

U.S. VETERAN

JANUARY

News And Report

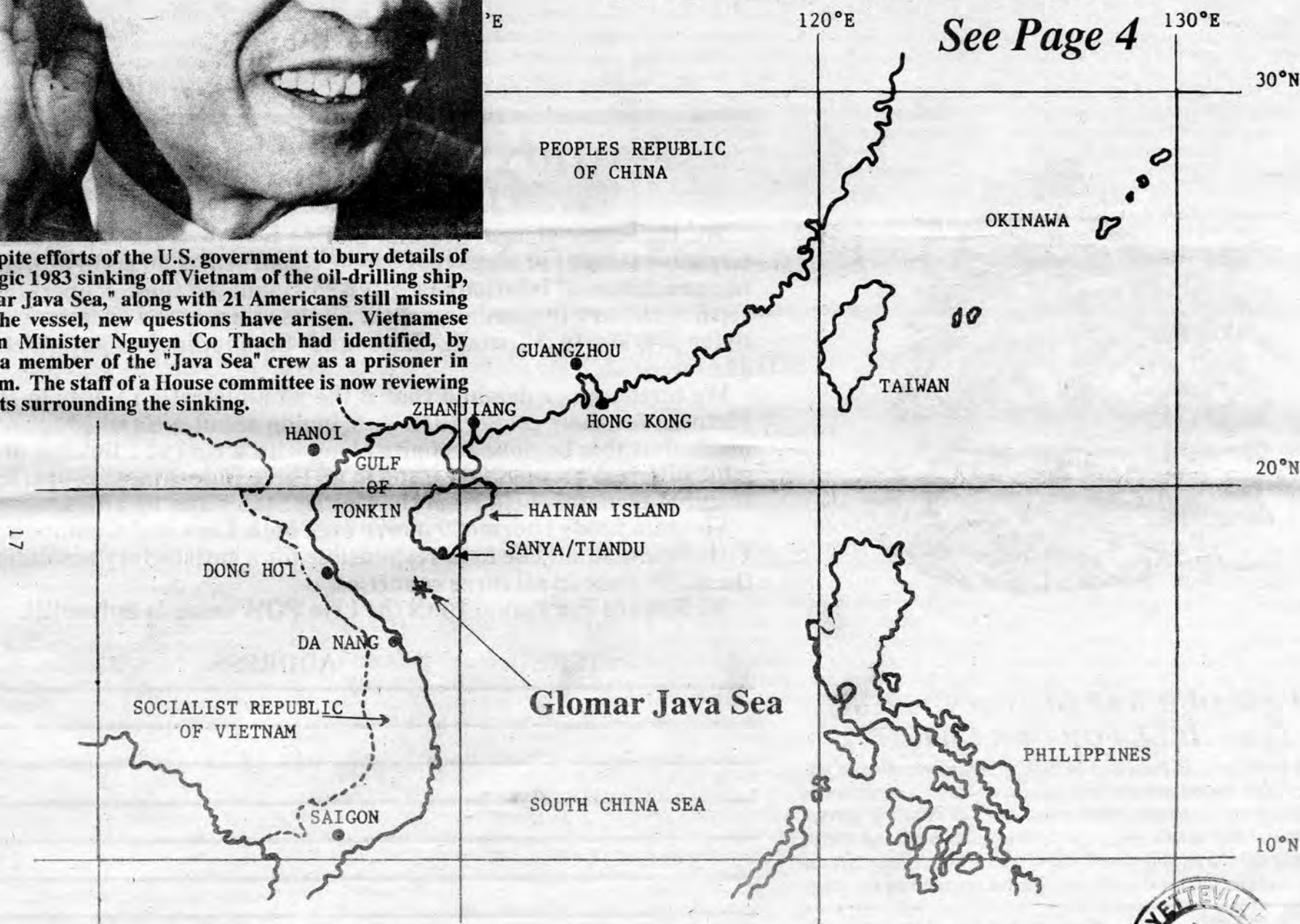
JANUARY



"JAVA SEA" MYSTERY UNRAVELS

See Page 4

Despite efforts of the U.S. government to bury details of the tragic 1983 sinking off Vietnam of the oil-drilling ship, "Glomar Java Sea," along with 21 Americans still missing from the vessel, new questions have arisen. Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach had identified, by name, a member of the "Java Sea" crew as a prisoner in Vietnam. The staff of a House committee is now reviewing the facts surrounding the sinking.



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A black and white illustration depicting three men in 19th-century military or frontier attire. The man in the center, wearing a wide-brimmed hat and a long coat, holds a large American flag. To his left, another man in a similar uniform holds a drum. To the right, a third man, also in uniform, holds a rifle. In the foreground, a fallen figure lies on the ground, possibly a Native American, with a bow and arrow nearby. The background shows a rocky, uneven terrain.

POLITICAL CHAMELEON DORNAN BETRAYS POW-MIA ISSUE

U.S. VETERAN STAFF REPORT

Congressman Bob Dornan (R-Cal.), who several years ago dubbed himself "Dornan of the Rambo Right," has launched an attack against the "live POW issue" and some of its supporters.

At one time, Dornan was a fierce advocate for the men the government left behind in Southeast Asia. Now, his position parrots the official U.S. government line.

Here is what Rep. Dornan used to say: March 23, 1986--Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee hearings:

[Dornan had just returned from a congressional delegation trip to Vietnam, the one where the delegation concurred with the statement by Rep. Gerald Solomon (R-N.Y.) that it was no longer a question whether Americans were being held in Southeast Asia, but the only problem was how to get them home.]

"I see the reputations of people...being shredded...by this issue." "[In the Korean War] we left behind 389 healthy men in prison..."

"I've been re-energized...back up to 100% if not in afterburner..."

"If your intuition tells you no one could have survived 13 years and that there probably is no one there alive...step aside!"

"I am convinced we left a hundred aviators behind in Laos...and some ground people. [How] did we think [the Lao] would return our prisoners through Paris when we continued bombing them for months to come?"

Dornan went on to say that after his years of work for the POWs in the 70's he "burned out" but that Bill Hendon "jogged

his memory" and got him involved once again.

Dornan went into "afterburner" to be one of the original congressional members who pledged \$100,000 to the \$2.4 million Reward Fund. He was a vocal and outspoken advocate for reform in USG policy on POW matters and for the immediate return of our men.

KISS PRINCIPLES GOODBYE

Today, through his legislative aide, Joseph J. Eule, Dornan is issuing statements such as the following from a book review of "Kiss the Boys Goodbye," an account of how thousands of American POWs and MIAs were callously left behind in Southeast Asia. The review appeared in the Ft. Worth Star-Telegram on November 4, 1990:

"POW Book is Deserving of Napalm"

"A more fitting title would have been 'Kiss the Truth Goodbye' as this book is filled with...fabrication, distortion and deception..."

"We'll never have a complete accounting from any war."

"...it is hard to see how their [the Stevensons] expose would do anything but waste precious time and resources. ...and the more time spent on answering the Stevensons' unsubstantiated charges, the less time will be spent [by the government] on finding the answers the Stevensons claim to want so dearly."

"Though it pretends to be comprehensive, it presents only one side of the story--the side claiming coverup and conspiracy." [Then Dornan's aide claimed that the USG was never given the opportunity to counter the "outrageous charges leveled at government officials and the intelligence community."

"Conspiracy sells..."

"...a book 'revealing' that the Defense Intelligence Agency and the other agencies involved were doing a good job in the search for clues to the fate of American MIAs from Vietnam would not exactly be riveting stuff. But it would certainly be more accurate."

CONSPIRACY FREAKS

The article continues to say that anyone who believes the "countless unsubstantiated rumors and outright fabrications" contained in the book are "conspiracy freaks" and that anyone who believes that the USG would intentionally leave anyone behind is by nature a "conspiracy freak."

Although these statements were couched in terms such as MIAs...our "missing American heroes," the theme comes through loud and clear. It's unadulterated blasphemy in the context of a letter solely designed to trash those who are advocating that the living Prisoners of War be brought home, and that the U.S. Government is not extending its best efforts to do so.

Dornan did such a great job attacking the POW activists that the article was quoted extensively in the National League of Families newsletter, that well-known U.S. government paper echo.

It appears that Dornan's aide used the National League of Families newsletter as an "attack guide" and theaurus of worn-out cliches for writing this article.

Clearly, something has happened to Bob Dornan. Is he "burnt-out" or "bought-out?" Or is he cozying-up to the Bush administration for a run at the Senate seat being vacated by California's Sen. Alan Cranston, a liberal Democrat?

GEORGIE'S BOY

Dornan is and always has been a Bush supporter. He is militantly in favor of the Bush Administration's actions in the Middle East. But he is showing that he doesn't give a hoot about those men and women serving there if they are captured and left behind when hostilities cease.

We don't know why Dornan has "jumped sides" and turned his back on the POWs. He may be burned out, but that does not justify his vicious attack.

He is doing more than changing sides. Through Eule, he is leading an offensive against the POW issue and some of its activists.

He has drawn "first blood."

Since Congressman Dornan wants to make this a personal attack, we believe that's exactly how we should respond...and in his district...through letters to the newspaper, any radio talk shows, and any forum you can think of to expose Dornan for what he has become -- a political wimp.

He has become a turncoat perhaps as a result of allowing the politics of the Bush Administration to become his master.

This is especially frightening at a time when he's advocating that our men and women be thrown into battle in a region where few of the countries we are trying to help want to be our allies.

No doubt, if fighting takes place, live Americans will be taken prisoner.

And no doubt, Dornan -- a "hawk" when it comes to sending men and women into battle -- will again become Dornan the "wimp" when the fighting is over and political sacrifices must be made to bring our missing home.

Bush asked to raise question of missing American POWs with Soviets

By JIM ANDERSON

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- 12/31/90 -- The evidence from recently declassified U.S. government documents is clear and compelling: There were American military prisoners held in the Soviet Union after World War II and the Korean War.

One such document, from U.S. Army-Europe headquarters in Heidelberg in 1954, recounts the testimony of a returned German prisoner of war who describes a man identified as Maj. William Thompson of San Antonio, an Air Force officer who told the German that he had been arrested by the Soviets in 1944 after a forced landing in Germany.

However, Thompson's family was told in 1946 he was declared dead.

But the German informant, described in the document as "intelligent and cooperative," reported seeing and talking to Thompson in a prison camp in the early 1950s.

Another document, with the names deleted, describes two U.S. Army commandos and an Army lieutenant, captured in the Korean War and giving their names to other prisoners in the camps where they worked in the 1950s. The other prisoners, either Poles or Germans, gave the information to the U.S. government.

