

# 19

## Paul Hardcastle

In 1965 Vietnam seemed like just another foreign war but it wasn't  
It was different in many ways, as so were those that did the fighting

In World War II the average age of the combat soldier was 26

In Vietnam he was 19

In-in-in Vietnam he was 19The shooting and fighting of the past two weeks continued today  
25 miles west of Saigon

I really wasn't sure what was going onNi-ni-ni 19, 19, ni-19 19In Vietnam the combat soldier  
typically served

A twelve month tour of duty

But was exposed to hostile fire almost everyday

Ni-ni-ni 19, Ni-ni-ni 19

Hundreds of thousands of men who saw heavy combat

In Vietnam were arrested since discharge

Their arrest rate is almost twice that of non-veterans of the same age

There are no accurate figures of how many of these men

Have been incarceratedBut a Veterans Administration study

Concludes that the greater of vets

Exposure to combat could more likely affect his chances

Of being arrested or convictedThis is one legacy of the Vietnam WarAll those who remember  
the war

They won't forget what they've seen

Destruction of men in their prime

Whose average was 19De-de-destruction

De-de-destruction

War, war

De-de-destruction, wa, wa, war, wa, war, war

De-de-destruction

War, warAfter World War II the men came home together on troop ships

But the Vietnam vet often arrived home within 48 hours of jungle combat

Perhaps the most dramatic difference between

World War II and Vietnam was coming home

None of them received a hero's welcomeNone of them received a heroes welcome, none of  
them, none of them

Ne-ne-ne, ne-ne-ne, none of them, none of them, none of them

None of them received a hero's welcome

None of them received a hero's welcomeAccording to a Veteran's Administration study

Half of the Vietnam combat veterans suffered from what

Psychiatrists call

Post-Traumatic-Stress-DisorderMany vets complain of alienation, rage or guilt

Some succumb to suicidal thoughts

Eight to ten years after coming home

Almost eight hundred thousand men are still fighting the Vietnam WarDe-de-destruction

Ni-ni-ni 19, 19, ni19 19

Ni-ni-ni 19, 19, ni-19 19When we came back it was different, everybody wants to know  
"How'd it happened to those guys over there?  
There's gotta be something wrong somewhere  
We did what we had to doThere's gotta be something wrong somewhere  
People wanted us to be ashamed of what it made us  
Dad had no idea what he went to fight and he is now  
All we want to do is come homeAll we want to do is come home  
What did we do it for?  
All we want to do is come home  
Was it worth it

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