

VIETNAM

CONFLICT
1945 - 75



Edexcel IGCSE Vietnam Conflict 1945 - 1975

Resources



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.

You Tube

Check out our youtube channel: GCSEHistory

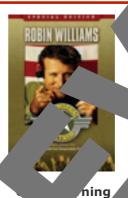
We are not responsible for the appropriateness of the content - please check yourself, before sh



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, Include the French defeat at Di Bien Phu



new rad nm to bi hor d Forces .adio. He e studio on its ea ecomes wildly pop ar with the troops. While he is off ne air, he tries to meet etnamese especially and begins to have ushes 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 true stu Kovic. Paralyze Vietnam war, h becomes an anti-way 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 dehumanizing 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.



Resources

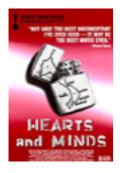


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Hearts & Minds

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 overvi



Fog ŏ

Sec of Namara discusse le under Presidents dy & Johnso



Battlefield Vietnam

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

Websites:

Public Broadcasting Ser USA: /w.pbs.org/battlefieldvietnam/

com/mylaicourts My Lai massacre: h famo

w.history.com/topics/vietnam-war/famous-american-vietnam-vets Vietnam war history: ht,

General wa p://ww orynet.com/vietnam-war

US gov ://www.archives.gov/research/alic/reference/military/vietnam-war.html

Vietnam War m in the US: http://www.nationalvnwarmuseum.org

BBC timeline of even 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-us-involvement-over-decades/653693001/



The struggle against France for independence, 1945-54

resources

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Showing:

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

Ho Chi Minh Trial



Communist controlled areas

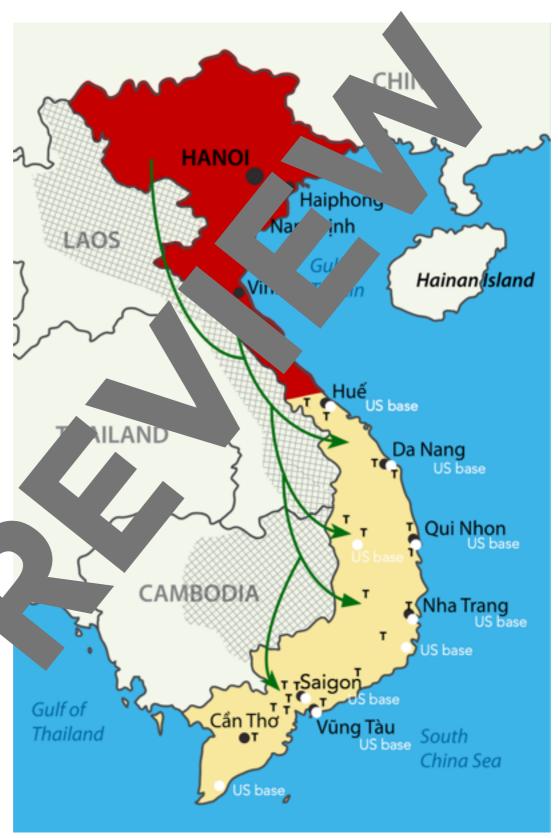
attacked during the Tet Offensive



North Vietnam



Vietnam War map





The struggle against France for independence, 1945-54

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The Vietnam Conflict

	1945 - 1975		The vietham Commet	, com
	HE QUET	The Quiet American Life in Vietnam in the 1950s, under French occupation. Vietminh guerilla action is shown.	Additional notes	
	WE WERE SOLDIERS	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		
The second secon		Documentaries on Battlefield Vietnam Part 1: Dien Bien Phu		
	YouTube	Check out our youtube channed GSCEHistory		
		*		

The struggle against France for independence, 1945-54 Conflict 1945 - 1975

The Vietnam Conflict





Background

The French in Vietnam

First

Indo

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 the attacked French & Japanese using guerrilla ta

1945 Japanes

Took control ender but in Aug the USA in \ had t draw from all co mam

1945 Who to 1 nam?

Vietminh quickly to from French & Japanese:

Sept. Ho Chi Minh announced Vietnam to be independent

USA believed people should rule themselves - not colonial

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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 querrilla

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

Negotiations 1946

Vietminh 'controlled' the North & French the south. Ho w

but no agreement only a

China

in 1949 led by Mao Zedong . Comm took over . Ma oplied Vietnan with military equipment ism would spread through Asia (domino theory) U^ scared col

nh success

: Gia ad 100,000 well med s .000 : rs + 300.000se BU er huge area.

⊿la tactics /ietmin.

liding in the ungles they could French whenever .ed.

Giap tried a big attacks 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 choose 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.

1946: No och troops attacked the Vietmini e north inc. Hanoi The minh hide in the es - there was ttle fighting.

1950 Cold War

ench launch attack

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

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

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, French defeats UK, USA, China, Vietnam & USSR & After DBP France consequences 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.



The struggle against France for independence, 1945-54



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al

Test yourself: The French in Vietnam

Multiple choice - circle or underline the correct answer

- a. League for the Indep
 - b. Vietnam Communist P
 - c. Geneva Agreement
- b In 1946 the Vietminh controlled

 a. All of Vietno
 b. North Vietno
 c. Indo-C
- The Japanese took over from the French i
 a.
 b. 191946
- The Geneva Agreement

 a ve the continuities control over Vietnam
 b. He Ho Chi Minh leader of Vietnam
 and Vietnam into North & South
- The Japanese took ov om the French in
 a. 1944
 b. 1945
 c. 1946
- After their dream 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
- 9 Tr sts too. er in China in a. 1945 b. 1949 c. 1952
- The USA become involved in Vietnam because they believed in

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



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Test your knowledge & understanding: The French in Vietnam

Describe two key features of:

First Indo China War

Battle at Dien Bien Phu

The Geneva Agreement

Explanation:

Why did the Vietra

Why were retman were successful against the French?

Why did the pu! out of South East Asia?

Cause equence and judgement:

> son the French left Vietnam was because of their defeat at ne mai. ien Bien Phu

How far do you agree with this interpretation?

e main reason the Vietminh formed was to be a communist organisation

How far do you agree with this interpretation?



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The Quiet American

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

Additional notes	

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Vietnam Conflict 1945 - 1975

US policy and intervention, 1954-64

The Vietnam Conflict





Background

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
- . US presidents did not want to seem weak by letting communism spread
- . USA concerned about Japan's security, where it

Life in North and South Vietnam

Life in

Life in

North Vietnam

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. **South Vietnam**

. 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.

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

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.

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 form 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



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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 aganist 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	



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Test your knowledge & understanding: **US** intervention

Describe two key features of:

Life in North Vietnam before 1965

Life in South Vietnam before 1965

'Ho Chi Minh Thought'

Explanation:

Why did so many إماله Chi Minh?

How did th etmirb deal with opposition?

Why did pe m in South Vietnam? pose

wence and judgement: re/cu

> he main reason the South Vietnamese government was unpopular Decause Diem was a Catholic

How far do you agree with this interpretation?