There it stopped, with the State Department and Pentagon citing national security and refusing to put the information out, even to the families involved, on the grounds that it contained classified information.

That infuriates the National Alliance of Families, a group of POW families, and Rep. John Miller, R-Wash.

"I'm skeptical that anything from World War II and the Korean War could compromise U.S. national security now," Miller said in an interview.

He supported a bill in the 101st Congress requiring the U.S. government to let families of military men listed as missing or killed in action to look at their files. The bill did not make it to the floor in the last session.

"We ran out of time," Miller said, "But we're going to re-introduce it in the next session."

In the meantime, he has written President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker, asking them to raise the issue of the American POWs with the Soviets at the scheduled mid-February summit in Moscow. An unsettled issue among the POW partisans and families is whether to link future aid to the Soviet Union to their willingness to give a full accounting of the missing Americans.

Miller, who has seen some of the information still classified, says, "There is substantial evidence in the 1950s and '60s -- from U.S. government documents -- that there were American prisoners in the Soviet Union."

He said that is not necessarily grounds for believing that those Americans are still alive now.

The reasons for the presence of the Americans in the Soviet camps were diverse and sometimes not easily explainable, given the change in atmosphere

from the Stalinist times to the current thawing of the Cold War.

But the first batch of American POWs apparently resulted from the fact that in the final days of World War II, U.S. and Soviet forces both overran German POW camps, with allied prisoners in them.

The general agreement between the wartime allies was that prisoners in those liberated German camps would be returned to the country of their origin, but U.S. authorities held back some Soviet prisoners who knew they would be executed by Stalin if they were to be returned. In retaliation, Stalin held back some American prisoners taken from the German camps.

"There were trades. Both sides held back," said Miller.

In addition, some Americans reported to be alive in Soviet camps in the late 1940s said they were kidnapped off the street in Germany by Soviet authorities and never knew why they were picked out.

What is less clear, and clouded by continuing classification of documents, is why the United States did not make the issue a major one. One explanation, by a former administration official, stems from intramural tensions within the U.S. government, with the State Department pushing for an accounting and the Defense Department opposing it because it would blur the U.S. military policy of protecting its own.

The former official said, "It was easier to classify it."

In the Korean War, some Americans with special skills, such as intelligence or

electronics were seen in Soviet camps. Some were officially reported to be killed, but at least one was later seen by his son as a prisoner of war in a Korean propaganda photograph. "These were not just casual sightings of somebody who says he saw somebody who looked like an American. These were reports with names, ranks, units of men who were listed as killed or missing in action," said Miller.

In 1954, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles sent a message to his diplomats in contact with the Soviets asking for an accounting of the Americans reported to be in Soviet camps. There was no Soviet response and no American follow-up.

Mrs. Dolores Alfond, of the National Alliance of Families, whose brother, Maj. Victor Apodaca, is listed as missing in action in Vietnam, believes some U.S. prisoners in the Soviet Union may have married Soviet women, also prisoners, and have decided to stay behind with their families. But if there are such cases, they have never been reported to the families of those men.

"This is a period of glasnost and we don't know how long Gorbachev is going to last, years or months. This is the time to try to get answers," said Miller. "Gorbachev wasn't responsible for what happened and he's been uncovering crimes of the Stalinist times against Soviet citizens. Maybe he'll help in uncovering the history of the Americans in the Soviet camps."

HOUSE COMMITTEE TO STUDY 'GLOMAR JAVA SEA' SINKING

SPECIAL TO U.S. VETERAN
By Tom Cartwright

An aide to Rep. Walter B. Jones (D-N.C.), chairman of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, has told the Homecoming II Project that the committee staff will review details of the sinking in 1983, off the coast of Vietnam, the oil-drilling ship, "Glomar Java Sea."

The decision of Rep. Jones to review the case came after Homecoming II chairman, Ted Sampley, wrote the congressman requesting action by the committee in the "Glomar Java Sea" case.

In early December, Homecoming II, a North Carolina-based national POW-MIA organization, held a press conference in Washington concerning new material which has been uncovered concerning the sinking.

"As a result of appeals from family members of missing crewmen," Sampley wrote Jones, "Homecoming II Project has extensively investigated the 'Glomar Java Sea' disaster... and concluded that an explosion caused the sinking and that the government of Vietnam has extensive knowledge of the fate of the missing Americans [aboard the ship]."

37 AMERICANS ABOARD

The "Glomar Java Sea" sank in 317 feet of water of the South China Sea during Typhoon Lex on Oct. 26, 1983, about 63 nautical miles from Red China's Hainan Island and 80 miles from the coast of Vietnam. There were 81 people on board, including 37 Americans.

The ship was owned by Global Marine, Inc., of Houston, Tex., which was drilling in the South China sea under contract with ARCO China, Inc., a joint venture of the Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO) and Red China.

After an investigation, the U.S. Coast Guard was unable to determine a precise cause of the disaster.

However, on November 14, 1984, the National Transportation Safety Board concluded that a "fracture" in the hull, allowing two storage tanks to fill with water, put the vessel "out of balance" and thus made it less able to withstand the forces of Typhoon Lex.

The board's investigators could not determine what caused the fracture but ruled out corrosion or a "pre-existing fracture or defect," as well as sabotage or metal fatigue caused by the storm. "Taking the board's findings, they themselves rule out virtually everything that could have caused the breaking of the hull, except an external explosion," a critic of the U.S. government's investigation of the sinking stated.

The investigators even said the ship was not overloaded and would have had sufficient stability to withstand the effects of

the typhoon if the tanks had not flooded, a result of the fracturing of the hull.

Sampley said that Homecoming II has concluded that Vietnam is holding at least one of 21 missing American members of the ship's crew. Thirty-six bodies were found of which 31 were recovered from the sunken ship by divers in March, 1984, including those of 16 Americans.

"It [Homecoming II] has further concluded that the vessel was very likely involved at the time in more than off-shore

21 Americans still missing from the "Glomar Java Sea."

When this was brought to their attention, they pointed out that it was not of their interest and that since it was a civilian vessel it concerned the State Department.

The State Department, however, has had nothing to say about the case.

TOP SECRET

The "Glomar Java Sea" was a sister ship of the "Glomar Explorer," which was used

The "Explorer" was built by the late Howard Hughes's Summa Corporation for the CIA for a reported \$350 million, specifically to retrieve the Soviet submarine from the Pacific.

The undersea vessel, a Soviet 1961-vintage Golf-class submarine, was retrieved from the ocean floor by a giant claw capable of hauling 7,000 tons from a depth of 20,000 feet to the surface. The claw was carried in a submersible barge, which was hauled behind the "Explorer."

Seventy members of the Soviet crew of 85 were retrieved by the "Explorer" with the submarine and were later quietly buried by the Americans.

It has never been revealed how much of the Soviet submarine was retrieved in the CIA operation. Official U.S. government sources indicate that the submarine broke apart while being lifted and that only the stern third of the vessel was retrieved. However, there are reliable reports that most, if not all, of the Soviet sub was hauled to the surface. Reports that only a portion was retrieved were purposely floated by the CIA to confuse the Soviets, a source reported.

RETRIEVED MISSILES

In any case, sources have revealed that at least four torpedoes, a partial description of Soviet cryptographic codes, booklets on the state of Soviet nuclear technology, and three SSN-5 surface-to-surface nuclear-tipped missiles were retrieved by the "Explorer."

The "Explorer" measures 618 feet in length in comparison to the "Java Sea's" 400 feet, and weighs 36,000 tons, as compared to the smaller vessel's 5,930 tons.

The "Explorer" was attached to the National Science Foundation, supposedly for "scientific ocean drilling," from about 1977 to at least 1982, when it was mothballed.

Last Dec. 3, the Navy announced it would not be scrapped or sold to private industry, as proposed, but would remain in its berth with the U.S. Navy Reserve Fleet at Suisun Bay, about 40 miles north-east of San Francisco.

All of the ships in the bay are open for visits, except the "Glomar Explorer," which is strictly "off limits."

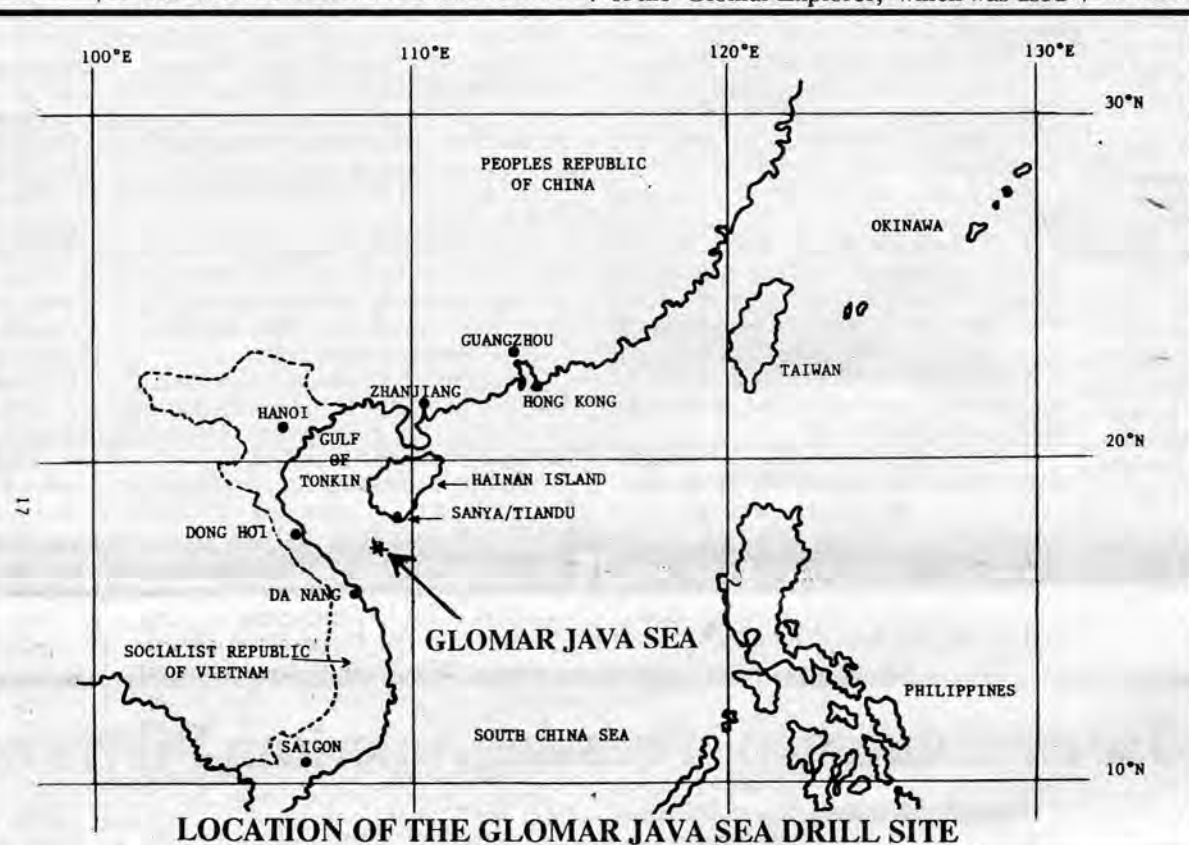
"We keep the 'Explorer' here for the Navy," Charles Johnson, caretaker of the mothballed ships, stated. He added that the vessel isn't Maritime Administration property, like most of the other ships.

