Pilots in Pajamas

This transcript of the 1967 German propaganda film was NOT procured from United States Government sources. Many of the men shown alive in captivity and interviewed in this film -- came home. SOME DID NOT. Few family members have seen the film or read a copy of the transcript. "Pilots in Pajamas" was mentioned in the "Operation Smoking Gun" documents. Not all the men interviewed or mentioned in this film are found in the Defense Intelligence POW/MIA List.

Our sincere thanks to former POW, Col Dewey Wayne Wadell, USAF (Ret) who corrected or provided details on the below list.

The names of the American Servicemen listed below appear in Pilots in Pajamas:

Lt. Colonel James Hughes                Released 03/04/73
Major Thomas Sterling                   Released 03/04/73
Lt. Commander Jeremiah Denton           Released 02/12/73
Colonel Robinson Risner                 Released 02/12/73
Major Guarino Guardino, Lawrence N)     Released 02/12/73
Colonel Edward Burdett                  Released 02/12/73
Remains Returned 03/74  Died in Captivity 11/18/67
First Lieutenant Anderson               Released 02/12/73
First Lieutenant Hayden Lockhart        Released 02/18/73
Lt. Commander Tanner                    Released 03/04/73
Major James Young                       Released 02/12/73
Lieutenant Philip Butler                Released 02/12/73
Captain Bruce Seeber                    Released 02/12/73
Captain Kearn                          (Is there any chance that 'Captain Kearn' could be [Captain] Richard 'Pop' Kearns, Colonel USAF, Retired, [released 2/12/73], now deceased, vice 'Jos. T. Kearns, remains returned 8/88'?...)
Lt. Commander William Stark             Released 03/04/73
Captain Samuel Waters                   Remains Returned 03/18/77
Lt. Commander James L. Griffin          Remains Returned 03/13/74
Lieutenant Edward Brudno                Released 02/12/73
Captain Caryle Harris                   Released 02/14/73
Lt. Commander Charles Stackhouse        Released 03/04/73
Lieutenant Glubb                        not on list
Lt. Colonel Gordon Larson               Released 03/04/73
(blacked out) Wohden                    (Wohden is obviously [LtCdr] Raymond Vohden, USN Captain, Retired, returned 2/12/73)
Major David Everson                     Released 03/04/73
Lieutenant Richard Ratzlaff             Released 03/29/73
First Lieutenant Buchanan               Released 03/04/73
Buchanan, Hubert E.)                   Released 03/04/73
Captain Glendon Perkins                 Released 02/12/73
Lieutenant Jack Walters jr.             Remains Returned 03/13/74
Lt. Commander Wendell Rivers            Released 02/12/73
Lieutenant Allan Carpenter              Released 03/04/73
Captain Robert Daughtrey                Released 02/12/73
Captain Murphy Jones                    Released 02/12/73
First Lieutenant Thomas McNish          Released 03/04/73
First Lieutenant William Tschudy        Released 02/12/73
Major Willard                          (Major) Willard S. Gideon, Colonel, USAF-Retired, was mis-identified in a picture/propaganda
release of the 'capture' of "Gideon S. Willard", which still shows up from time-to-time in so-called "official" materials as well as some, shall we say, mistaken and/or distorted presentations...

Lieutenant Commander Black

There are also 'Captain Black' and 'Commander Black', both with no additional info...I suspect that 'Commander Black' is actually [Commander Cole Black, Captain USN, Retired, released 3/04/73] If the ranks are correct, the 'Captain Black' may be the early-releasee John Black but I'm not sure he was captured before 'Pajamas' was filmed???

Lieutenant Jerry Driscoll Released 02/12/73
Lt. Commander Theodore Kopfman Released 02/12/73
Captain James Connell Remains Returned 03/06/74

Captain Sandwich
Sandwick, Robert J. Released 03/04/73
Captain Lewis Shattuck Released 02/12/73
Lt. Commander James Hutton Released 02/12/73
Commander Kile Berg Released 02/12/73
First Lieutenant Ronald Bliss Released 03/04/73
Lieutenant James E. Ray Released 02/12/73
Major Raymond Merrit Released 02/12/73
Lieutenant Gerald Coffee Released 02/12/73

Captain Shaw
possibly Edward Shaw, USN, O2, lost 09/05/65 A1H over water)

Major Ronald Byrne Released 02/12/73
Captain Donald Waltman Released 03/04/73
Captain Norman Wells Released 03/04/73
Major Jack Bomar Released 03/04/73
James Mulligan Released 02/12/73
Captain Jose Luna Released 03/04/73

Captain Andrews
Commander James Mehl Released 03/04/73

First Lieutenant Teague
Captain Black

There are also 'Captain Black' and 'Commander Black', both with no additional info...I suspect that 'Commander Black' is actually [Commander Cole Black, Captain USN, Retired, released 3/04/73] If the ranks are correct, the 'Captain Black' may be the early-releasee John Black but I'm not sure he was captured before 'Pajamas' was filmed???

Major Smith
Lieutenant Commander Claude Clower Released 03/15/73
Lieutenant Commander Paul Schulz Released 03/13/73
Lieutenant Commander Haterman LtCdr Haterman could well be LtCdr Wm

Hardman.

Lieutenant Commander Peter Schoeffel Released 03/14/73
Sergeant Major Arthur Cormier Released 02/12/73
Lieutenant Edward Davis Released 02/12/73
First Lieutenant Walter Estes Remains Returned 09/30/77
Captain Norris Overly Released 02/16/68
Commander William Hardman Released 03/15/73
Captain Thomas Norris Released 03/14/73

Captain Parrot
(Parrott, Thomas V.) Released 03/14/73
Captain Russell Temerry Released 03/14/73

Colonel Flynn
Lieutenant David Matheney Released 02/19/68
Lieutenant Colonel Lewis

Lieutenant Commander Hugh Stafford Released 03/14/73
Lieutenant Commander John McCain Released 03/14/73
First Lieutenant Gerald Venanzi Released 03/14/73
Captain James Berger Released 02/18/73
Major Richard Dutton Released 03/14/73
Lieutenant Commander Joseph Crecca Released 02/14/73
First Lieutenant Frishman
(Frishmann, Robert F.) Released 08/05/69
First Lieutenant Charles Rice Released 03/14/73
First Lieutenant Theodore Stier Released 03/14/73
Major Robert Stirm Released 03/14/73
Lieutenant Commander Dale Doss Released 03/14/73
Lieutenant Commander Schuman no match on list
First Lieutenant Rehman
(Rehmann, David) Released 02/12/73
Major David Hatcher Released 02/12/73
Captain John Flynn Released 03/14/73
Captain Atterby
Atterberry, Edwin L.) Released 03/74 Died in Captivity 05/18/69
Lieutenant Commander Norman Schmidt Remains Returned 03/06/74
Lt. Commander Collins Henry Haynes
Haines, Collins H.) Released 03/04/73
Commander James Mulligan Released 02/12/73
Commander James Bond Stockdale Released 02/12/73
Colonel Norman C. Gaddis Released 03/04/73
Lt. Colonel Gordon Albert Larson Released 03/04/73
Colonel Edward B. Burdett Remains Returned 03/04/73 Died in Captivity
11/18/67
Colonel John P. Flynn Released 03/14/73
Commander James P. Mehl Released 03/04/73
Colonel Nelson William Humphrey "deceased since 20 July 1966"
Nelson, William H.) Remains Returned 09/30/77
Lt. Commander Shumaker R/Adm Robert [Bob] Shumaker, Retired,
(returned 2/12/73)
Edward Lee Hubbard Released 03/04/73
James R. Shively Released 02/18/73
Everett Alvarez Released 02/12/73
Loren Torkelson Released 03/04/73
Herbert Ringsdorf Released 02/18/73
Robert Abott Released 03/04/73
Leo Thorsness Released 03/04/73
David Duart Released 03/04/73
Robert Peel Released 02/12/73
Charles Boyd Released 02/12/73
Paul Galanti Released 02/12/73
Richard Stratton Released 03/04/73
Kay Russell Released 03/04/73
Doug Hegdahl Released 08/05/69
Allan Bady
(Brady, Allen C.) Released 03/04/73
Maj. Kassler
(Kasler, James H.) Released 03/04/73
Maj. Gordon S. Willard
[Major] Willard S. Gideon, Colonel, USAF-Retired, was mis-identified in a picture/propaganda release of the 'capture' of "Gideon S. Willard", which still shows up from time-to-time in so-called "official" materials as well as some, shall we say, mistaken and/or distorted presentations...
Lt. Col Fred Haeffner not on list
LIVE on taped interview
backseater "Lt French"
Major Ernest Olds
NOTE: category 2 POW, no parachute or beeper
LIVE on taped interview
STILL MISSING
Major Donald McKeller not on list
LIVE on taped interview
Major Wright "backseater" to ?????
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>P I L O T S    I N    P Y J A M A S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YES : SIR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heynowski &amp; Scheumann</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. THE PRODUCERS OF THIS FILM EXTEND PARTICULAR THANKS TO THE COMRADES OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE'S ARMY AND THE FILM STUDIES IN HANOI FOR THEIR COMMRADELY ASSISTANCE.

2. & 3. THE QUESTIONS IN THE INTERVIEWS WITH THE US AIR FORCE OFFICERS WERE ASKED IN GERMAN AND TRANSLATED SIMULTANEOUSLY. THEY WERE DUBBED FOR THE ENGLISH VERSION OF THE FILM.

4. Pilots climb into their cockpits
5. Airplane taxies to the take-off strip
6. Bombs falling
7. Explosions on the ground
8. People standing in front of burning buildings
9. A man holding a wounded child
10. US airplane
11. Evacuation of people buried in rubble
12. Planes in the sky
13. Pilots. Close-up of eyes

Author's commentary: Vietnam-

We have seen the attacks - and their targets.
We have seen the the murderers in the sky...
and the victims on the ground.

What is inside these American bomb droppers? What do the insides of their heads look like? We would like to ask them - but up there, in their lofty heights, they are unreachable for us.

But now we are facing one another, eye to eye with
14. A rocket is prepared for these bomb droppers from the USA; for -

15. A MiG takes off Rockets -

16. Anti-aircraft gun is loaded MiG's -

17. Militia with rifles ack - ack -

18. Crash and rifles -

19. Air defence fire brought them down to earth.

20. A burning airplane Original sound

21. A plane engulfed in One -

22. A burning plane barrel Two -

23. rolls out of the sky Three -

24. An airplane explodes Four -

25. A burning airplane Five -

26. A burning airplane Six -

27. A burning airplane Seven -

28. A burning airplane Eight -

29. A burning airplane Nine -

30. A burning airplane crashes, Ten American air pirates who
    pilot ejects survived the crash of their
planes. They appeared in front
of the cameras And microphones

31. Montage: of a film team from the German

Photos of the team (sound Democratic Republic, who were
engineer, cameramen, still the first such group in the
photographer, interpreter, world to be granted permission
editor; Heynowski & Scheumann) by the Council of Ministers of

the Democratic Republic of Vietnam to extensively query

the prisoners - to ask them in the name of millions the world

over: Why?

32. Pan shot of the doors The prison camp commanders
of the dention camp ascertained which pilots

were prepared to speak and

answer the questions.

3. A pilot turns his back Author's This one here turned away as
   to the camera commentary: we came into his cell: he not
   only didn't want to be questioned, but also not
   filmed. Was he filled with pride - or repentance? Did
   he refuse because of self-
confidence or shame? We do not know. His prisoner's clothing-called "pyjamas"-- was the only thing we could film.

Lieutenant-Commander Shumaker also refused to speak. We certainly would have liked to become acquainted with this pilot's pilot. Because after all Shumaker, before being sent to Vietnam, was a back-up man in the American Astronaut group. But we know why he refused. His camp commander told us. Upon capture Schumaker fell down on his knees and cried for his life. We understand: The man is ashamed of himself.

These two, then, did not want to come.

Two from a total of only 12 prisoners who had to be asked to attain 10 acceptances.

Even as prisoners they could decide themselves whether they wanted to come or not.

Not one of them looks like a war profiteer.

None of them give the impression of being a global strategist, who ponders about parts of the world and spheres of influence.

But never in the history of war have the monopoly bosses and their political representatives personally gone to the battle fields.

Those who went were always the same as as these. And in those parts of the world where the mechanism of aggression functions, it functions through such people.

We want to question them, want to become acquainted with them-- but their
Risner enters room and sits down.

Mere appearance before the camera and microphone is not enough for this.

We were fully aware of a risk for us:

Members of the American armed forces who fall - as they call it - in "communist" captivity, are pledged to silence. What, then, will our interview partners themselves say once sit down on this chair? Every American Officer knows his pledge of silence.

English text is faded in

Commentary: "Code of Conduct" - Article 5:

When questioned, should I become a prisoner of war, I am bound to give only name, rank, service number and date of birth. I will do the utmost of my ability.

Keep your mouth shut - this is their order. Will they adhere to this? If so, we would not learn - what's going on in their brains, how they think, what they feel, how they became what they are: namely air pirates. If they answer only the four questions allowed by the Code of Conduct then we would have made this 6,300 mile journey to Vietnam only to shoot approximately one minute of film.

Not we, but those we interviewed had to make this decision.

This man was the first. A few dials turned by our sound engineer: technical preparations for understanding with our interpreter. And, we begin.

- Music -

Heynowski & Scheumann

PILOTS
Hubbard declares

We do not wish to conduct an interrogation but rather just chat with each other about your action as a pilot of the American armed forces against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. I call your attention the fact that under the Code Conduct you are authorised to answer only four questions pertaining to your person. Everything over and above this is left up to your voluntary decision. Do we understand each other?

Hubbard: Yes, yes, sir.

X: What is your name, please?

Hubbard: Edward, I'm, ah, my name is Edward Lee Hubbard.

X: What is your rank?

Hubbard: I am; First Lieutenant in the United States Air Force

X: What is your service number?

Hubbard: Ah, my service number is FV 3122827

X: Did you want to be a professional officer, or were you drafted?

Hubbard: No, I, I enlisted in the Air Force. I was not drafted.

X: Of your own free will then?

Hubbard: Yes, sir.

X: What is your age? When were you born?

