial invading' army & worked together
- . Communists controlled & motivated in a variety of ways
- . People made huge personal sacrifices inc. women & children to help the soldiers;
- . 'Shock brigades' repaired bomb damage after air raids

6.8

Disunity in the Army

- . US forces distrust South Vietnamese forces, as communists had infiltrated the South Vietnamese army & government

Drugs & R & R

- . Soldiers were in Vietnam for 365 days
- . Priority was to survive & go home, rather than win the war
- . Many resorted to drugs to overcome the shock of war
- . When on R & R in Saigon or Tokyo many got STD

Quality of soldiers

Conflicts within the US army

- . Officers often lacked experience & authority
- soldiers mutinied
- . Over 100 officers were killed by their own men
- . 'Grunts' (infantrymen) were on average 19 years old, had low morale & going on patrols was very unpopular with booby traps and ambushes common
- . Many army units experienced racial problems

Information

- . Communists had informants in South Vietnam - in all areas inc. army, US Army and CIA
- . They often knew of planned attacks in advance

6a

Why was the USA unable to win the Vietnam War?

Write in whether the statement applies to either the USA or communists

USA or Communists	Statement
	At home in the jungle environment & with communal living
	Priority was to survive & go home
	Supported & supplied by the USSR & China
	Motivated to defeat the 'invading colonial armies'
	'Grunts' were on average 19 years old
	After 1965 they relied on bombing & the use of chemical weapons
	Had informants in the South Vietnamese govt., US army & CIA
	"Shock brigades" repaired bomb damage after air raids
	Soldiers were in Vietnam for 365 day tour of duty
	Supplied through a network of tunnels & trails through Laos & Cambodia
	Patriotic soldiers fighting for their homeland
	Worked hard to win the 'hearts & minds' of the peasants
	Often knew, in advance, of planned attacks
	Found life in Vietnam harsh & uncomfortable
	Many soldiers took drugs to overcome the shock & horror of war
	At home soldiers were often known as 'child killers'
	Officers often lacked authority & there were mutinies

6b

Why was the USA unable to win a military victory in Vietnam?

Rank with an explanation the military strengths of the North Vietnamese communists and the military weaknesses of the USA



Communists



USA

Rank	Strengths	Explanation	Rank	Weakness	Explanation
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					



Test your knowledge & understanding: US intervention

3. Write an account (8 marks)

- a. Write an account of Vietcong tactics
- b. Write an account of the support for war in North Vietnam
- c. Write an account of the support for war in the USA

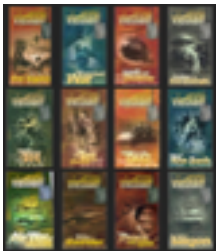
4. How far do you agree? (16 marks)

- a. The USA had no answer to the guerrilla tactics of the Vietminh
How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.
- b. The USA troops were not motivated to win a war in Vietnam.
How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.
- c. The Vietcong were always going to win a war against the USA in Vietnam.
How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.



Path to War

Follows the Johnson Presidency focusing upon the Vietnam War.



Battlefield Vietnam

Episode 5 & 6
Countdown to Tet
Tet Offensive

Episode 10

Rolling Thunder



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Additional notes

7

Why was the USA unable to win the Vietnam War?

Situation in the USA



President Johnson's aims

Public aim: defeat communism (containment)
support democracy (S.Vietnam)

Private aims: save face for USA

not be first President to lose a war

BUT: many in US not care about democracy in Vietnam
US supporting a corrupt S. Vietnam government



7.1

1965

President Johnson's methods

Political: Support democracy but alien to Vietnamese. Support educational, medical & social programmes

Military: Use bombing to win the war
Destroy VC supply routes

BUT: bombing made Vietnamese more determined
Chemical attacks turned US people against the war

Public opinion

Students protests e.g. teach-ins - against conscription

7.2

1966 - 67

Public opinion

Members of Congress start criticising Johnson's policies

Buddhist monk sets herself on fire in protest in Vietnam

Martin Luther King & other church leaders join anti-war protests

Tax increases to pay for war, leads to more demonstrations

Media turn against the war

Loss of McNamara 1967

McNamara (Defence Sec.) with JFK then Johnson who is responsible for military policy & tactics

McNamara changed from saying easily winnable, to the war being unwinnable

Replaced by Clark (advisor & friend of Johnson)

Problems in South Vietnam 1966 - 67

Government was corrupt & unpopular

Many South Vietnamese supported Ho Chi Minh

Tet Offensive

North Vietnamese VC attacked multiple targets in the South

Attacked during Tet holiday surprising everyone

Attacks were unsuccessful & the VC lost 60,000 soldiers

BUT: US shocked by size of attack, confidence shaken

US intelligence failed & 10,000 US/South troops killed

People in USA shocked by what their saw

US media showed it as a failure for the USA

7.3

1968

Defence Secretary Clark

Realised USA did not have a plan to win in Vietnam (policy of not losing to save face)

By March 1968 Clark was telling President Johnson the war was unwinnable

President Johnson

Johnson's health suffered

Advisors started looking at peace options

Bombing stopped whilst peace talks held

Financial costs

Great Society spending cut as military spending increased

Deficit: from \$1.6 billion (1963) to \$25.3 billion (1968)

Inflation increased + people not want to pay increase in tax to pay for war

BUT: Peace difficult as North Vietnamese not want to compromise
Johnson in a weak negotiating position

Public opinion

TV coverage: bombing & chemical attacks turned people against war

Mai Lai incident shocked people around the world

Opinion: win the war or get out

Divided US society

USA torn apart by the war - totally divided

Civil unrest - some feared civil war



Why was the USA unable to win a military victory in Vietnam?

Which year for each event?

	Event	1965 1966/7 1968
1	Tet Offensive	
2	Clark telling the President the war was unwinnable	
3	Teach-ins to protest against conscription	
4	Buddhist monk burns himself to death in protest about how Buddhists treated	
5	Taxes increased to pay for war	
6	Martin Luther King join anti-war protests	
7	Increased bombing to win the war	
8	Tet Offensive made people realise that the U.S.A. could not win in Vietnam	
9	Great Society spending cut to pay for war	
10	People shocked by My Lai massacre	
11	Lt. Calley was sentenced to 20 years for murder	
12	Inflation increased in U.S.A.	
13	Started chemical attacks in Vietnam	
14	Johnson suffering from ill health	
15	Some felt civil war possible	

The ending of conflict in Vietnam



Platoon

Search & Destroy mission



Check out our
youtube channel:
GCSEHistory

A lot of documentaries
on My Lai Massacre
on youtube

Additional notes

8

The My Lai Massacre 1968 - 1970

Event: Unit of soldiers (Charlie Company) on a 'search & destroy mission'. Attacked what they thought was a Vietcong stronghold.

After 3 / 4 hours 300-400 civilians were dead inc. women & children.

There were no Vietcong & only 3 weapons found.

Official report: only 20 civilians killed, the rest were VC

The soldiers were praised for their actions.

The letter: Soldier Ridenhour who knew many soldiers at My Lai wrote a letter to politicians & officials in Washington saying what really happened there.

Life Magazine: published photos of the massacre.

Investigation: Lieutenant Calley was charged with murder and others were also charged, but the army made Calley solely responsible & said he was not acting on orders. Calley was sentenced to 20 years hard labour. (He was released after 3 years).

The events of My Lai shocked the US people.