WHERE IS ROBINSON?

It has to be more than a coincidence that Foreign Minister Thach presented the name of Walter T. Robinson to Gen. Vessey during their meeting in Washington.

The Pentagon claims that it has identified one Walter T. Robinson, who did serve in Vietnam but is not and never has been a prisoner of war or one of the missing in action.

According to Pentagon officials, a Walter T. Robinson, who they claim lives in the



LOCATION OF THE GLOMAR JAVA SEA DRILL SITE

oil drilling," Sampley told Jones. "In fact, Vietnam had at least once warned the ship to leave what it claimed to be its territorial waters or suffer the consequences."

MYSTERY PRISONER

The "Glomar Java Sea" made headlines for the first time in several years in December, when the Washington-based "Spotlight" newspaper reported that it had identified an American being held by the Vietnamese. The prisoner's existence was revealed by Vietnam's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach during a visit to Washington last October.

During meetings with Gen. John Vessey, Jr., President George Bush's special emissary for POW-MIA affairs, and other U.S. government officials, Thach presented two photographs, which Pentagon officials claim are of a "black" or "Amerasian" male, a Social Security number and the name of "Walter T. Robinson." The story was leaked to "The Washington Times," where it appeared on Friday, Nov. 9.

In its Dec. 24, 1990 edition, "The Spotlight" identified the man as Walter T. Robinson, an electronic technician aboard the "Glomar Java Sea."

The Pentagon stated that the man identified by Thach was not on the list of American POWs and MIAs still missing in Southeast Asia, which is true. However, they failed to mention there was in fact a Walter T. Robinson, who was one of the

by the Central Intelligence Agency and U.S. Navy to retrieve a Soviet submarine from the floor of the Pacific, north of Hawaii, in 1974.

"Glomar" is derived from GLO-bal MAR-ine. The "Explorer" was operated under contract by Global Marine for the CIA. Global Marine has long been involved in ocean bottom problems and has worked jointly with the Soviet Union on various underwater projects. It has also installed secret Polaris submarine missile testing facilities for the U.S. Navy. It is also true that the area in which the "Java Sea" was operating is an area that was heavily traveled by Soviet surface vessels and submarines in and out of the former huge U.S. base at Cam Ranh Bay, which the Soviets were then turning into a major naval installation of their own.

It was apparently not unusual for members of the crews of the various "Glomar" vessels to transfer back and forth between ships. As an example, Ken Horlacher, who lived in the Bakersfield, Calif., area, transferred from the "Java Sea" to the U.S. Navy owned "Explorer" about a month before the ill-fated "Java Sea" went down.

In October, 1976, the Navy apparently took over ownership of the "Explorer," from the General Services Administration, where it had ended up after being dropped by the CIA after its cover in retrieving the Soviet submarine had been blown.

Mid-West, was contacted and does have the same Social Security number (406-68-1995) as provided by Thach. However, according to Pentagon officials, the man is white.

However, the U.S. VETERAN has been able to determine that the man is supposedly a 42-year-old truck driver and maintains two addresses, which the U.S. VETERAN has tracked to 3488 West 58th Street, Cleveland, Ohio, and 948 4th Avenue, New Orleans, La. Efforts to contact the man directly, however, have not been successful to date. Pentagon officials, on the other hand, have indicated that they have interviewed Robinson and that he can provide no explanation as to how the Vietnamese obtained his name and Social Security number.

The U.S. VETERAN would very much like to contact him, and any readers who may know his whereabouts are urged to contact the newspaper.

On the other hand, the U.S. VETERAN has been successful in contacting relatives of the Walter T. Robinson of the "Glomar Java Sea."

Prior to joining the "Java Sea" in September, 1983, Robinson resided with his wife, Nancy, and two children in Bakersfield, Calif. He is a native of Prescott, Az., where his father and mother, Walter Cecil and Mary Robinson have spent most of their lives. Mr. Robinson having worked for years for the city of Prescott. Mrs. Robinson has discussed her son's fate with the U.S. VETERAN.

A sister, Nancy, lives in Springfield, Va., and has been interviewed by the U.S. VETERAN.

The U.S. VETERAN has also interviewed his wife, Nancy, who has remarried. She would not reveal where she is now living.

Robinson's mother is very concerned about how and why Thach is using her son's name as the identity of a prisoner in Vietnam and wants some answers to her questions.

She has recently spoken with Sen. John McCain (R-Az.), who has promised to look into the case for her.

Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) is also interested in the case and has written to Secretary of State James A. Baker, III, demanding details of the Robinson case and of other prisoners being held in Vietnam that Thach alluded to in his discussions with Gen. Vessey.

Helms, as ranking minority member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has been conducting an on-going probe of the POW-MIA situation along with Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa). An interim report of that probe, released last October by Helms, was extremely critical of the U.S. government's handling of the issue, indicating that there has been a massive cover-up of the fate of America's missing servicemen.

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

There are a number of unanswered questions involving the sinking of the "Glomar Java Sea" that remain after investigations by the U.S. Coast Guard and the National Transportation Safety Board, which need to be dealt with, along with a determination of the exact identity of the Walter T. Robinson, identified by Thach, and his repatriation to the United States.

- Global Marine, Inc., which was financially hard-pressed at the time of the sinking of the "Glomar Java Sea," realized an insurance pay-off of \$20 million more than the \$15 million that was still owed for the ship. Would Global Marine's insurance policy have covered the ship if the official investigations had found that the

"Glomar Java Sea" had purposely entered unfriendly waters and had been sunk by an act of war?

- What part did President George Bush play when as vice president he helped Global Marine to obtain a guarantee on a \$100 million bond issue from the U.S. Maritime Administration to refinance three of Global Marine's drilling rigs?

- Why did the "Glomar Java Sea," a U.S. flagged commercial vessel, continue to operate in coastal waters claimed by Vietnam, after the vessel had been warned at least once to move away or face the consequences?

- The "Glomar Java Sea" was equipped with two 30-foot, motor propelled, covered, fiberglass lifeboats that were virtually unsinkable. It is acknowledged by the Coast Guard "that the emergency lifeboat radio was placed in the starboard lifeboat, that an undetermined number of persons boarded and launched that lifeboat, and subsequently used the emergency lifeboat radio to send one or more distress signals."

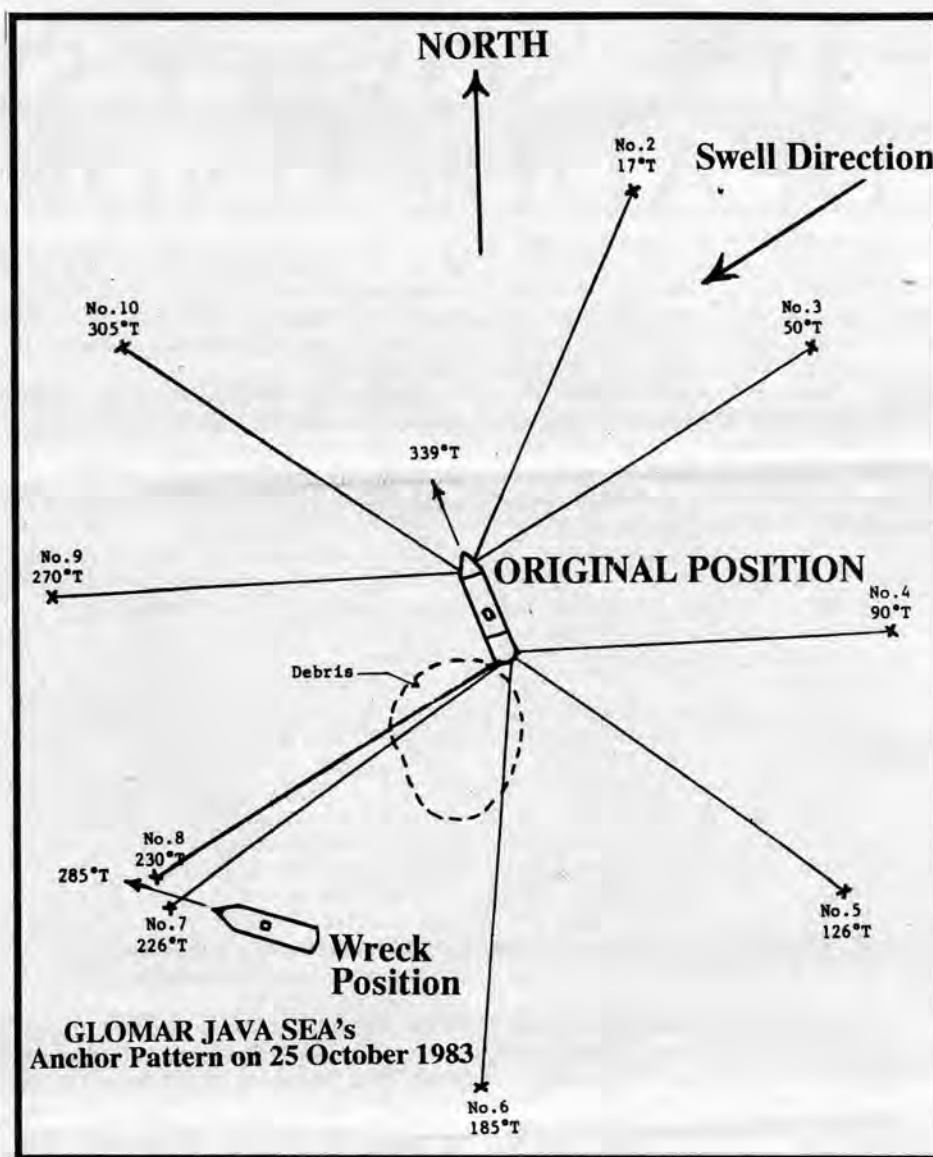
On the afternoon of October 27, during the active search, the merchant vessel "Willine Toyo" reported receiving a distress signal on 500 kHz, the marine distress frequency on which the emergency radio transmitted. Other signals were received up to four days after the "Java Sea" sank, the last of which were plotted to be near islands belonging to Vietnam and just off the Vietnamese coast. An armed Vietnamese tender was spotted in the same area the following day. Did the Vietnamese pick up the survivors in the lifeboat and then attempt to sink the lifeboat in an effort to hide their deed?