Hubbard: I was born on the 18th of May, 1938, and I just had my 29th birthday.

X: Are you married?

Hubbard: Yes, sir, I am married.

X: Do you have children?

Hubbard: I have one little boy, named David Wayne.

X: Are you a member of a church?

Hubbard: I'm a Protestant by faith.

X: Protestant, yes. What education do you have?

Hubbard: Just high school. I've just had high school. I have taken a few night school courses, college courses, but very few.

Alvarez declares

My name is Edward Alvarez,
junior. My service number is 644124.

X: When did you join the Navy Air Corps?
X: Your rank is Lieutenant Junior Grade. Did you enlist in the Navy in 1960?
Alvarez: I joined of my own free will, yes. I was born December 23rd, 1937. I live in Santa Clara, in California.
X: Are you married?
Alvarez: Yes, I am married,
X: Do you have children?
Alvarez: No, I have no children.
X: No children. -- Are you a member of any church?
Alvarez: Yes, I am Catholic.
X: A Catholic. And your education?

Pilot's helmet on the floor. Pan shot of pilot

[64 NOT IN ORIGINAL DOCUMENT]

65.

Shively declares

He was very willing to get dressed again, for the camera, in his pilot equipment.

Shively: Sir, my name is James Richard Shively.
X: What is your Air Force rank?
Shively: I am First Lieutenant. My service number is FR 78909.
Sir, I was commissioned in 1964, June of 64.
X: Were you drafted, or did you enlist of your own free will?
Shively: Ah, I joined, I enlisted.
X: Then today you are considered to be a professional officer.
Shively: Yes, sir.
I'm 25 years old. I was born on the 23rd of March, 1942.
X: Are you married?
Shively: No, sir, I am not.
X: Do you have a fiancee waiting for you in the United States?
Shively: No, sir.
X: Are you a member of a church?
Shively: Ah, I'm a Baptist. Baptised in the Baptist Church.
X: What is your educational standing?
Shively: Ah, sir, I had four years college at the United States Air Force Academy and I had approximately eight months graduate school at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.
X: Did you obtain an academic degree from the University?

Shively: Ah, yes, sir, I have a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in political science from the Air Force Academy and a Master's degree in International Affairs from Georgetown University.

66.
Ringsdorf declares Ringsdorf: Ringsdorf, Herbert Benjamin Ringsdorf, Sir.
X: When were you born?
Ringsdorf: September 16, 1939.
X: I am a First Lieutenant. FR 15446. I joined of my own free will.
Ringsdorf: Did you enlist for patriotic reasons, or what led you to join the Air Force?
X: I wanted to be in the Air Force to fly, I wanted to learn to fly.
Ringsdorf: Are you married? Do you have children?
X: No, I am not married, no.
Ringsdorf: Is a girlfriend waiting for you in the United States, or do you have a fiancee?
X: I have a fiancee, yes.
Ringsdorf: Did you intend to get married in the near future.
X: When I got home we were planning on it.
Ringsdorf: Are you a member of a church?
X: I am Methodist, Protestant.
Ringsdorf: How much education do you have?
X: I have had four years of college.
Ringsdorf: Do you have an academic degree, or did you graduate from College?
X: I have a Bachelor of Science in chemistry.

67.
Torkelson declares Torkelson: My name is Loren Harvey Torkelson.
X: What is your rank in the Air Force?
Torkelson: Ah, First Lieutenant. FV 3155656.
X: Are you an Air Force career officer, or were drafted for service?
Torkelson: Ah, well, I wasn't necessarily drafted. I am not actually a professional soldier. But I did have a military obligation. I am just fulfilling a military obligation that is as is required by my country.
X: How old are you? When were you born?
Torkelson: I am 26. I got married on the 4th of January this year.
X: 4th of January, 1967?
Torkelson: Yes, I did.
X: Then this Vietnam assignment was sort of a honeymoon trip? How long were you together with your wife before coming overseas?
Torkelson: Oh, after I got married, approximately 9 or ten days.
X: Are you a member of a church?
Torkelson: I am a Protestant.
X: Tell us something about your education, please.
Torkelson: Ah, well, I went through high school. I have a Bachelor degree. Four years of college at University of North Dakota.

Abbott declares
X: What was your rank in the Air Force?
Abbott: First Lieutenant.
X: What is your service number?
Abbott: My service number, you mean? FR 81453
X: And today you are a professional officer, that is your job?
Abbott: Yes, sir.
X: What is your age?
Abbott: 25.
X: Are you married?
Abbott: Yes.
X: Do you have any children?
Abbott: No, sir.
X: Are you member of a church?
Abbott: What educational standing do you have?
X: I graduated from Michigan State University, Bachelor of Arts degree.

Duart declares
Duart: My name is David Henry Duart. When I was shot down I was a captain. I was promoted supposedly since that time to major.
X: This is the first time I've heard this. How do you know that during your period as a prisoner, in absentia so to speak, you were promoted to major?
Duart: Ah, our promotion system, ah, a list of those to be promoted in the following
year is put out in December. And I was informed that I had been promoted and in February, it's a number system. My number was so far down on the list. By the end of February when I was shot down, you could very easily figure out by how many they were promoting a month, approximately what month you would be promoted in. I figured out in my case that it would be probably in April, latest in May.

X: So that's the way it is. What is your service number?
Duart: Foxtrott Victor 3057321 is my serial number. I am 32 years old.

X: Are you married?
Duart: Yes, sir, I am married. I have three children. I am of Protestant faith. I am a graduate of high school in Pennsylvania.

70.

Thorsness declares

Thorsness: My name is Leo Keith Thorsness. I am a Major in the Air Force.

X: What is your age, please, and when were you born?
Thorsness: I am 35. I was born and raised the first 18 years in Minnesota.

X: Are you a member of a church?
Thorsness: I am a Lutheran.

X: Are you married, Major?
Thorsness: Yes, I'm married and have one child.

X: Married and have a child. How about your education?
Thorsness: I have a Bachelor's degree at, from the University of Omaha and I have a Master's degree from the University of Southern California.

71.

Hughes declares

Hughes: I'm James Lindbergh Hughes.

X: Which rank did you have in the Air Force?
Hughes: Lieutenant Colonel. FR 43211.

X: When were you born, Colonel?
Hughes: 11 June 1927.

X: Are you married?
Hughes: Yes.

X: Do you also have children?
Hughes: Two.

X: Are you a member of a church?
Hughes: Ah, Protestant. Methodist specifically.

X: How much educational training have you had?
Hughes: Military, sir, or civilian, or a combination?
X: Civilian and military.
Hughes: Yes, I have two civilian degrees, one from The University of Omaha, 1960, General Education, one from the University of New Hampshire 1965, Electrical Engineering. In the military I've been through numerous pilot training courses, depending on the aircraft that I was flying.
X: Colonel, you have an explanation to make for our viewers. Judging from your face you were obviously suffering from a skin disease, is that correct?
Hughes: I have an allergy which has cropped up, new to me, we have yet to identify specifically the cause for it. We hope it's temporary.
X: We all are suffering here from the heat and we have on our arms and body that which you have on your forehead. The reason is simply that this country is extremely hot for what we are accustomed to.
Hughes: I understand. Thank you very much.

Risner declares
Risner: My name is Robinson Risner.
X: What is your rank in the American armed forces?
Risner: I am Lieutenant Colonel in the US Air Force
Commentary: Risner was promoted to Colonel while still a prisoner. On the day of this interview, this was not yet known to him.
X: Your service number, please?
Risner: Ah, 26905 alpha.
X: When, Colonel Risner, did you enlist in the Air Force?
Risner: In 1943.
X: Would you tell us your age, please?
Risner: Yes, I am 42.
X: Are you married?
Risner: Yes, I have a wife and five boys.
X: Five boys. Would you tell us please the age of the youngest and the age of the oldest?
Risner: Yes, the youngest one is six and the oldest one will be 19
in August.

X: Colonel Risner, are you a member of a church?

Risner: I'm a Protestant and Assembly of God.

X: How long did you go to school before you joined the armed forces?

Risner: I was only a high school graduate, that is the limits of my education.

73.
Stills:
Portraits of the ten pilots

Commentary: Professional officers - one the same as the other. Between 25 and 43 years of age. All of them have high school diplomas. Most of them were enrolled in universities, passed their exams and have academic degrees. Nearly all of them are married or engaged. Each is a member of a church. The personnel departments of the Air Force and Navy should be delighted with them.

74.
US pilot in cockpit

Author's commentary: Machines of the American armed forces in use in Vietnam.

75.
Plane takes off

represent a high technical standard.

76.
Plane takes off

Not every pilot is capable of flying a Thunderchief or Phantom.

77.
Planes in the air

Those selected to do so go through extensive training and must prove their ability in numerous flying hours.

78.
US pilot in cockpit

For pilots flying against the DRV

79.
Refuelling maneuver in the air

the difficult maneuver of hooking up in the air with a tanker is a routine matter: men and material are well acquainted.

80.
Shively declares

Shively: I, I flew the F 105.

X: That is the Thunderchief?

Shively: Yes, sir.

81.
Thunderchief flying

- Original sound -
82. Abbott declares  
Abbott:  F 105, Excuse me, F 105.  
X:  This plane has such a  
    sonorous name if I  
    remember correctly.  
Abbott:  Thunderchief.
83. Thunderchief landing  
84. Hughes declares  
Hughes:  The F 105.  
X:  This is the Thunderchief, is  
    it not?  
Hughes:  Yes.
85. Thunderchief flying  
86. Duart declares  
Duart:  I was flying an F 105-F.  
87. Thunderchief taking off  
88. Risner declares  
Risner:  I was in a 105, F 105.  
X:  The Thunderchief, is that  
    right?  
Risner:  Yes, yes.
89. Thunderchief taking off  
90. Thorsness declares  
Thorsness:  I flew the 105, sir.  
X:  That is the Thunderchief?  
Thorsness:  Thunderchief.
91. Thunderchief on runway  
92. Ringsdorf declares  
Ringsdorf:  I flew an F 4 C.  
X:  Isn't there another name  
    generally used to  
    describe this aircraft?  
93. Phantom flying  
94. Torkelson  
Torkelson:  I flew an F 4 C.  Phantom.  
X:  A Phantom. As far as I know  
    that is the Pride of the Air  
    Force. One of the most  
    modern airplanes, is that  
    right?  
Torkelson:  Ah, yes, sir, it is.
95. Phantom flying  
96. Alvarez declares  
X:  What type of airplane did you  
    fly?  
Alvarez:  A 4 C.  
X:  There is another name for it,  
    isn't there?  
Alvarez:  Yes, "Skyhawk".  
X:  "Skyhawk".
97. Skyhawk takes off  
98. Hubbard declares  
Hubbard:  I flew an RB 66.
99. Photo of model planes  
Commentary:  One reconnaissance plane
known as the RB 66 --

Skyhawk

one "Skyhawk" --

2 "Phantoms"

two "Phantoms" --

6 Thundercheif planes

and six "Thunderchief" aircraft --

Photo of all ten model planes

they took off with these 10 airplanes --

Air picture of air base

took off from their bases in Thailand --

US airplane taking off

from their bases in South Vietnam --

Air view of aircraft carrier

or from aircraft carriers in the Bay of Ton Kin.

Ringsdorf declares: X: Ringsdorf:

Which mission was this for you?
I was on number ten over the north.

Air photos of bomb release

Music

Duart declares

I flew 13 missions over the DRV.

Air photos of bomb explosion

Music

Hubbard declares

I flew, I was shot down on my 26th mission.

Air photos of bomb explosion

Music

Risner declares

I've flown approximately 40.

Air photos of bomb explosion

Music

Hughes declares

44, counting the last one.

Air photos of jungle on fire

Music

Abbott declares

61.

Air photos of jungle on fire

Music

Shively declares

Sir, I was on my 67th mission when I was shot down.

Air photos of bomb release

Music

Thorsness declares

I flew 93, 93, sir.

Air photos of bomb explosion

Music

Torkelson declares X: Torkelson:

How many flights have you flown against The Democratic Republic of Vietnam?
I have approximately 60 missions.
X: How many? How many?
Torkelson: Ah, approximately 60 missions in the South of Vietnam.
X: If I understand you correctly, during your short tour here in South East Asia you flew a total of 120 missions.
Torkelson: Ah, well, I've, yes 120 missions. I've been here since October.

124.
US plane in the sky
125.
Bomb release
126.
Explosion on the ground
127.
Alvarez
Commentary: And this Lieutenant j. g. -- Navy pilot Edward Alvarez junior -- was the first American pilot to drop his bombs on the Territory of the DRV.
X: That means you were in the first attack?
Alvarez: I was the first, yes.
X: And your first flight was at the same time your last?
Alvarez: Yes, sir, yes.
X: Lieutenant Alvarez, did it occur to you that you would not return from your first mission?

128.
Alvarez after having been shot down. Pan shot to feet with pilot's helmet.
129.
Alvarez declares Alvarez: No, I did not give it any thought.
X: I see. Did you think then that the Vietnamese were just waiting for you to come so that they could give you free Escort for your bombing raid? Or do you consider it undue that in your job as world- gendarme people would actually defend themselves against you?
Alvarez: I did not think of that.

130.
Alvarez after having been shot down. Pan shot from helmet to feet
131.
Alvarez declares Alvarez: Yes, sir, a surprise.
132.
Launching of a missile
133.
Hubbard declares Hubbard: Lieutenant Hubbard, where were you shot down?
Hubbard: About 60 miles straight north of Hanoi. A missile. A surface-to-air missile, I believe. I never did see it.
X: So your plane took a missile. When you took off on your flight did you think you would be fought with missiles?

Hubbard: Well, every time I took off there was a possibility of being shot at with missiles. One mission was just like all the rest.

X: Humm. I see. Lieutenant Hubbard,

134. Launching of missile. A plane is shot down.

135. Hubbard declares

Hubbard: Well, the aircraft, I think, it was a near miss. And we just took a lot of shrapnel in the underside of the aircraft, and the aircraft caught on fire. And we stayed in the aircraft for over a couple or three minutes and the cockpit filled up with smoke, and I was not planning to, planning to eject, unless I had to and just after a few minutes the floor of the aircraft blew up into the airplane and I was, flames came up around my seat. So I immediately ejected. I was, had to reach down into flames to get out and I burnt myself on my left arm, but not seriously.

