

31 January 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Summary of Dossiers of 17 U.S. Army PW's Not Being Repatriated

- (b)(1)
1. BOWERS, Richard L., CPT, [REDACTED]. Initially reported missing in action 24 Mar 69. Was on duty at Tam Soc Oper Base, Ba Xuyen Province, S. Vietnam, when base came under attack. There were 4 US personnel with the Vietnamese troops. When reinforcements arrived at the base, they found bodies of 2 Americans, but no evidence of the other two (Bowers and Arroyo-Baez). Subsequent information received indicates Bowers and Arroyo-Baez were captured by the Viet Cong. Nine reports (DD Form. 1396) on file indicate that two individuals sighted by various sources in VC camps were Arroyo-Baez and Bowers. However, a letter written by a ARVN interpreter to Mrs. Arroyo-Baez, dated 15 Dec 71, contains a statement that "1st Lt Box-- (illegible) got killed on the way to the prisoner camp". (COMMENT: According to the 29 Jan 73 issue of the Baltimore Sun, Hanoi acknowledged that Arroyo-Baez died in captivity. Yet several reports indicate the possibility that Arroyo-Baez and Bowers were incarcerated together and at the same time at different places.)
 2. DEMMON, David S., SSG, [REDACTED]. Hoi Chahn identified him as FW, 4 Aug 66. 11 Dec 70 (71?) enemy PW identified DEMMON as FW in Cambodia. Also, reports linking Demmon with sightings in An Xuyen -- Highly unlikely since Demmon was flying out of Vang Tau. Best sightings put Demmon in Cambodia.
 3. JOHNS, Vernon Z., SSG, [REDACTED]. Information indicating capture is sketchy. If captured, would probably be in Cambodia. USARV, AG, recommended Nov 71 that JOHNS continue to be carried MIA.
 4. MCLEAN, James Henry, SFC, [REDACTED]. Medical Advisor with MACV Advisor Team. MIA 9 Feb 65 when station overrun by VC. Villagers stated an American had been led into the jungle by VC. On 15 Sep 65, MACV notified DA that a former ARVN detainee had identified a photo of MCLEAN and recommended HIS status be changed from MIA to Captured. In Nov 66, two SVN employees of the Pacific Architects and Engineers, Inc., who had been captured by the VC, stated that they had talked to a man whose name sounded like MCLEAN in May 66. The physical description of this man generally fit that of MCLEAN, who told the SVN sources that HE had been captured approximately 11 months earlier. The FW enclosure where this contact took place was on the border between Quang-Duc and Phouc Long. On 20 Oct 66, An American soldier, a medic, was seen at a FW enclosure in Duc Phong District, Phuoc Long Province. This sighting was by a source of an RVN Intel Agency. No later information available.

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5. [REDACTED] Missing in action, 23 Jun 70. Last seen on that date together with James M. Rozo and [REDACTED]. The three named individuals and the driver, identity unknown, were on a resupply mission to Lai Khe and Phouc Vinh, South Vietnam. Investigation disclosed that the party had apparently been ambushed. Thorough search of area failed to disclose evidence of individuals mentioned. Although no confirmation of the capture of [REDACTED] has been received, five reports indicate a possibility that [REDACTED] was identical with an individual matching his description and seen at various places by various sources. (It appears of significance that an individual roughly matching the description of Rozo has been sighted at the same points of incarceration as [REDACTED]).

(b)(6)

6. PRICE, Bunyan Durant, Jr., SP5, [REDACTED] On 2 May 1970, SUBJECT was a passenger aboard a US Army helicopter during a resupply mission to a field unit of the 25th Inf Div. The aircraft was hit by enemy fire but landed under its own power in a rice paddy in Cambodia. All eight passengers and crewmen exited the aircraft. One person (PVT Tony F. Karreci) escaped and was recovered but could not identify anyone. The other passengers and/or crewmen are as follows:

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[REDACTED]
* [REDACTED]

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WO1 Daniel F. Maslowski (to be repatriated) identified by Sexton - joined Sexton in PW Camp in May 70.

**WO1 Michael B. Varnado (now reported as deceased as a PW)

SP4 Frederick H. Crowson (to be repatriated) identified by Sexton - joined Sexton in PW Camp in May 70.

SP4 Rodney L. Griffin (MIA by TAG, DA) no info - Sexton.

*Last seen by Sexton Aug 71 in good health.