- On the morning of October 28, an object that appeared to be a capsized lifeboat was sighted by Chinese helicopters in the water and thus it was concluded that it was the starboard lifeboat and that the occupants were dead. If so, where were their bodies, since they could not have washed out of the covered lifeboat? Why wasn't the "capsized lifeboat" recovered? And could that sighting have been the port-side lifeboat, which was described by the Coast Guard as having been torn free of the "Java Sea" at the time of the capsizing.

- Since the lifeboat was overturned, but nevertheless unsinkable in any case, what happened to it, as it drifted toward the Vietnamese coast? Vietnam claims to have found nothing, neither bodies nor debris.

- U.S. officials claim that an extensive search was undertaken. However, it must be noted that on the first day the storm made it impossible to conduct any meaningful air search. On the second day, remnants of the storm made for poor weather and visibility. No meaningful air search could have been conducted until the third day, at which time the lifeboats, life rafts, bodies and debris would have drifted far into Vietnamese waters, where permission to search was refused. Under such circumstances, how could any thorough search have been conducted?

- The official U.S. government position is that the Vietnamese claimed that their search found nothing and that there is no reason to disbelieve them. For 15 years, since the end of the Viet-



nam War, the U.S. government is fully aware that the Vietnamese government has withheld an unlimited amount of information concerning the fate of Americans still missing from the war. Therefore, why should the Vietnamese be expected to tell the truth about the fate of the crew of the "Glomar Java Sea," which they accused of intruding into their coastal waters for spying, not an unreasonable suspicion due to the background of the "Glomar" vessels, and had ordered it to remove itself?

- If the storm was as severe as Global Marine and U.S. government officials have indicated, why did the ship's captain keep the vessel's starboard broadside to the incoming typhoon, instead of heading his ship's bow into the force of the storm?
- What was the cause of the ship's hull to crack, allowing internal tanks to flood and result in the vessel listing 15 degrees to starboard?
- Was the black substance found around a large hole, where the hull was fractured, the residue of an explosion?
- As noted in official reports of the investigation of the sinking, the black substance was turned over to Global Marine. What were the results of a chemical analysis, if any was undertaken, of the substance?
- Why did divers, who went down to examine the ship in November, shortly after the sinking, report that they located no bodies and that neither lifeboat aboard the ship had been launched, when the following March, 36 bodies were found by divers and it was found that the starboard lifeboat

had indeed been launched and the port-side boat was missing?

- Global Marine states that the "Java Sea" radioed the Chinese manned ARCO China communications center, at TianDu on Hainan Island, at 11:00 p.m. and said that "the ship was listing very much. The foreigners asked all crews to put on life jackets." If true, why wasn't the nearby "Nanhai 205" supply boat immediately dispatched to help the "Java Sea" and why didn't the "Java Sea," when it was in direct radio contact with the "Nanhai 205" 15 minutes later, ask for help, if it was in fact in trouble? At the time, the "Nanhai 205" was only 16 miles away. Has documentation been provided concerning the validity of this radio traffic?
- At 11:48 p.m., three minutes before the ship is estimated to have went down, John Lawrence, the "Java Sea's" assistant rig manager, contacted by satellite radio-telephone Global Marine's office in Houston and advised that the ship had a 15 degree list to the starboard, was experiencing 75 knot winds over the bow and that personnel were donning their life vests. Communications were reportedly cut-off during the conversation, allegedly as the ship capsized to the starboard. What else was discussed during that conversation and is there a recording of the conversation and/or a written transcript?
- There was no SOS signal transmitted by the "Glomar Java Sea." Why?

Sampley said that he will urge the House committee, headed by Rep. Jones, to conduct wide-ranging public hearings of the "Glomar Java Sea" sinking and the fate of its crew.

U.S., SOVIET SUBMARINES IN DEADLY UNDERSEA CONTEST

CHICAGO (AP) During the height of the Cold War, the United States and the Soviet Union engaged in an underwater war involving their nuclear submarines that rarely became known to the public.

Although tensions between the nations have eased, the undersea ships still stalk each other in a deadly contest.

Since World War II, U.S. and Soviet submarines have had numerous encounters underwater, several resulting in collisions or sinkings.

The undersea war has resulted in the loss of four Soviet submarines because of equipment failures — and possibly a number of others known only to high-ranking Soviet or United States officials, the Chicago Tribune reported in its early this month.

According to the Tribune and the Daily Press/Times-Herald of Newport News, Va., the United States has lost two nuclear submarines to equipment failure. The USS Thresher, a nuclear attack submarine, went down in 1963 with 129 aboard when its nuclear reactor shut down and a pipe burst, preventing it from surfacing.

The USS Scorpion sank with 99 crewmen in 1968 after what was believed was an accidental detonation of a torpedo.

Possibly the most chilling undersea encounter between the two superpowers was the 1970 collision of the USS Tautog, a

Sturgeon-class attack submarine, and an unnamed Soviet Echo II class missile submarine. It is a confrontation unknown of until recently.

The Tautog was shadowing the missile sub in the northern Pacific when in a routine maneuver for Soviet submariners, the ship suddenly curled around to see if anything was behind.

But the Soviet submarine added a new wrinkle to the maneuver. Instead of pausing to take a sonar reading, it came to full power, charging toward the Tautog.

"All of a sudden Ivan was coming screaming at us," one crew member told the Daily Press of Newport News, Va. "The next thing we knew we were going backwards and down."

The Soviet sub's belly had slammed into the Tautog's sail — the unmanned tower above the hull. The Echo's propellers then ground through the side of the sail, which was unmanned.

The 4,800-ton Tautog was rolled on its side, sending off-duty crewmen tumbling from their bunks. None of 115 crewmen on the U.S. vessel was injured, but the Soviet ship was not as lucky.

The Tautog's sonar picked up noise interpreted by senior officers as that of the Soviet ship breaking up. Former Tautog crewmen said Navy investigators concluded the impact of the collision shattered one or both of the Soviet sub's

propellers or the metal seals around them, allowing sea water to pour into its engine room.

The U.S.-Soviet rivalry began shortly after the end of World War II, with both countries relying on diesel-powered ships of era, essentially surface ships that submerged to attack. The subs were primarily used to sail close to the Soviet or U.S. land mass and to take photographs and intercept communications.

The limitations of the diesels were highlighted in 1957, when Soviet naval forces detected the USS Gudgeon poking around the entrance of Vladivostok. Several crew members recall that the Gudgeon was stalked by Soviet forces over 30 hours.

When a diesel submarine is forced to stay underwater it depends entirely on batteries — previously charged by the diesel — to circulate air, operate lights, heat food and provide propulsion.

As the Soviet destroyers kept the Gudgeon submerged, occasionally dropping depth charges, the submarine's air became nearly too foul to breathe, with many of the men developing severe headaches. Its commander, Norman B. Bessac, was finally able to get out a call for help and surfaced in international waters.

The Soviets ships parted their ring around the Gudgeon and allowed the sub to head home.

When the Soviets detonated their first atomic device in 1949, U.S. officials scrambled to increase the nation's capability to deliver nuclear payloads.

That led to the construction of the first nuclear-powered attack submarine — the USS Nautilus, commissioned in 1954.

The deployment of nuclear submarines in the early 1960s is viewed as a key turning point in the Cold War. The submarines of the two sides could move without warning, stalk each other's naval vessels and monitor each other's military communications largely undetected.

The nuclear-powered missile submarines were so powerful that one to two dozen warheads of one vessel makes it more destructive than all the bombs dropped in World War II.

Less is known of the attack submarines, but former submariners say they often took huge risks in seeking intelligence.

"There was a kind of tacit understanding on both sides," said one former sailor. "They knew we were out there trying to learn what we could about them, and we knew they were doing the same thing. And if you got in somewhere they didn't want you to be, you got your nose bloodied." "We did it to them, and they did it to us," he said.

REPORT: SOVIET MILITARY FOUND WRECKAGE OF SHOT-DOWN KOREAN AIRLINER

BY ALAN COOPERMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MOSCOW (AP) — The government newspaper Izvestia has reported evidence that Soviet divers long ago discovered the wreckage of KAL-007, the Korean airliner shot down by Soviet fighters in 1983.

Izvestia reported recently that unidentified high-ranking officials told one of its reporters that military divers "climbed all over" the Boeing 747, which went down into the Sea of Japan on Sept. 1, 1983. All 269 people aboard were killed.

But the newspaper said government agencies had refused to confirm the report, and it said it would not publish more details until it has thoroughly checked the information.

Izvestia did not say when the discovery took place, whether any bodies were found, or what was done with the wreckage.

The destruction of Flight KAL-007 caused an international outcry against the Soviet Union. George Schultz, then U.S. secretary of state, accused the Soviet air force of shooting down the plane when it

accidentally strayed over a military area during a flight from New York to Seoul via Anchorage.

Soviet officials initially kept silent about the disaster, then charged that the Boeing 747 had invaded Soviet airspace on a secret spy mission.

Several weeks after the disaster, the Soviet Union turned over some floating debris — including seat cushions, oxygen tanks and clothing — to U.S. and Korean officials.

But the Soviet government has never said it found the plane's fuselage or key electronic parts, such as the "black box" flight recorder. Aviation investigators had hoped that those components would show how and why the flight went off course.

Izvestia reported on the issue in a half-page article published Dec. 20. It said the plane was discovered at a depth of several dozen yards off Maneron Island, near Sakhalin, a large island north of Japan.

The issue was brought up at a news conference this month, but Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaly Churkin said he knew nothing about the report.

"Moreover, 'scuba divers, also military, dove to the sea bottom and climbed all over KAL-007 from one end to the other.'"

Izvestia is published by the presidium of the Supreme Soviet legislature. But like many Soviet newspapers in the glasnost era, it has taken to occasional muckraking and sometimes criticizes the government.

The Dec. 20 article reported that four U.S. senators had written to President Mikhail S. Gorbachev asking for the results of any Soviet investigation into the KAL-007 disaster.

Izvestia suggested that it was time for the Soviet Union to turn over whatever information it has on the incident and, if the evidence warrants, to accept blame for "a monstrous mistake."