136. Burning plane crashes; ejection seat is ejected

137. Hubbard declares

Hubbard: How does it feel actually when suddenly you have to eject and come down to the earth?

138. Pilot ejecting from plane

139. Hubbard declares

Hubbard: Well, it's a rather frightening experience. I would, ah, it will be very difficult. I had known people who ejected before and they described it, but it is not anything that you can really describe and you have to experience it. It's, I don't know, stark terror, I guess, you could say; all of a sudden you find yourself with fire all around you and smoke and you can't see anything and you know you have got to get out.

140. Hughes declares

Hughes: We had a briefing at 12 o'clock, after which we ate, and then prepared for our
141. Aircraft refuelling in mid-air

We took off, proceeded to our air-refuelling tanker, took on the fuel, joined as a strike force en route to our target just north-east of Ha Dong.

142. Hughes declares

On this heading and as we approached from the east I felt a sharp jolt under my left wing and as I did I heard my engine unwind specifically and not clearly stop, at which time I went through certain procedures which are of little interest here and finally decided at a very low altitude that there was only one decision left and that was to bail out.

143. Pilot parachuting

144. Risner declares

Risner: Yes, ah, it was on the 16th of September 1965 and I took off from Korat, about 8:45 in the morning and proceeded to a point about five miles north of the city of Binh Hoa. I was looking for trucks on the highway, and within a few seconds of the time after I arrived at my point, my first point, I was hit. I was flying at very low altitude, and very fast when I was hit by Intense groundfire.

145. 20 millimeter flak firing

It looked like maybe 20 millimeter or something of the sort.

146. Shively declares

Shively: There were many guns firing that day. They had, ah,

147. 37, 57, 85 millimeter flak firing

I saw all kinds, I saw the 37 mm, 57 mm, 85 mm. I saw. I saw several SAMs fired.

148. Shively declares

Shively: My aircraft was hit over the city by an 85mm gun.

149. 85 millimeter gun

X: How do you know that it was 85 millimeter flak that hit you? How do you know this?
Shively declares

Shively: I don't know exactly that it was an 85 millimeter, but the explosion and the force that I felt in the airplane made me quite sure that it was. I had quite a violent shock in the airplane. I am sure it was a heavy calibre gun.

153.

Film-scene: direction finder

X: How high were you flying when the flak hit you?

154.

Shively declares

Shively: When it knocked me down I was approximately 5,000 feet, I think, and going very fast.

155.

Duart declares

Duart: I am not positive of the type weapon, but I had indications in my aircraft that a surface-to-air missile had been launched at me.

156.

Launching of a missile

157.

Duart declares

Duart: and I was trying to sight the missile to evade it when the aircraft was struck by something that I feel was much larger than regular anti-aircraft, so I feel sure that it was a surface-to-air missile. The aircraft was literally torn to pieces by this.

X: You say torn to pieces? Does this happen at the moment of detonation? Or were you able to continue flying?

Duart: The disintegration of the aircraft was immediate.

158.

Aircraft crashes, burning

159.

Alvarez declares

Alvarez: All I know is, ah, my aircraft exploded.

160.

Airplane explodes and crashes, burning

161.

Thorsness declares

Thorsness: O.K., sir. We took off, as I remember, about 1:30 in the afternoon and we proceeded north. Everything was standard until we were, I was in the vicinity of Dien Binh, that's a small town to the west of Hanoi, some, I would estimate, some 40 to 50 miles,

162.

Thorsness declares

and we were headed generally west, correction generally east, at a very, pretty high air speed, and I saw no
flak or no SAMs, but all of a sudden the airplane was hit very hard. There was no doubt that the airplane had taken a hit. And from the impact that the airplane sustained I felt a certain that it must have been some form of missile and as I don't think we were in an area where a SAM, we were in an area of SAM-range, and there was no flak in the area, because it was too hard a hit for flak, I concluded that it must have been an air-to-air missile off a MiG 21 and the airplane like I say was hit extremely hard and there was no doubt that the airplane was not going to fly anymore. So within just a few seconds, ah, I ejected.

X: Yes, I can tell you that it was a Vietnamese pilot trained in the Soviet Union and flying a MiG 21 who brought to an end your career as a pilot. But couldn't you defend yourself with your own rockets?

Thorsness: We were flying a proper formation, and all. It was just that the MiGs, ah, got into our six o'clock position where we could not see them.

I assume the six o'clock position where we could not see them.

I think they were low and at six o'clock to us, and it is difficult in any airplane to see behind you and below you, and we were turning some, but we did not see the MiGs, in this case. It wasn't a matter of someone failing to protect someone else, it was just one of those times when you're shot down. The fate....

X: Fate, you say? In this case fate was the flying ability of a Vietnamese pilot.

How did you feel as your proud Thunderchief fell from the sky?

My thoughts were, I wish I
hadn't gone on that mission. Ah, my thoughts were, ah, that I had to get out of the aircraft and ah, that, ah, the aircraft controls failed upon impact of the missile, so there wasn't really time to set there and to think over, over several events in your life or several things other than eject, survivability, it was obvious I could not survive in the aircraft, so the only choice I had was to immediately eject, so I reached down and pulled the ejection handles and was ejected into the air stream.

169. MiG take-off

Commentary: A MiG 21 of the Vietnamese air defence takes off.

170. MiG maintenance crew

Another is being prepared for its next flight.

171. Missile is mounted

This is the air-to-air-missile with an infrared target seeking device which has already mastered many air pirates.

172. MiG cover is lifted

Abbott declares

Abbott: MiG 21, and they used a surf......, ah, air-to-air missile.

X: A MiG 21 versus Thunderchief! Lieutenant Abbott, let us hear now a true-to-life description of a dog-fight. As a Thunderchief pilot you certainly know how it's done.

Abbott: Well, really, it wasn't too much of a fight. We were coming, we were coming in on the target to tackle a missile site and MiGs snuck up behind us and shot me out of the air and I never knew they were there until they hit me with the missile.

174. Airplane takes hit in the air

And they shot two other guys down the same day during the same run. We were not quite looking for them and they just came behind us. We never saw them until they hit us. And I never saw them.

175. Abbott declares

X: Tell us how it was in your plane when you realised you'd
been hit.

Abbott: Well, it was not too much of a situation. I knew I was hit right off the bat. The plane tilted up in the air and turned upside down like this, and a loud explosion in the rear end and fire broke out all over the cockpit, and the panelling burst in fire, and I could not see out. I was enflamed in fire, and the plane was spinning apparently because I had a lot of G's. It was all I could do to reach for the handles of the ejection seat and to bail out.

Torkelson declares Torkelson: Ah, I think, I was shot down by a MiG aircraft. I wasn't sure, I didn't see what, but I was, ah....

X: Since you are not sure, then let me fill in the gap. You were shot down by a MiG 17.

Two MiG 17s during take-off

Torkelson: It was MiG 17 piloted by a Vietnamese.

Vietnamese officer climbing

Commentary: This is the Vietnamese First Lieutenant who out of aircraft with his MiG 17 knocked First Lieutenant Torkelson and his "Phantom" out of the Vietnamese sky.

Target photo

Author's commentary: This is the target photo, given to us a a present, and which shows the "Phantom" being shot down.

Ringsdorf declares Ringsdorf: I got hit about the time when my bombs came off and I immediately realised that I was on fire and the plane started a violent roll to the left and I rolled backward to the back seat and ejected. I tried to hold it, but I could not hold it and ejected and went down about, 4,000 feet.

Two pilots parachutting

Commentary: First Lieutenant Ringsdorf and his Co-Pilot were able to safely eject from their "Phantom" from the height of about 1,200 meters.
Aircraft hedge-hopping

Other air pirates however caught fire at such low altitude that they just barely survived.

184.
Abbott declares
Abbott: My parachute opened about a second before I hit the ground.

185.
Risner declares
Risner: However I had gained enough altitude that I was able to eject from my airplane.

186.
Burning wreck of an airplane. Dead pilot on a stretcher
Commentary: This one flew too low. His parachute did not open.

187.
Photo of a dead pilot

188.
Thorsness declares
Thorsness: I floated downwards and after my parachute opened a terrific shock, but I looked up and the parachute was intact, there were no panels was missing from it, which please me. When I hit, hit the ground I hurt my knee and ah, twisted my knee....it pops out of joint once in a while, but it's in pretty good shape. So I felt from the time I got on the ground, I didn't think it would be long till such time that I was captured. X: What kind of people were they who first saw you here on the ground? Were they young, were they old?

189.
Thorsness wipes perspiration with towel
Thorsness: May I?

190.
Thorsness declares
Thorsness: Ah yes, sir. They, they were not army people, I assumed they were not because they were not in any form of uniform, I think they were peasants who worked in the small ricefields that was very close to us that lived there in the hills, and their ages were, was difficult for me to tell age of Vietnamese people. But I think their ages, they were quite young, they were not, I know they were not more than 20, maybe they may have been as young as 15 or 16. They were not friendly, they did not run up and shake my hand, but also they treated me
quite well when they captured me.

X: Were these people - these teenagers -- were they armed?

Thorsness: Some had rifles and some had crossbows, ah, and some or all, I don't remember, had, had machetes, I guess a standard equipment in the jungle, that cut bamboo or make trails and they are very apt at using these, as we went through the jungle. They amazed me how well they could use their machetes.

191. Duart declares Duart: When I landed my parachute and I, I turned around and there was one Vietnamese civilian 15 feet from me and I would say 50 to 70 within a hundred yards. I landed in ricefields that were very heavily populated at the time.

192. Militiamen in trenches Ringsdorf: I landed right in the middle of a maze of trenches.

193. Ringsdorf declares Ringsdorf: Then I had time to get rid of my parachute, and the first thing I saw was a gun pointed at me, and so on, so I immediately raised my hands.

X: Who was it then who aimed the pistol at you and captured you?

Ringsdorf: It was a woman. But there were, I think, more, about two women and six or seven men in these trenches. The first one I saw was a woman. I looked and saw about eight or nine rifles. I got the message, and I raised my hands, and I was hit a couple of times with a rifle butt, but I could understand that they were pretty angry.

X: So, you could understand that. But the situation was hardly conducive for other thoughts on your part, or?

Ringsdorf: No, I was, put it this way, I was rather numb at the time.

194. Shively declares Shively: I landed in a rice field.

X: Nearly everyone lands in a ricefield. We have heard this from many who sat on this chair.

Shively: Yes, yes, sir.

X: Tell us how you felt when you
realised you wouldn't be able to fly on and had to bail out over the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. How did you feel then as you had to reach down and fire your ejection seat and come to down to earth by parachute?

Shively: Humm. It was a very, what we call a sinking feeling. I felt very bad at that time. I could still hear the other airplanes going home. I knew they would be landing, having a beer, discussing the mission...and here I was, not knowing how long I would be here and what would happen to me. I felt pretty bad at that time.

195.

Colonel Hughes, how much time elapsed between your leaving the plane and your touch-down on Vietnamese soil?

Hughes: I estimate possibly two minutes.

X: And during these two minutes did you have enough time or concentration to think about what awaited you on the ground?

Hughes: Humm. Yes, you, you immediately think of procedures first, this is a momentary passing of time -- procedures for the equipment disposal and what have you, but primarily what you are interested in is, you are thinking of your future and I saw in this light I was about to embark upon a totally new life. This life could very well be death, but at any rate it was coming up and it was coming up rapidly. I could hear the villagers proceeding to a point beneath me, ah, and my sole thought was I wondered what kind of people are in this part of the world.

196.

It was not before hanging in the air like this for two minutes and approaching foreign soil that this American Lieutenant Colonel began to have thoughts about the kind of people that might be awaiting his touch-down. Nor did colonel Risner, the highest ranking prisoner, have any idea.
Risner declares

Risner: No, I'm sorry to say I did not. The knowledge of North Vietnamese people and their capabilities as fighters, I don't think, was well known, certainly was not known by me nor by the people that surrounded me. I knew almost nothing at all about the North Vietnamese people nor even what to expect.

198.

Vietnamese removing dud

Author's commentary: These are the people, the people of whom not one of the pilots had an idea of as long as he was dropping his bombs and firing his rockets. These are scenes of only ONE terror raid! But the pilots with whom we spoke came 415 times to drop their bombs on these people in this country so distant from the USA.

199.

Salvage work after bombing raid

Salvage work after bombing raid

An air pirate who receives the punishing blow falls into the hands of these very people. Most of them have lost members of their family, many lost their hard-earned possessions.

200.

Faces of Vietnamese militiamen

Anyone having seen and knowing all of this would have understanding also if these people paid the air pirates back in the same manner.

201.

Married couple at a grave

202.

Mourning children and women

203.

Ringsdorf declares

Ringsdorf: I figured I would be shot upon landing and, well, after they captured me one guy levered a shell into the chamber and aimed at me and I figured that was it, and the leader, I guess it was the leader, pushed the gun away and that's when I realised that they weren't going to shoot me at the moment.

X: Then you were very happy about it?

Ringsdorf: Well, once again, I was rather numb, I didn't, I just thought when he pointed at me that that was it and when they pushed it away I said they aren't going to shoot me. I was in a state of shock.

X: But you are no longer in a
state of shock, are you, or are you shocking?

Ringsdorf:  

Haha!

204.
Hubbard declares  

X:  

What opinion did you have of the Vietnamese who were awaiting you on the ground? What did you think of your opponents?

Hubbard:  

I, I had no idea. I was never given any instructions or never had heard much about the Vietnamese people and I really did not know what to expect. I did not know whether I would be killed or whether I would be tortured. I had a good idea that I would be captured, but anything that happened after that I had no idea what was going to happen.

205.
Torkelson declares  

Torkelson:  

Well, I wasn't really sure what they would do, ah, I thought, that, ah, they might treat me pretty rough and run me round their, ah, through the fields and things.... probably drag me with ropes and things like this. But, they did not.

206.
Shively declares  

Shively:  

I had heard possibly that I could expect to be treated very badly. Perhaps they would beat me or maybe even kill me on the spot. So I didn't really know what to expect and was quite surprised when they did treat me very well.