The Peace Movement

Peace movement: no longer hippies & students but ordinary middle class people who wanted an end to the 'pointless' war.

My Lai Massacre: after the incident came to light over 500,000 people protested against in the war in Washington DC. The largest protest ever in the USA.

Politics: to be pro-war was political suicide for most politicians.

Loss of faith in the military leadership

Realisation that the USA could not win a military victory after the Tet Offensive
People lost faith in the US army

New President

President **Richard Nixon** became in January 1969.
He was elected on making the war 'de-Americanised' - less US involvement in Vietnam

Nixon was very anti-communist but had to be against the war or at least pro peace to get elected in 1968

Peace with Honour

May 1968: USA wanted a South Vietnam, the communists wanted a united Vietnam.
USA wanted free elections in the south but North Vietnam did not trust the elections would be fair.

8.2

Peace Talks

. **May 1968:** no progress

North Vietnam: wanted a united Vietnam, NLF be part of govt in South
not trust USA to have free elections

USA: wanted separate North & South Vietnam
no NLF in the South & free elections

Nixon's strategy

Nixon Doctrine

. **July 1969:** in Guam Nixon announced:
. USA keep its treaty commitments with Asian countries

. Expect countries to take responsibility for own defence

. In Vietnam this became 'Vietnamisation' as Nixon withdrew US troops from Vietnam but continued the bombing campaign against the North

8a

Test yourself: Nixon's policies in Vietnam

Read each statement and decide whether it is TRUE or FALSE

	Statement	True or False
1	Charlie Company were on a 'search & destroy' mission	
2	Nixon became U.S. President in January 1968	
3	At My Lai the U.S. soldiers found hundreds of Vietcong weapons	
4	The Nixon Doctrine largely replaced the Truman Doctrine	
5	Nixon wanted a united Vietnam	
6	Soldier Ridenhour exposed what happened at My Lai	
7	People in the U.S.A. were not that bothered by events at My Lai	
8	Tet Offensive made people realise that the U.S.A. could not win in Vietnam	
9	Nixon introduced the policy Vietnamisation	
10	The official report about My Lai explained exactly what happened	
11	Lt. Calley was sentenced to 20 years for murder	
12	Nixon wanted 'peace with honour'	
13	In 1969 only students were protesting against the war	
14	Peace was very close in 1969	
15	The Northern communists did not trust U.S.A. to hold fair elections	



Test your knowledge & understanding:
the end of the war in Vietnam

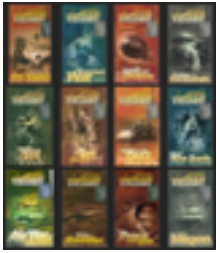
3. Write an account (8 marks)

- a. Write an account of the anti-war movement in the USA
- b. Write an account of the war from 1965 -1968
- c. Write an account of the role of McNamara the US Secretary of Defence

4. How far do you agree? (16 marks)

- a. The My Lai incident turned the people against the war in the USA
How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.
- b. The USA was divided over the Vietnam War by 1968
How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.
- c. President Johnson was led by McNamara into war he never wanted.
How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.
- d. People in the USA were against the war because they could not win
How far do you agree with this interpretation?
- e. The USA lost the war at home, rather than on the battlefields of Vietnam
How far do you agree with this interpretation?

The ending of conflict in Vietnam



Battlefield Vietnam

Episode 11
Peace with Honour



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Additional notes

9

The end of war in Vietnam

Bombing - Rolling Thunder

Nixon ordered bombing to be increased. He hoped this would put pressure on the communists as peace negotiations continued. When talks broke down in Dec 1972, Nixon ordered a massive bombing campaign. In 11 days more bombs were dropped than in the previous 2 years. The North restarted negotiations and the Paris Peace Agreement was signed on 27 January 1973

US invasion of Cambodia

The US was unable to cut off the supply lines as the communists used trails & bases in Laos & Cambodia. Nixon ordered the invasion of Viet Cong bases in Cambodia

Vietnamisation

Nixon started replacing US soldiers with Vietnamese soldiers AVRN. Between 1969 - 71 400,000 troops were withdrawn from Vietnam. BUT: AVRN were no match for the communist fighters.

USSR & China relations

USSR & China relations in 1969 were so bad some feared there would be a war between the two.

As a result both countries tried to improve their relations with the USA.

1970: Nixon & USSR began talks about limiting nuclear arms (SALT) & asked USSR to pressure North Vietnam to end the war.

1972: Nixon was invited to visit China & he asked China to pressure North Vietnam to end the war.

Negotiations: 'Peace with Honour'

Kissinger (USA) & Le Duc Tho (North Vietnam) agreed:

- . US troops withdraw after ceasefire
 - . Prisoners of war released
 - . Elections in the south
- Paris Peace Agreement - 27 January 1972

. Nguyen Van Thieu, leader of South Vietnam was angry because as part of the agreement he would have to resign and the North would takeover the South if the USA left

- . December 1972: Le Duc broke off negotiations - Nixon ordered more bombing of the North
- . Negotiations restarted - Thieu agreed to resign, Le Tuc & Kissinger signed

. Paris Peace Agreement - 27 January 1973

Nixon was forced to resign over Watergate - Aug. 1974.
VP Gerald Ford took over as President

The end

- . Pardoned the draft dodgers
- . Asked Congress for support of over \$500 million for SV & Cam, but did not get the help.
- . April 1975, communist forces entered Saigon - hundreds of thousands of S. Vietnamese were executed.
- . Ford refused military help
- . Ford ordered the evacuation of Americans
- . People watched on TV as 6000 Americans fled, helicopters lifting people off the Embassy roof.

Ford's strategy

*The evacuation has been completed
This action closes a chapter in the American experience. I ask all Americans to close ranks, to avoid recrimination about the past, to look ahead to the many goals we share and to work together on the great tasks that remain to be accomplished.*

War started in 1941 against the Japanese was now over & Saigon renamed as Ho Chi Minh City.



The Vietnam War

Match the event to the correct year

McNamara changed from saying easily winnable, to the war being unwinnable

Members of Congress start criticising Johnson's policies

Peace movement: no longer hippies & students but ordinary middle class people who wanted an end to the 'pointless' war.

North Vietnamese VC attacked multiple targets in South Vietnam

The invasion of Viet Cong bases in Cambodia

Over 500,000 people protested against the war in Washington DC. The largest peace protest ever in the USA.

Both the USSR & China tried to improve their relations with the USA.

Nixon was very anti-communist, but had to be against the war or at least pro peace to get elected



Johnson's aims: defeat communism (containment) & support democracy (S.Vietnam)

When talks broke down ordered a massive bombing campaign.

Military spending increased to \$25.3 billion

Realisation that the USA could not win a military victory after the Tet Offensive and people lost faith in the US arm

North Vietnamese VC attacked multiple targets in the South
Attacked during Tet holiday surprising everyone

In 11 days more bombs were dropped than in the previous 2 years

Students start protests e.g. teach-ins - against conscription

Nixon started replacing US soldiers with Vietnamese soldiers AVRN.

400,000 US troops were withdrawn from Vietnam



Test your knowledge: What were the turning points that contributed to the situation in the USA becoming increasingly anti-war?

Score each event out of 10, in terms of it being a turning point that influenced the American public into becoming more anti-war - explain your score.