In an editor's note, the newspaper said one of its correspondents, Andrei Illesh,

had visited the Soviet air base on Sakhalin shortly after the KAL-007 disaster.

"At that time it simply was not possible to conduct a journalistic investigation on such a ticklish matter," the note said. "However, our reporter was able to become acquainted with a series of supposedly documentary photographs, showing a number of things that, also supposedly, were recovered from the Boeing."

"He also managed to get admissions from some officials that specialists — military seamen — found the giant plane that had crashed into the Sea of Japan. Moreover, scuba divers, also military, dove to the sea bottom and climbed all over KAL-007 from one end to the other."

The editor's note said verification was difficult, because "none of the official organizations will either confirm or deny the facts."

"Perhaps this article will help to clear the fog that has hung over the tragedy for seven years, and the editorial board will be able to publish the official materials that the relevant authorities undoubtedly have," it said.

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'LOVE BOAT' IN PERSIAN GULF FOR BOY-MEET-GIRL R & R

SPECIAL TO U.S. VETERAN
By Frank L. Wilson

The Pentagon won't say how many women soldiers are in the Persian Gulf region with Operation Desert Shield, but NBC News's Jane Pauley recently quoted sources that about 17 percent of the 450,000 U.S. service personnel sent to the Middle East to counter Iraqi strongman Saddam Hussein are women.

If accurate, this means that almost one in five, or 76,500, troops facing Saddam's Arab legions are women.

Setting aside for a moment the problems that might be encountered in battle dealing with enemy forces, the presence of female troops intermixed with males has caused problems of morale.

In Saudi Arabia, where hundreds of thousands of U.S. troops, male and female, are now stationed, so-called Islamic law prohibits the consumption of alcoholic beverages and mixing with the opposite (Saudi Arabian) sex.

ENTER 'LOVE BOAT'

To counter this problem, for troops who have spent months of boredom, men and women co-mingling in remote outposts, the Pentagon thinks it has the answer. It has a six-month lease for \$31 million for the "Cunard Princess," a luxurious cruise liner, featuring swimming pool, jacuzzis, tennis courts, a night club, bars, and a gleaming 40-foot black marble dance floor.

The ship is providing R & R for 800 U.S. troops, who are rotated on a three-day basis, while the ship is berthed.

The first group of 800 boarded the luxury liner for Christmas, while it was berthed in Bahrain, a small island-nation in the Persian Gulf.

"The cruise ship provides a vital part of our R & R program and will provide a much needed respite for the personnel who have been in the desert since the beginning of the operation," Navy spokesman, Cmdr. Mark Newhart, stated.

The ship is providing R & R for both men and women troops at the same time, although, according to Newhart, they are not allowed to share rooms. What is to prevent them from room-hopping during the night was not explained.

Nor was it explained if dancing cheek-to-cheek on the ship's beautiful marble dance floor was allowed with the co-mingling male and female troops.

The Pentagon has also not explained what impact this "Love Boat" atmosphere will have on the spouses of both male and female soldiers back home in the U.S.A.

The "Love Boat" is being staffed by Cunard employees and the Pentagon has provided physicians and clergy.

Pentagon officials have stated that a second Cunard ship will soon be leased, perhaps starting a new "Love Boat" Fleet.

A WEAK LINK

Retired Brig. Gen. Elizabeth P. Hoisington of Arlington, Va., the Army's first woman general, said recently that she is fearful that women troops will be a "weak link in the line" when combat starts.

Gen. Hoisington said she feared that men would "step back" to aid women troops during combat and thus "lose the battle."

"I do not think, across the board, that women have the stamina to be in the in-

fantry," the retired general said, as well as similar units that require endurance. She said that being in a fox hole day after day can be "pretty tough."

Gen. Hoisington said that single parents in the military is "one of the problems that the Army has to face." She added that it is a "hard problem to come to grips with."

Thousands of American women troops have been pouring into Saudi Arabia, probably the most conservative country in the Islamic world, as the U.S. troop buildup moves toward more than 450,000. A Pentagon spokesman refuses to say how many women are serving in Saudi Arabia and neighboring skeikdoms, saying only that women make up 11 percent of U.S. armed forces worldwide, a sharp departure from Pauley's 17 percent.

Because of the "combat configuration of our forces," says Air Force Maj. Douglas Hart in Washington, D.C., "the percentage is less in the Persian Gulf." He offers, however, no statistics to support this contention.

Under U.S. law, women are barred from serving in front-line combat units. However, on today's modern battlefield, distinctions between combat and non-combat units is sometimes unclear.

CHALLENGES CUSTOM

America women GIs, say both Saudi and U.S. officials, is an unspoken challenge to Saudi custom, tradition and religious teachings that have long made Saudi Arabia one of the most restrictive nations in the world for women.

While American women serve as cargo-plane pilots, tank mechanics, doctors, nurses, ammunition haulers and weather forecasters, Saudi women aren't allowed to even drive cars. The Saudi Arabian government officially made it illegal in November, after about 70 Saudi women staged a protest in Riyadh, to challenge the decades-old tradition of not being able to drive.

Under austere Islamic teachings, Saudi women are veiled and robed from head to toe. They are forbidden from appearing in public with men and from traveling anywhere without the permission of husbands or male relatives. The rules are based not so much on laws as on the Sharia, the edicts of the 14-century-old Koran.

"I haven't the slightest doubt," says one Saudi businessman who would speak only anonymously, "that all these American

Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



women will change our country, especially the attitudes of very conservative young people."

The number of uniformed married couples who are assigned to Saudi Arabia is not available. Pentagon officials say they don't keep statistics on them.

Murky, too, are numbers on mothers such as Pat Antosh, a major in the Army National Guard, whose four children are in the care of relatives in California. "Sure it's tough, tough on everyone," says Antosh, whose husband, Steve, a Marine Corps pilot, is also in Saudi Arabia.

The Pentagon policy for women GIs who find themselves pregnant in Saudi Arabia is to send them home to have their children. Then they either return to military duty or take an administrative discharge.

At an air base in eastern Saudi Arabia, reporters witnessed more than a dozen women in battle fatigues board a military

cargo jet for Dover Air Force Base, Del. All were pregnant, said an Air Force officer who showed the reporters transportation orders confirming their pregnancies.

The Pentagon confirms that 12 American women have been airlifted out of Saudi Arabia because they were pregnant, but says that all of them were considered "medical evacuations." It keeps no statistics on those shipped home for so-called "administrative channels"--discharges--because of pregnancy.

On another cavernous cargo jet, the flight crew taxied for takeoff. The co-pilot, a reservist, was a woman. A military police officer who stands guard nearby was a woman. So were the air base's weather forecaster and some doctors and nurses.

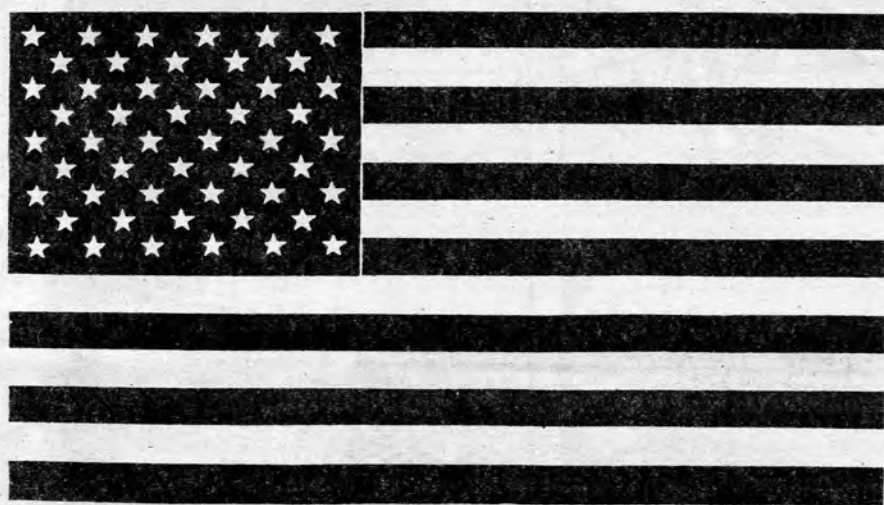
"Whether you're a man or a woman," says the co-pilot, a graphic-arts student who was called to duty with the Oregon National Guard, "this place stinks."

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BALTIC REPUBLICS PREPARE FOR DEFENSE AGAINST SOVIET TROOPS

BY THOMAS GINSBERG
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MOSCOW (AP) — Officials in the secessionist Baltics warned their citizens Tuesday to brace for bloodshed and prepare for civil disobedience against Soviet paratroopers deployed to enforce the draft.

Soviet authorities "are trying to create a new conflict artificially, and the real reason is not the draft, but to suppress the independence of the republics," Estonian Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar told reporters in Moscow.

A Soviet armored column of 108 vehicles entered Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, at 4:35 a.m. and wound past the republic's legislature before reaching an army barracks, the Lithuanian government said.

The Soviet Defense Ministry said Monday (Jan. 7) it was also sending extra troops to help draft boards in the rebellious republics of Latvia, Estonia, Moldavia, Armenia, Georgia and the Ukraine. It said national security was in danger because so many youths are avoiding their military service.

Thousands of people massed Tuesday night (Jan. 8) around the Lithuanian parliament after President Vytautas Landsbergis called on them to defend the independence-minded body, said Lithuanian journalist Eduardas Potashinkas.

The situation in Lithuania was further confused by the resignation of Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene after the Lithuanian parliament suspended prices hikes she imposed the day before.

Savisaar and other Baltic leaders appealed for Western support. Tensions have soared in the 24 hours since President Mikhail S. Gorbachev announced he was sending troops to halt draft evasion and desertion in the seven republics.

The United States, after months of encouragement for Gorbachev, sternly rebuked him for sending troops, which it called "provocative and counterproductive."

"This action represents a serious step toward escalation of tension within the USSR and makes the peaceful evolution of relations among the people of the Soviet Union more difficult," White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater said.

Thousands of young men in the seven republics where troops were sent are ignoring orders to serve in the Red Army. In the three Baltic republics, many are per-

forming alternative service such as hospital or social work, as permitted under republican laws the national government considers invalid.

Some 8,000 young men working at construction sites and other places under Estonia's alternative service law were relieved from work and encouraged to go into hiding, Savisaar said.

Lithuania's parliament urged eligible draftees to avoid Soviet soldiers, move from their known addresses and be prepared to claim prisoner-of-war status if captured.

