

1 girlfriend.

2 He said, school -- at the beginning of the 11th
3 year, meaning when he left.

4 I had 30 days leave, some kind of orders, individual
5 orders. I signed up for 4 years. I took printing in high
6 school and mechanics. I was much better with my father after
7 I left -- after the Marines or when he was in the Marines. He
8 was proud of me.

9 I didn't want to make rank. I liked being a PFC.
10 Didn't like to give orders. And he was talking about when he
11 went on leave, he went on leave and visited his mother.

12 Page 4; his father's [DATA] Beat up his
13 mother. Both were drinking problems. Didn't see his mother
14 from age 4 to 16, no contact. He had invalid uncle. I had to
15 take care of him. He was 20 years older. He had convulsions
16 and fits, retarded, no talk.

17 He said, regarding growing up, I couldn't play with
18 other kids. Age 10 I was working, doing odd jobs. Age 12 I
19 was working on farms. All my money went to the grandmother.
20 I was different. He felt different from other kids. Had
21 donated clothes that were left over. I just didn't belong.

22 He said he set traps for squirrels, for rabbits.
23 Then he was talking about his father. He was an offset
24 printer. He's an alcoholic, 20 years older. I think he means
25 he's 20 years older than he himself. He was married 4 or 5

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1 times. His stepmother, she had to have her own way.

2 At 16 he hit me with a belt. I said, that feels
3 good. Hurt him more than me. I had no closeness.

4 Marines -- more independence. I stopped being
5 afraid. I had migraine headaches, started the right side of
6 the occipital, go up to the temples. The grandmother also had
7 migraines and the father, also the brother. He said, I've had
8 headaches all my life, usually when exhausted or tired.

9 In school, I last 2 hours to all day and then I just
10 lie down. Think this is all part of getting the medical
11 history.

12 Age 11 had a gunshot wound and I was working in a
13 granary. He said, it went through my arm and I stayed 1 or 2
14 weeks in the hospital. No interest in school, no
15 participation. I was off to south -- I think that says he
16 lived in a town of 200 people. Took care of kids. I remember
17 my fiancée always afraid get blamed for their uncle, what he
18 did. Punished, no food, deprived me of things.

19 My grandmother break my toys, throw my guns in the
20 furnace. He's fond of his grandmother. She was a good cook.
21 She liked me in her own way, liked to tell stories. She died
22 in '73, uncle died 6 months later. And mother died of a brain
23 tumor at the age -- in '75.

24 She had hysterics when I was captured. She was
25 hospitalized until '72. She went into shock and a coma. She

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1 had no children after my brother.

2 I saw my mother when I was 16 through the
3 grandmother. She lived 1 hour away in -- I was afraid. She
4 stayed a couple of hours. She was quiet and timid. Felt
5 guilty. She had stopped drinking. And then he says, beer now
6 and then. I think he's talking about himself.

7 I did no smoking or drinking until I was in Okinawa.
8 Went to Okinawa on a ship. Written up UA on a fire watch, 3
9 days bread and water, stayed PFC.

10 Q. It appears now that this is the second day of your
11 interview. So that would have been the first day?

12 A. Right.

13 Q. Did the next day follow immediately? Well, it did,
14 because it was 10/16, 10/17.

15 A. There were gaps. I would usually take a break every
16 hour, hour and a half and my tendency now is to put in there
17 when you take a break, but I didn't at that time.

18 Q. All right. We're now on page 6.

19 A. Page 6. Tape, clear. I don't know what -- I was
20 taping the whole thing. Had gone into a lot of details. I
21 guess I must have asked him about other evaluations.

22 He said, it's a blockade. I'm not free with
23 emotions. I can't release. He said, he creates problems for
24 you, doctor, in your profession. Your evaluation is not
25 really helping me. I may never see you again.

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1 scan. He said, call me a softie. I go out on a limb for
2 others. He said, Marines, everyone equal, like to have
3 friends. I have been alone all my life. Now felt with
4 people.

5 My fiancée was against my career. She didn't like
6 me, my changes in language, smoked, drinking. She waited 8
7 years and gave up hope. She's married and has two children.
8 I thought about her. She will be a witness. I feel guilty
9 for maybe not calling her.

10 Said, I was 2 months MIA, then was listed as a POW.
11 And the thing off to the side is warmth. I was indicated that
12 he was indicating some feelings of warmth there.

13 He said the ace in the hole they use as a pawn. He
14 was talking about himself. They would use me as a pawn.
15 Still haven't released all the French POW's. Now they want
16 post-war construction aid.

17 He said, I was not in combat. I was there 3 or 4
18 months. He said, Vietnamese were cold to us, not like other
19 Orientals. I didn't see war, shooting. I wanted out the last
20 month. A friend from Indiana, one day went out and shipped
21 his body bag back. It hit he hard, made me more cautious.
22 Began more particular. We were not in danger.

23 He's talking about the capture. The afternoon the
24 28th of September, report to G-2, pick up at the recon unit at
25 the airport inside the perimeter. I was turning around. I

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1 was surrounded about 5:30. Only had my .45. M-14, something,
2 had been, he said, turned down.