The communist had total support in the North

How far do you agree with this interpretation?



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Ho Chi Minh

Documentaries	Additional notes
on	

You Tube Check out our youtube channel: GCSE History	BBC History Channel Battlefield Vietnam: Part 2 Undeclared War inc. Strategic Hamlets	

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US policy and intervention, 1954-64

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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



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

. End of Diem

- . Diem's rule was becon more corrupt & less democ
- . The USA not ted to support him
- uddhis . He was many and
- . Many office were against Di
- . JFK orders CIA her ARVN to get rid of Dien.
- . 1st Nov 1963: Diem & his brother were captured then murdered

The conflict begins

Nat

Liberatio

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 the Northern Vietminh.

The Vietminh had got rid of the Fred now the NLF was aiming to Diem & his American supp

Ho Chi Minh Trail

. In 1959 a series of the ere bui through Laos & Cambo connect North Vietnam to the sou

These trails smalled the ng with everything

ny (ARVN) mes

AR

- v 10,000 Vietcong
- : battle for Learts & minds not

Vann اد

advisor Vann quit use the ARVN were

. 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.

People's Lil ion Armed Forces

AF was the military wing of the NLF ajor attacked in Army bases convinced JS 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. ost, but their ability to attack so places at the same time shocked S President & people, who thought the PLAF was weak.



US response

to attacks

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

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 3/3 of the peasants were in strategic hamlets



The Vietnam Conflict





Test yourself: The conflicts begins for the USA

You have the answer but what is the question? **ANSWER:** Ho Chi Minh Question: **ANSWER:** National Liberation Front Question: **ANSWER:** Tet Offensive Question: **ANSWER:** Strategic Hamlet Programm Question: _____ ANSWER: President J.F. Kenned Question: __ **ANSWEP** Minn Ques **ANSWER:** Peop iberation Armed Forces Question: _____



The struggle against France for independence, 1945-54

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Test yourself: The conflicts begins for the USA

Describe two key features of: **National Liberation Front**

Strategic Hamlet Programme

Explanation:

Why was the NLF esful?

Chi Minh trail necessary? Why was the

Cau and judgement:

> pason the Diem government lost support was because of its rategic nlet Programme

ow far do you agree with this interpretation?

e end of the Diem regime was inevitable

Now far do you agree with this interpretation?



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Additional notes

PATH	ı
WĂF	8
	1

Path to War
Follows the Johnson
Presidency focusing
upon the Vietnam

PATH	Presidency focusing upon the Vietnam War.	
WAR		
ou <mark>Tube</mark>	Check out our youtube channel: GCSEHistory	

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Vietnam Conflict 1945 - 1975

US policy and intervention, 1954-64

The Vietnam Conflict





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 want to be the first President to lose a war.

USA becomes involved in the conflict

Support for South Vietnam

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

taking over

ruman Doctrine

. Containment **Domino Theory**

Reasons wh the USA becan in

Kennedy + Johnson

wanted to be seen as being tough on communism US attacked

Gulf of Tonkin 1964 . US soldiers 1965



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 Vietcong was still strong Westmoreland was ren March 1968.

USA Steps to War to

- 1. 1960 196 ennedy in. ed military advisors from 900 to
- 1900. ke over 40% of S.Vietnamese
- 3. 3: President Johnson sends more help to stop Vietcong

'war monger' but not want to be seen as soft on communism nson r efenc? McNamara believed war was winnable

4. Au ., 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

McName

Sec. of Defend mended support for South increased advisors 16,000. President Johns stened closely to McNamara, as ne sent 200,000 soldiers. By 1967 he started to have doubts that USA could win the war & resigned in Nov. 1967.

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

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Vietnam War: USA involvement in Vietnam

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

Mark	Steps to war: how r did eac. ke USA closer to war (mark out of 10)
/10	Explain how it took JSA of ther to war in Vietnam
	1960 -63: Kennedy I. J. milit Jvisors
	1963: , ent me elp to South Vietnam & McNamara believed war was winnable
	.: Gulf of Tonkin resolution
	1965: US marines arrive in South Vietnam & Rolling Thunder begins



The Vietnam Conflict





Test your knowledge & understanding: **US** intervention

Describe two key features of: Johnson Westmoreland **McNamara**

Explanation:

Why was McNamara etnam?

Why did the U ecome involved in Vietnam?

Cause/c uence and judgement:

> n the USA became involved in Vietnam was the Truman Doctrine far do you agree with this interpretation?

out the Gulf of Tonkin incident the USA would not have become involved ₂tnam

How far do you agree with this interpretation?



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	Hamburger Hill	Additional notes
Table 1	Close-up of 14 US soldiers during a 10 day battle	
HAMBURGER HILL		
e. 🛧	Platoon	
PLATO IN	The conflicts within the US Army highlighted in this film	
You Tube	Check out our youtube channel: historystudent	
	•	
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Vietnam Conflict 1945 - 1975

Confrontation in the Vietnam War, escalation 1964 - 68

The Vietnam Conflict





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

on 3⁻

e US

The VC & No

Vietnames

the city of

Offensiv

For nearly a

besieged the c

they defeated the

mass graves were fou

killed by the VC. The

hundred to several

thousand.

where civilians had been

numbers vary from a few

as par

Military tactics

US

tactics in

Viet



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 th
- . 14,000 US bombers shot do
- . failed to stop the companist

. Killing civilians (women ildren) turned many in USA again e war



It was rt of 'weedkiller'

'sed to y the jungles,

'ietcong had

ding place

Result:

Destroyed thousands of sq. km of jungle & killed thousands of a fighters & civilians

. Shocking pictures of yomen & 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

. Turned many My Lai Mass

factics

& outgunned by

'S & South Viet forces

Chi Minh used guerrilla tactics

In 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

Supply lines & tunnels

. The Vietcong in the South were supplied via Ho Chi Minh trails in Laos & Cambodia

. Bombing of trial 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





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5a

Vietnam War: tactics of war

Vietcong	Success /10	Explan ion
Guerilla Tactics		
Supply Lines		
USA	Suc. /It	Explanation
Bombing		
Chemical weapon		
Search & Desti		



resources

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Test your knowledge & understanding: Escalation 1964-68

Describe two key features of: My Lai incident **Rolling Thunder** earch destru **Guerilla tactics** Explanation: RO. Why did the US Thunder' tactic? SA use 'search & destroy' tactics in Vietnam? Why did t'

e and judgement:

ctics were never going to defeat a guerilla army The How far you agree with this interpretation?

The USA had no answer to the guerilla tactics of the Vietminh low far do you agree with this interpretation?



resources for

The Vietnam Conflict

1945 - 1975			
THE REAL PROPERTY.	Hearts & Minds	Additional notes	•
	A look at opposing views in the Vietnam War		
HEARTS and MINDS			
	Platoon		
PLATE IN	The conflicts within the US Army highlighted in this film		
The second secon			
THE WIND DOESN'T BLOW IT SACK	Full Metal Jacket		
FULL	Army training with shocking outcomes, plus the horror of fighting for a mixed bunch of soldiers		
STATE OF THE PARTY			
You Tube			
Check out our youtube channel:			
GCSEHistory			



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Why was the USA unable to win the Vietnam War? **Military situation**

Attitude

to war

Communists





Harsh lifestyle

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



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



US soldiers used to a comfortable life

U.S.A.