207.
Vietnamese looking into camera  

Author's commentary:  

Kill - torture - treat roughly - drag around on a rope - they did none of these. The embarrassed statements of the air pirates about their ideas before capture are an admittance of bad conscience.

208.
Photo: the ten pilots  

None of these pilots could tell us what really awaited him on foreign soil.

209.
Portrait of Vietnamese militiamen  

But each and every Vietnamese is prepared in detail for a meeting with an American air pilot.

210.
Militiamen with machine gun  
Each of them knows the text of this leaflet.

Leaflet

Parachute coming down  
"Instructions for the capture of American pirates: Should the enemy attempt to land by parachute, do not shoot. The immediate sealing off of the area, search and capture is to be organised.

Running militiamen

213.  
Commentary:  
All attempts are to be made to take the pirate alive. The enemy is to be prevented from running away or escaping. Anyone having contact with the enemy is to consider him a defeated enemy and conduct himself correctly, Do not mistreat him.

Militiamen with parachute

Captured pilot is taken away

214.  
A break.

The pilot is allowed to smoke

215.  
Give him food and water. Wounded enemies are to be given first aid!

216.  
A break.

The pilot is allowed to smoke

217.  
Shively on the screen, declared

Shively: I had, ah, some injuries that I had, cuts on my arm and ankles from the ejection, and they took me right away into an area of the village and wiped out the cuts and cleaned them up and put bandages on them and this surprised me very much.

218.  
Shively after capture

219.  
Shively declares

220.  
Torkelson declares

Torkelson: I put my hands up and showed them that my hands were clear of the weapon that I was carrying and they took my equipment off and took me to a village. They gave me some water, and I was pretty scared at the time.

221.  
Photos:  
The wounds of prisoners are dressed

Author's Commentary: Let's keep this in mind: Captured pilots are surprised that the old cliche' over awaiting torture and death does not hold true - instead, he receives first aid and a drink of water.

222.  
Downed pilot receives water

223.  
Hughes declares

Hughes: They were very kind people. I had incurred some scratches
Hughes: dressed these wounds with Mercurecome or what have you and then bandaged them. They sheltered me in a very strong building and took good care to ensure safety and housed me until the authorities came and took me to the interrogation camp.

Hughes after having been shot down
Hughes declares

Hughes after having been shot down
Hughes declares

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

X: Were you given medical attention?
Risner: Yes, I, I was allowed to lie down the first day and the afternoon of the second day while progressing towards Hanoi. In my present camp I was given medical attention by our local doctor for my wounds.

Hughes declares
Hughes after having been shot down
Hughes declares

Risner declares

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner declares

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.

Risner: I had some injuries on my knee and some other minor injuries as I landed.
Hubbard declares

X: Lieutenant Hubbard, as a member of the Air Force you are equipped with a 38 caliber Smith & Wesson revolver. Did you make use of this weapon?

Hubbard: No, sir. I didn't hardly feel like starting a land war against 17 million people by myself.

X: Humm. But you are familiar with your Code of Conduct and you know Article 2 which says roughly: "I will never surrender as long as means of resistance are available." Is that correct?

Hubbard: Well, I think, ah, I can't remember exactly what the saying is; but something is the better part of valour and I did not feel that this was exactly the time, it was very obvious that if I was to start shooting I would be dead.

Hughes declares

(A pistol is given to the pilot)

X: Colonel, we want to return to you once again the weapon with which are equipped as a pilot for your self-defence. Did you attempt to hinder your capture?

Hughes: No, sir, I did not.

Ringsdorf declares

(A pistol is given to the pilot)

X: And now, Lieutenant, you will experience a great moment. We are returning to you weapon you were carrying. This is a 38 caliber pistol. Hold it in your hand.

Close-up of pistol.
The pilot puts it on his thigh

It was part of your personal equipment and you also had a pocket full of ammunition. Did you attempt to defend yourself against the women who were the first to receive you on the ground? Did you attempt it?

Ringsdorf declares

Ringsdorf: I made no attempt, no. I, ah, for one thing it was quite a shock to see a woman, and I made no attempt to ... 

X: Was that an act of gallantry which led you to not defend yourself against a woman?

Ringsdorf: Well, it would have been useless. I wouldn't have had a prayer.

X: Please tell us why you are so timid to
again handle this pistol. You let it lie there on your thigh as if it were a completely foreign object. You must be very familiar with this weapon ... aren't you?

Ringsdorf: No, I have no desire to handle a pistol. You're, you're taking movies, I am not that warlike.

X: Not warlike you say, not warlike. But you carried bombs and rockets into this country. Did you at least think for a moment about the Code of Conduct when you surrendered to a Vietnamese woman?

The return of their personal weapon was embarrassing for them. For not one of them had carried out his order and used the revolver as a "means of resistance".

In the critical moment none of them even compared to the gun-totters who fire from all barrels and gun down their opponents by the dozen. The contrast between American movie heroes and these people is so great that it is hardly imaginable.

This bamboo pitch-fork, for instance, which has been given a place of honour in the Army Museum of Hanoi, is known throughout the country.

The Film Studio of the Vietnamese People's

This American pilot -- this Vietnamese farmer -- and this bamboo pitch fork.

"We capture American pilots with our bare hands"

Original scenes and original text from Vietnamese movie of in the district of Quang-Ngoc, Than-hoa the same name, filmed province.
Farmer with pitch-fork
253.
Parachute floating down
254.
Farmers with pitch-forks
255.
Pilot Peel
256.
US aircraft in the sky
257.
Peel
258.
Farmers surround Peel
259. Pilot raises his hands
260. Parachute is folded up
261. Peel is taken away
262. Village meeting
263. Farmer Do
264. Peel with coconut
265. Sound engineer  Commentary:  mounts microphone
266.
Peel declares

X: What is your rank?
Peel: First Lieutenant.
X: And your service number?
Peel: A 03117963.
X: How many times did you fly over the Democratic Republic of Vietnam?
Peel: I had one mission.
X: Lieutenant Peel, you were carrying a .38 caliber pistol with you

but in the end you conceded to a bamboo pitch-fork.

The actions of members of the American armed forces are regulated, however, by the so-called Code of Conduct whose Article 2 states roughly:
I will never surrender voluntarily as long as means of resistance are available to me.

Peel: No comment.
X: Lieutenant, you did something else however, you played a leading role in a Vietnamese movie only a few days after being captured, and I wish you to tell us please whether or not you have been granted any special favours in your camp for performing in this movie.

Peel: No, I did not.

Commentary: The severely-tried people of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam laugh about this story with the bamboo pitch-fork which made the party of the workers of the DRV one member richer and the US Air Force one pilot poorer.

Duart declares

Duart: I put my hands up, I had a pistol with me, which was later, later than I'd expected, it was taken away from me. It was not taken immediately; however I did not try to use it.
X: Why not?
Duart: At the, at the time, my thoughts were, have I got a chance here to live or die,
so, naturally, I selected the chance to live

"The chance to live." Each of them has killed, as long as they flew, human life meant little to them. But when it concerned their own they suddenly realised the value of life, and they chose a chance to live. But this also means they themselves did not believe in their anti-communist cliches' of torture, brainwashing and so forth and so on.

Otherwise they would have had to pull their revolvers and defend themselves to the fifth bullet, and then shoot themselves with the last one.

These people didn't lose only their aircraft, their illusions of personal superiority also crashed to ruin.

It is often said in the USA that a man like you, as a highly-trained flying officer, is worth his weight in gold, because his training is costly and extensive, Ah, I would like to think I'm worth my weight in gold.

A bar of gold such as this is promised to every Vietnamese who helps a downed American pilot escape.

Promised in this leaflet, authorised by the signature of the US "governor" in Saigon.

Reward: 50 ounces of gold - that is roughly 3 pounds.

These leaflets fall on the DRV together with bombs and rockets, and they not only bribe the finder, they also want to teach them how they are to approach an American superman.
Captured pilots are taken away

"You can have 50 ounces of gold for helping an American pilot escape to freedom. "If you see an American coming down by parachute do not be afraid. Go to him, "Show him that you mean him no harm by raising you hands."

Excited people

"Help him in every way you can. Conceal him from the enemy rulers. Help him return to security. You can escape to freedom with him. You will be paid 50 ounces of gold when the American is saved. You can receive the reward in gold bars."

Pilots are put in cars and driven away

First Lieutenant Shively will not demonstrate another means of bribery, devised by American psychologists. According to regulations it is to be found in right breast pockets of each pilot.

Shively pulls a cloth out of pocket, holds it toward camera

Yes, sir. This is what is call a, we call it a "blood-chit". It was used to a great extent in World War Two and it is a piece of waver.. proof material that has the American flag on it and what, if we come into contact with people we take this out and show it to them. And on this is written in many different languages of the area that we might be flying over, for instance, there is Burmese, Thai, Laotian, Cambodian, Vietnamese and so on. Then and all it says on here is that I am an American citizen of the United States of America. I do not speak your language, Misfortune forces me to seek your assistance, in obtaining food, shelter, and protection. Please take me to someone who will provide my safety and see that I am returned to my people. My government will reward you.

Shively fold up cloth

Lieutenant Shively, do you
Shively declares

Shively: In North Vietnam. No, sir. I didn't even think of using it.

X: Why? Why did you not think of using it?

Shively: Why not, sir? Because we are at war with these people. And I didn't think that I would find any people particularly friendly towards me in the area that I bailed out, sir.

Duart declares

Duart: Ah, yes, sir. This, sounds like, and I am not positive, I have not read one for a while, it sounds like what is written on, what we call the "blood-chit". And I am sure this is a common slang GI name for this piece of information or reward promised, a promise of reward, that's what it is. The real name for it, that is the best I can do to say is the promise of reward for the return of a downed American flyer back to his territory.

X: Major, an offer of reward like this is actually nothing more than a call for collaboration with the enemy. Do you think that this promise would have been successful here in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam?

Duart: Well, the Vietnamese that I have come in contact with, as far as, well, the people that captured me, no, it would not have had any effect. In fact...

Hubbard declares

X: "Please take me to someone who will provide for my safety and see that I am returned to my people. My government will reward
you."--- Does this sound familiar to you?

Hubbard: I've, I've heard that, I think, before, but I never paid much attention to it. I never thought I would have to use it. I might have gone for the flag, my mind was pretty confused about that time and I don't even know whether I would even have had the presence of mind to show them the flag, but I was not planning to shoot at anybody.

X: I can well imagine that the American psychologists who designed this probably mis-calculated the moral and political unity of the people you are up against here.

Hubbard: Well, I would, I would say, there is very little use...If you're captured by the people up here I would say that chances anybody turning you over to friendly people is very remote.

293.
Militia woman marching

Commentary: "Please take me to someone who will off a captured pilot provide for my safety and see that I am returned to my people. My government will reward you.

Author's Commentary" His safety is being provided for: this young militia woman is providing security for downed air pirate Major Dewey Wayne Waddell behind lock and key.

Music

294.
Pilot and girl walking past camera, camera pans, both walk away from camera

295.

Title fades in

PILOTS IN PYJAMAS

1

YES, SIR

A Film by
Heynowski & Scheumann
Camera:
Hans Leupold
Gerhard Munch
Peter Hellmich

Photos:

Title fades in

Sequence:
Traute Wischnewski
P I L O T S  I N  P Y J A M A S
Part 2
H I L T O N  -  H A N O I
Heynowski & Scheumann

1. Printed title
2. Printed title
3. Printed title
4. Captain Boyd is captured - Music -
5. Boyd taken away in an ox-cart
6. Indignant population accompany ox-cart - Original sound -
Printed title superimposed
7. Boyd climbs into army truck
   Author's Commentary
   The flying career of Captain Charles Graham Boyd has just come to an abrupt end. The debris of his airplane is lying in a rice field a few kilometers away. In a few hours the Captain will have to discard his flying suit and put on other clothing....

8. US pilot in cockpit wearing oxygen mask.
   Printed title
   DEFA Group Heynowski & Scheumann

9. Pilot closes cockpit;
    printed title
   PILOTS
10. Turn fade-in; pilot in pyjamas walking along a path printed title
11. Abbott's fan superimposed;
    printed title
   2 HILTON HANOI
12.
Abbott declares: Lieutenant Abbott, will you please pick up your fan and show it to us. I see you have a rather odd inscription on it.

Abbott: This right here?

X: Yes, I think it says . . . "Souvenir Hilton".

Abbott: Of "Hilton Vietnam".

X: Is it supposed to express a sort of grim humour?

Abbott: Yes, yes, ah, everybody back in the, our airbases knows that if you get shot down, you will go to Hanoi Hilton. This is just an expression if you go to some place such as to the detention camp, we jokingly call it the "Hilton Hotel", or "Hanoi Hilton".


X: Lieutenant Torkelson, how did this expression "Souvenir Hilton Vietnam" originate?

Torkelson: Well, it's a kind of joke amongst the pilots, the US pilots, actually it's the Han ... They call it the "Hanoi Hilton", and "Hilton" is an exclusive hotel, a kind of hotel chain in the United States and it was kind of a joke amongst the pilots at ah ...


X: Where did this name "Hilton Vietnam" actually originate?

Shively: Sir, the pilots back at Ta Khli, and the other bases, we have always in our slang referred to the detention camps of Vietnam as "Hilton Vietnam". It's kind of a takeoff on our own chain of hotels called Chicago Hilton, Los Angeles Hilton, etc., Sir

15. Brochures of Hilton: Yes, the large hotels of American multi-hotels millionaire Conrad Hilton are part of the "American way of life".

16. Photos from the brochures: Many Americans dream of one day staying in one of the
expensive Hilton hotels. After all, Mister Hilton advertises with the slogan that his hotels offer a piece of America even outside the borders of the United States.

17. View of hotels
17a. Trinidad
17b. Teheran
17c. Tunis
17d. Rome
17e. Tokyo
17f. Panama
17g. Rotterdam
17h. Hawaii
17i. Istanbul
17k. West Berlin

18. Pan. Doors of a detention camp

19. Hubbard declares

X: Lieutenant Hubbard, do you happen to know what the Vietnamese call the camps where American pilots are quartered?

Hubbard: What they are called? No, sir, I do not.