3 They started shooting, a young female and a male. I
4 made two shots, one point-blank. The firing ceased.
5 Automatic weapons hit two times. While he was telling us, he
6 was smiling: thought I was dying.

7 He says: Day my world fell in; if I just hadn't
8 taken that run. The Viet Cong got me, stripped me; spit,
9 racks, beaten. I knew I was going to die; never took Marines
10 alive, or would torture and -- I'm not sure, beaten or what.
11 I don't know that last word.

12 He said this was all scuttlebutt of what they would
13 do. They would cut your genitals, your genitals would be cut.
14 Head, it looks like, stakes. He said: You always save your
15 last round, meaning that you would save your last round to
16 kill yourself.

17 He said, the Viet Cong, the first capture
18 experience, they marched me village to village, constant
19 threats, the gun in my ear, machete, hands tied up, threats.
20 I don't know what that is.

21 At night they'd tie his legs to his arms and he
22 would be put in a hootch. Bamboo twigs and stakes -- he said
23 they would -- oh, bamboo twigs and stakes up your the or in
24 the genitals. Worse than I thought it would be. Villagers
25 came out and feel me, spit in the face. I was their booty.

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1 Arms swollen, infected, weak. It was like this for
2 two weeks; didn't know where I was for half the time. Didn't
3 know humans could treat other humans like that. Afraid of
4 pain and suffering.

5 Tried to cleanse the wounds. Hurt, including the
6 head. They changed guards every day. Food, rice, then rice
7 cake. Tried some fish sauce in the foothills of the
8 mountains.

9 The tenth day, I tried to leave, provoke them to
10 shoot me, rolled to the stream and downriver, got hope, but
11 recaptured, then moved to the mountains, first POW camp, other
12 ARVN's -- A-R-V-N's, those were the South Vietnam. I was the
13 only American.

14 Was put in a bamboo cage on stilts there 6 to 8
15 weeks, had malaria, dysentery. Enemy special -- I don't know
16 -- came, Mr. Ho, a professional. I don't know if that's
17 English or what. Tried to interrogate me. I gave my name
18 only.

19 He gave me clean rice and sugar. Guards clicking
20 gun and would stick me. Treated better when he arrived.
21 Interrogate, sign leaflets, withhold things. I was dying.
22 Then another complication with flies and mosquitoes. Begged
23 them to kill me.

24 Things got better, the hootch, blankets. Health got
25 better. Then he's talking about seeing Captain Eisenbraum,

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1 Ike. We saw each other, both cried. He was in the Army, 33
2 years old, Green Beret. He died two years later.

3 Something Vietnam, I'm not sure what that is. He
4 was in much worse shape, but there was a ray of hope. He
5 taught me the basics of jungle survival.

6 Two -- one was killed, one was beheaded. Language,
7 owe my whole survival to him; took care of each other. I was
8 afraid of being alone. So afraid he was going to die, I gave
9 him my rations.

10 I got over to the left, anti-war -- I don't know
11 what that is. And he was father, mother, counselor, priest.
12 He was everything. They killed him, hit him and he died. He
13 began crying. Isolated me from him.

14 '66, another American to the camp, Grisset, a
15 corporal in the Marines; beat him to death in '69. He said:
16 I wanted to die, they wanted to survive.

17 '67, there was a hoax to release one of us. They
18 isolated us, had to repent of crimes, declare on tape and
19 paper things we never did. Later, two Puerto Ricans were
20 released.

21 After Ike died, one would be released. Didn't make
22 -- I don't know. He's saying after Ike died I stopped being
23 progressive. I didn't -- something -- everything. Only one
24 other American, Bob Sherman, died. He was different; he just
25 laid down and died.

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1 My camp in '66 was bombed. I learned to eat bugs,
2 leaves, and so forth; became fluent in Vietnamese. They
3 isolated me. I tried to teach others. I had adapted to
4 treatment, knew something, how to survive with roots and
5 leaves.

6 They thought I tried to communicate. They
7 segregated me and gave me more freedom, at times less freedom;
8 played mental games with us. The bait was food and medicine,
9 to set up distrust.

10 I tried to relay something to the other POW's. They
11 depended on me a lot, food and medicines. I relayed any
12 information I could to them, stole rice, chickens, and eggs
13 and smuggled to them. I couldn't stand much. They wanted to
14 divide it -- I couldn't steal much. They wanted to divide
15 everything. I wanted to give it to the sick.

16 They saw me as trying to work both ends, trying to
17 help them but looking out for myself. I had to maintain my
18 position with the Viet Cong, so the POW's not trust me. I
19 couldn't trust anyone.

20 I cleansed the guards' weapons for food. I gave 60
21 to 70 percent away. Ike advised me to go along with them up
22 to -- up to the line of not hurting others, other Americans,
23 anything to get the guys out of here.

24 But again, if not progressive they put you in the
25 stocks and hole. Ike ate ARVN fish and was put one week in

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1 stocks.