. 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



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

Serve their country

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

Tour of duty

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

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

USSR & China supplied military equipment

+ advice throughout the war

Support from USSR & China



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











The Vietnam Conflict





Why was the USA unable to win the Vietnam War? **Military situation**

Military

tactics



Communists





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 trials after US bombing within hours or days



veapons

Up to US military ...dvisors had nsnip with Vietnamese od r es very aggressive & to hate Vietnamese After 1965 Led on bombing inc. pical weapons which killed civilians forces could not tell friend or enemy ecause of Vietcong tactics

Operation Phoenix

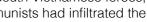
A + spe Inforces identify & neutralise top VC police carry out arrests, tourture & killings Neutralise= torture, get information, kill ver 81,000 VC captured - up to 50% killed



Unity

- . Soldiers & Vietnamese per ntivate defeat the 'colonial invadi ked toge. my
- . Communists controlled ₁otivate a variety of ways
- . People made huge p sag women & children to help
- . 'Shock brigades' mage after air raids

Quality of soldiers



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

hin th Conflict 3 army

- . Officers ofte experience & authority
- soldiers mutinic
- . Over 100 officers ed by their own men
- on average 19 years old, had low . 'Grunts' (infantrymen) 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





The Vietnam Conflict



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 livers
	Priority was to survive & go home
	Supported & supplied by the USSR & C
	Motivated to defeat the 'invading colo
	'Grunts' were on average 19 ye.
	After 1965 they relied on bing & the f chemical weapons
	Had informants South V mese govt., US army & CIA
	"Shock br's repaired bonns age after air raids
	Sold' vere in cham for 365 day tour of duty
	lied tr. rk of tunnels & trails through laos & Cambodia
	Patr soldiers fighting for their homeland
	ked hard to win the 'hearts & minds' of the peasants
	Often lew, in adavnce, 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



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The Vietnam Conflict



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

*	C

Communists



Rank	Stengths	Explanation	Rank	Weakness
I				
2				
3				
4				
5				



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The Vietnam Conflict



Test your knowledge & understanding: **US** escalation

Describe **two** key features of: Winning the hearts and minds e warfare Chinese and Russian support for North Vi War Disunity within the US military

Explanation:

Why did the USA have disum e military?

Why were the /ietcong well motivated? min'

Caur 'cons nce and judgement:

> The A was it er going

ar do you agree with this interpretation?

A had no answer to the guerrilla tactics of the Vietminh

How far do you agree with this interpretation?



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The Vietnam Conflict





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



1965

nson's methods **Presiden**

Political: Support cracy but alien to Vietnam tional, medical nport` programmes Mil win the war supply routes Destroy

BUT: hombin nese more determined ople against the war Chr l attacks

Public opinio

Students protests e.g. teach-ins ıınst c iption



Members of Congress start criticising Johnson's

Buddhist monk sets herself on fire in protest in Vietna Martin Luther King & other church leaders join anti-war protests

Tax increases to pay for war, leads to more of Media turn against the war

Loss of McNamara 1967

vamara (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)

oblems ... am 1966 - 67

Government was corrupt & unpopular Vietnamese supported Ho Chi Minh

Tet Offensive

North Vietnamese VC attacks le tary South

Attacked during Tet holi urpris vervone & the \ Attacks were unsucce + 60 000 soldiers

BUT: US shocked by size confidence shaken US intelligence 10.00 uth troops killed People in US what US media s ed it a ilure for i

1968

Financial c

Great Society sp. cut as military spending increased

Deficit: from \$1.6 billion 63) to \$25.3 billion (1968)

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

Divided US society

USA torn apart by the war - totally divided Civil unrest - some feared civil war

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

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





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

Which year for each event?

	Event 1965 1996/7 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 protect about uddb reated
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 per ealis at the U.S.A. could not win in Vietnam
9	Great Society spending cut . for
10	People shor by M i massacre
11	Lt. Call s se. od to 20 years for murder
12	/ on inc sed in U.S.A.
13	Started call attacks in Vietnam
14	Johnson suffering from ill health
15	Some felt civil war possible



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The Vietnam Conflict



Test your knowledge & understanding: US escalation

Describe two key features of: (6 marks)

Johnson's methods of fighting in Vietnam

ar in 1966 - 67

Financial costs for the USA of the Vietnam

The Vietnam war in 1968

Opposition to the war in the USA

Explanation: (8 marks)

Why did the opposition to war use USA in the 1960s?

Why was the remarking McNamara important to Johnson?

C Cauc 'cons nce and judgement:

in the war against the war because they could not win Har ar do you agree with this interpretation?

The lost the war at home, rather than on the battlefields of Vietnam How far do you agree with this interpretation?



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The Vietnam Conflict

merce (t) A.	Platoon	Additional notes
	Search & Destroy mission	
PLATO ON		
V		
You Tube Check out our	A lot of documentaries on My Lai Massacre on youtube	
youtube channel: GCSEHistory		
	·	
www.resourcesfc	orschools.com	



Nixon & Ford's policies - Vietnamisation, peace & communist victory 1969 - 75

The Vietnam Conflict





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 years).

The events of My Lai shocked the US people.

he Peace Movement

Peace movement: no long oppies & students but ordinary middle class people wonted an end to the 'pointless' war.

8.1

1969

My Lai a cident came to light or 500, the war in washington DC. protest ever in the USA.

Pont pro-war was political sunde for most politicians.

s with in the military leadership

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

New Presid

Present **Rich d Nixon** become In January 1969.

He was elected or an ang the de-Americanised' - less US involvement in Vietnam

Nixon was very munis and to be against the war or at least get elected in 1968

ce with Honour

8.2

Peace

. May 1968: h 'ess

North Vietnam: a united Vietnam,

NLt art 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



Nixon & Ford's policies - Vietnamisation, peace & communist victory 1969 - 75

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Test yourself: Nixon's policies in Vietnam

Read each statement and decide whether it it 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 Vietco veapor
4	The Nixon Doctrine largely replaced the Truman Doctr.
5	Nixon wanted a united Vietnam
6	Soldier Ridenhour exposed what happened by Lai
7	People in the U.S.A. were not that bounce ts at My Lai
8	Tet Offensive made per ealis at the U.S.A. could not win in Vietnam
9	Nixon introduced the policy mis 1
10	The official to the last last about the last last last last last last last last
11	Lt. Call as se. and to 20 years for murder
12	wan' peace with honour'
13	In 1969 tudents 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



Nixon & Ford's policies - Vietnamisation, peace & communist victory 1969 - 75

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The Vietnam Conflict



Test your knowledge & understanding: US escalation in Vietnam

Describe two key features of:

My Lai Massacre

The Peace IVI

Nixon Doctrine

Pea alks

Explanation:

Explain why the M as a turning point in the war

Peace Movement affected US policy on Vietnam **Explain why**

rence and judgement: VCOI.