The dispatch of the troops could be a "pretext to start really a bloody suppression, a use of force on a massive scale," Latvian lawmaker Yuri Boyars told reporters at the Supreme Soviet, the national legislature.

Baltic leaders have been saying for weeks they feared a military crackdown to limit their independence. Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze resigned last month saying he feared a dictatorship and a violent crackdown.

Savisaar said his government was preparing plans for strikes and other civil disobedience to disrupt any Soviet occupation.

Landsbergis asked Lithuanian residents to come to parliament's defense Tuesday, saying the Soviets planned to the building Wednesday.

"We are inviting residents of Vilnius and other areas of Lithuania to stand guard tonight and tomorrow near the parliament," he said. "These days are crucial. Our solidarity and determination are a dire necessity."

Thousands answered the call later in the evening and rallied around the building, journalist Potashinkas said.

Before resigning, Prunskiene met in Moscow with Gorbachev, who said any dispute over the draft should be negotiated with the Defense Ministry, the state news agency Tass reported.

The three Baltic republics said they were given deadlines to comply with national draft laws or face military action. Latvian officials said they were given until Friday, Estonia until Sunday and Lithuania Monday.

Baltic leaders said Monday they had been told to expect at least one division of new troops, comprising about 10,000 men. Thousands of Soviet troops are permanently based in the Baltic republics, although the exact number is secret.

Mavriks Vulfsons, a national lawmaker from Latvia, said Tuesday the army told him it would not punish deserters and



RADICAL MOVE - President Mikhail Gorbachev has sent, in the name of national security, armed Soviet troops to halt draft evasion and desertion in the rebellious republics of Latvia, Estonia, Moldavia, Armenia, Georgia and the Ukraine.

would allow them to serve in Latvia if they turned themselves in.

Alexander Dzasokhov, a member of the Communist Party Politburo and chairman of the Supreme Soviet's International Affairs Committee, said the draft had to be enforced.

"It's a constitutional responsibility and in a whole series of republics, the percent of young people fulfilling their constitutional responsibility is extremely low and that, consequently, requires the minister to take additional measures," Dzasokhov told reporters.

ARM BRACELETS are now available in black anodized aluminum engraved with the name and panel number of anyone listed on the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial

see page 15 for order instructions

GERMAN POWS LIE FORGOTTEN IN KANSAS CEMETERY

Execution of 14 by U.S. continues to raise troubling ethical questions

By David Lamb
Los Angeles Times

Leavenworth, Kan.

There are no women or children buried in the little hilltop cemetery overlooking the Missouri River. There are only military convicts, about 240 of them, their souls forever tainted by some dishonorable deed that made this place their final outpost.

Unlike the pristine national cemetery half a mile away, this place attracts few visitors. The small tombstones bear only a name and a date of death. That, 10 years ago, is what caught the attention of Army Sgt. Ken Knox, a corrections officer at the Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, and it began his obsession with one of the last untold stories of World War II.

"Come here. Look at this," Knox said to his wife, Dianne, while biking around the post one Sunday.

Off to one side, separated from the other graves, were 14 tombstones, each with a German name, half inscribed with the same date, Aug. 25, 1945.

Knox's first thought was that they must have died in a bus accident, but he soon learned that he had stumbled onto the graves of the only prisoners of war ever executed in the United States, and, delving through archives and libraries, he found that many troubling ethical questions still remained over the circumstances of their hanging.

From his second-floor office, he would look down on the prison courtyard and imagine Walter Beyer and Otto Stengel and the dozen other German sailors and soldiers, handcuffed, each escorted by an eight-man guard, walking to the makeshift gallows the fort had set up in the elevator shaft of an old warehouse.

"I'm not contesting their guilt, only the injustice," said Knox, who now lives in Sacramento, Calif.

"These guys just don't belong in that cemetery. They were honorable military men and, right or wrong, if Germany had won the war, they'd have been given a medal. They ought to be reinterred in Germany, in a place of respect. That's all I'm trying to accomplish. Besides, they were executed after the war was over, and that raises a lot of questions over whether they were the victims of a society's desire for revenge against all Germans."

The 14 condemned men—one of whom was a grocer in civilian life, one a pattern cutter, another an engineer—were among 400,000 Germans held prisoner during World War II at 500 camps scattered across the United States. The German prisoners worked in the wheat fields of Kansas, stuffed olives with Spanish peppers in Texas, repaired Army vehicles in Virginia, sewed U.S. Army uniforms in Maryland, picked peas in upstate New York.

By the end of the war, aided by prison tailors who made them civilian clothes and artists who provided them with forged documents, Germans were escaping the camps at the rate of 100 a month, often melting into U.S. society.

U.S. intelligence officers worked hard to recruit "snitches" among the newly arrived prisoners, and they put unsuspecting inmates in with them in bugged two-man cells.

The information they gathered proved invaluable to the Allied war effort. One snitch, Johannes Kunze, passed on details of the camouflaging of Hamburg intended to mislead British bomber pilots—the roof of the train station had been painted to resemble a highway, the lake had been covered over—and others identified Nazi camp ringleaders and shared secrets about German U-boat strategy.

At 10 p.m. on Nov. 4, 1943, one of the German prisoners at Camp Gruber in Tankowa, Okla., Walter Beyer, a 30-year-old first sergeant captured in North Africa, ordered his company to assemble in the mess hall. Kunze was one of the last to enter. White-faced and perspiring, he took a seat at a table by the door. Beyer held up two notes in identical handwriting—one unsigned, containing a brief description of Hamburg's camouflaging, the other a letter, signed by Kunze, to his wife in Leipzig.

"Comrades," said Beyer, whose wife and 2-year-old son, Edgar, lived in Hamburg. "I am sorry and it hurts me in my soul to be forced to tell you some sad news, and the case is so grave that I am not in a position to pass judgment myself. Bad as it may seem, we have a traitor in our midst."

Beyer had hardly finished before someone shouted, "That's him! Don't let him get out!" and a score of men pounced on Kunze, who struggled wildly to escape the fists and feet of his tormentors. He died a short while later of a fractured skull and cerebral hemorrhaging. Beyer, court testimony later disclosed, did not participate in the beating.

During the next five months, three other informers were murdered in unrelated incidents at POW camps in Florence, Ariz., Camp Chaffee, Ark., and Aiken, S.C.

The killings led to lengthy investigations—one of the suspects, Otto Stengel, confessed only after being forced to wear a gas mask stuffed with onions and garlic—and eventually 14 Germans were sent off to Fort Leavenworth to be hanged after being convicted in four separate courts-martial.

Each contended that he had acted as would any conscientious soldier.

"I am no murderer," the grocer, Sgt. Erich Gauss, 32, told the court. "I merely fought for the honor of my fatherland and for respect as a soldier, and I believe that every decent German soldier would do likewise."

The Germans' defense was based on the argument that their victims were traitors, and prisoners of war were obligated to prevent treason against their homeland. To defend Beyer and the four others accused of killing Kunze, the government assigned, part time, Lt. Col. Alfred Petsch, who described himself as a country lawyer and farmer and who told a review board that he had "practically no experience in matters of this sort." The prosecutor was one of the Army's most respected lawyers, Lt. Col. Leon Jaworski, the eventual Watergate special prosecutor.

Knox, whose father was a decorated aviator in Korea and who himself served in peacetime Korea and warring Vietnam,

is retired from the military now after a 22-year career and works as a sandblaster at the Army Depot in Sacramento.

He has collected 4,000 documents, many of them under the Freedom of Information Act, and has struggled to put together 159 pages of a book.

"I can't explain why this thing has become so important to me. I really can't," Knox said. "But it's been like an ulcer. I keep thinking of the families in Germany who've been told their father or grandfather died as a criminal, when this wasn't the case at all. We'd consider Americans who did what they did heroes."

The Germans lingered on Death Row in Fort Leavenworth for a year. During that time, 15 of the 90,000 Americans being held prisoner on German soil were also sentenced to death, and Washington and Berlin began negotiating through Swiss intermediaries on a prisoner exchange. Both sides agreed not to execute anyone until negotiations were completed.

"No death sentence imposed on German prisoners of war in this country will be carried out," said a classified message from the assistant chief of staff to Fort Leavenworth authorities on April 28, 1945, "... until further orders from the personnel division."

Nine days later, the war in Europe ended with the German surrender. The 15 Americans sentenced to death were returned to the Allied command, and President Harry Truman signed the Germans' death warrants, despite the recommendation of a review board that the sentences be commuted to life imprisonment.

Just past midnight on July 10, the first batch of five Germans prisoners, all former members of Rommel's famed Afrika Korps, were taken from their cells after a meal of stew, steamed rice and cake.

It was 300 yards from Fort Leavenworth's solitary-confinement wing, known as the Castle, to the warehouse gallows, and in bright moonlight, accompanied by a Roman Catholic priest and an Episcopal chaplain, the prisoners crossed the courtyard. Sgt. Knox would spend so many hours looking at years later. At their request, all wore their military uniforms. Sgt. Beyer was the first to approach the U.S. soldiers, who waited by the noose.

"The prisoner appeared none too robust and his cheeks were drawn," William Radford reported the next day in the Kansas City Star. "A black stubble, matching his hair, indicated that he had not shaved for at least 12 hours. His eyes were those of a trapped beast. They moved nervously from right to left. But he never turned his head or moved his chin from its jutting position. . . ."

"A noncommissioned officer standing beside him removed Beyer's cap and placed a black hood over his head. There was a brittle command, 'Right face, forward march,' and the Nazi pivoted on his right heel in rhythm with the bodyguard of soldiers that brought him into the building and stepped off the remaining 30 feet to the gallows. His bearing was military to the last."

Beyer's wife knew something was very wrong early that spring of 1945 because her husband's letters stopped. But it was a year before she learned that he was dead



New York Times

and several more before she learned the circumstances of his death. By then she could not afford a trip to the United States to claim the body.

"I can still remember the moment Mother found out my father was dead," said Beyer's only child, Edgar, 49, the assistant manager of a Hamburg bank. "I was 5 years old. She was cooking beans in the back yard when it came, a simple, open postcard. She read it and started to shake. She let out a wail that I will never forget. It must have lasted 5 to 10 minutes. I thought she was going to die."

The postcard, Beyer recalled in a telephone interview, was cryptic: It was dated Aug. 2, 1946, and gave no details except for the fact and date of death. Eventually, it was followed by a death certificate and a note from the Red Cross stating that no further information was available.

For more than 20 years, Mrs. Beyer shared her secret with no one, and it was not until Edgar Beyer was about to marry that she sat him down and told him his father had been executed and was buried in a criminal's grave.

