

VETERANS

TOPIC: VIETNAM

TIME: 06/26 9:41 PM

TO: ALL

FROM: JACK SANDERS (JDCY24A)

SUBJECT: SENATOR JOHN KERRY

Former US Navy Lt John Kerry began his rise to political notoriety in 1971 following his role of leadership in the "Winter Soldier Investigation", a so-called "tribunal" in which Kerry was leader and spokesman for the VVAW (Vietnam Veterans Against the War) who made themselves judge and jury of all Vietnam veterans. A book was also published which can be found in your public library called: WINTER SOLDIER (by John Kerry). The majority of the financing for the "Winter Soldier Investigation" was paid for by "Hanoi Jane" Fonda. Mr. Kerry solicited unsubstantiated testimony in Detroit for three days in early 1971 on so-called "American War Crimes", and after having interviewed merely 150 veterans and 16 civilians out of the 3.2 million veterans who served in Vietnam, former Lt. Kerry and the rest of his self-appointed "judge" stated in the preface of the book (WINTER SOLDIER) that: "My Lai was only a minor step beyond the standard, official United States policy in Indochina." Lt. Kerry and his group then go on to list the atrocities by various individuals in chapters; "You Gotta go to Vietnam, You Gotta Kill the Gooks, Torturing is Just Another Way, Etc. Etc." At no point do they suggest that these incidents were isolated and rare.

Based on these accusations, John Kerry, before the very US Senate in which he now sits, compared Vietnam veterans to the barbarian Genghis Kahn razing villages and ravaging the countryside. During the "Winter Soldier Investigation", Kerry along with his cohorts of the VVAW ceremoniously discarded their Vietnam service awards and medals (earned during the war) as quote: "Symbols of Shame."

Senator Kerry now claims that the Silver Star and Bronze Star that he threw away years ago were someone else's. In his ad campaign for the US Senate he stated his medals were for "valor above and beyond the call of duty".

Unfortunately, Lt. Kerry was not interested in the "facts" of the Vietnam war which showed that civilian deaths overall were lower than that of Korea or WW II. In Vietnam the fact remains that the Viet Cong alone (not counting the hardcore North Vietnamese) assassinated 36,725 Vietnamese civilians. Kerry stated that on our side that "crimes were committed on a day-to-day basis" which was not based on fact.

During his campaign for the US Senate, Kerry told of having gone to Vietnam twice, neglecting to mention that his first trip to Vietnam was for only eight hours in the Navy Reserve and that his second tour of duty was for approx. 4 1/2 months as a Navy PBR commander from Nov. 1968 -Mar 1969. He illegally used the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Wash. DC for his televised political campaign but he claimed that he had "special rights" to do it above the very laws he was empowered to protect.

What about our Vietnamese friends he was so concerned about during his early days of "Winter Soldier" whom he claimed didn't want the "foreign presence of the United States but to leave them alone in peace."? Senator Kerry says little about the "peace" in Indochina today, with 3 million dead in Cambodia, the 300,000 Hmong hill tribe people dead in Laos and the 4 million "Boat People" who have fled from the communist government now in power in Vietnam.

We are to take this man's word concerning honorable men unaccounted for from the conflict in Vietnam? I think not.

Jack Sanders 5th SF '66-'68

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TOPIC: VIETNAM

TIME: 06/26 8:21 PM

TO: ALL

FROM: JACK SANDERS (JDCY24A)

SUBJECT: POWS IN RUSSIA?

Following is the contents of an unclassified document from John Foster Dulles to the President dated Jul 6 18 1955:

The American people share with other peoples of the world a real concern about the imprisonment of some of their countrymen in the Soviet Union. Most of these persons have been held since World War II. It is time to liquidate problems rising out of that War so that we may proceed with greater mutual trust to the solution of major issues facing the world today.

Of greatest concern to American people are reports reaching the United States about Americans still being held in Soviet prison camps. The American Embassy in Moscow has made many representations on this subject. While we appreciate the recent release of several Americans, others still remain in Soviet custody. On July 16 the American Embassy in Moscow gave the Foreign Office a list of eight American citizens about whose detention in the Soviet Union we have information from returning prisoners of war. Any action you would take to bring about the early release of these particular persons would help relations between our countries.

We have also received a number of reports from returning European prisoners of war that members of the crew of the US Navy Privateer, shot down over the Baltic Sea on April 18, 1950, are alive and in Soviet prison camps. We are asking for their repatriation and that of other American citizens being held in the Soviet Union not only because of general humanitarian principles, but also because such action is called for under the Litvinov-Roosevelt Agreement of 1933.

John Foster Dulles

This was declassified 7/30/91

Jack Sanders 5th SF '66-'68

06/26/94 06:56 p Central