X: They call them "hotels for uninvited guests".

20. Unidentified prisoner

Commentary: View of a three-bed room in the "Hilton Hanoi". Here he is again: the hotel guest who remained incognito and didn't want to be either filmed or photographed.

21. Pilot Galanti

His first stay at a Hilton hotel, but not in high spirit was at all: Navy Pilot, Lieutenant Paul E. Galanti, shot down on 11 July 1966, while attacking a freight train. Questioned by a French woman journalist whether he would consider it normal for Vietnamese pilots to attack a train in the United States Galanti answered: "Oh no, definitely
Major Thorsness, I have a question dealing with the way you sleep. You have a wooden bed, is that correct?

Thorsness: That's correct, sir.

X: What is it like to sleep on a bed such as this, with this country's torrid climate?

Thorsness: It's hot. Ah, again, it's relative. You accept what you have and it's better than sleeping on a cement floor or cement slab and you get used to it and I think that so far as I know, I am not positive about this, I think the Vietnamese people, many of them, also sleep on a wooden bed and if it is good enough for them it's good enough for their prisoners, I guess. I did not expect a foam rubber king size mattress.

The camp guards also sleep on wooden beds.

Rule Number 1 in a prisoner's life: "Clean and Neat", written on the wall in their

Lt. Commander Richard Allen Stratton, the highest ranking officer in this detention camp, washing himself daily. Navy Pilot Lt. Commander Richard Allen Stratton needs a good supply of water although he and the likes of him show a special preference for dropping their bombs on the dikes and irrigation systems of the North.

The Lt. Commander is doing his own laundry. Before he was brought down --

Stratton took off from the aircraft carrier "Ticonderoga".

The flight of each and every air pirate is Airplane models are moved observed in this guidance center. American on glass plate reports say that the electronic eye of such aircraft carriers never loses
30. Stratton washing his clothes

31. Hubbard declares

   X:
   Lieutenant Hubbard, what were you given to wear after you discarded your flying suit?

   Hubbard:
   Well, shortly after that they took my uniform and gave me what you see right here.

   X:
   What else do your belongings consist of here in the camp?

   Hubbard:
   Well, I have all the other clothing I need. I have underwear and outer garments and the shoes, and I received mosquito-net and blankets and such things as that. Everything I need, too, toilet . . .

   X:
   That's also articles for your personal hygiene?

   Hubbard:
   Yes, sir. I have teeth paste and tooth brush and towels and soap and such things as that.

   X:
   Do you know what the sandals you wear are made of?

32. Pan to sandals on Hubbard's feet

33. Airplane tires in front of destroyed US plane

   Commentary:
   From the tires of downed American airplanes these sandals are made for downed American air pirates.

34. Sandals.

35. Close up

36. Close up. a pilot walking

37. Pan pilot's boots to sandals

38. + 39. Complete pilot issue

39. Vietnamese soldier lays prisoner issue on table

40. Vietnamese soldier packs pilot issue

   Author's communication equipment, blink and smoke signals, whistles, mosquito net, fishing line and shark powder - everything is considered.

sight of any pilot.
From the same 30 pieces of equipment we were interested mainly in this book here.

"Survival".
A book that lays bare the way of thinking of Superman:

for even in this situation the Americans look down on these -- as this book calls them --

"natives".

41.
Soldier has book in his hand - stand copy
42.
Survival book

43.
Parachute comes down

44.
Book opens, insert:
45.
Photo sequence:
English text as subtitle
45a.
Vietnamese with sticks approach pilot
Commentary: "Let the natives contact you.
With few exceptions natives are friendly.

45b.
Pilot is taken away
"They can be your best help.
It all depends on the way you handle them.

45c.
Pilot in underwear
"Don't give a native cause to fear you. Fear makes him hostile. Smile frequently.

45d.
Pilot on ox-cart
"Don't be afraid to be an object of amusement to the natives. Be ready to entertain with songs, games or any tricks of cards, coins or strings which you may know.

45e.
Girl with pilot
"Leave the native women alone at all times.

45f.
Pilot receiving first aid, pilot in operating room, on a stretcher with oxygen mask
"Treat your new friends like human beings. Don't look down on them. Don't laugh at Them, or make fun of them. Don't bully or drive them. Natives suffer from diseases which you can catch. Avoid physical contact without seeming to do so.

Be generous, but not lavish!"

Be generous, but not lavish!"

- Music -
- Music -

Major Thorsness, what were you thoughts when you took off your flying suit and were
handed these, let's call them pyjamas? How does a high-ranking officer feel about such a change of clothing?

Thorsness: Humm. Well, one feels that, first off one accepts reality. It's a fact that I was shot down and it's a fact that I was captured and as a prisoner of war here, it's a fact that my treatment is entirely up to my captors and whatever they do with me, I have no control over it.

X: Permit me to interrupt. You said just now that you are here as a prisoner of war. But do you actually have the right, according to international law, to claim the status of a prisoner of war?

Thorsness: In my mind yes. I feel that I am.

X: Have the United States of America declared war on the Democratic Republic of Vietnam?

Thorsness: To my knowledge they have not. So far as I know there has been no formal declaration of war between the United States and the, and North Vietnam.

Shively declares X: Lieutenant Shively, the United States of America has never declared war on the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, is that right?

Shively: No, sir, as far as I know they have never declared war on North Vietnam, no sir.

X: Now, we know from what you have told us that you have a master's degree in international affairs. Do you see any consequence, with a view to international law, for yourself as an inmate of a prison camp here in the DRV deriving from the fact that war has not been declared?

Shively: Well, sir, as far as the Geneva Declarations are concerned, I don't think that we are actually considered prisoners-of-war, because there has been no declaration of war. It kinda, kind of
leaves us that are captured out in the cold. We don't know status.

X: According to international law, a war is preceded by an official declaration of war. There are other definitions for the actions you have waged and are still waging here: namely piracy, and the pirate.

Shively: I would imagine that. I know that's how the Vietnamese people look at us here, sir.

X: Not only the Vietnamese, but also the major part of the world, and, I think, quite a few citizens of the United States of America.

Shively: Yes, sir.

X: And if you now wish to start from the standpoint that you yourself cannot claim to be a prisoner of war in the sense of the Geneva Convention, what is your opinion of your treatment?

Shively: Sir, I have been treated very well. Ah, I was greatly surprised at how well I have been treated, as I said before, I was, had not expected to be treated so well at all. I had expected perhaps to be thrown into a dark hole somewhere, and kinda forgotten about, if not killed immediately, I thought that if I was kept alive, that I probably wouldn't be fed very well, would just have enough to sustain life and that be about all, but to the contrary, I've been treated very well. The wounds I received during my ejection from the aircraft have been treated, I eat well, regularly, good meals, even allowed cigarettes daily to smoke, get good clothes, good shelter, so on like this, sir. I have been treated, I consider, very fairly.

X: Lieutenant Shively, how do you explain the fact of your -- and I use your words, fair treatment? It seems to me that the Vietnamese would have every reason to revenge themselves for everything that has happened and is
still happening.

Shively: Sir, I, I can, it's hard for me to explain why the people would treat me well after the damage and suffering that I've caused. I think it is probably, basically the generosity of the Vietnamese people and their desire for me to understand their point of view and perhaps and some way for me to understand, and think about the suffering that I have caused, and to show my desire to be forgiven by the Vietnamese people for what I've done, sir.

X: Lieutenant, you are experiencing in practice an example of socialist humanity. The President of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh, has stated that the people here are capable of differentiating between real criminals in the background, who hold the decisive positions of government, and their tools who carry out their plans by dropping bombs and firing rockets. You are enjoying here more or less the advantages of this socialist concept which does not absolve you of guilt or minimize your actions, but does differentiate in each case between the initiators of a policy and their mere tools.

50.

Risner declares X: Colonel Risner, do you get enough to eat here in the prison camp? And how about the quality of your food?

Risner: Yes, yes, we are very well fed, we are well fed.

51.

Thorsness declares; X: Major Thorsness, do you know what that is that you have there in your hand?

Thorsness: Well, it is, it appears to be rice, I, I don't know, it looks like rice, maybe. No, I don't know for certain what this is.

X: You were right; it is rice that was burnt during an air-raid on an agricultural area.
56. Risner declares

X: Colonel, can you also read things or sometimes listen to the radio?

Risner: Oh, sometimes we hear the "Voice of Vietnam". And, yes, we have been availed opportunity to read various things and articles since we have been here.

57. Pilots in camp reading room

Commentary: The reading room of a prison camp. With his face to the camera: Navy pilot Commander Kay Russell.

58. Take-off from aircraft carrier

On May 19, 1967, he took off from the aircraft carrier "Bon Homme Richard" in the direction of Hanoi.

59. Russell reading, close up

He is one of 10 pilots shot down on this day over the North Vietnamese capital.

60. Zoom. Book and hand close up

Russell's present problem: there are too few crime stories in the camp library.

61. Slogan above window

This is also important reading: "Let the Vietnamese problem be settled by the Vietnamese themselves!"

62. Alvarez declares

X: Lieutenant Alvarez, during your period of captivity here, have you received any news about the baseball standings in the United States?

Alvarez: Yes, we had some information on how baseball is going in the States. Through local radio, I believe. Voice of Vietnam.

Hubbard: This, ah, this is to deal with the enemy?

X: Yes, that has something to do with the enemy. American
soldiers are taught there how they are allegedly to be treated in case of communist captivity.

Hubbard: I never, I've never received any training of this type. I don't . . . I went through survival school, but they didn't, nobody ever did this to me. In fact, I think, I would have been pretty upset if anybody had tried to do this to me.

X: I'd like to ask you a few definite questions. Is your situation here as a prisoner comparable with the situation depicted in these pictures? Did someone here in North Vietnam step on your stomach as shown here in these pictures?

Hubbard declares Hubbard: No, nobody's ever jumped on my stomach that I recall.

Illustrated photo X: Were you tied to a stake and exposed to intense heat of the sun for hours on end?

Hubbard declares Hubbard: No, sir.

Illustrated photo X: Did you have to kneel down on a log until you collapsed?

Hubbard declares Hubbard: No, sir.

Three pilots marched to garden detail Commentary: These three inmates live in a cell of the "Hilton Hanoi".

Pilots digging garden Although these high-ranking Air Force and Navy officers are not forced to work, they are pleased to have the opportunity to get in a little physical activity. Here, they are working a garden for soup vegetables.

Slogan on wall "Good order and discipline!" -- their own order of the day.

Stratton & Hegdahl sweeping yard Here commander Stratton and the sailor Douglas Brent Hegdahl are maintaining the cleanliness of the camp.

Hegdahl alone Hegdahl is the only American draftee in custody in the
The sailor fell overboard from a warship where he was serving as a draftee, and was fished out of the water a short time later by Vietnamese fishermen. Now Hegdahl is sharing the life of the captured air pirates.

The streets of Hanoi have gaping holes: Concrete rings, submerged in the ground. These rings are vital products. The need is great. They are formed in factories such as these, outside and on the streets where they are to be used.

When the alarm is sounded life circulates closely around these dark holes. When the enemy approaches, heavy lids lie at hand, ready to be raised to close the holes.

Nor are the captured American pilots unprotected when their buddies come flying in. They have everything available that the Vietnamese have. When the guards shout out "May bay My" --- that means Americans planes -- everyone knows immediately where he has to go: in the individual man holes.

or in the self-built air-raid shelters.

They have the chance to survive --

They can take a shower --

They have soap for washing --

They have enough to eat --

They receive a few cigarettes regularly.

They are permitted to read --

Each of them has his own bed

And anyone who desires to do so can grow a beard.
Pilots in yard

This is "Hilton Hanoi": certainly not a rosy reality for fastidious tastes but certainly human.

82.
Marching training company

And now we will show you film scenes circulated in the USA. American soldiers are undergoing special training here before being sent to Vietnam: preparation for "communist captivity".

83.
Billboards in training camp

American instructors have dressed up as Vietnamese with straw hats, they are wearing simulated insignia and have the flag of the enemy on their backs.

84.
Marching training company

85.
Instructors dressed as Vietnamese

This is the milieu in which the US variant of modern fascism complacently puts itself on show.

86.
In the camp: "communist" slogans

87.
In the camp: Commentary:
Instructors torture soldiers.
Scenes correspond to text

Push ups on posts over a mud puddle. The arms are pushed aside. "Captured" Americans are questioned. Evil-smelling substances intensify the procedure. The dirt treatment. Interrogation at the bottom of a musty hole.

Noise torture. Anyone subjected to this for more than 20 minutes suffers total physical collapse. "Captured" Americans must move themselves forward at a crawl. At the end of their course they fall into a hole where sand fills their noses, mouths and eyes. Depressive games designed to break the will of the prisoner. A man is locked in the pillory. Obnoxious liquids are poured on his head to attract flies and other insects. Americans at the moment of "capture": from the very first minute on, they are beaten. Heads in sacks indicate the possibility of an impending
88. Magazine is flipped open, Author's photographs laid out

Commentary: Large illustrated magazines have also published photo series of this training camp for American soldiers. We took a series of such photographs with us to Vietnam.

89. Hubbard declares, examines photos

X: Will you please do me a favour and carefully examine these pictures and then try to express your thoughts to us. For your clarity I wish only to tell you that these are photographs from the French illustrated "Paris-Match" and the West German illustrated "Stern".

Hubbard: This, ah, this is to deal with the enemy?

X: Yes, that has something to do with the enemy. American soldiers are taught there now they are allegedly to be treated in case of communist captivity.

Hubbard: I never, I've never received any training of this type. I don't know . . . I went through survival school, but they didn't, nobody ever did this to me. In fact, I think, I would have been pretty upset if anybody had tried to do this to me.

X: I'd like to ask you a few definite questions. Is your situation here as a prisoner comparable with the situation depicted in these pictures? Did someone here in North Vietnam.

90. Illustrated photo pictures?

91. Hubbard declares

Hubbard: No, nobody's ever jumped on my stomach that I recall

92. Illustrated photo

X: Were you tied to a stake and exposed to intense heat of the sun for hours on end?

93. Hubbard declares

Hubbard: No, sir.

94. Illustrated photo

X: Did you have to kneel down on a log until you collapsed?