Event	Score out of /10	Explanantion
Johnson's aims		
Johnson's methods: bombing & chemical weapons		
McNamara resigns: war unwinnable		
Tet Offensive		
Clark: there is no plan to win the war		
My Lai massacre		
Invasion of Cambodia & Laos		
Nixon's increase in bombing		



Test your knowledge & understanding:
the end of the war in Vietnam

3. Write an account (8 marks)

- a. Write an account of Nixon's military strategy
- b. Write an account of Nixon's 'Peace with Honour'

4. How far do you agree? (16 marks)

- a. Nixon always knew he had to negotiate for peace rather than win a military victory
How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.
- b. Nixon did not achieve 'Peace with Honour'
How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.
- c. Ford had no option but to negotiate peace.
How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

The ending of conflict in Vietnam



**Born on the
4th July**



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Additional notes

10

Consequences of the Vietnam War

Society

- . In the South before the war 90% lived in the countryside - after the war 60% lived in cities
- . Many peasants left the countryside & lived in shanty towns, during and after the war, around Saigon: poverty, prostitution & drugs were common. Conditions were very poor - lack basic necessities - clean water, sanitation, transport etc.
- . Refugees = 5 million
- . Corruption in the South was rife
- . Black market in US goods
- . Drugs (heroin, opium) were easily available during the war for the US soldiers, this continued after the war
- . Over 500,000 Vietnamese women became prostitutes (many poor peasants who needed to support their families after their farms were destroyed)

Political

- . Vietnam unified under communism
- . Communism spread to Cambodia & Laos
- . Millions of South Vietnamese victimised after the war: thousands executed for working with ARVN or US
- . Millions forced to work in 'economic' zones or where 're-educated' (forced labour)

Environment

Chemical warfare

- . Huge areas (20%) of forest & agricultural land destroyed with over 20,000,000 gallons of 'herbicides' dropped
- . Agricultural land not useable - some for 100 years
- . Food shortages as a result
- . Water supply poisoned
- . Est. 400,000 effected immediately plus 500,000 born with a variety of defects
- . Miscarriages common

Mines

- . Mines & unexploded bombs were everywhere and continued to kill people years after the war
- . Effect farmers in particular

10.1

South Vietnam

Economic

- . USA banned trade with Vietnam
- . Food shortages were common as:
 - chemical weapons poisoned the land, irrigation systems destroyed, over 20 million bomb craters
- . During and after the war many young people in rural areas moved to the city - it was safer
- . Unemployment rose and jobs created to meet the American needs disappeared overnight
- . 'Boat people': 1970s saw 1 million Vietnamese try to leave the country for political and economic reasons - thousands died as a result
- . Took 20 years to recover to pre-war levels



Society

- . Women took on the work of men particularly as farmers as men joined the army to fight
- . Over 2 million soldiers and civilians died, news of deaths were often kept from families at the time, to avoid low morale, so many were shocked to find out at the end of the war

10.2

North Vietnam

Economic

- . 70% of factories destroyed, production fell by 50%
 - . Transport network destroyed (24 bombs per km) four hour journeys became four days
- . Many building in Hanoi destroyed inc. temples, schools etc
- . China and Russia helped rebuild in the North

10

Consequences of the Vietnam War

Political

- . President Johnson destroyed by the war - even though vast majority supported the war at the start
- . Pro-war became political liability
- . Protests across the country
- . Nixon anti-communist but had to pursue peace
- . Politicians more isolationist



US foreign policy: end of containment

- . Propaganda disaster for the USA
- . Use of bombing, chemical warfare lost US support
- . Nixon ended the 'Truman Doctrine'
- . US abandoned policy of containment
- . Military intervention less likely after Vietnam
- . Looked to talk with USSR & China: Detente

Society

- . 58,000 died in the war
- Divided the nation:**
 - . Student demonstrations
 - . Draft dodgers
 - . Many veterans became anti-war protestors
 - . drug addicts & suffered post traumatic stress (est. at 800,000)
 - . Others who handled Agent Orange suffered cancer
 - compensation has been paid to US soldiers
 - . TV war: pictures of the horrors of war on the news every evening
 - . USA lost confidence in their country

Kent University 1970

- . Anti-war violent protests - about secret missions in Cambodia
- . National Guard called in to restore order
- . 4 killed & 9 injured as NG fired 70 shots
- . University closed for 6 weeks
- . Strikes across US at universities & colleges
- seen as a 'watershed' moment in the anti-war movement

USA

10.3

Economic

- . Military industrial production increased, consumer goods decreased
- . USA had budget deficits which caused inflation
 - . Interest rates rose
 - . Value of the dollar fell
- . Govt. spending was reduced on social programmes in Johnson's 'Great Society'

Fulbright Hearings

- . In 1971 a committee led by William Fulbright
 - . Investigated the Vietnam War
 - . Give advice on how to end US involvement there
 - . Evidence over inhumane behaviour of US troops in Vietnam.
- . My Lai was not just an isolated incident. Such behaviour had been encouraged by the military leadership
- . The effect of these hearings was to raise questions at an official Government level about the purpose of US involvement in Vietnam

10a

Consequences of the Vietnam War

List the consequences for both sides as positive & negative on a scale of 1 - 5.
5 = very positive/negative

positive



5

4

3

2

1

2

3

4

5

negative

Many peasants left the countryside & lived in shanty towns: poverty, prostitution & drugs

US abandoned policy of containment

South Vietnamese victimised after the war, thousands executed & 're-educated'

Took 20 years to recover to pre-war levels

Vietnam unified under communism

Food shortages were common

'Boat people': 1970s saw 1 million people try to leave the country

Communism spread to Cambodia & Laos

Looked to talk with USSR & China: Detente

Govt. spending was reduced on social programmes in Johnson's 'Great Society'

Interest rates rose and the value of the dollar fell

Nixon ended the 'Truman Doctrine'

USA banned trade with Vietnam

Food shortages were common

Many veterans became anti-war protestors drug addicts & suffered post traumatic stress



Test your knowledge & understanding:
the end of the war in Vietnam

3. Write an account (8 marks)

- a. Write an account of the economic consequences of the Vietnam war
- b. Write an account of the Fulbright hearings

4. How far do you agree? (16 marks)

- a. The Vietnam war brought the US policy of containment to an end
How far do you agree with this interpretation?
- b. The USA achieved nothing from the Vietnam war
How far do you agree with this interpretation?
- c. There were no winners in the Vietnam war
How far do you agree with this interpretation?

S1

The Dead Forest - Agent Orange by Richard Dieterle

Taken from <http://vnwarstories.com>

In 1968 we eventually fell onto a rather wide road through the otherwise impenetrable jungle. This road, fashioned of compacted dirt with a slight mix of gravel, was of a pale yellow color and elevated a couple of feet above its bed. It was pleasant to go down such a road after the usual hump through "thick shit" which had been accomplished by the point man and forward element turning themselves into human plows. It was still early in the day and the sky was thinly overcast, but it was bright enough out. We hadn't gone very far down this road when we came to one of the most bizarre sights of the war: suddenly the thick foliage of the jungle gave way to a kind of hellish landscape unlike any I had ever seen. All the vegetation — trees, bushes, vines — everything, had been completely stripped of its leaves, and all the wood had turned a dead gray color. Not a single leaf or speck of green could be seen anywhere. All the trees stood perfect upright as they had in life, but the want of leaves made it possible to see a long way into what would otherwise have been an opaque jungle. That, of course, was the idea. It would be impossible for anyone to ambush us along this road, since there was no cover for them. Still, this was not really very reassuring, since even at the time we had a sense that the agent used to effect this result was probably a greater menace to us than to the enemy. It was time to eat, but I can't now remember whether we pushed on to clear this desert of wood, or whether we did in fact stop to eat there. The area had been sprayed quite some time before with Agent Orange but it is to this day somewhat unsettling to think of what this stuff could have done to us, and whether at the time of this writing, long distant from that day, I shall not yet become a casualty of the Vietnam War.

