

American POW's Left Behind

By David S. Sullivan

Recently retired Senior Professional Staff Member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and Personal Staff Member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services.

There are ten bodies of evidence showing clearly that scores of American POWs were left behind in Indochina, especially in Laos and also in the former Soviet Union.

First – There is important but still mostly secret White House and Diplomatic evidence involving Dr Henry Kissinger's "Back Channel" negotiations with the North Vietnamese, and also President Nixon's "Watergate Tapes", showing that they knowingly left behind at least 87 POWs, especially in Laos.

Second – There is voluminous evidence of American POWs left behind in Indochina from hundreds of human sources, including the thousands of "Live Sighting" reports of varying credibility about U.S. POWs in Indochina by refugees, defectors and Americans.

Third – There is important and reliable "HUMINT" (human intelligence) evidence from recruited and paid CIA and DIA espionage agents on the ground in Indochina.

Fourth – There is credible evidence, from the highest ranking defector from a communist country we have ever received, that many American POWs were transferred to Eastern Europe and to the former Soviet Union during the Vietnam War, were interrogated there on strategic subjects, were then used inhumanely for chemical and biological weapons experiments, and WERE NEVER RETURNED.

Fifth – There is extensive hard, physical evidence from aerial and satellite imagery, of unique emergency signals associated with SPECIFIC downed U.S. pilots, laboriously etched into the ground by probable American POWs left behind in Indochina.

Sixth – There is extensive, conclusive evidence from signals intelligence intercepts concerning American POWs held captive in Indochina after 1973.

Seventh – Because of all the converging evidence listed already, a U.S. covert action reconnaissance mission into Laos was mounted in 1981, and while this mission was botched and compromised, there are credible reports that even this aborted CIA mission detected at least one American POW held in Laos.

Eighth – There is evidence, NOT discussed in the Select Committee Report, from 1967 State Department cables that American POWs captured in Indochina who never came home were held under Soviet control in Eastern Europe. For example in East Germany and Czechoslovakia, consistent with the high level Czech defector's testimony (Major General Jan Sehna).

Ninth – There is evidence, NOT discussed in the Select Committee Report, from a credible Soviet fighter-bomber pilot who defected in 1989, that American POWs were assembled and kept in the Soviet Union during the Vietnam War.

Tenth – There is evidence, NOT discussed in the Select Committee Report, from a sensitive CIA source that as many as 700 American POWs, similar to at least 300 French POWs surviving from the First Indochina War, were kept behind in Vietnam as late as 1975, and even into the 1980's.

The Evidence is Clear:

There are LIVE American POWs in SE Asia!!

April 3, 1973: Laotian Communist forces declare they are holding more than 100 American POWs and are prepared to give a full accounting. The U.S. government responds 9 days later by declaring all POWs are dead – without ever talking to the Laotians about the prisoners they *admit* holding.

June 25, 1981: Defense Intelligence Agency Director Eugene Tighe testifies before the House Subcommittee on Asian/Pacific Affairs that live American POWs remain in Southeast Asia.

December 7, 1984: The *Washington Times* reports that Bobby Garwood, released by Vietnam in 1979, saw up to 70 live captive Americans long after the war ended.

June 28, 1985: The *Washington Times* reports DIA Director Lt. Gen. Eugene Tighe testified Hanoi is still holding 50-60 live American POWs.

August 19, 1986: The *Wall Street Journal* reports the White House knew in 1981 Vietnam wanted to sell 57 live POWs for \$4 billion. The White House determined the offer was genuine – and ignored it.

October 7, 1986: CIA Director William Casey says: "Look, the nation knows they (the POWs) are there, everybody knows they are there, but there's no groundswell of support for getting them out. Certainly you are not suggesting we pay for them, surely not saying we could do anything like that with no public support."

More Evidence

Our Government Leaders Know....

April 25, 1991: Senator Bob Smith addresses the Senate and reveals that, of more than 1400 eyewitness sightings of live POWs, NONE has ever received an on-site investigation!

May 23, 1991: The Senate Foreign Relations Committee's *Examination of U.S. Policy Toward POW/MIAs* concludes that the U.S. has ignored thousands of American POWs, and left them to rot in Soviet slave labor camps, and North Korean and Vietnamese prisons. "Any evidence that suggests an MIA might be alive was uniformly and arbitrarily rejected."

Summer 1991: A flood of new evidence of live POWs pours from Southeast Asia: pictures, handwriting samples, blood samples, fingerprints, footprints, maps and other physical proof. The Bush administration disregards the evidence, and attempts to discredit it by rumor and innuendo. Some of the photos are scientifically validated by nationally recognized experts, but none of them has ever been scientifically proved.

June 5, 1992: Lt. Peter R. Matthes, USAF, puts his authenticator code – **GX2527** – outside his prison camp in North Vietnam.

June 1992: Maj. Henry M. Serex, USAF, puts his last name and secret authenticator code – **72TA88** – right outside the prison wall of a second prison camp where he was being held in North Vietnam.

Both locations were photographed because of solid live-sighting reports of U.S. POWs being held at these locations. Furthermore, these are just the latest satellite photographs made public of LIVE AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR held captive in Southeast Asia since the mid-1970's. There is no doubt there are more.

Credible Evidence

Our Government Leaders Know...