> e My Lai Massacre was the turning point for many Americans now far do you agree with this interpretation?

> Nixon's strategy was complete change in policy for the USA How far do you agree with this interpretation?



Confrontation in the Vietnam War, escalation 1964 - 68



The Vietnam Conflict

	_	Additional notes
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You <mark>Tube</mark>		
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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



Nixon's military stratery

Vietnamisation

Nixon starte lacing US soldiers with Vietna soldiers AVRN. 1969 - 71 00 troops were hdra om Vietnam. atch for the t fighters.

& China relations

a relations in 1969 were so pad some feared there would be a war between the two.

countries tried to improve a resi their relations with the USA. 19 SSR began talks about limiting SALT) & asked USSR to pressure nuclear North Vietnam to end the war. lixon was invited to visit China & he asked pressure North Vietnam to end the war.

US invasion of Cambodia

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

th Honour' Negg

Kissinger (USA) o Vietnam) agreed: . US troops withdraw after ce . Prison released . Elections in the south Peace Agreement - 27 January 1972

∕ietna angry because as part of the agreement he would have to resign . Nguyen Van Thieu, leader of S ould ta er the South if the USA left

. December 1972: Le Du ons - Nixon ordered more bombing of the North off ner eed to resign, Le Tuc & Kissinger signed . Near

> Paris Pe Agreement - 27 January 1973

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

The end

- . Pardoned t att a
- . Asked Ca ort of over \$500 ss for s million for did not get the help. am
- . April 1975, forces entered Saigon hundreds of thou of S. Vietnamese were executed.
- . Ford refused military r
- . Ford ordered the evacuation of Americans
- . People watched on TV as 6000 Americans fled, helicopters lifting people off the Embassy roof.

Ford's strategy

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.

The evacuation

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



Nixon & Ford's policies - Vietnamisation, resources peace & communist victory 1969 - 75

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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 criticis nson'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 n targe ietnam

The invasion of Viet Cong bases in Cambodia

Over 5 people proteste. in th war in Washing . The regest peace protest ever in the USA.

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

Nixon unist, but had to be against the ntioro peace to get elected

966

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

When talks broke down ordered a massive bombing campaign.

Military 4 incre

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

North Vietr VC at d multiple ta. ets in the South uring liday surprising everyone

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

Students start prote . teach-ins - against conscription Nixon started replacing US soldiers with Vietnamese soldiers AVRN.

400,000 US troops were withdrawn from Vietnam



Nixon & Ford's policies - Vietnamisation, resources peace & communist victory 1969 - 75

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The Vietnam Conflict



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 influence he American public into becoming more anti-war - explain your score.

			ore unit war explain your score.
Event	Score out of	Explanantion	
	/10		
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 & La			
Nixon's increase in bombing			



Confrontation in the Vietnam War, escalation 1964 - 68

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Conflict

1945 - 1975

. Refugees = 5 million

. Corruption in the South was rife

. Black market in US goods

The impact on civilians in Vietnam & attitudes in the USA

The Vietnam Conflict





etc.

Society

Consequences of the Vietnam War

Environment

Chemical warfare

t & agricultural land . Huge areas (20%) o ons of 'herbicides' destroyed with over 20,000,000 dropped

. Agricultural la for 100 years

s as a result y poisoned

on effec mmediately plus 500,000 . Est with a variety of defects

discarriages common

Mines

Mine ang

nexploded bombs were everywhere hued to kill people years after the war

. Effect farmers in particular

Economic

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



destroyed)

after the war

- . Vietnam unified under communism
- . Communism spread to Cambodia & La

. 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

common. Conditions were very poor - lack basic

necessities - clean water, sanitation, transport

. Drugs (heroin, opium) were easily available

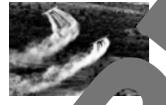
. Over 500,000 Vietnamese women became prostitutes (many poor peasants who needed to

support their families after their farms were

during the war for the US soldiers, this continued

Saigon: poverty, prostitution & drugs were

. Millions of South Vietnamese victimis er the war: N or J thousands executed for working with millions forced to work in 'economic where 're-educated' (forced labour)









Socie

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



. 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



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The impact on civilians in Vietnam & attitudes in the USA

The Vietnam Conflict





Consequences of the Vietnam War

10.3

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: el containment

aganda ter for the USA . Use of bombing **US** support Doctrine' . Nix US aba ed policy ontainment ess likely after Vietnam rven SR & China: Detente Looke









Society

. 58,000 died in the war

Divided the nation:

- . Student demonstrations
- . Draft dodgers
- . Many veterans became anti-war prote drug addicts & suffered atic su (est. at 800,000)
- ₂nt Ora suffered cancer . Others who handles
- compensation had paid
- . TV war: pictures of the ้ายพร every evening
- . USA lost a their

₁ty 197 Kent U

- . Anti-w sts - about secret missions in Cambodia
- . National Gua d in to restore order
- G fired 70 shots . 4 killed & 9 injur
- eeks . University closed to
- . Strikes across US at universities & colleges
- seen as a 'watershed' moment in the anti-war movement

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

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



The impact on civilians in Vietnam & attitudes in the USA

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Consequences of the Vietnam War

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



Many peasants is

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'

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

USA banned trade with Vietnam

Food shortages were common



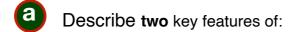
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Test your knowledge & understanding



Consequences of chemical warfare

Fulbright Hearings

Jungle warfare

Explanation:

Why did the USA na in the military?

Why were h & Vietcong well motivated? Viet

Cause sequence and judgement:

> he US never going

low far do you agree with this interpretation?

be USA had no answer to the guerilla tactics of the Vietminh

Now far do you agree with this interpretation?



Personal stories





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 other ble jungle. This road, fashioned of compacted dirt with a slight mix of o ale vellow color and elevated a couple of feet above its bed. It was pleas n such a to go ac un. road after the usual hump through "thick shit" which had be ed by the point man and forward element turning themselves into human arly in the day OWS. It and the sky was thinly overcast, but it was bright enough out. We hadn to be very far down war: suddenly the thick this road when we came to one of the most bizarre s of t foliage of the jungle gave way to a kind of hellish la 90 ⊿ike a the vegetation — trees, bushes, vines — everything, h en ca etely stripped of its leaves, and all the wood had turned a dead g Nor. No leaf or speck of green could be seen anywhere. All the trees stood period ey had in life, but the want right a of leaves made it possible to see a long w nto wha Id otherwise have been an opaque jungle. That, of course, was the idea would be ossible for anyone to ambush us along this road, since there was no cover nem. Still, this was not really very reassuring, since even at the time that the agent used to effect this result ° se was probably a greater menace to us in emv. It was time to eat, but I can't now to clear this deart of wood, or whether we did in fact remember whether we pushed stop to eat there. The area beer prayed quite some time before with Agent Orange ato think of what this stuff could have done to us, but it is to this day somew unse and whether at the time of stant from that day, I shall not yet become a casualty of the Vietnam War.