The government, as usual, employed the "Big Lie" They told the world that Agent Orange was a harmless defoliant and that the strange maladies turning up among those who worked with it were due to other causes. It took countless years to get aid to our self-inflicted casualties because the government refused to confess its lie until it was completely and irrefutably proven that it was a deliberate deception.



A nurse's story

<http://www.rockdalenewtoncitizen.com/>

Lou Eisenbrandt was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease 14 years ago, the result of exposure to Agent Orange. Female Angels of Mercy came in contact with the lethal herbicide when cutting away the uniforms on wounded soldiers. I was privileged to meet Lou and listen to her awe-inspiring presentation during the July gathering of the Atlanta Vietnam Veterans Business Association. And this is her story.

From her own words during the presentation: "I have Parkinson's from exposure to Agent Orange, so I've instructed my body to remain still. If I do a Michael J. Fox, please forgive me, but I can't help it. I'm also not using a laser pointer because the laser would be all over the place.

"My experiences are no different than other nurses who served in Nam. Ten thousand women served, 7,000 were nurses. I grew up in the small town of Mascoutah, Ill, population 3,000. I was the oldest of five, born with a wanderlust in my heart because I knew something else was out there for me."

"I was in nurses training when I stumbled onto an Army program which allowed a nurse to join up, study for three years, then serve for two years. I didn't join for a noble cause or thinking I could change the world, I just wanted to see some of the world, like Germany, Japan or England. My first port-of-call was officer's training at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas, in June of 1968. Then I received orders for Ft. Dix, N.J. I packed up my brand new Rambler American and headed for The Garden State.

"I spent nine months at Ft. Dix, which was a good thing. Some nurses were sent straight from nursing school to Vietnam. Ft. Dix was interesting to say the least. They even had a stockade section, and I had to check daily for improvised weapons. One prisoner escaped, but not on my shift. I usually cared for the soldiers with upper respiratory infections, at one point over 300 soldiers. We also had the fatties and skinnies. If too fat, we put them on diets; if too skinny, they got milkshakes. Oddly, they put these guys in the same ward. The skinnies stayed skinny because the fatties drank all the milkshakes. Before the year was out I received a manila envelope; 'Congratulations, you're going to Vietnam.' Not the travel I expected.

"I arrived in Vietnam on Nov. 1, 1969. I had a choice of bases, so I picked the 91st Evac at Chu Lai because an old roommate was assigned there. Chu Lai was beautiful, on a hill near a cliff, overlooking the South China Sea. I arrived during Monsoon season, everything wet; my hooch had double beds, a foot locker, and one fan. Thank goodness my room was in front of the bunker. Chu Lai is in the skinny part of Nam, ocean on one side, mountains in the background.

"I loved flying on the choppers since I was an avid photographer. Great region for photos, but I never took photos of casualties. Chopper pilots are, well, different. They loved to party. I spent my first three months in a medical ward treating non-combat related problems, like hepatitis and malaria, even jungle rot. By the way, the Officer's Club was built on the edge of a cliff. We consumed a 'slight' amount of alcohol in there.

"Within three months the chief nurse asked if I wanted the challenge of the emergency room. I accepted. After we cared for casualties we washed the blood down a drain in the concrete floor with a hose. Head injuries from rotor blades were the worse cases, horrible wounds. If a soldier was not ambulatory we utilized a gurney and used screens to block off a KIA or DOA. During triage if we determined a soldier wouldn't make it he was placed behind a screen then a nurse held his hand and talked to him until he died.

"One time after their village was hit, we had 99 Vietnamese civilians to care for within a 24-hour period. When wounded Vietnamese came in, so did the whole family. We also had Vietnamese nurses. They really helped due to culture differences.

"We waterskied but with parameters, like never going out after 1 p.m. because that was when sharks arrived. We used a Jeep to pull the boat, but I have no idea where the Jeep and boat and skis came from. There were local fishermen in LRBs, Little Round Boats, who would wave at us until we threw them a tow rope and pulled them along. They loved it.

S3

Seeking revenge

Nguyen Thanh Trung, spent most of his teenage years in pursuit of one goal: to avenge the death of his father at the hands of South Vietnamese troops. This burning desire for revenge led him to flight schools in Texas and back to his homeland, where he fought alongside southern troops, all the while hatching a plot that would earn him a place in war history - to bomb the palace of Saigon's leaders, the men he held responsible for his father's death. Today Capt. Trung is a pilot for Vietnam Airlines.

Trung grew up in the river byways of the Mekong Delta, a fertile land home to many poor farmers, many of whom saw the Viet Cong, guerilla fighters who supported Communist North Vietnam as their only hope for a better life - and a united Vietnam. Like so many other children in Vietnam, he lost a parent to the war being fought around him, when, in 1963, his father, a Viet Cong guerilla, was executed by South Vietnamese forces.

On the death of his father:

"That day, I could not go back to my house. I didn't have anywhere to go. So I sat on the ferry [I took to school every day and went] back and forth, back and forth on the river all night. I asked myself the question, who is responsible for the death of my father? I answer for myself. I said, President Diem [the leader, handpicked by the Americans], you are responsible for the death of my father. And I told myself, when I am grown up, if I have the opportunity, I will become a pilot. And I will bomb the palace of the leader of South Vietnam."

Trung joined the Viet Cong movement shortly after his father's death. He would spend the next twelve years working to fulfill his dramatic vow to bomb the palace in Saigon. The Viet Cong encouraged him to join the South Vietnamese Air Force, and in 1969, he was sent for advanced training in Texas. When he returned to his country, he began flying regular bombing sorties. But stealing a F-5, one of the American's most sophisticated jets from the tightly guarded military base was close to impossible. It would take him three years to perfect his plan to bomb the presidential palace.

Trung finally perfected a plan using the military's own protocol against them. To cut down on radio noise, the pilots were required to communicate with each other by visual signals before they took off. On April 5, 1975, Trung gave his squad leader a hand signal that he was having electrical trouble. The rest of his squadron took off without him. According to military procedure, he had ten seconds in which to abort his mission, or catch up with the other planes. He waited out the ten second countdown and took off. But instead of joining his formation, he headed for the target he had held in his mind - the presidential palace.

Trung avenges his father's death:

Just after take-off, I fly direct to Saigon. On that day, my aircraft was loaded with four bombs, [Viet Cong leaders had told him to use] two for the palace, two for the U.S. embassy. But with the first two bombs, I missed targeting the palace. Very quickly I made the decision. With the last two bombs I will bomb the palace and forget the embassy.

S3

Trung's bombs set fire to only a small section of the Presidential Palace roof, but the psychological damage was done. He had brought the war to downtown Saigon - and signaled South Vietnam's leaders that their time was running out. When Trung landed the American F-5 jet on a tiny airstrip in Northern territory, he was greeted with a hero's welcome. But he paid a hefty price for his actions - back in Saigon his wife and children were thrown in jail just hours after the bombs fell.