"It was a complete shock," Beyer said. "I couldn't believe it."

Nine years ago, an aunt gave Edgar Beyer the equivalent of \$4,000 for a trip to the United States on the condition that he visit all the family's relatives, as well as his father's grave. He flew alone from New Orleans to Kansas City, drove to Fort Leavenworth and met an Army officer who told him where the convicts' cemetery was. The gate was locked, so he climbed the chain-link fence and found his father's grave, the first one in the row of 14. The last time he had seen his father was Christmas Day 1941.

From time to time, German and U.S. military authorities have suggested that perhaps the prisoners' remains should be returned to lie in a German military cemetery. But while Germany was divided, the West Germany Embassy in Washington preferred that the matter not be raised at all, fearing that East Germany would use it to cause a rift in the Washington-Bonn alliance.

None of the victims' families has tried to claim the bodies. Even Edgar Beyer isn't sure repatriation of the bodies is a good idea. "I'd need time to think about that," he said.

So Ken Knox in Sacramento keeps poring over his stacks of documents, calling newspapers and TV stations, hoping that someone will share his interest in righting the injustice he perceives.

"There was some interest at first," he said, "but it died pretty quickly. What have I achieved in 10 years? Nothing, really. Just frustration. I guess I've reached my limit. I would need someone with more education and experience than I've got to get this done."

AMERICAN MYSTERY-- WHO'S KILLING VIETNAMESE JOURNALISTS?

By Tom Tiede

Arlington, Va. (NEA) --12/24/90 -- A few months ago, a Vietnamese refugee named Le Triet drove home after attending a party here in the suburbs of Washington. He had just celebrated his 10th wedding anniversary with his wife. He parked the car in his driveway, opened the door and prepared to go in for the evening.

He never made it. Neither did his wife.

A neighbor later told police that he heard the sound of repeated gunfire, five to seven shots, and when he ran outside to find out what happened, he saw an unidentified vehicle speeding away. Le Triet and his wife had been shot several times at close range, and they died.

The incident might have been dismissed as another mindless tragedy in the increasingly violent capital region. Yet Le Triet's friends and associates say his murder was way out of the ordinary. They contend that the 61-year-old journalist was targeted for his political and philosophical beliefs, and was, in fact, assassinated.

Le Triet had harbored outspoken political beliefs, going back to the days of the Vietnam War. He fought in the South Vietnamese army, and railed against North Vietnam in articles in Saigon newspapers. When he came to America in 1975, he continued to battle Hanoi as a columnist with a biweekly Vietnamese magazine called Van Nghe Tien Phong.

Staff members at Van Nghe Tien Phong think Le Triet was bumped off because he was anti-communist. And they believe a pattern has developed to support the claim. Le Triet was the second Van Nghe Tien Phong employee to be shot in the past two years, and further, three other Vietnamese-American newsmen have been rubbed out within the last decade.

So, who is killing the Vietnamese journalists? The staff members at Van Nghe Tien Phong are among many refugees who are blaming communist agents from



MR. AND MRS. Le Triet were mysteriously shot and killed outside their Arlington, Va., home a few months ago. He was an anti-communist columnist with a biweekly Vietnamese-American magazine.

Hanoi. Lan Phuong, for example, who is chief assistant to the publisher, says: "We know very well that Hanoi has sent spies to the United States to do its work."

Lan Phuong says the agents have been sent in small numbers since the fall of Saigon. He says they slipped in with the boat refugees, and are now a hidden part of the thriving Vietnamese-American community. There are more than 1 million Vietnamese refugees in the United States at present -- 26,000 of them living in or around Washington.

Lan Phuong says he can't give any names, but he has numerous suspicions. He notes that readers of Van Nghe Tien Phong regularly send letters accusing someone or the other of being at least pro-communist; one of the recent correspondents has fingered a man who she insists worked for Hanoi in the city of Saigon as recently as 1980.

Employees of Van Nghe Tien Phong say the fellow in question is now a U.S. businessman. Lan Phuong says all of the

communist agents probably take part in regular Vietnamese community life, if only for cover. "They may be the man next door," he goes on, "nice as can be. We have a saying about communists: 'They have Buddhist mouths, but snake hearts.'"

Lan Phuong says the agents gather information, primarily. Then they either report to the Hanoi mission at the United Nations, or perhaps call Vietnam's Canadian embassy in Ottawa. He says the U.S. government must monitor the traffic at the two points, "and I can't understand why they don't stop it."

One reason is conceivably because the federales do not fully believe there are Hanoi agents in America -- at least not agents who shoot people down. The FBI says Hanoi has in all likelihood sent spies to the West ("it's easy enough to do it"), but the bureau is skeptical of local stories of assassinations.

At the minimum, government officers say, the murders would be diplomatically dumb. Particularly, at this juncture. A

Southeast Asian specialist at the State Department points out that Hanoi is doing everything but cartwheels to renew relations with Washington. He adds: "I don't feel they would risk it with the gun."

Actually, the man from State suggests the Vietnamese-Americans may be blaming Hanoi for their own reasons. Most of them are opposed to the reconstruction of U.S. ties with communist Vietnam. The slayings of the reporters may be coincidental, in this view, and they perhaps are only being used to prevent the U.S. legitimization of Hanoi.

"We know very well that Hanoi has sent spies to the United States to do its work."

For his part, Lan Phuong says Vietnamese-Americans are not organized well enough to be so conniving. And he's joined in the denial by the reporters on his publication. They say it's inconceivable that five anti-communist journalists could be shot dead coincidentally, and they've started a campaign to let people know it.

Van Nghe Tien Phong is presently running blistering editorials denouncing "Hanoi's assassins." Current issues of the nationally distributed periodical (about 15,000 circulation) also contain petitions to Congress. Readers are urged to sign the petitions, mail them to their representatives, and demand a legislative investigation.

Meanwhile, at the magazine itself, there are no suspects in the case of Le Triet and his wife. And employees wonder who might be next.

McCain Returns to Vietnam

U.S. Veteran Staff and Wire Report

WASHINGTON -- Nearly two decades after the North Vietnamese shot down his Navy plane and held him captive for 5 1/2 years, John McCain is returning to Hanoi seeking an accounting of nearly 2,300 Americans still officially listed as missing in Southeast Asia.

His trip, as guest of the communist government, is not the first visit to Vietnam for the Arizona senator since his release from a prisoner of war camp. He toured Hanoi and Saigon in 1985 during the 10th anniversary of the fall of Saigon, and even visited his old cell -- when his sole request was that the door not be closed behind him.

"I was a better person for the experience that I had," McCain said in an interview early this month. "I never had a nightmare or a flashback, so going back to me is just frankly the fulfillment of an obligation."

This visit is to press Vietnamese officials about the fate of the Americans still listed as missing, possible emigration of Amerasian children, the chance for peace in Cambodia and the release of political prisoners.

"It's just amazing to me how many millions of Americans are still deeply concerned about this missing-in-action issue and how many Americans are convinced that there are Americans still alive in Southeast Asia," McCain said.

With the approval of the Bush administration, the senator departed Saturday, Jan. 5, for stops in Bangkok, Thailand; Hanoi and Saigon, Vietnam; and Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Officials from the National League of POW-MIA Families and the Vietnam Veterans of America were invited to accompany McCain. The League of Families after initially agreeing to join McCain's effort backed out at the last minute.

According to a National League of Families member who has close ties to the National League headquarters in Washington, D.C., Sen. McCain plans to open a civilian operated POW/MIA office in Vietnam and the U.S. government and the league leadership is opposed to such an arrangement, "so, the National League pulled their support for the trip."

McCain received his latest invitation in October, when Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach, during a visit to

the United States, asked to see the senator.

"He came in and sat down. He said, 'We'd like you to come back to Vietnam,'" McCain recalled. "I said two things. One, I want a formal invitation from the government. Two, I want you to be able to tell me I'll make some progress on the MIA-POW issue."

The formal invitation came within a week. Assurances of progress were given quickly.

Recently, the administration has hinted at a warming in relations between the United States and Vietnam.

"Why are the Vietnamese so nice to John McCain?" the senator asks. "The answer is their economic situation is such that they're desperate. The Soviet Union is cutting off a lot of the aid and they see a normalization of relations as the only real way out of their economic morass."

For the past few months, McCain has been bogged down in the investigation of the ties between him and four other senators to Charles Keating, the head of a failed savings-and-loan institution.

The Arizona senator, on the eve of his own testimony before the Senate Ethics Committee, talked of specific goals for his Asian trip, including the possibility of set-

ting up a permanent office in Hanoi with U.S. citizens working on the POW-MIA issue.

McCain also weighed the significance of his trip to what once was the scene of a bloody conflict involving U.S. servicemen and the Jan. 15 deadline on a potential war in the Persian Gulf.

"It graphically reinforces the necessity for us not to repeat the mistakes of the Vietnam War," he said. "We better have a strategy that's readily explainable to the man on the street. It better be quick and we better not absorb significant casualties."

McCain fully expects the Vietnamese to take him on another tour of the prison camps where he was held. He also expects to visit a monument that stands on the banks of the lake where his plane was shot down in 1967.

A photograph in his office, provided by Rep. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, D-Miss., shows a stone monument which includes an inscription of what occurred.

In the past, according to McCain, tour guides translated the inscription as "famous air pirate John McCain." Today, the translation is "heroic pilot" who was treated for his injuries by the Vietnamese and eventually released.

A Truth Bill

Dear Congressman _____,

Nearly one-half million American men and women have been called to serve our nation in Operation Desert Shield. In order to safeguard the lives and freedom of those men and women, a longstanding precedent must be changed - the U.S. government policy regarding the issue of America's missing in action.

On the back of this letter is a copy of the "Truth Bill," H.R. 3603, which was introduced in the House of Representatives on November 7, 1989, by two Vietnam vet congressmen, Denny Smith of Oregon and Robert C. Smith of New Hampshire.

Your office may have already received a "Dear Colleague" letter explaining the need for this bill to become law.

The Truth Bill, with over 160 cosponsors, was allowed to expire without hearings or action at the end of the 101st Congress.

I hope the death of the Truth Bill is not a sign of congressional lack of concern for the men and women who serve our nation.

Congressman John Miller (R-Wa) has agreed to reintroduce the Truth Bill in the 102nd Congress. If you have not already signed on as a cosponsor for the Truth Bill, I urge you to do so as soon as possible. For further information, please contact his office at (202) 225-6311.

I strongly oppose any form of normalization of relations with Vietnam, Laos, or Cambodia until those countries and the U.S. government make the truth about our MIA's available to the American public.