The government, a mploy "Big Lie" They told the world that Agent Orange was a harmless. I that the strange maladies turning up among those who liant 'nė worked with it v ses. It took countless years to get aid to our selfse the government refused to confess its lie until it was completely inflicted casualties and irrefut was a deliberate deception. ven



Personal stories





A nurse's story

http://www.rockdalenewtoncitizen.com/

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

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

"My experiences are no different than other nurses who server thousand women served, 7,000 vam. ation. were nurses. I grew up in the small town of Mascoutah, III, a . I was the oldest of five, born with a wanderlust in my heart because I knew something else was me

"I was in nurses training when I stumbled onto an Arm a nurse to join up, study for aram w three years, then serve for two years. I didn't join for a new I could change the world, I just use or wanted to see some of the world, like Germany, My fire port-of-call was officer's training at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas, in June of 1968. Then I re Dix, N.J. I packed up my brand new ed orde Rambler American and headed for The Garden Sta

"I spent nine months at Ft. Dix, which was a good thin ome nurses were sent straight from nursing school to Vietnam. Ft. Dix was interesting to say the had a stockade section, and I had to check daily for improvised weapons. One prisoner by shift. I usually cared for the soldiers with upper respiratory infections, at one point of 300 solare had the fatties and skinnies. If too fat, we put kshakes. Oddly, the put these guys in the same ward. The skinnies them on diets; if too skinny, they or e milkshakes. Before the year was out I received a manila stayed skinny because the fattig envelope; 'Congratulations, vo etnam.' Not the travel I expected. going

"I arrived in Vietnam on Nov." a cho of bases, so I picked the 91st Evac at Chu Lai because an old roommate was assigned to beautiful, on a hill near a cliff, overlooking the South China u Lai Sea. I arrived during Ma wet; my hooch had double beds, a foot locker, and one fan. Thank goodness my front o Mker. Chu Lai is in the skinny part of Nam, ocean on one side, mountains in the ba ound

"I loved flying on oppe Lwas an avid photographer. Great region for photos, but I never took photos of casualtie well, different. They loved to party. I spent my first three months in a medical ward treating mbat related problems, like hepatitis and malaria, even jungle rot. By the way, the Officer' s bu edge of a cliff. We consumed a 'slight' amount of alcohol in there.

"Within the e asked if I wanted the challenge of the emergency room. I accepted. After s we washed the blood down a drain in the concrete floor with a hose. Head injuries we car or casi rde re the worse cases, horrible wounds. If a soldier was not ambulatory we utilized a gurney from I to block off a KIA or DOA. During triage if we determined a soldier wouldn't make it he was and used placed behin reen then a nurse held his hand and talked to him until he died.

"One time after lage was hit, we had 99 Vietnamese civilians to care for within a 24-hour period. When wounded Vietname 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.



Personal stories





Seeking revenge

Nguyen Thanh Trung, spent most of his teenage years in pursuit of one goal: to aver he death of his father at the hands of South Vietnamese troops. This burning desire for rev led hi fliaht schools in Texas and back to his homeland, where he fought alongside sol e while hatching a plot that would earn him a place in war history - to bomb the pa ders, the men he held responsible for his father's death. Today Capt. Trung is a pilot for etnam

Trung grew up in the river byways of the Mekong Delta, a fertile land poor farmers, many of whom saw the Viet Cong, guerilla fighters who support Commu ietnam as their only hope for a better life - and a united Vietnam. Like so may ner children .. am, he lost a ather > Viet Cong querilla, was parent to the war being fought around him, when, in 1963, executed by South Vietnamese forces.

On the death of his father:

"That day, I could not go back to my house. \ dia. e anvw. go. So I sat on the ferry [I took to school every day and went] back a nd forth in the river all night. I asked orth, L myself the question, who is responsible for ther? I answer for myself. I said, death or President Diem [the leader, handpicked by the nericans_i, are responsible for the death of my have the portunity, I will become a pilot. And father. And I told myself, when I am grown up m." I will bomb the palace of the leader South Vil

Trung joined the Viet Cong mover shortly and er's death. He would spend the next twelve ow to bomb the parace in Saigon. The Viet Cong encouraged him to years working to fulfill his drama join the South Vietnamese Air 1969, he was sent for advanced training in Texas. When he Jular bombing sorties. But stealing a F-5, one of the returned to his country, he 4 flyip American's most sophisticate e tigh guarded military base was close to impossible. It somb the presidential palace. would take him three years to ııs pla

y's own protocol against them. To cut down on radio Trung finally perfect sing to noise, the pilots we ate with each other by visual signals before they took off. equi o comm s squad leader a hand signal that he was having electrical trouble. The On April 5, 1975 ng gay rest of his squau . According to military procedure, he had ten seconds in which ٩k the other planes. He waited out the ten second countdown and to abort his mission took off. But ng his formation, he headed for the target he had held in his mind - the presidenti

Jes his father's death: Tru

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



Personal stories





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

In one of the final actions of the war, Trung faced an even greater change to the bombing of the made MiGs how to Palace: training a ragtag group of North Vietnamese fliers, who we fly F-5s. The young captain was able to teach them to fly the American five days. On April 28, 1975, Trung led a formation of five planes that bombed Sa s main an, 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 ossible. war one day earlier, you can save a lot of people. One month earlier, you one year earlier, a million. ve thou The earlier you stop the war, the more peor

Trung was one of a handful of Vietnamese pilots ricans to remain in Vietnam after ed by the . the war ended. When Vietnam invaded Cambodia 79, he took to the skies again and led bombing raids over the border. In 1990, Trung the nat carrier, Vietnam Airlines, and has been helping train a new generation of aviators even



territory to a hero's welcome.



Trung trained in Texas in 1969.



Personal stories





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.



Vietr capital city. But the pretty Tao enjoyed the benefits of a middle-class upbringing in S schoolgirl who grew up speaking the language of colonialism was a' arning about social justice at home.

A family of revolutionaries:

My mother was wonderful. Not only did she a. s the op_{\triangleright} tv to attend a French school. she also taught us to resist against the dictatol against 1 ession and injustice. When the dictator [South Vietnamese president] Diem rep. ed the Buddhists [in 1964], we took part in demonstrations.

es taken by Diem, Le corrupt Catholic president installed by Tao was horrified by the brutal ma the Americans, to silence the Bu at monks who spoke out against the war. Her family attended massive street rallies in support the m 3. At one rally, Tao and her sister Tan were spotted by a Viet Cong recruiter. He late nome The girls joined the guerilla movement in support ed t of Communist North Vietnam, wor^ر wor

On working w he ۷،

When I was 1 a plan to bomb the Saigon central police station. I am the leader vas p of the comman e explosives inside the police headquarters...To succeed in the plan, I had to t one or the police staff to our cause. But I was arrested because this person * d me.