In one of the final actions of the war, Trung faced an even greater challenge than the bombing of the Palace: training a ragtag group of North Vietnamese fliers, who were used to Soviet-made MiGs how to fly F-5s. The young captain was able to teach them to fly the American planes in just five days. On April 28, 1975, Trung led a formation of five planes that bombed Saigon's main airport, Tan Son Nhat, throwing the entire American evacuation into chaos.

On his motivation for the bombing:

I did everything I could to stop the war as soon as possible. You stop the war one day earlier, you can save a lot of people. One month earlier, you can save thousands. One year earlier, a million. The earlier you stop the war, the more people you can save.

Trung was one of a handful of Vietnamese pilots trained by the Americans to remain in Vietnam after the war ended. When Vietnam invaded Cambodia in 1979, he took to the skies again and led bombing raids over the border. In 1990, Trung joined the national carrier, Vietnam Airlines, and has been helping train a new generation of aviators ever since.



Trung lands in NVA territory to a hero's welcome.



Trung trained in Texas in 1969.

S4

Taken from: www.pbs.org

Teenager Thieu Thi Tao joined the revolutionary movement protesting the regime of the American-installed President Diem. Arrested for her activities, she spent seven years as a political prisoner in the infamous "tiger cages" where she was beaten, and tortured. When the North Vietnamese took Saigon in 1975, she felt vindicated - her years of imprisonment were a small price to pay for a united Vietnam. Now the head of a shrimp cooperative, Tao confronts a new enemy: greed, corruption and bureaucracy.



Tao enjoyed the benefits of a middle-class upbringing in South Vietnam's capital city. But the pretty schoolgirl who grew up speaking the language of colonialism at school was also learning about social justice at home.

A family of revolutionaries:

My mother was wonderful. Not only did she give us the opportunity to attend a French school, she also taught us to resist against the dictatorship, against repression and injustice. When the dictator [South Vietnamese president] Diem repressed the Buddhists [in 1964], we took part in demonstrations.

Tao was horrified by the brutal measures taken by Diem, the corrupt Catholic president installed by the Americans, to silence the Buddhist monks who spoke out against the war. Her family attended massive street rallies in support of the monks. At one rally, Tao and her sister Tan were spotted by a Viet Cong recruiter. He later visited their home. The girls joined the guerilla movement in support of Communist North Vietnam, and went to work.

On working with the Viet Cong:

When I was 18, I was part of a plan to bomb the Saigon central police station. I am the leader of the commando unit, and I carry the explosives inside the police headquarters...To succeed in the plan, I had to convert one of the police staff to our cause. But I was arrested because this person betrayed me.

Tao and her sister were thrown into jail. Even in jail, they would not stop protesting against their arrest and the South Vietnamese regime, and as a result moved to the infamous Tiger Cages in the island prison on Con Son. It was the beginning of seven years of torture, beatings and starvation.



Tao's mother raised a family of revolutionaries.

S4

On her imprisonment and torture:

In prison, sometimes they made my sister or me witness the torture of the other. When I saw them beat my sister, it was very painful...They put us in the Tiger Cages, and when I came to my senses I thought I fell into Hell because the cage was the shape of a coffin. The jailors walked above us, and we were inside the cages below. There was so much suffering—they mistreated us, poured down quick lime [a caustic chemical which burns the skin on contact] when they wanted to repress us.

But despite the beatings and torture, the girls continued their resistance. Tao and her sister painstakingly wrote the names of all of the political prisoners held in the island prison in microscopic script on the inside of a prison uniform and gave it to their mother to smuggle out of the country. The list of political prisoners would make its way to the Paris Peace Talks, where it was entered into evidence, documenting that South Vietnam was holding political prisoners, a fact they had vehemently denied. These talks would curtail U.S. involvement in the war.

Tao's release; the end of the War:

When I was released... I couldn't believe it...the happiness makes tears pour down. I couldn't walk. I was paralysed [from years of torture]. I was cured in those months, but at the time of the liberation, my legs are still very weak. But I participate in the liberation. I planted the revolutionary flag.

The war was over, but Tao's revolutionary ardor was undimmed. After several jobs in the post-war government, she went back to school and studied marine biology because she believed the field could help feed the new nation. In 1988, twenty years after they first met, she married Sau Cong - the V.C. recruiter who had spotted her in the crowd of demonstrators and changed her life.

Tao marries her Viet Cong recruiter:

When we got married, I asked him "When did you fall in love with me?" He said "Since the beginning, since our first meeting." I asked him "Why, if you loved me, didn't you prevent me from taking those risks and placing the explosives at the police headquarters?" He said "Because it was your duty. Only when we have freedom, we can have love. If our people, our country, is dominated, we can't have happiness."



Taken from: www.pbs.org

S5

Basic Training at Fort Polk by Jerry Prater

Taken from <http://vnwarstories.com>

The Continental Trailways bus that transported us 37 draftees from the Dallas selective service office arrived at the Reception Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana at approximately 11:00 p.m. on Monday, December 12, 1966. As we exited the bus, the soldiers assigned to the Reception Center began yelling at us, and telling us to line up in two rows, and to stand at attention. They then told us that if we had any documents with lewd language or seductive pictures of women, we'd better get rid of them now because we would be in deep trouble if they were discovered on our person after leaving the Reception Center. I had a note in my wallet from a buddy of mine that had a cuss word in it, so I threw it in the garbage. One of the soldiers noticed one draftee was chewing gum, so he yelled at him to swallow it. One of the soldiers asked me for the packet of documents, and he took them out and told us to reply when our name was called. Our induction forms were divided between the four soldiers, and they called us individually to answer some questions, one of which was if we were a [conscientious objector](#). Since I had a very strong religious upbringing, I had given a lot of thought to how I would answer that question, but I just couldn't decide what I should say. When I was asked, I thought about it for several seconds before answering. Then, I blurted out one word that would make a cataclysmic change in my life. My answer was "No."

After completing the forms, we were transported on a deuce and a half to a [mess hall](#) where we were fed breakfast. We were then marched to a barracks where we would spend our first night as a private in the Army. The non-commissioned officer in charge told us that [veille](#) was normally at 0500 hrs. (5:00 a.m.) but we would not have to get up until 0800 because we had arrived and processed in so late. All of us had trouble going to sleep because of all the events of the day, and our anxiety and fear of the two years we were forced to serve in the Army. We finally went to sleep, expecting not to have to get up until 0800. That didn't happen! A Sergeant came into our barracks at approximately 0545 yelling at us to get up, and asking why we didn't respond to our call over the loud speakers to report for breakfast in the mess hall. We told him of our instructions from the previous evening, but his response was that we had a schedule to meet and we were already late for our first formation. We hurriedly got up, got dressed, and got into formation. The sergeant marched us to an abbreviated breakfast, then to the quartermaster where we were joined by another group of draftees and we drew our uniforms, fatigues, shoes, boots, socks, underwear, canteens, mess kit, helmet, helmet liner, harness, back pack, and other supply items we would use during basic training. All these items were placed in our duffle bag and we marched to another location where tags with our last name were sewn on our fatigue shirts, and tags with our full name and serial number were sewn into our combat boots, dress shoes, hats and fatigue caps. We were also provided with a plastic name plate to be attached when we wore our dress green and khaki uniforms. These items were replaced in our duffle bag and we were marched back to the barracks where we had slept, dropped off our duffle bag, and marched to the mess hall for dinner. We were then marched back to the barracks where we had slept that morning.