95. Hubbard declares

Hubbard: No, sir.

96. Illustrated photo

X: Did you ever have Vietnamese
guards wearing these wide-brimmed straw hats on their heads?

X: Were you thrown...

Hubbard declares

Hubbard: No, sir, I never, well, I've worn one of these.....when I was captured they gave me one of these little hats to keep the sun off my head. But that's the only time that I have ever seen one.

X: to the ground by one of your guards and choked

Hubbard declares

Hubbard: until your eyes popped out of their sockets?

X: I, I, not that I know of, sir. I do not know sir.

Torkelson declares, examines photos

Torkelson: It looks like they are trying to portray the, the that we should expect to be treated over here, and, if we are, and I was shot down and captured. Ah, it looks like they're trying to teach them how or what to expect when they are shot down.

X: That's right, and since we are of the same opinion, I'd like to ask you a couple of precise questions about your imprisonment here:

Torkelson declares

Torkelson: Did someone tie you to a stake and leave you standing in blazing sun light as ist

X: shown in one of those photographs here?

Torkelson: No, they did not.

X: Did someone force you to kneel down on a log with extended arms until you collapsed?

Torkelson declares

Torkelson: Ah no, I didn't, I wasn't.

X: Did anyone step on your stomach

Illustrated photo

as is portrayed in one of these pictures?

Torkelson declares

Torkelson: No, they did not.

X: Were your Vietnamese guards, with whom you talked, wearing straw hats such as these?

Torkelson declares

Torkelson: Ah no, they didn't have hats
like these.

X: Then these photographs obviously depict more or less the cliche'-idea of a communist opponent spread among the American armed forces. Or do these photographs reflect even a iota of reality?

Torkeson: Ah, well, no, they haven't treated me like in the pictures portrayed here.

109. Shively declares, X: Lieutenant Shively, can you explain what is examines photos going on here?

Shively: I, I am not sure, but it looks like, a some kind of a guerrilla training. Perhaps, a simulated prisoner of war camp, or something such as this. It looks from the photos that this ist an army, army-type thing.

X: Yes, you are absolutely right. It is a training camp near Columbus in the United States and members of the American armed forces are given special training there to prepare them for the possibility of captivity in Vietnam.

Shively: Yes sir. The only training in a prisoner of war kind of situation I took at, sted Air Force Base, has a survival school there in which they had a simulated prisoner of war camp set up.

110. Illustrated photos X: Well, I want to ask you this: As a captive here, did anyone step on your stomach?

111. Shively declares Shively: (laughing) No sir.

112. Illustrated photo X: Did someone force you to kneel down on a log so long that you collapsed?

113. Shively declares Shively: No sir, no sir.

114. Illustrated photo X: Did someone bind you to a stake in blazing sunlight and wait for you to break down physically?

115. Shively declares Shively: No sir. They certainly did not.

116. Illustrated photo X: And did your Vietnamese guards wear pointed sun hats
Shively declares: No sir, no sir.

X: Then the psychological advice given American soldiers about captivity seems to digress sharply from reality?

Shively: Yes sir. It is certainly farm from what I had been taught to expect once I was on the ground, sir.

X: Now, try to explain that. Doesn't it have something to do with the fact that the opponent is made to look extremely malicious, or in other words, satanic, in order to increase morale among the troops? Shively: Sir, that could very well be part of it. They certainly don't want to teach us to like the enemy and I think another part of it is that they really don't know what kind of treatment to expect and I think they are trying to prepare a man for the worst, prepare him for the worst possible situation and then if it isn't that bad, he will feel somewhat better about the whole situation.

X: On that, I disagree with you. I rather think that part and parcel of the standard idea of communism is to say that inferior people rule there.

Shively: Yes, sir. I feel that most people in the United States, myself included, feel that if we should ever fall into the hands of the communists when we are fighting against them, then we will certainly be able to expect very bad treatment. Yes, sir, I think most soldiers, most pilots, most people in the United States generally, have this concept.

X: That is the concept of anti-communism.

Shively: Yes, sir.

118.

In the camp: Instructor bangs soldier's head against wall

Commentary: This is how the human brain must be treated if it is to absorb anti-communist thinking. The Pentagon kills two birds with one stone: On the one hand the communist enemy is made to
Shively declares: Lieutenant Shively, you gave us a very impressive description of your experience in detention here and concluded that it was quite different from that which you had expected. It was all very convincing and came like a shot. And so I would like to ask you a question, a very direct question: did you learn to give such answers? Have you been brainwashed, to use a word coined by officialdom of the USA? You know what I mean?

Fade: Shively to decapitated NLF fighter, zoom to full photo. The picture is expanded.

Torkelson declares: There is ample evidence that captured members of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam are brutally tortured and murdered in South Vietnam. Do you approve of this?

Torkelson: Ah well, ah, I don't think of course that this is necessarily right, but I think it is inevitable that it will happen in a situation like this.

Repeatscene with decapitated heads

Commentary: "It is inevitable that it will happen in a situation like this" -- says American First Lieutenant Torkelson.

Torkelson declares: Lieutenant Torkelson, an American office in Saigon has on display the car of a Viet cong prisoner bottled in alcohol. Do you think this is true?

Torkelson: Ah, it is possible, yes.

Photo: US soldier holds skull with cigar and hat

Commentary: Mascot of the US 1st Cavalry Division.

Skull fades out

Commentary: the skull of a fighter of the South Vietnamese National Liberation Front.
SS death head

Another Nuremberg is in the making.

Photo series:
US soldiers in South Vietnam with captured and dead NLF fighters; torture and interrogation scenes.

Thorsness declares
Thorsness: Yes, sir, I, ah, I am satisfied with the manner or the way I have been treated since my capture. The people that captured me treated me quite well. Shortly after capture I was given food and I was given water, and I have not been starved, not been deprived of my basic needs, ah, food, clothing or shelter and I'm, I can say, I am not dissatisfied. Obviously whatever you have you want more, that's human nature. But my basic needs have been satisfied. And we are allowed to wash and a place to eat and sleep, so I'm, I am being treated quite well, as far as, as far as I am concerned.

Risner declares

X: Colonel Risner, are you currently suffering from an illness?

Risner: I, it's strange that you should ask, but yes, I have a very active kidney stone and for the past thirty days or more intermittently I am in very intense pain and I have received medical attention for it to assist me during the time of pain. I've also received medicine for sickness at the time since I have been a prisoner.

X: We saw immediately that, in contrast to the other pilots with whom we have spoken, you don't exactly radiate healthiness; you have shadows under your eyes and are very pale. Is this because of your illness?

Risner: It perhaps does, ah, of course, despite the fact that the Vietnamese authorities have, they have actually made an effort which I appreciate, but they have made an effort to help me maintain a good state of health, and
despite that my situation is not conducive to happiness of course, and even though we are well fed and we are even sometimes given vitamins perhaps the diet has something to do with it. I don't really know what causes it to look like this, but perhaps my sickness has had something to do with my looks, yes.

130.
Pilots in camp decorate X-mas tree

Commentary: Here captured pilots are celebrating Christmas in a Vietnamese prison camp. During Christmas 1967 American airplanes also dropped their bombs on the DRV:

131:
Nativity scene
132
Bomb explosions
133.
Hubbard declares

Hubbard:

Yes, sir. We had a Christmas tree and a small nativity scene set on the table, with a cross at Christmas time, and I was allowed to visit a minister Easter time.

X:

Lieutenant Hubbard, do you have the opportunity to exchange letters with your family?

Hubbard:

Yes, sir. I have written to my family several times and I have received two letters from my family.

134.
Alvarez declares

X:

Lieutenant Alvarez, during your long period of captivity have you contacted your relatives at home?

Alvarez:

Yes, I've, I had contact. Letters, written letters from my family.

X:

How many? I mean how many?

Alvarez:

I have written, I have written about 20 letters in almost 3 years.

X:

And how many did you receive from your relatives?

Alvarez:

From my family, my parents and my wife I have received, I'd say, about 40 letters.

135.
Hughes reads a letter in camp yard

Author's

Lieutenant Colonel Hughes has received a letter.

Female voice:

Dear Jim, Petunias, lilacs and geraniums are sprouting up all over the city. Everyone
seems to be taking an
interest in perking up their
yards, and with a little bit
of effort, things will look
really pretty by next
month...

Author's
Commentary: Professional anti-communists
in the United States have
purposely spread the lie that
there is no postal contact
between the prisoners
and their relatives.

Female voice: Peter looks a little funny in
his pictures because he has a
large black space where his
two front teeth should be,
but one of his two permanent
front teeth is pushing
through the gum and should be
all the way out soon.

Author's
Commentary: Mrs. Hughes wrote on the
envelope of her letter: "For:
James Lindbergh Hughes FR
43211 -- Camp of Detention
for US Pilots Captured in the
Democratic Republic of
Vietnam. C/O Hanoi, Post
Office."

Female voice: What more can I say except
that I tuck a little prayer
inside this letter. We love
you. Your wife, Dotty

Author's
Commentary: James Lindbergh Hughes, 40
years old. Lieutenant Colonel
in the US Air Force. 44
bombing raids against th
Democratic Republic of Vietnam. As the high
noon sun beats unmercifully
on the roof tops of
Hilton-Hanoi, somewhere in
the United States there is a
shady place. A young boy
named Peter whose two front
teeth are pushing through the
gum. A wife named Dotty. We
show you here the picture of
a moved man. With all due
reserve we almost have
something like understanding
for his present state of
emotion. But we also know
that the Washington superiors
of Lt. Cl. Hughes will view
this scene with deep
displeasure; for, according
to their orders, Americans
who are captured are not
supposed to be moved, but are
to move!
Facsimile                  Commentary:          "I will make every effort to escape, and aid others to escape."
Code of Conduct            This is Article 3 of the "Code of Conduct."
Article 3:                 
pan to Code title          

Camp scene:                Each of these captured officers knows his Code of Conduct in detail, but ever since the existence of the detention camp for American air pirates not one single escape attempt has been made.
Pilots working in yard

Hubbard exercising          Daily calisthenics keep the uninjured captured pilots in good physical condition.

In camp:                    The cell doors are no more secure than those of rabbit pens.
Vietnamese soldier         The vast majority of the prisoners have maintained their weight and would be able to break open the cell doors with one hefty kick. With such physical flexibility a prisoner should be in a position to overcome even the most complicated barriers.
hangs lock on door          

Hubbard exercising          

Stratton and Hegdahl in shower    

Pan to camp wall and street outside

Pan to Stratton and Hegdahl in shower

Capture scene

adhering to his pledge to escape;
for the pilots have already become acquainted with the proverbial "Man on the Street" when they were captured.

Pilot taken away by crowd   Author's Commentary:
Capture scene

After such first impressions on Vietnamese soil and the downed world policmen are more than happy

Pan to camp wall, shower
and view of street across wall

that their camp is enclosed by walls. They adjust themselves to their new habitat, but do not particularly like to be asked
to compare their present situation with that back at their bases.

147.
Ringsdorf declares

Not even First Lieutenant Ringsdorf.

Ringsdorf: I don't think there is any comparison. I don't quite understand. I, here I have all the basic necessities, if that's what you mean. There I, I had quite a bit more than the basic necessities.

X: Please explain for me your way of living at the Air Force base in South Vietnam, where you were stationed. What sort of opportunities did you have there?

Ringsdorf: Ah, it was mostly work and sleep, but there were movies and we had some USO shows and we had one thing, we had good food to eat but there wasn't a whole lot to do.

148.
Hubbard declares

Hubbard: We had a chapel, I don't know how many, several chaplains on the base. There were religious services that you could attend any time. And, the Officer's Club, we had a very large dining room that was open 24 hour a day, two bars where you could get anything you wanted to drink and a swimming pool right out beside the club and we had, there was a library on the base, though I never, I never went there and . . .

149.
Torkelson declares

X: Lieutenant Torkelson, you were stationed at Da Nang, the important US air base in South Vietnam. Could you tell us something about the life at this base?

Torkelson: A well, I think the base was originally built by the French and ah, we were living in quarters built also by the French, comment quarters; two-storey quarters were for the officers, were air-conditioned. We each had a room of our own. A room probably about the size of this one. Ah, we had an Officer's club there, a movie theatre, we had different movies every night, we had a
bar and a lounge, you
barbecue steaks in the dining
room of the officer's club.
The had special shows there
probably, once a week from
the States, ah, generally
speaking, it was improving
all the time, as far as our
life, ah, concerning our
leisure time.

X: Was Da Nang actually a safe
place?
Torkelson: Relatively speaking yes.
X: Will please explain this word
"relatively"?
Torkelson: Well, ah, the place, the
surrounding area there, is
actually a marine base and
there was some 15 or 16,000
American marines stationed at
Da Nang and they did
occasionally have small
incidents of Viet cong
activity, but I think with
the American marines there
you can say that it was
secure.

X: Isn't it true that the Da
Nang airfield, the place
where your airplanes were
located, was repeatedly under
mortar fire of the NLF?
Torkelson: Ah, twice while I was there
they were fired on by
rockets, ah, Soviet rockets.

In the mean time the
Americans in Da Nang are
counting the times they are
NOT shelled by mortars and
rockets of the NLF. The
inmate of the Hilton-Hanoi
possibly lives much safer
today than his buddies at Da
Nang which is no longer
relatively secure.

Lieutenant Alvarez, could you
tell us something about life
onboard the aircraft
carrier Constellation, before
you took off on your
first and at the same time
last flight on August 5,
1964?