Tao an r siste re thrown into jail. Even in jail, they w protesting against their arrest and ese regime, and as a result the South ous Tiger Cages in the island moved to the prison on Con 3 was the beginning of seven years of torture, be igs and starvation.



Tao's mother raised a family of revolutionaries.



Personal stories





On her imprisonment and torture:

In prison, sometimes they made my sister or me witness the torture othe en I saw them beat my sister, it was very painful...They put us in the Tiger Cage e to my senses I thought I fell into Hell because the cage was the shape of a valked above us, and we were inside the cages below. There was so much suffern ted us, they no poured down quick lime [a caustic chemical which burns the skir en they wanted to repress us.

But despite the beatings and torture, the girls continued their stance Tao and her sister painstakingly wrote the names of all of the political prisoner d in t' and prison in microscopic script on the inside of a prison uniform and gave it to their uggle ut of the country. The list of political prinsoners would make its way to the Paris Pea as entered into wher evidence, documenting that South Vietnam was holding ers t they had vehemently denied. These talks would curtail U.S. involvement in

Tao's release; the end of the War:

When I was released... I couldn't believe it...the iness mak tears pour down. I couldn't walk. I was paralysed [from years of tortur \ \ \ \ \ was cu. n those months, but at the time of the liberation, my legs are still very we in the liberation. I planted the revolutionary flag.

nary rdor was undimmed. After several jobs in the post-war The war was over, but Tao's rev government, she went back to died marine biology because she believed the field could Jol an help feed the new nation. In er they first met, she married Sau Cong - the V.C. WF ears recruiter who had spotted her in d of d'istrators and changed her life.

iet C Tao marries h recruiter

ed, I "When did you fall in love with me?" He said "Since the When we got asked him "Why, if you loved me, didn't you prevent me beginning, since from taking those nd placing the explosives at the police headquarters?" He said "Because it e have freedom, we can have love. If our people, our country, is was you n l y vdomir n't hav iness."

Taken from: www.pbs.org



Personal stories





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 Reception Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana at approximately 11:00 p.m. on Monday, December 12, 1966. As he soldiers assigned to the Reception Center began yelling at us, and telling us to line up in two rows, and ev then told us that if we had any documents with lewd language or seductive pictures of women, we'd better ause we would be in deep trouble if they were discovered on our person after leaving the Reception Center. a note n llet from a buddy of mine that had a cuss word in it, so I threw it in the garbage. One of the soldi e was chewing gum, so he yelled at him to swallow it. One of the soldiers asked me for the packet of documents ut and told us to reply when our name was called. Our induction forms were divided between the four s, and the ividually to answer some questions, one of which was if we were a conscientious objector. Since very strong religiou. ringing, I had given a lot of thought to how I would answer that question, but I just couldn't decid I shov y. When I was asked, I thought about it for several seconds before answering. Then, I blurted out one word that aclysmic change in my life. My answer 4 mak was "No."

After completing the forms, we were transported on a deuce and a house a me ere w fed breakfast. We were then marched to a barracks where we would spend our first night as a p the Arm mmissioned officer in charge told 0 because we had arrived and us that reveille was normally at 0500 hrs. (5:00 a.m.) but we wald no get up u processed in so late. All of us had trouble going to sleep bed of all the of the day, and our anxiety and fear of the two years we were forced to serve in the Army. We finally went to have to get up until 0800. That didn't expectin, ap, and asking why we didn't respond to our happen! A Sergeant came into our barracks at approximately 03 lling at us to call over the loud speakers to report for breakfast in the mess hall told him of our instructions from the previous evening, but his response was that we had a schedule to meet for our first formation. We hurriedly got up, got dressed, and got into formation. The sergeant marched us to a st, then to the quartermaster where we were joined by another group of draftees and we drew our u ms, fatigues, s.. locks, underwear, canteens, mess kit, helmet, helmet liner, harness, back pack, and other supply we would use during basic training. All these items were placed in our duffle bag and we marched to another location wh s with last name were sewn on our fatigue shirts, and tags with our full name and serial number were sewn into our co noes, hats and fatigue caps. We were also provided with a plastic name plate oots, d to be attached when we wore our dres ki unif These items were replaced in our duffle bag and we were marched back to the barracks where we ha roppe our duffle bag, and marched to the mess hall for dinner. We were then marched back to the bar orning. we h

We were awakened at 050 y, Decen and marched to the mess hall for breakfast, then we were joined by yet another group of drafter march the barber show where we got the fastest and shortest haircuts we had ever had! After we walked out of the bard ents greeted us with a lot of very loud profanity telling us to form up with our a gi duffle bag facing them. panded group had their hair cut and got into formation, one of the drill sergeants had a packet of d to board the "cattle car" trailer very quickly after our name was called. Each of the guys ents an went up the y forward on the trailer as possible, and sat down. One of the guys whose name was called move before mir a lot of difficulty stepping up the wooden ladder. As he was struggling with the steps, a litt. one of the ent up behind him and kicked him hard in the butt. That didn't help the guy who was struggling, but it (sergea definitely 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 d from the south fort to the north fort, and we exited at our basic training company area.



Personal stories





Basic Training at Fort Polk by Jerry Prater

Taken from http://vnwarstories.com

We were awakened at 0500 on Wednesday, December 14 and marched to the mess hall for breakfast, then v joined by yet another group of draftees and marched to the barber shop where we got the fastest and shortest h had! After we walked out of the barber shop, a group of drill sergeants greeted us with a lot of very loud profe p with our duffle bag facing them. After all the guys in my expanded group had their hair cut and got into for sergeants had a packet of documents and told us to board the "cattle car" trailer very quickly after our name lled. Eac guys went up the wooden steps, moved as far forward on the trailer as possible, and sat dow whose name was called before mine was a little heavy, and he had a lot of difficulty stepping up the wooden lade. gling with the steps, one of the drill sergeants went up behind him and kicked him hard in the butt. The dn't help u. s struggling, but it aler without incident definitely sent a message to all of us who had not yet boarded the trailer. The us climbed up onto and we were transported from the south fort to the north fort, and we exited basic ng company area. e trai d they had us form up just behind the Several of the drill sergeants greeted us with more loud profanity as we g company headquarters building. We were instructed to stand at attention a t ahea∂ ne object, our eye balls were not to move in any direction, we were not to look up, down, left or r the d geants were walking back and ht. Four forth through the formation yelling and cussing at some of the new because standing at attention properly. Several were ordered to drop and give 50 push-ups so they word und ow impo was to obey orders exactly and immediately. One of our training officers, Second Lieutenan Court strutting around the formation in his starched uniform, spit shined boots, polished helmet liner, and camoufly arf. As he king in front of the formation, one of the new at up to the recruit, got right into his face and recruits looked at him as he strutted by. 2LT Courtney noticed nd he walked the drill sergeants came over and ordered the recruit to said, "Do you like my body? Why are you staring at my body?" drop and give 50 push-ups. That sent a very strop what the drill sergeants meant about standing at attention and not letting your eyes move at all. It also gave move hat the eight weeks of basic training was going to be like. While my group of trainees were being welc to the company "cattle car" trailer full of trainees arrived and they received the same type of welcome. After cond group had been properly indoctrinated, the entire company was put into formation and First Lieutenant Brian K any Commander, spoke to us briefly. He informed us that we were our C assigned to Company E, 4th Battalio (Traini gade, and that we would remain with this unit for our eight weeks of basic sist of latoons of approximately 60 trainees each, and we would be training. He also told us that the comp assigned to platoons alphabetically. Since name : vith a "P," I was assigned to the third platoon. He then introduced Staff Sergeant Donald Tarple ld Fire whom all the Platoon Sergeants reported. After Sergeant Tarpley told us of some of the things y as well a of the things expected of us, he told us exactly where we stood in the scheme of things. He to that w Army trainees, were the lowest form of life on this earth, we were lower than whale shit, which was at the bott e oce to salute everything that moved, and if something didn't move, we were to are to salute it. Lastly, he told us that we had better give our soul to the Lord walk up and shake it so i because our butts be company was then dismissed by alphabetically, with all trainees designated to the first platoon going acks fi

