

DuBose, Terry

From: bhamilt [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2005 9:45 PM
To:
Cc: DuBose, Terry
Subject: Jane Fonda Story

If you have time to read the Mercury News discussion that Voter2 and PeaceVet started, you will see that another anti-Kerry participant "GotSmart" agrees that the notes being handed to Fonda is not true.

<http://www.truthorfiction.com/rumors/h/hanoi jane.htm>

Summary of Rumor:

In protest of Jane Fonda being considered as one of the top 100 women of the century, this email reminds Americans of her controversial visit to North Vietnam during the war. It quotes a POW named Jerry Driscoll who was taken from his prison cell, cleaned and dressed for a visit with Fonda, then ordered to give Fonda a positive account of his treatment. He spit at Fonda and was beaten and dragged away. Then a group of POWs which included a Col. Larry Carrigan were brought out to visit with Fonda. According to the story, "...she walked the line, shaking each man's hand and asking little encouraging snippets like: "Aren't you sorry you bombed babies?" & "Are you grateful for the humane treatment from your benevolent captors?" Many of the POW's were listed as missing in action so to identify themselves to American authorities, they each wrote their Social Security numbers on small pieces of paper and slipped them to Fonda as she greeted them. To their horror, however, after Fonda finished meeting them, she turned to the North Vietnamese commanding officer and handed him the POW's pieces of paper. In the beatings that followed, three American POW's died and Col. Carrigan nearly died.

The email then ends with a statement of fact about events in North Vietnam from an unnamed American POW.

► The Truth:

This story hearkens to a real visit to North Vietnam by Jane Fonda and her husband, Tom Hayden, in July of 1972, but **includes a couple of stories that are not true.**

The Fonda-Hayden trip became unforgettable because it infuriated Americans, especially Americans in uniform, many of whom still regard her as a traitor. She praised the North Vietnamese, posed for a photo at a Communist anti-aircraft gun emplacement, made several radio broadcasts for the Communist North Vietnamese in which she called American military leaders "war criminals," then when some of the POWs returned home and described mistreatment by the North Vietnamese, she said Americans should "...not hail the POWs as heroes, because they are hypocrites and liars." There is no dispute that her visit took place, that her words and actions were in support of the enemy, and that her conduct caused harm to the war effort and to some of the prisoners of war.



This particular email includes three stories, two of which have been denied by the POWs who are named, and one of which has been confirmed as true by the source, although he was not named in the email.

First, the "100 Women of the Century" was a project of the Ladies Home Journal and a TV special hosted by Barbara Walters. Jane Fonda was one of the 100.

How the email story about the POWs got started is not known, but it has been widely circulated.

TruthOrFiction.com located Jerry Driscoll who said that the accounts about him in the email are "...the product of a very vivid imagination" and he requests that people please stop passing it on to others.

TruthOrFiction.com also contacted Mike McGrath, President of NAM-POWs, who says the Larry Carrigan events never happened either. He says Carrigan calls the story a "hoax" and does not want to be associated with it. McGrath also says that some versions of the email included an account of...

Hoffman and that his story is true. Hoffman says he was tortured (hung by a broken arm) until he agreed to go before Jane Fonda. He was among a small group who witnessed one of her radio broadcasts for Hanoi.

The part of the email that begins with "To Whom it may concern" is true. It's a quote from an article titled SHAME ON JANE originally published on the Advocacy And Intelligence Index website on April 28, 1999 and written by Michael Benge who was a civilian captured by the North Vietnamese in 1968. In his statement, he also makes reference to a missionary nurse who died in captivity. For your interest, that was Betty Olsen, a Christian Missionary Alliance nurse from New York.

In 1988 in an interview with Barbara Walters on 20/20, Jane Fonda talked about her Vietnam visit and issued what some feel was an apology but which her critics say was not enough. Fonda said, "I would like to say something, not just to Vietnam veterans in New England, but to men who were in Vietnam, who I hurt, or whose pain I caused to deepen because of the things that I said or did. I was trying to help end the killing and the war, but there were times when I was thoughtless and careless about it and I'm...very sorry that I hurt them. And I want to apologize to them and their families."