If those thousands of reports about American military personnel still being held captive in communist countries are related to dead men, as our government claims, or they are just fabrications by refugees, then what harm could be done by making those reports public?

It is the inherent right of the American people to know what our government is doing unless the release of such information would jeopardize our national security.

I want to know the truth about what happened to our servicemen. History demands a truthful and complete accounting of their fates.

That is the least we can do.

Please advise me as to whether you will cosponsor and work for the passage of the Truth Bill.

Sincerely,

MY NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

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PLEASE HELP PASS THIS BILL INTO LAW

A "Truth Bill"

H.R. 3603 needs to be reintroduced in the U.S. House of Representatives and introduced in the U.S. Senate.

To direct the heads of Federal departments and agencies to disclose information concerning United States personnel classified as prisoners of war or missing in action from World War II, the Korean Conflict, and the Vietnam Conflict.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

November 7, 1989

Mr. Denny Smith of Oregon (for himself and Mr. Robert Smith of New Hampshire) introduced the following bill;

A BILL

To direct the heads of Federal departments and agencies to disclose information concerning United States personnel classified as prisoners of war or missing in action from World War II, the Korean Conflict, and the Vietnam Conflict.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled

SEC. 1. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION CONCERNING UNITED STATES PERSONNEL CLASSIFIED AS PRISONER OF WAR OR MISSING IN ACTION FROM WORLD WAR II, THE KOREAN CONFLICT, AND THE VIETNAM CONFLICT.

INFORMATION TO BE DISCLOSED. ---Except as provided in subsection (b), the head of each department or agency which holds or receives any records or information, including live-sighting reports, which have been correlated or possibly correlated to United States personnel listed as prisoner of war or missing in action from WORLD WAR II, the Korean Conflict, and the Vietnam Conflict shall make available to the public all such records and information held or received by that department or agency. In addition, the Department of Defense shall make available to the public with its records and information a complete listing of United States personnel classified as prisoner of war, missing in action, or killed in action (body not returned) from World War II, the Korean Conflict, and the Vietnam Conflict. This listing shall include the current classification for each servicemember as well as any changes which may have occurred in the servicemember's classification during or after the conclusion of hostilities of World War II, the Korean War Conflict, and the Vietnam Conflict.

(b) EXCEPTIONS TO SUBSECTION (a). --As follows:

(1) Does not apply with respect to information that would reveal sources and methods of intelligence collection that when released would compromise national security. By definition, the existence or possible existence of persons of American parentage in communist countries shall not be interpreted as compromising national security.

(2) No records or information, including fatality reports, which specifically mention a United States servicemember by name and does not correlate or possibly correlate to circumstances which may involve United States personnel listed as prisoner of war or missing in action shall be made available to the public without the expressed written consent of the closest living relative. This proscription in no way limits the access of that family member to the information. This authority may not be delegated to any other person or organization without express legal power of attorney from the closest living relative.

(c) DEADLINE. --As follows:

(1) The head of each department or agency covered in subsection (a) shall make records and information available not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act. (2) When the head of each department or agency covered in subsection (a) receives records and information after the date of enactment of this Act, such records and information shall be made available not later than 180 days after it is received by the department or agency.

(d) EXCEPTIONS TO DEADLINE. --- If the head of a department or agency determines that release of certain records and information after the deadlines in subsection (c) will compromise the safety of United States personnel known or thought to be held prisoner of war, then such a determination once made must be immediately reported to and is subject to the review of the appropriate intelligence committees of the United States Congress and the President of the United States.

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see page 15 order instructions

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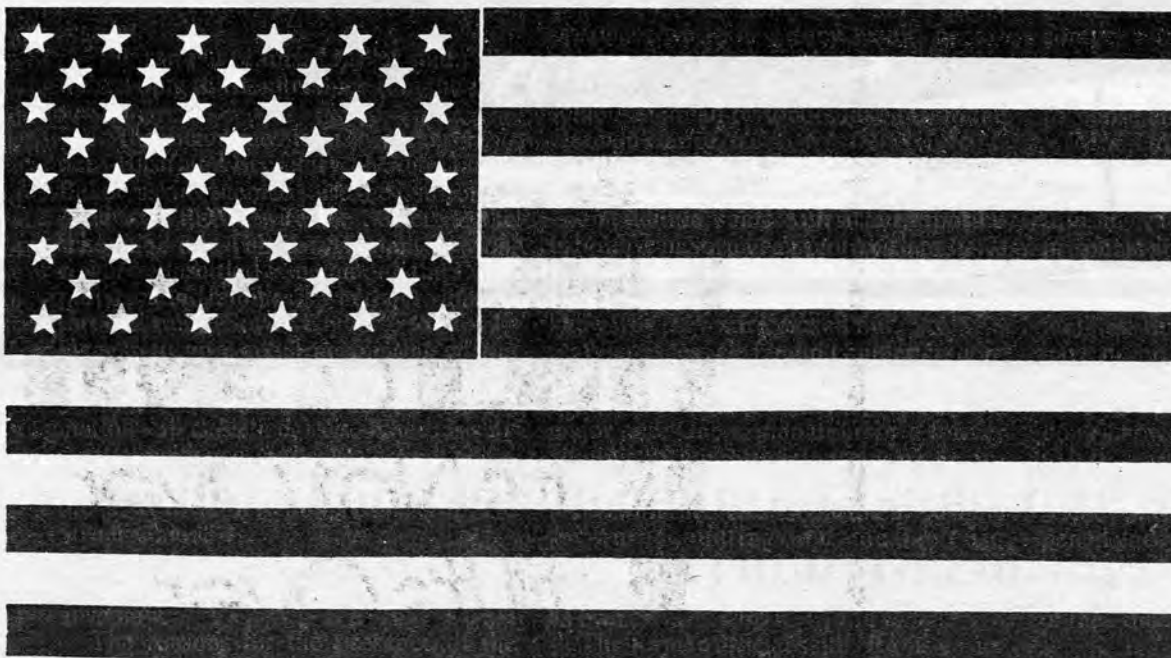
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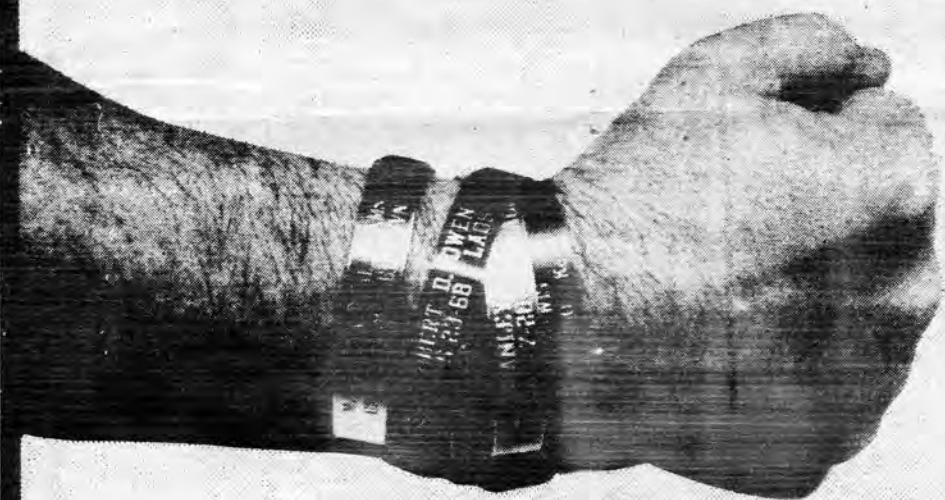


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See page 16 for the order blank. This shirt is number 3A.

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A SIGN THAT YOU CARE



The idea for the POW/MIA bracelet was conceived in the late 1960's by a group of concerned Americans and POW/MIA family members called VIVA. Group members had seen returning GI's wearing plain metal bracelets given to them by Vietnam hill tribesmen they had fought beside in Vietnam. The "Montagnard bracelet" stood for comradeship. It was a spiritual link with a far-away friend.

VIVA produced nickel-plated bracelets engraved with the name and loss date of American POW/MIAs to call attention to the inhuman treatment our POWs were receiving in the hands of their Vietnamese captors. Over 5,000,000 were sold from 1970 to the end of the war in 1973.

After the war, other groups joined the effort to "keep the faith" with Americans held unjustly in Southeast Asia, and other parts of the world. The POW/MIA bracelet, is now available either in stainless steel or red anodized aluminum engraved with the name, loss date, country of loss and service branch of a missing American.

Wear a POW bracelet to show that you care about these Americans.

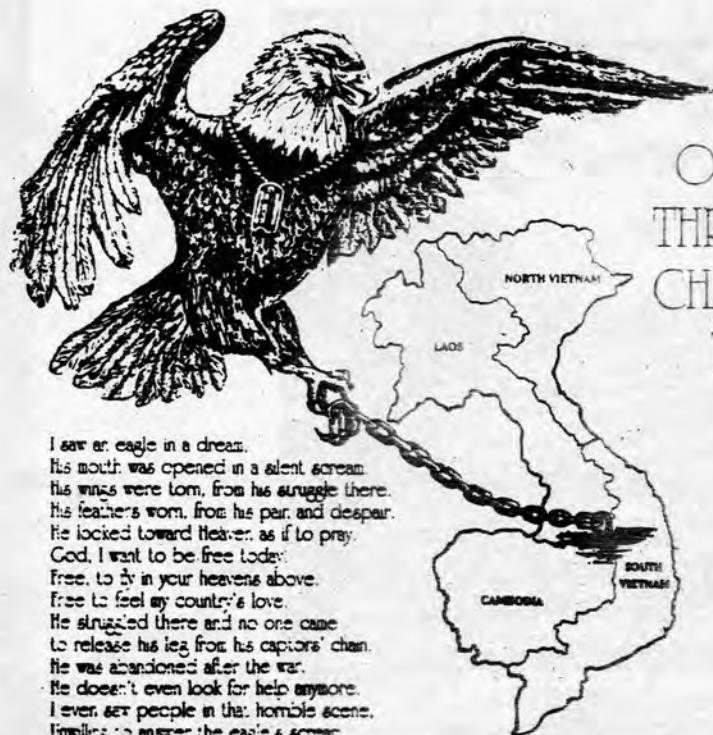
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He looked toward heaven, as if to pray.
God, I want to be free today.
Free, to fly in your heavens above.
Free to feel my country's love.
He struggled there and no one came
to release his leg from his captors' chain.
He was abandoned after the war.
He doesn't even look for help anymore.
I even see people in this horrible scene,
Smiling to answer the eagle's scream.
It's been fifteen years and his agony grows.
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#2A

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