



0. AMERICANS LEAVE - Story Preface

1. WHY FIGHT?

2. A ONE-HANDED FIGHT

3. THE EARLY YEARS

4. WAR ESCALATES

5. AIRCRAFT OVER VIETNAM

6. AIR AND GROUND ATTACKS - 1966-67

7. THE TET OFFENSIVE

**8. AMERICANS LEAVE**

9. THE FALL AND THE WALL

U.S. involvement in Vietnam was never popular with the American people. Massive protests—like this one in Washington, D.C., on 21 October 1967—seemed to make little difference to government decision-makers. A 9-point cease-fire agreement formally ended the fighting for Americans during January of 1973. Warren K. Leffler took this photo; it is online (with no known restrictions) via the Library of Congress.

The American plan had always called for U.S. advisors to train South Vietnamese military to fight their own war with the North. That process was called "Vietnamization." (Scroll down 50% to view the details.) It intensified during 1969.

Even so, the fighting continued:

- A MedEvac helicopter near the demilitarized zone ("DMZ") recovers a wounded member of the 101st Airborne Division.
- Marines are dropped into 5-foot-high elephant grass.
- Worn-out combat boots reveal the effort of one soldier.
- When Major Kuster encountered a North Vietnamese MiG, he fired his 20mm cannon at point-blank range. He hit the left wing of the MiG near the fuselage. The major, and his F-105, passed 15-20 feet below the flaming MiG.
- Americans dropped leaflets urging guerillas and North Vietnamese people to defect to the South.
- Some of the leaflets provided a Safe Conduct Pass for defecting Viet Cong.

American troops were leaving Vietnam during 1971. The fighting continued, although it was not as intense. Despite the U.S. "wind down," North Vietnam launched a major offensive into South Vietnam during 1972. The United States broke off peace discussions as a direct result.

Later in the year, President Nixon made one of his most controversial decisions as commander in chief. Deciding to literally bomb North Vietnam back to the negotiating table, Nixon ordered the heaviest bombing of the war to take place in Hanoi and Haiphong. The North agreed to resume peace talks on December 19, 1972.

One month later, in Paris, both sides agreed to a 9-point cease fire. President Nixon made the announcement on January 23, 1973. One month later, some very happy American prisoners of war returned home.

Although the long and deadly struggle was over for the United States, it wasn't finished for the people of South Vietnam.

The fall of Saigon was barely two years off.

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/AMERICANS-LEAVE-Vietnam-War>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/AMERICANS-LEAVE-Vietnam-War>

## Media Stream



### Massive Anti-War Protest in Washington

On the 21st of October, in 1967, a very large crowd of protesters gathered in Washington, D.C. The gathering was a National Mobilization Direct-Action Protest against the war in Vietnam. It was a time of discontent throughout the country. Upset people who'd rioted in urban areas, like Detroit, had burned parts of U.S. cities during the summer of 1967.

President Johnson and his advisers seemed uninterested in pulling American troops out of Vietnam in the fall of 1967. While images of this large crowd made the news, neither the images nor the message of the protestors seemed to make much of a difference to LBJ and his strategists.

Warren K. Leffler took this photo. It is part of the "*U.S. News & World Report Magazine Photograph Collection*" at the Library of Congress.

Click on the image for a better view.

Image by Warren K. Leffler, photographer. [Online via the Library of Congress](#). No known restrictions.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Massive-Anti-War-Protest-in-Washington>



### Elephant Grass

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Elephant-Grass>



### Fighting in Vietnam with a Peace Symbol in Place

Online, courtesy U.S. National Archives. ARC Identifier 531467

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Fighting-in-Vietnam-with-a-Peace-Symbol-in-Place>



### Flaming MiG 17 - Hit by Ammo from F-105D

Online, courtesy U.S. National Archives. ARC Identifier 542338.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Flaming-MiG-17-Hit-by-Ammo-from-F-105D>



**VIET CONG BEMARE!**

There is nowhere to run...nowhere to hide! The tanks and armored vehicles of the Blackhorse Regiment will find and destroy you! It is too late to fight. Beware Viet Cong, we are everywhere! Rally now under the Chieu Hoi Program; \*\* do not only hope to live!

### Propaganda Leaflet Dropped by US Planes

Online, courtesy U.S. National Archives. ARC Identifier 305342

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Propaganda-Leaflet-Dropped-by-US-Planes>



### MedEvac Helicopter

Online, courtesy U.S. National Archives. ARC Identifier 530627

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### Paris Peace Talks - Ending the Vietnam War

Online, courtesy U.S. National Archives. ARC Identifier 194482

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Paris-Peace-Talks-Ending-the-Vietnam-War>



### Evacuation from Saigon, Stop Over in Thailand

Online, courtesy U.S. National Archives. ARC Identifier 542335

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### Returning American Prisoners of War

Image online, courtesy U.S. Department of Defense.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Returning-American-Prisoners-of-War>



## Safe Conduct Pass - Vietnam War Era

Image online, courtesy U.S. Department of Defense.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Safe-Conduct-Pass-Vietnam-War-Era>



## Worn-out Combat Boots

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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## President Nixon Announces Vietnam Peace Accord

On the 23rd of January, 1973, President Richard Nixon used national air time (on both radio and television) to announce a Peace Accord which would end the Vietnam War.

This video clip depicts that announcement. Released by the Nixon Presidential Library and Museum, the clip is online via the Miller Center of Public Affairs at the University of Virginia.

Video, described above, online via the Miller Center's American President channel at YouTube.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/President-Nixon-Announces-Vietnam-Peace-Accord>