We were awakened at 0500 on Wednesday, December 14 and marched to the mess hall for breakfast, then we were joined by yet another group of draftees and marched to the barber shop where we got the fastest and shortest haircuts we had ever had! After we walked out of the barber shop, a group of drill sergeants greeted us with a lot of very loud profanity telling us to form up with our duffle bag facing them. After all the guys in my expanded group had their hair cut and got into formation, one of the drill sergeants had a packet of documents and told us to board the "cattle car" trailer very quickly after our name was called. Each of the guys went up the wooden steps, moved as far forward on the trailer as possible, and sat down. One of the guys whose name was called before mine was a little heavy, and he had a lot of difficulty stepping up the wooden ladder. As he was struggling with the steps, one of the drill sergeants went up behind him and kicked him hard in the butt. That didn't help the guy who was struggling, but it definitely sent a message to all of us who had not yet boarded the trailer. The rest of us climbed up onto the trailer without incident and we were transported from the south fort to the north fort, and we exited at our basic training company area.

S5

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Several of the drill sergeants greeted us with more loud profanity as we exited the trailer, and they had us form up just behind the company headquarters building. We were instructed to stand at attention and look straight ahead at some object, our eye balls were not to move in any direction, we were not to look up, down, left or right. Four or five of the drill sergeants were walking back and forth through the formation yelling and cussing at some of the new recruits because they were not standing at attention properly. Several were ordered to drop and give 50 push-ups so they would understand how important it was to obey orders exactly and immediately. One of our training officers, Second Lieutenant Larry Courtney, was strutting around the formation in his starched uniform, spit shined boots, polished helmet liner, and camouflage scarf. As he was walking in front of the formation, one of the new recruits looked at him as he strutted by. 2LT Courtney noticed that, and he walked right up to the recruit, got right into his face and said, "Do you like my body? Why are you staring at my body?" One of the drill sergeants came over and ordered the recruit to drop and give 50 push-ups. That sent a very strong message to me about what the drill sergeants meant about standing at attention and not letting your eyes move at all. It also gave me a brief insight into what the eight weeks of basic training was going to be like. While my group of trainees were being welcomed to the company, a second "cattle car" trailer full of trainees arrived and they received the same type of welcome. After the second group had been properly indoctrinated, the entire company was put into formation and First Lieutenant Brian Kilbane, our Company Commander, spoke to us briefly. He informed us that we were assigned to [Company E](#), 4th [Battalion](#), 5th Training Brigade, and that we would remain with this unit for our eight weeks of basic training. He also told us that the company would consist of four [platoons](#) of approximately 60 trainees each, and we would be assigned to platoons alphabetically. Since my last name starts with a "P," I was assigned to the third platoon. He then introduced Staff Sergeant Donald Tarpley, our "Field First Sergeant" to whom all the Platoon Sergeants reported. After Sergeant Tarpley told us of some of the things we could expect, as well as some of the things expected of us, he told us exactly where we stood in the scheme of things. He told us that we, as Army trainees, were the lowest form of life on this earth, we were lower than whale shit, which was at the bottom of the ocean. We were told to salute everything that moved, and if something didn't move, we were to walk up and shake it so it would move, then we were to salute it. Lastly, he told us that we had better give our soul to the Lord because our butts belonged to him. The company was then dismissed by alphabetically, with all trainees designated to the first platoon going to their barracks first.

I walked into the two story wooden barracks that was built hurriedly at the beginning of World War II and noticed that there was a row of eight double bunk beds on both sides of the floor. I selected an upper bunk about halfway down the east side of the bottom floor. The two drill sergeants assigned to my platoon were Johnnie Redden, a tall, husky Texan, and Federico Tubera, a short, muscular Filipino who had been a jungle fighter against the Japanese during World War II. We were sent to the supply room to check out our mattress, pillow, and bed sheets, then instructed how to properly make a bed where the sheets were tight enough that a coin would bounce off it. Our drill sergeants advised us that, due to the threat of [spinal meningitis](#), the head and foot of each bed would alternate so no one in the bed above, below or directly next to you could breathe in the direction of another trainee's face. We were also instructed to put up a "sneeze sheet" on one side of our bed next to our head to avoid spreading or receiving germs. We were then taught the proper way to hang our uniforms and display our shoes, boots, hats and caps. We then learned how to roll our clean socks, underwear, and tee shirts, as well as the exact area in which each item was to be placed in our foot locker. Our drill sergeants advised us to pay a small fee and use a cleaning service authorized by the fort to clean all our dirty uniforms and clothing.

S5

Basic Training at Fort Polk by Jerry Prater

Taken from <http://vnwarstories.com>

Sergeant Tarpley then turned the formation over to the drill sergeants, and each platoon marched to the road in front of the company area. When the entire company was marching on the road, we heard the order "Double time, march!" We then had to run in step and in formation for slightly more than one mile. Even though I was reasonably athletic, I began suffering after about half a mile, but I was able to finish without having to walk or stop. However, many trainees did have to walk part of the way because they were not physically able to run even half a mile. When we arrived back at the company area, the first platoon got in line for breakfast, and we went through the prescribed procedure for meals. As we were in the mess hall eating, some of the drill sergeants would roam around and tell the overweight trainees to stop eating and leave the mess hall after only a few bites. They would also yell at anyone who was not eating fast enough to suit them and either make them gulp the remainder of the food down, or to stop eating and leave the mess hall. We were also required to do 5 chin ups as we exited the mess hall after each meal.

Since we were inducted less than two weeks before Christmas, we were given a 14 day leave beginning at noon on Monday, December 19, and we were to be back in time for the 0530 formation on Tuesday, January 3, 1967. Our company clerk had chartered a Continental Trailways bus for all the trainees who wanted to travel to the bus station in Dallas. I had purchased a ticket and, after we had breakfast and prepared the barracks for inspection, I dressed in olive drab dress uniform and fell into formation with my platoon. After we were dismissed, I went to the designated area and waited for the bus to arrive. Some of the drill sergeants were roaming among us as we were waiting to check our hygiene and make certain that our uniforms were properly outfitted. The drill sergeants noticed that at least three trainees did not shave that morning, so they ordered them to pull out their razors and dry shave. All of them had blood on their face and someone gave them handkerchiefs so the blood wouldn't get on their uniforms. The sight of them bleeding made a lasting impression on me, and put a damper on my bus ride to Dallas. While I was on leave, I did a lot of push-ups and ran several times because I wanted to be better prepared for the physical aspects of basic training. My bride drove me back to my company area on Monday, January 2 well in advance of the lights out time of 2100.

Once again, Sergeant Tubera came to our barracks Tuesday morning at about 0450 banging on the metal trash can, shaking bunks, and yelling at us to get out of bed and into formation. This was the first official day of our basic training and we had our first session of PT (Physical Training) after we had eaten breakfast and prepared the barracks for inspection. We did at least ten repetitions of all twelve of the basic exercises. However, Sergeant Tubera added one additional step when he led PT, which was about twice each week. He considered any trainee with a waistline in excess of 30 inches to be a "fat boy," and all fat boys had to do an additional ten push-ups after every exercise. Since I had a 32 inch waist, I was considered a fat boy and had to do all those extra push-ups. After two weeks, we had a PCP (Physical Combat Proficiency) test and were measured on five separate events, with a score given for the time it took to complete the event, or the number of repetitions completed. After I completed the test, I went to Sergeant Tubera and asked if I was still a fat boy even though I scored 455 out of 500 on the test. He told me that if I scored that high, I was no longer a fat boy.