Alvarez: Our life was very routine.
Ah, good food, ah, good beds,
ah, pop-corn machine. You
know pop-corn? Good popcorn.
Magazines to read and so
forth.
153. Popcorn                    Commentary:         Dry popcorn  - 
154. Soldiers in bar                                Juicy girls  - 
155. Military show                                 Front-line shows  - 
156. Americans and Vietnamese on beach             Beach-clubs with ladies  - 
157. "Overseas Weekly"                              Military newspapers  - 
158. AFN studio Saigon                             Armed Forces Radio  - 
159. US Television Saigon                          And their own TV Programs:  
160.                                                American Forces Network  - 
                                                 Saigon TV 
161. Front theater                                The USA spares neither money 
                                                 nor effect to keep up the 
                                                 morale of their world 
                                                 policemen in Vietnam. 
162. Briefing in Korat; pilots leave room           After briefing: prepare for 
                                                 the next bombing mission. 
                                                 This is their routine: 
163. Pilots eating                                 Eating  - 
164. Sleeping pilot                                Sleeping  - 
165. Nightclub scene                               Nightlifing  - 
166. Bomb explosion                                Bombing  - 
167. Alvarez declares                              X: Did you have the opportunity 
                                                 to go on leave from this 
                                                 aircraft carrier? Were you 
                                                 ever in Saigon or have you 
                                                 seen Hong Kong? 
                        Alvarez: Yes, I've been to Hong Kong 
                                                 before, yes. 
                        X: You spent your leave there, 
                                                 is that right? 
                        Alvarez: Oh we, I, yes. 
                        X: Is there something special 
                                                 that you can recall about 
                                                 this? 
                        Alvarez: Oh, Hong Kong is a very nice 
                                                 place, very nice. 
168. Ringsdorf declares                            X: Lieutenant Ringsdorf, were 
                                                 you terribly hard-hit by the 
                                                 fact that suddenly you were 
                                                 torn out of your previous way 
                                                 of life and had to begin the 
                                                 life of a prisoner? Did this
Ringsdorf: Yes it did. It came as a shock all of a sudden. It was quite a change, but I'm pretty well accustomed to it now. I think it would be a change for anyone to go through that.

X: Did you ever have any idea you could be shot down over the territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, or did you never consider this?

Ringsdorf: Well, I, I more or less did not think about it. I was always the type, ah, you know, they won't hit me, so it come pretty much as a shock.

169. Pilots waiting at Da Nang Air Base

Commentary: These air pirates in Da Nang still have their shock waiting for them. Among them not long ago was also -

170. Torkelson declares

X: What was said at the base when someone failed to return?

Torkelson: Well, there was no official word from anybody, from any of our commanders or anything. Of course we all felt bad, but this is part of being in the military and it's part of the risk that you take.

X: What would you say if you now had the opportunity to speak to your buddies who are still in Da Nang?

Torkelson: I mean your personal thoughts about this war which took you to captivity.

Torkelson: Oh, as a prisoner of war I would tell them that I have been treated very well since I came here, I have been given adequate food, medical attention, I haven't been punished or tortured or brainwashed. I have been given good shelter and companionship.

171. Pilots playing cards

Commentary: Pilots playing cards before their mission.

Turn fade: Prisoners playing cards

173.
Risner declares X: Colonel, you are the highest ranking officer we have met here. You too should use this opportunity and speak a few words to your buddies.

Risner: I would tell them first to consider, to find out all the information they could about what's going on, about all the facts, to remember their duty to God and their country and the precepts upon which our country was founded, which was liberty, and justice and equality and ask them to consider whether or not they are doing their best to preserve these things.

174.
Title of camp magazine Commentary: "New Runway" -- That is the title of one of the camp magazines issued by the prisoners, of which Colonel Risner is a member. The prisoners think: the Air Force should go home, back to the USA

175.
Duart declares X: Major Duart, if you now had the opportunity to speak to your buddies back at the air base from which you took off on your last mission and to let them know your opinion of this war what would you say?

Duart: Well, first off, I would tell them who I could about my life here, to inform them that although we are considered the very worst type of criminals by the DRV that our treatment is very good considering the charges against us and so forth. And I would also tell them that I am praying that they will not have to fly any more missions over this country, any more missions if possible. I hope that the bombing of this country will cease, because I see that as the only way that any negotiations that could end the whole war over here can ever start.

176.
Cartoon from camp magazine Commentary: "What I am doing here?" A cartoon from the camp newspaper "New Runway".

177.
Hughes declares X: Colonel Hughes, in your case
we have gained the impression
that you regret your flights
against the DRV. Would you
also say this to your buddies
back at the base, if you
could now speak to them?

Hughes:
I have found the people here
in the Democratic Republic of
Vietnam very humanitarian.
They have cared for me, they
have given me first aid,
medical treatment and in a
humanitarian way they are
caring for my needs which is
food, clothes and shelter. I
would like to return to the
United States because this
would mean that the
blood-letting by both
Americans and the Vietnamese
in the Far East would have
terminated, and I hope that
they will do their part to
bring about a cessation to
this quotation marks "bloody
stale-mate".

178.
Abbott declares
X: Lieutenant Abbott, what would
you say if your buddies from
your base were in front of
you right now?

Abbott:
Well, I would be kind of
biased right now because I'm
in a position where I'd like
to be home and my idea is to
stop bombing which I really
essentially believe in. Now,
however, what would I tell my
buddies? I would say, do as
you're told, do a good job,
and I hope you'll never get
captured and if there's any
way that through your
opinions you express ideas
that you can, let's say, make
with the way for negotiations
to peace I would do so at any
time.

179.
Da Nang: These people are still doing
Plane taxies for their "JOB", as they call it
take-off with their astonishing
terminology. And each
take-off opens three
possibilities for them:

180.
Pilot climbs out of cockpit
Return --
181.
Dead pilot
Death --
182.
Cartoon from camp
magazine.
or Hanoi Hilton.
Pan                        Commentary: As a plane goes down in smoke behind the mountain a "flying ace" floats down to earth by parachute. "S.O.L." -- a cartoon from the camp magazine "New Runway".

183. Thorsness declares X: Have you been able to learn a few words of Vietnamese during your presence here in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam?

Thorsness: No, I probably know three of four words is all of, of Vietnamese. I would like to learn the language as long as I am here. It would be nice, nice to know the Vietnamese language.

X: What are the three or four words that you know?

Thorsness: I know water', I think, that's "muk" and cigarettes' is "chok'a" and thank you', I believe is "komen", and that's about the extent of my Vietnamese vocabulary.

184. Ringsdorf declares X: Can you speak any Vietnamese words?

Ringsdorf: Oh, not very many, no. Just...I really can't think at the moment "Nuk" - water'. "Tekla" is cigarette. I believe that's about all.

X: In any case, only words concerning your very personal needs?

Ringsdorf: That's true, yes.

X: Do you know which American words the Vietnamese learn?

Ringsdorf: Words like "Hands up!" "Surrender or die!", "Stand up!, "Sit down!" I've learned a new one: The other night I was sleeping without my net, mosquito net. The guard said: "mosquito". So that's one I found out that they do know.

185. Alvarez declares Alvarez: Yes. I am hungry' means "dey-dey". "Dey-hat" means I am thiersty'. "Nuk" -- water'; "comb" -- rice'; "dey-on" means I'm sick'. "Com-on" -- thank you'.

X: I notice a certain difference between the words you have learned the past three years and those the Vietnamese people learn in preparation
Militia unit learns English, close-up (stop -- sitop --)

Author's commentary: "Stop! -- The Vietnamese find it difficult to learn foreign combinations of sounds. However: they are understood."

187. Captured pilot is taken way (Hands up!)

188. Militia man (Hands up!)

189. Pilot on ground (Music --)

190. Militia group (Hands up! Hands up!)

191. Pilot raises hands (Music --)

192. Militia woman. (Surrender, not die!)

193. Militia group shouts in chorus (Surrender, not die!)

194. Stratton sweeps yard (Music --)

Printed title superimposed on Stratton: "PILOTS IN PYJAMAS"

2 Hilton Hanoi

A film by Heynowski & Scheumann

Camera:
Hans Leupold
Gerhard Munch
Peter Hellmich

Still photos:
Thomas Wischniewski

Special effects:
Herst Denth

Interpreter:
Perry Friedman

Editors:
Gert Prokop
Peter Peterson

Production Managers:
Walter Martsch
Jochen Steff

Sound:
Hans-Jurgen Mittag

Music:
Reiner Brodemeyer

Commissioned by the Deutscher Fernschfunk and produced in the DEFA-Studio fur Wochenschau and Dokumentarfilme and in the DEFA-Studio Fur Synchrenisation
1. THE PRODUCERS OF THIS FILM EXTEND PARTICULAR THANKS TO THE COMRADES OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE'S ARMY AND THE FILM STUDIOS IN HANOI FOR THEIR COMRADELY ASSISTANCE!

2. THE QUESTIONS IN THE INTERVIEWS WITH THE US AIR FORCE OFFICERS WERE ASKED IN GERMAN AND TRANSLATED SIMULTANEOUSLY. THEY WERE DUBBED FOR THE ENGLISH VERSION OF THE FILM.

2. Vietnamese children look at camera

Author's Commentary: Children in Vietnam. Are they still laughing today? We do not know. We filmed these scenes in a Hanoi street, which in the meantime has been bombed.

3. U.S. pilot with oxygen mask in cockpit

Printed title DEFA-Gruppe Heynowski & Scheumann

b. Pilot closes cockpit

Printed title PILOTS

b. Turn fade-in U.S. pilot in prison clothing walking down path

Printed title IN PYJAMAS

4. Turn fade-in Fuse put on bomb

Printed title 3 THE JOB

5. Risner declares: X:

Risner: Colonel Risner, which types of bombs and other weapons did you carry on board your Thunderchief during missions? Oh, we had bombs and rockets and ah, had a cannon on board as well and, ah, sometimes carried missiles?

6. Hughes declares: X:

Hughes: Yes. We have the twenty millimetre cannon or gun in the nose of the aircraft and then we have bombracks on both inboard, outboard of the
wings and also on the center line or on the belly. Ah, you can carry on these any number of types of ordnaances. My training and capability was limited, to ? 3,000 lb bombs, 750 lb bombs, although people in the squadron did carry the CBU. Ah, this is about the limit of my knowledge.

7. Shively declares: Shively: We had a twenty millimetre cannon which we always had loaded and the we had various bomb-loads that we would carry depending on the targets. Sometimes we would carry 500 lb bombs, sometimes 750 lb bombs, sometimes 1000 lb bombs, and other times 3000 lb bombs as well as CBU and what they call a shrike missile.

8. Thorsness declares: Thorsness: Gun system? X: Yes. Thorsness: Oh, it was the Gatling gun, it's a rotating barrel gun. X: And what type of bombs and explosives did you carry when you took off on a flight? Thorsness: Well, the airplane's capable of carrying many types of bombs, but generally just the standard high-explosive bombs, that have been used since World War Two. X: I'd like to know their weight. Thorsness: Oh, generally 750 lb bombs. X: But you can carry heavier bombs, is that correct? Thorsness: Yes, there are 1000 lb bombs, 2000 lb bombs, same bombs they've used since World War Two.

9. Destroyed German cities, air views Commentary: During the Second World War planes of the American Air Force dropped a total of 641,000 tons of bombs on Germany. 641,000 tons of bombs - that is the experience for the German viewer.

10. Large-caliber bomb in Hanoi Army Museum, child in front of it, moves This American 3,000 pounder is part of the total of over 800,000 tons of bombs which
American aircraft have already dropped on The Democratic Republic of Vietnam. If the bombs dropped are brought into relation with the area of the former German Reich and that of North Vietnam, we have the following: The American air war against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam is more than five times greater.

11. Risner declares: Colonel Risner, as a father you are justly proud of your five sons. Do you see any qualitative difference between your children and for example, the children here in North Vietnam?

Risner: No, to me, and I am absolutely sincere on this, there is no difference in my children and the children of any other people in the world.

12. Funeral scene These rows of graves--are graves of children. The victims of one single flight, one single bombing run - which struck school children during classes.

13. Ringsdorf declares: Lieutenant Ringsdorf, you have told us that your girlfriend is waiting for you in the United States. Is she a beautiful girl?

Ringsdorf: Very nice looking, yes.

14. Photos: 20 year-old Tran Thi Mui, a worker in Haiphong; a beautiful healthy woman. This is what was left of her.

15. Abbott declares: My family is taken care of really well and I have a beautiful wife and hope to have some children some day.

16. Photo of burnt foetus Mrs Nien lost this 5-months-old foetus during an air-raid on the Hanoi residential district of Phuc Than.

17. Hubbard declares: Do you have in your personal possession pictures of your wife and son?

Hubbard: Yes, sir, the first letter I got from my wife had pictures
of her and my little boy.

Photos of Hubbard family

Commentary: Mrs. Beverly Hubbard. Her son Dave.

Fade over to burnt and child

And this is Mrs Nguyen Thi Ky, 25-years-Vietnamese mother old, and her 4-year-old son.

Hughes declares:

Commentary: When you were still in the United States, did you ever feel threatened in any manner by the Vietnamese people?

Hughes: No, sir. No, sir.

Thunderchief during take-off

Commentary: In spite of this, Lieutenant Colonel Hughes took off and flew his Thunderchief on 44 missions to drop bombs and fire rockets on the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

Hughes declares:

Commentary: Tell us what you bombed.

Hughes: Yes. All but six of them were in what we call the southern packages, this would be out of the Hanoi complex. Six of them were in the Hanoi complex. Excluding the Hanoi area, we would search out targets of opportunity, ah, this is south of Hanoi. They would be convoys of trucks, any sort of surface transportation, boats, trucks, and what have you. We would try to search out storage areas, parkways or hidden routes where trucks might park during the day.

Risner declares:

Commentary: It was called armed reconnaissance. Armed reconnaissance looking for trucks, yes. 24. Trucks camouflaged

Risner:

Commentary: Every vehicle must be camouflaged. In the against aerial view Total war of the USA against the DRV everything that moves on the ground is considered to be a "military target," -- even if it is only the transport of provisions for the nearby-town.

Hubbard declares:

Commentary: Do you see any connection between your reconnaissance and the fact that other aircraft flew over North
Vietnam with weapons on board?

Hubbard: Well, we all, we're all doing the same job.

Burning house

Hubbard declares: Our job was in direct support of the aircraft on the strike missions.

Airplane fires missiles

Hubbard declares: The difference is they carry weapons and we don't.

Rice fields cultivated, peasant behind buffaloes

Hubbard declares: But the jobs are done simultaneously

And one aiding the other or assisting the other.

That means you see no great difference between your unarmed reconnaissance and the work of other pilots dropping explosives, CBU bombs and firing rockets?

Hubbard declares: Well, it makes no difference what type of mission I was flying. It all was for the same end result in the strikes.