I walked is s that was built hurriedly at the beginning of World War II and noticed that there was a two row of ouble b eds on both sides of the floor. I selected an upper bunk about halfway down the east side of the bottom floor. Tr ants assigned to my platoon were Johnnie Redden, a tall, husky Texan, and Federico Tubera, a short, muscular File had been a jungle fighter against the Japanese during World War II. We were sent to the supply room to check out our ma low, and bed sheets, then instructed how to properly make a bed where the sheets were tight enough that a coin would bounce of r 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.



Personal stories





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 roa ont of the company area. When the entire company was marching on the road, we heard the order "Double time, march!" We the to run in step and in formation for slightly more than one mile. Even though I was reasonably athletic, I bega half a mile, but I was able to finish without having to walk or stop. However, many trainees did have to wal e they were not physically able to run even half a mile. When we arrived back at the company area, the first p akfast, n goi and we went through the prescribed procedure for meals. As we were in the mess hall eming, some drill serge. would roam around and tell the overweight trainees to stop eating and leave the mess hall affi v bit hey would also yell at anyone who was not eating fast enough to suit them and either make them gulp the remainder n, or to stop eating and leave the mess hall. We were also required to do 5 chin ups as we exited the hall after eac. Since we were inducted less than two weeks before Christmas, we were given day leave beginning at non on Monday, December 19, and we were to be back in time for the 0530 formation on Ta , Janu 1967. Our company clerk had allas. I had purchased a ticket chartered a Continental Trailways bus for all the trainees who wanted to the ation ir and, after we had breakfast and prepared the barracks for inspection, I dresse ab dres orm and fell into formation with my platoon. After we were dismissed, I went to the designate arrive. Some of the drill and wa he h sergeants were roaming among us as we were waiting to check our and make our uniforms were properly outfitted. The drill sergeants noticed that at least three traines they ordered them to pull out their t mornin, d not razors and dry shave. All of them had blood on their face and andkerchiefs so the blood wouldn't get on their one gav uniforms. The sight of them bleeding made a lasting impression er on my bus ride to Dallas. While I was on me, and put leave, I did a lot of push-ups and ran several times because I wan be better pre red for the physical aspects of basic training. I in advance of the lights out time of 2100. My bride drove me back to my company area on Maday, January

Once again, Sergeant Tubera came to our barrack out 0450 banging on the metal trash can, shaking bunks, and yelling at us to get out of bed and into for tion. This wa ial day of our basic training and we had our first session of PT (Physical Training) after we aten breakfast and prepared the barracks for inspection. We did at least ten repetitions of all twelve of the basic exe How s, Sergeant Tubera added one additional step when he led PT, which was a waistline in excess of 30 inches to be a "fat boy," and all fat boys had to about twice each week. He considered traine do an additional ten push-ups after ev nce I h 22 inch waist, I was considered a fat boy and had to do all those bat Proficiency) test and were measured on five separate events, with extra push-ups. After two weeks, we had nysica¹ a score given for the time it to nplete number of repetitions completed. After I completed the test, I went to gh I scored 455 out of 500 on the test. He told me that if I scored that Sergeant Tubera and asked fat boy high, I was no longer a

Less than two weeks retur Thristmas leave, we were having a session of PT and, as usual, a few of the drill ng certain that all the trainees were completing each exercise correctly and "by sergeants were roaming the numbers." After we conne of the exercises, Sergeant Redden walked up to Larry Nunn and asked him if he had shaved that morning hat he e and, according to regulations he shaved every morning. I was in PT formation next to Larry and § loked like Larry had shaved. I responded that his face didn't look like it, but I knew he at K t the sink next to me that morning. I was lying, and I believe Sergeant Redden knew it, but he just did shay ause he walked a red seeing the blood on the faces of the three trainees after they were made to dry shave as we were eave and I didn't want one of my buddies to have to go through that experience. leaving for

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



Personal stories





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 diame th a steel mesh cover. We were told that this was our urinal for use while we were at the firing range, and anyong um, cigarette butts or any other article on or in the urinal would be required to reach in with their bare hand a he officer in charge informed us of some safety procedures and told us that the M-14 was a powerful weapon v demonstrated that by placing the butt of the rifle against his chin and fired a round. When I was firm М-14 ол ge, I knew I was doing something wrong because the rifle butt was hitting my shoulder hard and ca very round fired, and my shoulder was black and blue the next day. My firing accuracy was also very bad, and ng the worst in the company. I never figured out the proper way to hold the rifle, and I didn't underst ow to get 1. ar sights in line. ore of 27, so I When we went to the qualifying range, my score was 30, which was just barely the minimum requi qualified as a Marksman.

Our drill sergeants then informed us of several aspects of army life we could e were asic training. Reveille tigues, and be in platoon (Bugle Call) would be at 0500 each morning, and we must get up, shower, shaw ssed in formation outside the barracks by 0530. The Company Commande e of the ers, would conduct an inspection of each of the four barracks each morning after we left the ing sessions. The platoon with the ind bei. aree platoons would have to live with highest daily and weekly ranking would receive special privile the othe the stigma, as well as constant reminders and harassment of the w did not measure up. Additionally, the order sergeants in which each platoon was called to line up for each meal was de spection ranking. We could smoke in the ned by the a barracks, and all ashes and cigarette butts had to be placed in the an," a red corke can filled about one-third full of water that was attached to the two rows of wooden columns, a be cleaned each morning before inspection. Our drill sergeants also told us they had to sign for the wood ght on fire, it would burn down in 17 minutes and they fire as soon as it starts, we would be required to walk a would be responsible for paying to rebuild it. order to prefire watch on both floors every night from 2 .00 p.m.) until 0500, ... me designated for us to sleep. A trainee on each floor would be assigned to get fully dressed in es and alk up and down the middle of the barracks floor for one hour. They would to wal then wake up the trainee who was sche ext hour, undress, and go back to sleep.