Less than two weeks after we returned from Christmas leave, we were having a session of PT and, as usual, a few of the drill sergeants were roaming around the formation making certain that all the trainees were completing each exercise correctly and "by the numbers." After we completed one of the exercises, Sergeant Redden walked up to Larry Nunn and asked him if he had shaved that morning. Larry said that he did shave and, according to regulations he shaved every morning. I was in PT formation next to Larry and Sergeant Redden asked me if it looked like Larry had shaved. I responded that his face didn't look like it, but I knew he did shave because he was at the sink next to me that morning. I was lying, and I believe Sergeant Redden knew it, but he just walked away. I remembered seeing the blood on the faces of the three trainees after they were made to dry shave as we were leaving for Christmas leave and I didn't want one of my buddies to have to go through that experience.

During our first two weeks of basic training, we were taught all aspects of military courtesy, the Uniform Code of Military Justice, hygiene, first aid, treatment of wounds, character guidance, proper marching procedures, and rifle classes. We went to the firing range during our third week, and this was a real challenge for me because I had never fired a weapon of any kind in my life.

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Basic Training at Fort Polk by Jerry Prater

Taken from <http://vnwarstories.com>

When we arrived at the firing range, we were shown a pit that was about two feet high and ten feet in diameter with a steel mesh cover. We were told that this was our urinal for use while we were at the firing range, and anyone who put chewing gum, cigarette butts or any other article on or in the urinal would be required to reach in with their bare hand and retrieve the object. The officer in charge informed us of some safety procedures and told us that the [M-14](#) was a powerful weapon with hardly any recoil. He demonstrated that by placing the butt of the rifle against his chin and fired a round. When I was firing my M-14 on the range, I knew I was doing something wrong because the rifle butt was hitting my shoulder hard and causing me pain with every round I fired, and my shoulder was black and blue the next day. My firing accuracy was also very bad, and my scores were among the worst in the company. I never figured out the proper way to hold the rifle, and I didn't understand how to get my front and rear sights in line. When we went to the qualifying range, my score was 30, which was just barely above the minimum required score of 27, so I qualified as a Marksman.

Our drill sergeants then informed us of several aspects of army life we could expect while we were in basic training. [Reveille](#) ([Bugle Call](#)) would be at 0500 each morning, and we must get up, shower, shave, get dressed in our fatigues, and be in platoon formation outside the barracks by 0530. The Company Commander, or one of the two training officers, would conduct an inspection of each of the four barracks each morning after we left the company area for our training sessions. The platoon with the highest daily and weekly ranking would receive special privileges and benefits, and the other three platoons would have to live with the stigma, as well as constant reminders and harassment of the drill sergeants, that they did not measure up. Additionally, the order in which each platoon was called to line up for each meal was determined by the daily inspection ranking. We could smoke in the barracks, and all ashes and cigarette butts had to be placed in the "butt can," a red coffee can filled about one-third full of water that was attached to the two rows of wooden columns, and that the cans had to be cleaned each morning before inspection. Our drill sergeants also told us they had to sign for the wooden barracks and, if it caught on fire, it would burn down in 17 minutes and they would be responsible for paying to rebuild it. In order to prevent, or detect a fire as soon as it starts, we would be required to walk a fire watch on both floors every night from 2100 (9:00 p.m.) until 0500, the time designated for us to sleep. A trainee on each floor would be assigned to get fully dressed in fatigues and walk up and down the middle of the barracks floor for one hour. They would then wake up the trainee who was scheduled to walk the next hour, undress, and go back to sleep.

All of our meals would normally be served in the [mess hall](#), which meant that all of the trainees, other than the squad leaders and platoon guides (trainees selected for leadership roles because of their previous experience in [ROTC](#)), would be required to serve [KP](#) (Kitchen Police), the detail that all enlisted men dreaded the most. Those assigned to pull KP would be awoken at about 0430 so they could get dressed and report to the mess hall to assist in the preparation of breakfast. They would continue on this detail until after the dinner meal had been served and the mess hall was "policed," all dishes, trays, pots, pans, tables, floor, and everything else had been cleaned and ready for breakfast the next morning. Of all the KP duties, the one I hated the most was washing the pots and pans because so many were used for each meal, and they were so dirty, greasy, and hard to clean.

Lights out was at 2100 and we went to sleep expecting to be woken up at 0500 by the guys who were walking the 0400 to 0500 fire watch. Instead, we were awoken by Sergeant Tubera as he walked into the barracks at approximately 0450 banging on the metal

trash can, pulling mattresses off the bed onto the floor, and yelling for us to get out of bed and get dressed. All the other guys were getting dressed but, since we only had 6 sinks for all 56 trainees in my platoon, I hurriedly went to the sink so I could be one of the first to shave. I had very wiry and tough whiskers, but very sensitive facial skin. As a result, I had to shave very slowly and very carefully to avoid cutting myself in several places and bleeding a lot. We all shaved, dressed and were in formation by 0530. Sergeant Tarpley told us that platoons would fall out for meals in numerical order, and that each trainee was to stand at parade rest in front of the lines painted 5 meters apart on the sidewalk. Five trainees would be called into the mess hall at a time, and each trainee was to sound off with their number as they entered, "One drill sergeant," "two drill sergeant" and so forth. Any trainee who sounded off with the wrong number had to drop and give 50 push-ups, plus go to the back of the line. After each 5 trainees entered the mess hall, we were to come to attention, march up 5 of the lines and stand at parade rest. This process continued until every trainee entered the mess hall. While we were waiting in line, we were ordered to study and memorize our 11 general orders because any drill sergeant may come up to any trainee at any time and ask him to repeat one of the general orders. Failure to quote the requested general order verbatim would result in the trainee having to drop and give 50 push-ups, plus to go to the end of the mess line.

S5

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The officer in charge informed us of some safety procedures and told us that the [M-14](#) was a powerful weapon with hardly any recoil. He demonstrated that by placing the butt of the rifle against his chin and fired a round. When I was firing my M-14 on the range, I knew I was doing something wrong because the rifle butt was hitting my shoulder hard and causing me pain with every round I fired, and my shoulder was black and blue the next day. My firing accuracy was also very bad, and my scores were among the worst in the company. I never figured out the proper way to hold the rifle, and I didn't understand how to get my front and rear sights in line. When we went to the qualifying range, my score was 30, which was just barely above the minimum required score of 27, so I qualified as a Marksman.

Sergeant Thomas Eustice was our platoon sergeant and he was housed in a room at the entrance to our barracks. He would regularly strut around the barracks in his starched fatigues, infantry scarf, spit shined boots and shiny helmet liner and make threats about what he would make us do if anybody in the platoon didn't measure up. He would always end the threat with his favorite expression, "If you thing I'm bullshitting, just try me!" As we were coming to the end of our basic training, all of us were anxious to learn what [MOS](#) (Military Occupation Specialty) we would be assigned, and where we would be stationed for our [AIT](#) (Advanced Individual Training). Sergeant Eustice obtained a copy of that list and read the assignments to us. I'll never forget what he said when he came to my name. He said "Prater, E-3-3, **TIGER LAND.**" I couldn't believe it! Here I am a college grad who doesn't know the first thing about firing a rifle and I'm going to the infantry while all the high school dropouts who fired expert were being sent to be trained as company clerks, finance clerks, etc.! I was devastated.