**Tentatively identified by Sexton - Seen May 70, wounded below knee - infected.

From 2 to 20 May 70, the 229th Assault Helicopter Bn mounted operations and identified the downed aircraft which was destroyed. In Nov 71, a US source provided (hearsay) information from other PW's that were downed in the same aircraft as SUBJECT, that SUBJECT was not killed but

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was a PW in a VC PW Camp. This information received from ACSI (SSG Rowland) on 29 Jan 73. On 2 Jun 71, three ARVN Privates escaped from a VC PW Camp in the vicinity of [REDACTED] approximately 12 km NNE of Kratie, Cambodia. They were located in this PW Camp from mid-Feb 71 to day of escape. During this time, the three ARVN Privates observed American PW's. All three ARVN Privates separately identified the picture of PRICE from a group of thirteen photos. (b)(1)

7. [REDACTED] CG, USARV, reported 15 Sep 68, that SUBJECT was captured 8 Sep 68 when VC searched the house of HIS fiance's family and took HIM prisoner. Vic Coord: [REDACTED], Gia Dinh. Report of 4 Jan 69 from MI source that one [REDACTED] being held as one of eight PW by VC at a VC/NVA base camp in the Svay Teap District, Svay Rieng Prov, Cambodia. Identification was based on reported place from which he was brought to Cambodia. Prisoner was allegedly named [REDACTED]. (b)(1)

8. REHE, Richard R., SSG, [REDACTED] SP4 when captured 9 Jan 68, member of 196th Lt Inf Brig, Americal Div. Last seen engaged in ground combat with NVN forces. Interview of PW returnee SP4 Luis A. Ortiz-Rivera in Feb 68 indicated that he saw REHE arrive at a PW Camp (possibly #2), 17 Jan 68. REHE suffering from malaria but not wounded. SGT Willie A. Watkins was captured at same time as REHE and later released by VC. Watkins, during interview 18 Nov 69, indicated that REHE had received multiple gunshot wounds during the engagement and had been left at an unidentified house sometime during the march to PW Camp #1. It was Watkins' opinion that the prisoner could not have survived without receiving immediate expert medical attention. (b)(6)

9. REILLY, Edward D., Jr., SFC, [REDACTED]. Reportedly FW 26 Apr 66 near Tay Ninh based on captured enemy interrogation report and personal papers, including ID Card of REILLY. However, a captured enemy letter written by Ninh (NFI) dated 26 Apr 66 may refer to Reilly. One sentence reads "After interrogation, kill the American." Rallier from COSVN, F-2 Rear Svc Bn who rallied Mar 72, reported seeing an American also near Tay Ninh in Jul 66 whose description fits REILLY. No other information. No indication of wounds/sickness. (b)(6)

10. ROZO, James Milan, SP5, [REDACTED] MIA 23 Jun 70. Last seen on that date while driver and passengers, including ROZO, were on a resupply mission to Lai Khe and Phouc Vinh, SV. Vehicle found on that date by members of ARVN. Investigation disclosed that the party had apparently been ambushed. Site of apparent ambush: [REDACTED] Binh Dong III CTZ. Thorough search of the area failed to disclose evidence of (b)(1)

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14. [REDACTED] Captured 31 Mar 71. Article in Quan Doc Nhan Dan (newspaper) of 3 Jul 72 told of capture of two American advisors which, according to CIA, confirmed the capture of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Conclusion of capture based on high degree of reliability of VC and NVA News media on captures, correlation of capture data and location, and close correlation of physical descriptions. (b)(1)

15. [REDACTED] PW 12 Jul 67 with Perricone, Henry and Newell. These three are being repatriated. Photo released 2 Jan 68 by VNA depicted all four and indicated they were captured 7 Dec 67 near Pleiku. Msg, CG 4th Inf Div, 27 Nov 67 - interrogation of Rallier - indicates SUBJECT's group transferred to Cambodia. One (unidentified) of the PW's was seriously wounded and "fied" (SIC). This could be SUBJECT or MIA Schiele - also not being repatriated.

16. WHITE, Robert T., CPT, [REDACTED] On 15 Nov 69, pilot of US aircraft saw WHITE and one other individual parachute safely to ground. Believed to have been captured shortly after landing. On 15 Nov 69, two individuals were observed by Vietnamese boy at a distance of six feet in custody of three to four Vietnamese, vic coord: [REDACTED] 685, Vinh Binh. Intercepted message in Mar 70 indicated that WHITE was being held by VC. On 18 Jul 72, ARVN Intel Platoon found photo album in vacant house with WHITE'S photo in it; photo had apparently been made shortly after WHITE'S capture. (b)(1)

17. YONAN, Kenneth Joseph, CPT, [REDACTED] MIA as of 24 Apr 72, at which time HE was an advisor to an ARVN unit possibly at Coord: ZB 045 225 Kontum (06) II MR RVN. LTC Brownlee was MIA on same date and at same location. In mid-May 72, two captured ARVN soldiers reportedly saw YONAN captured from a bunker in which HE was hiding at Tanh Canh [REDACTED]. Both ARVN soldiers described the man as US Army Captain and wore the insignia of an advisor on the fatigue jacket. If the person observed by the two ARVN soldiers was in fact YONAN, HE was very thin because of loss of weight and had a heavy beard. HE also appeared very weak. No concrete information that SUBJECT was the person observed by the two ARVN members. (b)(1)


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