2 No work with the ARVN's. They reported everything
3 to the company commander. Grisset in '68, he failed in an
4 escape attempt. He was segregated for 3 months. Russ didn't
5 speak Vietnamese. Said don't trust any other POW's. No one
6 took command.

7 At deaths, the ARVN dug the graves. I made markers.
8 He said 11 died, 11 out of 17 died over 2 years. I got the
9 idea of not caring.

10 Weatherman was killed. He was weird. He was
11 executed.

12 '68-'69, communists making changes, physical to
13 mental abuse, creating mistrust and rewards, dangled if
14 progressive might be set free. Later 3 others in '69 were set
15 free: Watkins, Strickland, and I think Tinsley. Tiers of
16 progression. Captain Kushner made more statements than the
17 others. His wife was working with Fonda.

18 Crossover means you forget the captain, adopt the
19 proletariat way, protest American involvement. Agreed with
20 them, but no volunteers.

21 Most of guards hated my guts; acted as interpreter
22 when regular guys were not in camp. At times at
23 indoctrination by the company commander, camp commander, I
24 would translate.

25 Episode of cuts in the back. Looks like manioc, but

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1 I'm not sure. Ammo was a joke. I would have, but didn't. I
2 don't know the context of that.

3 I was informant and acted as interpreter for the
4 company commander in the indoctrination classes. I was
5 serving as an indoctrinator, translate questions into English.
6 Ho would visit each group.

7 Williams used the ARVN. Ho was very angry,
8 reprimanded Williams. I next saw Williams was writing self-
9 criticism regarding the ARVN's. I agreed with Ho. Everyone
10 individually had to get up and criticize Williams. It was BS
11 anyway. I was the last one.

12 Self-criticism papers, I was usually the last one.

13 Hitting Hawker, going back to that charge, the cat
14 was used to catch rats and mice. Russ killed the cat for --
15 something. They didn't know who killed the cat. Russ
16 pleaded, everyone looking at him.

17 What he is saying is when they came to ask who
18 killed the cat that everyone looked at him, so they knew who
19 it was. Pulled him out and beat him, dismissed the rest. I
20 blew up, got angry. I ran back to the hootch.

21 Hawker was in the doorway. I pushed him aside.
22 Only time I got angry. Russ died 2 weeks later. I
23 disassociated myself from them. Only one I could confide in.
24 Russ only one to take chances. Russ would take care of the
25 food. Everyone wanted to survive.

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1 I asked him about the lion's share. There'd been
2 something brought up about that at some of the statements, who
3 got the lion's share. He said: Russ just gave up. Beat him
4 up, cut him up; wouldn't eat or talk to the others. Every man
5 was for himself.

6 I stopped with the radios, food, and medicine. They
7 retaliated and told the company -- camp commander. Then he
8 goes on: I was isolated from '69 to '79. '69 I was in an
9 ARVN camp for 6 months. May of '70, bombed by B-52's. He
10 said: Myself -- he was a patient -- and 4 others survived.
11 Some kind of wound, I think, a fragment wound, left arm. I
12 was blind for one month, loss of hearing for 4 months.

13 The medical evacuated me with the nurses. Second
14 week, my vision was improving. North Vietnamese, I walked for
15 3 and a half months. Army hospital, I was -- I don't know,
16 work house. I don't know.

17 Then they gave me some injections in the eyes and
18 ears, it looks like. I don't know.

19 October-December I was in the hospital.

20 Q. October-December '70?

21 A. '70, yes.

22 Hepatitis. I was sent to the Hanoi Hospital for 2
23 months, was in the Sontay Prison -- that was a POW complex. I
24 was isolated from '71 to '75, planting trees and rice, I think
25 dug a pond. Treatment was very good. I was at 125-130

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1 pounds.

2 '75, went to the Yenbai prison complex. They had
3 60,000 prisoners at the fall of Saigon. Was in the mountains,
4 an old French compound. Little something, no one knew. They
5 had the ARVN's there, Thais, and so forth.

6 I worked with the ARVN's, lived in hootches. I had
7 pumpkin soup. I also went out to the fields.

8 I felt abandoned, deserted, lost. I would get cuts
9 and have lizards, friends, and checkers. I don't know.
10 Better the last few years, yes and no. Isolated. I tried
11 suicide three times: '73, '77, '78. He said: I took meds.
12 He said: Realization I would never get out; I was just a
13 guinea pig. All hope was gone, not existing.

14 '78, he's talking about being with some political
15 prisoners. This one girl who was half Chinese, half
16 Vietnamese, talked to her at rest breaks every day for a
17 month, and then he was reprimanded for it.

18 The ARVN was afraid to talk to me. It would prolong
19 their stay.

20 New Year of '79, they took me to Hanoi to see the
21 festivities. They relaxed too much. They took me out one
22 time a day. I slipped a note to a foreigner, a Finnish, a
23 note to the Red Cross, to the State Department. Then
24 negotiations.

25 They told me I was sick. Uniforms, black pajamas

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