All of our meals would normally be se meant that all of the trainees, other than the squad leaders and platoon guides (trainees selected for leade becau heir previous experience in ROTC), would be required to serve KP (Kitchen Police), the detail that ted me st. Those assigned to pull KP would be awaken at about 0430 so they could get dressed and p ss hall the preparation of breakfast. They would continue on this detail until as "policed," all dishes, trays, pots, pans, tables, floor, and everything else after the dinner meal had served had been cleaned and a or breal pext morning. Of all the KP duties, the one I hated the most was washing the pots and pans because so many w they were so dirty, greasy, and hard to clean.

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

trash can, g the floor, and yelling for us to get out of bed and get dressed. All the other guys were matti e only had 6 sinks for all 56 trainees in my platoon, I hurriedly went to the sink so I could be one of the getting d but, sir first to sha wiry and tough whiskers, but very sensitive facial skin. As a result, I had to shave very slowly and very g myself in several places and bleeding a lot. We all shaved, dressed and were in formation by 0530. carefully to av Sergeant Tarpley et platoons would fall out for meals in numerical order, and that each trainee was to stand at parade rest heters apart on the sidewalk. Five trainees would be called into the mess hall at a time, and each in front of the lines pan trainee was to sound off wan 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.



Personal stories





Basic Training at Fort Polk by Jerry Prater

Taken from http://vnwarstories.com

The officer in charge informed us of some safety procedures and told us that the M-14 was a pow ardly any weapon recoil. He demonstrated that by placing the butt of the rifle against his chin and fired a round. 14 on the range, I knew I was doing something wrong because the rifle butt was hitting my shoulder har ith ad, and every round I fired, and my shoulder was black and blue the next day. My firing accuracy was also were among the worst in the company. I never figured out the proper way to hold the r rstand how to get ly above the my front and rear sights in line. When we went to the qualifying range, my score was 30, minimum required score of 27, so I qualified as a Marksman.

entrance to our bar Sergeant Thomas Eustice was our platoon sergeant and he was housed in a room He would regularly strut around the barracks in his starched fatigues, infantry scarf, spi d boot shiny helmet liner and make threats about what he would make us do if anybody in the platoon didn't r ald always end the threat with his up. end of favorite expression, "If you thing I'm bullshitting, just try me!" As we were asic training, all of us were anxious to learn what MOS (Military Occupation Specialty) we could be and w e would be stationed for our AIT (Advanced Individual Training). Sergeant Eustice obtained assignments to us. I'll never forget what he said when he came to my name. He said "Prater" LAND. dn't believe it! Here I am a college grad who doesn't know the first thing about firing a ri e infantr, while all the high school dropouts l I'm go who fired expert were being sent to be trained as company clerk was devastated. ince clerk.

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





Personal stories





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 ed 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 drafte ge graduation.

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

Fosco received medic and infantry training at Fort Sam Houston, and soc t to Vietnam. The air cavalry was a "frenetic" operation and he was always on the

He was stationed mostly in Quang Tri, just south of the DMZ en N and South Vietnam. Fosco and his fellow medics would be sent out to patrol in areas from le nh : border of Laos.

Fosco carried a bayonet given to him by a soldier he replaced use t eapon to slash through the uniform of a wounded man so he could quickly tend wor etter than the governmentying to shoot at you," he issued scissors in his medical bag, which were "just so said.

Fosco and his team were on call 24-7. They could fed into an area and not come out for ect to several days. An A-H1 Cobra – an agile, thin-profile th rockets, machine guns and copter a grenade launchers – provided support to the medical enemy, if necessary. engaged

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

On one mission, an aircraft in another air cave en shot down. Fosco's team was summoned to pick up the crew since the other to 's infantry was sewhere.

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

"They were burned to a crisp. skul e there, no eyes. Their hands were burned off with bone sticking out," Fosco said. "We h em in body bags and put them on the helicopter and get out. I got on board. I was leaning back he heat of their bodies through the body bags as we auld 5 months on the line like that." took them to the hospital I spe

behind him, he spent six months working in a paper mill in Ticonderoga Determined to put *lemori* after his dischard d applied to and was accepted to graduate school. He returned r in to SUNY Cortland, w undergraduate work, and earned a master's degree in secondary ach at Hartford Central School from 1973 until his retirement in 2002. social studies rent "I had a go me and drift," he said. "I took off the uniform and hung it up and went on ust co

with my hat v much about his Vietnam homecoming and thinks most soldiers were treated with He do remen

indiffere

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

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.



Personal stories





Personal Story

© 2000 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 to the ry of his service in Vietnam and his horrible ordeals, extreme pain and suffering and unflinching loyalty and honor to 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 the Lto A can control on 16 Mar.1973. For those of you good at arithmetic - 1931 days. Thus it has been 32 y the large and 26 years since my return. I have given a lot of talks, about medicine, about ophthalmo's even about Invasion as I was privileged to go to Normandy and witness the 50th anniversary of the large sion in Jun.1944.

But not about my captivity. I don't ride in parades; I don't open (; I dor give interviews and talks about it. I have tried very hard NOT to be a professional PW. My pr en to look forward, not ₄s alwa backward, to consider the future rather than the past. That' say eunion, I guess. In 26 years, I've given only two interviews and two talks. One to my ho newspa ne Washington Post in 1973, and a talk at Ft. Benning in 1991 and to the Military Flight Sageo ٦3. I've 1,000 invitations to speak about to your commander. COL Bob Nevins and my experiences. But you don't say no to the 1-9th, at u don i COL Pete Booth asked me to do this and so I said yes talk. It will probably be my last one. nd prepa

ation, college at the University of North Carolina, med I was a 26-year-old young doctor, just finished 9 years of school at Medical College of VA, a young y ughter. I interned at the hospital in which I was born, Tripler Army Med Center in Honolulu, HI. Win ed from my internship and spent most of my time doing orthopedic operations on wound soldiers and were getting hundreds of wounded GIs there, and filled the hospital. After the hospital led, we created tented the grounds and continued receiving air evac in Vignam. I decided that I wanted to be a flight surgeon. I had a private patients. So I knew what was happ pilot's license and was interested iter my internship at Tripler, I went to Ft. Rucker and to Pensacola √iation and through the Army and Nav tion gram and then deployed to Vietnam. While in basic training and my E&E course, they told us I't have to worry about being captured. Doctors and nurses ເors, w they said were not PWs, they were de unde Geneva Convention. If they treated us as PWs, we should show our Geneva Convention leave. osed to be a joke and it was pretty funny at the time.

I arrived in Vietna ıg.19 to An Khe. I was told that the Div. needed two flight surgeons; one to be the div. flight surgeon a the other to be surgeon for the 1-9th, a unit actively involved with the enemy. I volunteered to oth. The man before me, CPT Claire Shenep had been killed and the dispensary was named the Dispensary. Like many flight surgeons, I flew on combat missions in helicopters, nep` enough t als and one of my medics, SSG Jim Zeiler used to warn me: "Doc, you better be three ing that dispensary, the K&S Memorial Dispensary." careful ıl be re

I was cape 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 Act 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 second street in the 1-9th 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.