The following incident took place during the first six months of 1984. The commander of a Special Forces regiment, oriented to Laos, within the Thai Special Forces, had been providing us intelligence on POWs. We set up a meeting with him and he stated that an operation had been set up to rescue three American POWs in May 1984. I returned to Korea and passed this intelligence to DIA/CIA and requested to return to the USA and brief MG Moore at DCSOPS in the Pentagon. The answer from MG Leuer was that we were restricted to the Korean Peninsula and we would not contact MG Moore or any of the Thais. We later went to Thailand, at the request of Congress, and were told by the Thai Colonel and his staff that the deal fell through and that one of the POWs had died after we did not show up as planned. For those who think this was some kind of money scam, check the dates. There was no reward being offered at that time. Ex -POW Vietnam Maj. (Ret.) Mark A. Smith (This information remains classified today.)

The Smoking Gun Has Been Found

Since the dissolution of the USSR, a treasure trove of evidence has turned up in communist files. In spite of the best efforts of the United States Government, the truth is coming out. For instance, in 1993, Steven Morris, a scholar from Harvard University's Russian Research Center, discovered a Top Secret document in the files of the Central Committee, Communist Party Soviet Union, International Department (formerly known as COMINTERN). General Tran Van Quang, Deputy Chief of Staff of the North Vietnamese Army, authored a report dated September 15, 1972 to the North Vietnamese Politburo, which ended up in Russian Intelligence archives. This document provided a detailed accounting of **1,205 live American POWs** then held in 11 North Vietnamese prisons. The General's statements are quite revealing:

"1,205 American prisoners of war located in the prisons of Vietnam – this is a big number. Officially, until now, we published a list of only 368 prisoners of war, the rest we have not revealed. The government of the U.S.A. knows this well, but it does not know the exact number of prisoners of war, and can only make guesses based on its losses."

Note that this report is dated 4 months *before* the war ended. It only includes POWs held by North Vietnam in North Vietnam up to that point. However, it does *not* include Prisoners of War held in South Vietnam by the Viet Cong, those POWs held in Laos by the Pathet Lao, or those POWs held in Cambodia by the Khmer Rouge.

POW/MIA REPORT:

American POWs Taken To USSR From Korea and Vietnam Wars

On Friday, September 17, 1996, Congressman Bob Dornan, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Personnel of the House National Security Committee, held another hearing on the POW/MIA issue. Testifying under oath were Colonel (Ret.) Phillip Corso, former National Security Council aid and POW issue specialist to President Dwight D. Eisenhower; and Czechoslovakian Major General Jan Sejna, the highest ranking defector ever to come to the U.S. from behind the Iron Curtain. Both men testified from personal, firsthand knowledge they possess about American and allied Prisoners of War taken to the Soviet Union after the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and what the Russians used them for. The Soviets used POWs to train military doctors in field medicine and to test the effects of chemical and biological warfare agents and to test the effects of atomic radiation. Between 1961 and 1968, Gen. Sejna estimates at least 200 Americans were shipped to the Soviet Union through Czechoslovakia. Gen. Sejna also knew that other POWs were given to the Chinese.

POW/MIA Returns From Death

Army MSgt. Mateo Sabog served 24 years in the U.S. Army. On Feb. 25, 1970, Sabog vanished after finishing his second tour of duty in Vietnam. Family asked for help in finding Sabog and challenging the Army's determination that he had deserted. After reviewing all available evidence, an Army board of officers recommended that Sabog's status be changed to "Missing – Presumptive Finding Of Death". On April 11, 1995, Sabog's family was notified that remains that the Vietnamese government indicated were Sabog's had been recovered. The Vietnamese also turned over some personal effects and clothing to the Army's Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii (CILHI) for examination. CILHI did indicate the bones might belong to Sabog. In late February 1996, Mateo Sabog used his correct name and social security number to apply for veterans benefits in Northern Georgia. Fingerprints were compared and they proved Sabog was who he claimed to be. Where has Sabog been from 1970 until 1996?

Change in Status for POW/MIA

January 11, 2001: Secretary of the Navy Danzig announced "The Department of the Navy is changing the status of Cmdr. Michael S. "Spike" Speicher, the first American shot down on 17 January 1991 over land during the Persian Gulf War, from Killed In Action/Body Not Recovered under a Presumptive Finding of Death (KIA/PFOD) to Missing In Action." ***This unprecedented action to change a military man's status from a living category (POW/MIA) to dead by a legal status change, then reverse that action and return him to a living status of Prisoner of War or Missing In Action, has never before been allowed to happen by our government.***

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Concerned citizens working to return
American POWs/MIAs to America!

There are LIVE American POWs in S.E. Asia!!

A senate aide confided that the POW issue is not a high priority because there is "no public interest". We don't believe that's true. Please support our efforts. Read the enclosed information. Then write or call your elected representative and ask if they have ever requested or had a classified debriefing on the POW/MIA issue.

Senator (your Senator's name)

United States Senate

Washington, DD 20510

Congressman (your Representative's name)

United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

Can We Make A Difference? Yes, We Can!

S-484 and HR-1926, "**The Bring Them Home Alive Act of 2000**" is now public law 106-484. Public law 106-484 states that any person from Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, North Korea, China, or the former states of the former Soviet Union that helps bring out a live American Prisoner of War (POW) will get refugee or amnesty status for them and their family.

S-1339, "**Persian Gulf War POW/MIA Accountability Act of 2002**" is now public law 107-258. This bill amends the Bring Them Home Alive Act of 2000 and grants refugee status to nationals of Iraq or greater Middle East region for assisting in the return of POW/MIAs. This bill is also called the "**Speicher Bill**" and also includes any future wars or

conflicts.

S-1226, "**The POW/MIA Memorial Flag Act**" is now public law 106-323. This bill states the POW/MIA flag will fly below the American flag every day the American flag is flown at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Korean Veterans Memorial and the WW II Veterans Memorial.

Kentucky was the only state that had all of our Congressmen and Senators on as co-sponsors.