We completed our eight weeks of basic training, and we had our graduation ceremony on the morning of Friday, February 24, 1967. After the ceremony, we returned to the company area and had our last company formation. Just before we were dismissed, Sergeant Tarpley had us march in place to the cadence song he sang when he marched to our training destinations. It was the Amen song, he would say the words "See the little baby," and we would sing "A - amen"; "wrapped in a manager," "A - amen"; "On Christmas Morning," "A - amen, amen, amen."

S6

Carl Fosco

Hometown: Ticonderoga

Current residence: Hudson Falls

Time served in Vietnam: December 1969 to February 1971

Military service: Spec. 5 in the U.S. Army as a medic in the air cavalry regiment. He was stationed in Quang Tri, just south of the demilitarized zone between North and South Vietnam.

Taken from <http://poststar.com>

He spent 14 months in the air cavalry regiment of the Army, having been drafted right after his college graduation.

"Six weeks later I was in Fort Dix, New Jersey, doing push-ups because my student deferment had ended," he said.

Fosco received medic and infantry training at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and soon after went to Vietnam. The air cavalry was a "frenetic" operation and he was always on the move.

He was stationed mostly in Quang Tri, just south of the DMZ between North and South Vietnam. Fosco and his fellow medics would be sent out to patrol in areas from Khe Sanh to the border of Laos.

Fosco carried a bayonet given to him by a soldier he replaced. He would use the weapon to slash through the uniform of a wounded man so he could quickly tend to his injuries. It worked better than the government-issued scissors in his medical bag, which were "just stupid when somebody's trying to shoot at you," he said.

Fosco and his team were on call 24-7. They could expect to be airlifted into an area and not come out for several days. An A-H1 Cobra – an agile, thin-profile helicopter armed with rockets, machine guns and grenade launchers – provided support to the medics and engaged the enemy, if necessary.

"Whenever we got into trouble, those boys were right there," Fosco said. "Those pilots have a lot of guts."

On one mission, an aircraft in another air cavalry troop had been shot down. Fosco's team was summoned to pick up the crew since the other troop's infantry was busy elsewhere.

The scene was grim. The helicopter had been obliterated by a rocket and what was left would have fit into the back of a Jeep. Most horrific, though, was seeing the remains of the pilot and co-pilot.

"They were burned to a crisp. Their skulls were there, no eyes. Their hands were burned off with bone sticking out," Fosco said. "We had to put them in the body bags and put them on the helicopter and get out. I got on board. I was leaning back and I could feel the heat of their bodies through the body bags as we took them to the hospital morgue. I spent almost 15 months on the line like that."

Determined to put the memories behind him, he spent six months working in a paper mill in Ticonderoga after his discharge. While in Vietnam, he had applied to and was accepted to graduate school. He returned to SUNY Cortland, where he had done his undergraduate work, and earned a master's degree in secondary social studies. He went on to teach at Hartford Central School from 1973 until his retirement in 2002.

"I had a goal; I didn't just come home and drift," he said. "I took off the uniform and hung it up and went on with my life. That was it."

He doesn't remember much about his Vietnam homecoming and thinks most soldiers were treated with indifference.

In 1975, Fosco joined the Army Reserves in Glens Falls, working one weekend a month and two weeks every summer, and rose through the ranks from drill sergeant to sergeant major by the time he retired 27 years later. He now receives military medical benefits.

Reflecting on his time in Vietnam, Fosco said he wasn't concerned with any "grand cause" of defeating communism. He and his buddies were focused on making it home in one piece.

He believes the U.S. should have learned from France 15 years before that the war in Vietnam was futile.

S7

Personal Story

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by: Dr. Hal Kushner

1/9 Cav, 1 Cav Div

At the 1st Cav reunion DR Hal Kushner, who served with 1/9 Cav, 1 Cav Div, in Vietnam, told the story of his service in Vietnam and his horrible ordeals, extreme pain and suffering and unflinching loyalty and honor to the United States Army and our country.

I want you to know that I don't do this often. I was captured 2 Dec. 1967, and returned to American control on 16 Mar. 1973. For those of you good at arithmetic - 1931 days. Thus it has been 32 years since capture and 26 years since my return. I have given a lot of talks, about medicine, about ophthalmology, even about the D-Day Invasion as I was privileged to go to Normandy and witness the 50th anniversary of the invasion in Jun. 1944.

But not about my captivity. I don't ride in parades; I don't open shopping centers; I don't give interviews and talks about it. I have tried very hard NOT to be a professional PW. My philosophy has always been to look forward, not backward, to consider the future rather than the past. That's a hell'uva thing to say at a reunion, I guess. In 26 years, I've given only two interviews and two talks. One to my hometown newspaper, one to the Washington Post in 1973, and a talk at Ft. Benning in 1991 and to the Military Flight Surgeons in 1993. I've refused 1,000 invitations to speak about my experiences. But you don't say no to the 1-9th, and you don't say no to your commander. COL Bob Nevins and COL Pete Booth asked me to do this and so I said yes sir and prepared the talk. It will probably be my last one.

I was a 26-year-old young doctor, just finished 9 years of education, college at the University of North Carolina, med school at Medical College of VA, a young wife and 3 year old daughter. I interned at the hospital in which I was born, Tripler Army Med Center in Honolulu, HI. While there, I was removed from my internship and spent most of my time doing orthopedic operations on wounded soldiers and Marines. We were getting hundreds of wounded GIs there, and filled the hospital. After the hospital was filled, we created tents on the grounds and continued receiving air evac patients. So I knew what was happening in Vietnam. I decided that I wanted to be a flight surgeon. I had a private pilot's license and was interested in aviation. So after my internship at Tripler, I went to Ft. Rucker and to Pensacola and through the Army and Navy's aviation medicine program and then deployed to Vietnam. While in basic training and my E&E course, they told us that as Doctors, we didn't have to worry about being captured. Doctors and nurses they said were not PWs, they were detained under the Geneva Convention. If they treated us as PWs, we should show our Geneva Convention cards and leave. It was supposed to be a joke and it was pretty funny at the time.

I arrived in Vietnam in Aug. 1967 and went to An Khe. I was told that the Div. needed two flight surgeons; one to be the div. flight surgeon at An Khe in the rear and the other to be surgeon for the 1-9th, a unit actively involved with the enemy. I volunteered for the 1-9th. The man before me, CPT Claire Shenep had been killed and the dispensary was named the Claire Shenep Memorial Dispensary. Like many flight surgeons, I flew on combat missions in helicopters, enough to have earned three air medals and one of my medics, SSG Jim Zeiler used to warn me: "Doc, you better be careful. We'll be renaming that dispensary, the K&S Memorial Dispensary."

I was captured on 2 Dec 67 and held for five and a half years until 16 Mar 73. I have never regretted the decision that I made that Aug to be the 1-9th flight surgeon. Such is the honor and esteem that I hold the squadron. I am proud of the time I was the squadron's flight surgeon.

On 30 Nov. 1967, I went to Chu Lai with MAJ Steve Porcella, WO-1 Giff Bedworth and SGT McKeckney, the crew chief of our UH-1H. I gave a talk to a troop at Chu Lai on the dangers of night flying. The weather was horrible, rainy and windy, and I asked MAJ Porcella, the A/C commander, if we could spend the night and wait out the weather.

He said, "Our mission is not so important but we have to get the A/C back." I'll never forget the devotion to duty of this young officer; it cost him his life.