Living buffalo wallows in pool

Author's commentary: The well-being of the water-buffalo basically forms the existence of the South East Asian farmer. Their air pirates knew this.

Series of dead buffaloes

Photo of wounded shepherd boys

Author's commentary: With other children seven-year-old Nge Van Thicu was herding buffaloes and zebus when he was identified from the air as a military target.

Turn fade-in

Commentary: Award for air pirates: The "Air Medal".

Torkelsen declares: For flying over North Vietnam we got one Air Medal for every ten missions, and in South Vietnam for every fifteen missions.

Tableau. One after another, 10 Air Medals appear

Torkelsen declares: Then you have the right to a total of 10 medals.

X: Yes.

Torkelsen: Six for North Vietnam and 4 for your mission in the
South.

Torkelson: Yes.

39. Abbott declares: Abbott: It's just the lowest medal we can get. It's not for bravery or anything, it is just for flying over North Vietnam. Everybody receives an air medal. So, if I fly the hundred mission over there

40. 10 Air Medals I'd be assured of getting ten medals.

41. Abbott declares: X: But you only flew 61, and you won't be flying any more. Abbott: Yes, sir. No, sir.

42. Shooting Film scene

43. Ringsdorf declares: Ringsdorf: No, I have no desire to handle a pistol. You're, you're taking movies, I am not that warlike.

44. Shooting Film scene

45. Hughes declares: Hughes: I'm basically not a killer by nature and I made no attempt whatsoever to shoot it out so to speak.

46. Scene of shooting Commentary: An American flyer would never do a thing like this.

47. View of Hughes Basically - he says - he is not a killer.

48. Photo: Author's

American holds gun

muzzle at temple of old

Vietnamese woman

49. Planes dive-bomb, bombs explode

For those who look down from lofty heights death is buried in clouds of smoke. A cockpit does not smell of blood.

50. Shively declares: Shively: One thing about the Air Force is that flying in an airplane like we do at such high speeds and confined in a cockpit with helmet and everything on, we're kind of removed from the sight and the feeling of killing.

51. Hughes declares: X: Yes, it is a different situation when you are
face-to-face with the enemy. It is obviously easier to make war from lofty heights, am I right?

Hughes: Well, I wouldn't like to draw a comparison, as a pilot you're an instrument of war. You have a job which you have been trained for and you have been trained for and you perform it to the best of your ability, thinking that you are doing the right thing.

52. Pilots walk toward plane, in Da Nang Author's Commentary: "Instrument of War". They go to their planes like others go to the office.

53. Bombs hung on plane 8 tons of bombs hang underneath a "Phantom". While their fuses are being screwed in --

54. Pilots in their club the pilots are still in their club. They are not interested

55. Bombs hung on plane In this operation: it is another "Job", but not theirs.

56. In cockpit Their job is flying.

57. Instrument board in cockpit It is not much of a sensation to press the one button among many, which releases the bombs.

58. Bombs falling - Music -

59. Bomb explosion One thing about the Air Force is that flying in an airplane

60. Shively declares: Shively: like we do at such high speeds and confined in a cockpit with helmet and everything on

61. Airplane in the air we are kind of removed from the sight and the feeling of killing.

62. Shively declares:

63. Montage. Destroyed houses, Vietnamese people. Planes take off for raid. Well, it's not like being in the Army where you see the men fall, or something like this, but we are quite removed from the entire situation and therefore we do not always think about the destruction that we're causing on the ground and I would, and now I understand
and realize that we have killed very many people. And it's a thing that I do not like to have on my conscience and I am sure they would not like to have on theirs.

64.
Beginning with Shively, Author's pan to portraits of 10 pilots

First Lieutenant Shively and the other have a lot on their conscience. Highly specialised, they function dependably just as every part of their Thuderchief or Phantom. Available specialists - engineers of death without inner relation to the result of their deeds, as along as they still flew.

65.
Pilot with mask in cockpit

This type of person is usable for even the most despicable war.

66.
President Johnson with daughter and grandchild

The American president has reserved for himself the right to decide what his air pirates are to bomb in North Vietnam.

67.
Turn fade-in. Photo: dead children

Hey, hey, LBJ - how many kids did you kill today?

68.
Fade to Photo: Placard

Hey, hey, LBJ - how many kids did you kill today - ask American opponents of the war in Vietnam.

69.
Johnson with grandchild

70.
Turn fade-in Photo: dead children

Hey, hey, LBJ - how many kids did you kill today - ask American opponents of the war in Vietnam.

71.
Turn fade-in Photo: Victim

"Bomb North Vietnam" -

72.
Turn fade-in Photo: Victim

"Bomb North Vietnam" -

73.
Photo: Slogan at Schoneberg

74.
Turn fade-in Photo: Victim

75.
Photo: Slogan at Schoneberg

76.
Turn fade-in Photo: Victim

The murderers scream their hatred -

77. 
The collective scream of ultra reactionaries -

The calling card of today's fascists -

presented at town hall in the front line city of West Berlin.

Federal President Heinrich Lubke:

"May the present struggle that your country is conducting as the champion of freedom against the powers of oppression, be crowned with success.

Federal Chancellor Kiesinger:

"We have no intention whatsoever of bombs criticising the policy of the United States in Vietnam."

Franz Joseph Strauss:

"The USA deserves the thanks and admiration of everyone who takes freedom seriously."

Social Democrat Foreign Minister Willy Brandt:

"I think it would be unreasonable to demand the withdrawal of the Americans."

CDU Minister von Hassel:

"Our freedom is also being defended in Vietnam.

West Berlin Mayor Schutz:

"We will never permit
anyone to spit on the boots of our American friends."

CDU Fraction Chairman Barzel:

"We know what we owe Vietnam, what we owe the dollar."

"Creative engineering at Martin made it happen . . . and North Vietnam has the bridges out to prove it."

An advertisement in an American illustrated.

They advertise for bombs and rockets, the same for washing machines and refrigerators. Capital leaves no stones unturned in its drive for higher profit.

". . . and North Vietnam has the bridges out with American text to prove it."

Most of the bombing missions that I went on were in the southern part of North Vietnam and these were bridges . . .

It's, it's; for me, it's my job. And that's, that's the way I looked at it, sir.

Colonel, I'm astonished that the various pilots with whom we have had the opportunity to speak, refer to their JOB. Do you see any difference in principle between your activity as a bomb-dropper and, let's say, the work of a bridge builder?

Well, yes, I understand, The earning of money, I think, is not a factor in either job. The man that helps build a bridge because of his personal satisfaction in seeing something majestic rising into the sky and provide facilities for ground transportation. In other words, he sees a certain
amount of beauty attached to it, the pilot

is dedicated to a patriotic concept

which he is fighting for or doing his work for is as majestic, theoretically, as is the bridge.

Hughes declares:

And this also applies when the pilot has the task of destroying this bridge?

Hughes: Sir, I can only speak for myself, I can assure you that the destruction, that the destruction is not something that many people can enjoy. I have only 44 missions in combat, this is my only combat tour and until now I couldn't express my particular views on destruction and I can assure you now that it is not a, it is not a nice thing, it is not an easy thing to sleep a night after a mission, and I don't believe that anyone of us as pilots really comes back with any degree of satisfaction such as the bridge builder that goes home to his family in the evening.

Bridges are bombed

The American Martin Company on the other hand is satisfied; it would like to see the air pirates of the Air Force bomb to the ground every bridge in North Vietnam.

Scenes from defense of Ham Rong bridge

Which, however, is not possible, even for "creative Martin engineering". The struggle over the important bridges of Ham Rong has already cost more than a hundred airplanes equipped with Martin engineering -

Scenes of repair of bridge

here the bridge builders are at the same time its defenders: a creative unit which also stopped this air pirate,

Captured pilot led over bridge

Lt. Colonel Allan Bady. He is being taken as a prisoner over the bridge he just tried to destroy.
111. 
Airplane fires Air-to-Surface missile 
Commentary: Each rocket fired increases the profits of armaments firms such as the Martin Company.
Stand copy

112. 
Vietnamese handles US missile 
Even a dud is calculated. It is also part of the astronomical sum of 75 million dollars that Washington daily pumps into the Vietnam War.

113. 
Phantom at take-off 
Of course the McDonnell Douglas Corporation delivers a "Phantom" for three-and-a-half million dollars - but at the same time every airplane destroyed places a burden on the budget of the United States, and each tax increase adds to the domestic political scrap pile faced by Washington as a result of the Vietnam war.

114. 
Fade over to rubble remains of plane

115. 
Pilots in Phantom jet, plane taxis to take-off amounts: Their pay is drawn from the strategists...

116. 
Abbott: declares
Abbott: 
How much extra pay do I get by flying over North Vietnam? I received 65 Dollars a month for cost of living allowance, that was my only extra pay I received over here, plus 30 Dollars separation a month for my wife.

X: As a member of the armed forces you're entitled to certain tax exemptions?
Abbott: 
Yes, sir. We are allowed 500 Dollar deduction a month from our pay for taxes.

117. 
Torkelson declares: X:
Torkelson: 
Is service in the Vietnam war interesting for your financially?

Ah, well, yes, we get combat pay while we are here.

118. 
Hubbard declares: Hubbard: 
Well, I don't really know. I never stopped to figure it out, but I would say somewhere in the, when I was shot down, I was making somewhere in the vicinity of about probably a little over 1,000 dollars, between 1,000 and 1,100 dollars a month.

119. 
Dead pilots Author's 
Combat Pay - Family Separation Allowance - Tax Free Allowances -
Special Allowances for Subsistence. These are things of the past. The US Government is willing to pay about 1,000 dollars a month to a First Lieutenant willing to violate international law in Vietnam. These air pirates no longer receive dollars - They payed with their lives for their share of the business.

For years the trusts have made fantastic profits with their business in bombs. For almost four years Johnson has ordered his "Johnsons" - as the pirate planes are called by the Vietnamese - to fly against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. "Rolling Thunder" is the military code name for this terror action.

But over 800,000 tons of bombs have not been able to force the Vietnamese to their knees. Highways such as this one have been confirmed by American reconnaissance aircraft as destroyed for months to come - but the heroic determination of these people has opened them to traffic in a matter of hours thereafter.

The Vietnamese people have not only shot the "Johnsons" out of the sky piece for piece, they have also surmounted this Johnson.

Operation "Rolling Thunder" has failed. Billsons of dollars went down the drain and not even the smallest victory was attained.

This F 111 jet bomber - said to be a "magic weapon" - at a cost of 8 million dollars - was supposed to bring about a decisive turning point. "The F 111 is invulnerable" said the
Six F-111 jets in flight

Six of these magic planes were base in Thailand for attacks against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam -

but when two of them failed to return, the rest were grounded.

When you began your bombing-raids here in Vietnam did you reckon that the Vietnamese would fly modern jet fighters?

I had seen them before. And, ah, whether the Vietnamese were flying. Yes, I was sure they were flying them.

And I thought about being shot down yes. But I just pressed on anyway.

Did you ever expect to run into an aircraft fire as heavy as this over the Democratic Republic of Vietnam?

I thought it possible, because people that had been here prior to my self had said that the, ah, defensive system network of North Vietnam was very good, very strong. And so, I, I had been told, basically, that it was very good, a strong defensive system.

They fight back very well, sir. As far as any aircraft defences go; myself, I've never fought in a war before and in fact I just started flying, but many of the pilots that I flew with had flown in Korea and some even in World War Two, and they said that the defences here were the most formidable that they had ever encountered. And I can certainly believe this, because I know from my personal experiences that there is an awful lot of flak, and there's an awful lot of missiles to look out
135. Writing on missile, missile in position, turns

Commentary: "Sdelano w USSR – Che Tao tai Lien-Xo" Made in the USSR. The American air pirates have particular respect for Soviet surface-to-air missiles in the hands of the Vietnamese People's Army.

136. Duart declares: Duart: My job was to ward a strike flight or the launch of surface-to-air missiles at Dinh and if possible for me to suppress the sites that were launching the missiles...

137. Missiles in position was that no missile, was relatively clear of missile sites, and we would constantly go over there and check a make sure none had moved in. And this is what I was doing on my last mission. There was no strike involved.

138. Duart declares

139. Command post X: Major Duart, you took off to attack missile sites, as you told us.

140. Missile take-off

141. Shot of Duart

142. Plane shot down

143. Duart declares: Duart: But in the end.

144. X: you yourself were downed by a missile.

145. Duart declares: Duart: In my case it was a great feeling to get out of that airplane, but I'll clarify that by saying that I hear that at any time that I was flying over this country that I may be hit by a multitude of different type weapons and some very small weapons hitting in a vital spot would bring down this big powerful aircraft, and in my case I was hit by a large weapon that most certainly would knock down my aircraft and the fire was so intense in the cockpit that I was grateful to get out of that airplane. It's astonishing that you survived the hit at all.
Plane shot down

Many of your people have not survived such rocket hits.

145.
Duart declares:

Yes, I realize it probably more than a lot of people.

146.
Montage:

Graves of air pirates

147.
Abbott declares:

X: How many of your airplanes were flying that day on your mission?

Abbott: In mission? There were three other ones with me.

X: Three more? A total of four then; is that correct?


X: And how many were hit by MiGs; brought down by MiGs?

Abbott: How many were brought down by the MiGs? I think there were three, I'm not sure. I was hit and then I got the information that two others were downed the same day as me. So they got three that day.

148.
"Thunderchiefs" in flight, three are crossed out

Commentary: According to 1st Lt. Abbott's statement in three out of four attacking airplanes were destroyed.

149.
Hughes declares:

X: Colonel Hughes, it seems that there is now a certain scarcity of pilots since your transfer to Vietnam was rather quick.

Hughes: With the turnover of pilots and certainly at our loss rates, pilot requirements are at an extreme all-time high, and it is true that we are now calling back the pilots to the cockpits, those pilots who had previously been grounded or been away from the flying business for some time and I believe that the average age of the American pilot in the Far East now has gone up pretty close to my age.

Commentary: Lt. Colonel Hughes is 41 years old.

150.
Photo

Major Sterling: 42

151.
Photo

Lt. Commander Denton: 43

152.
Photo

Colonel Risner: 43
In the meantime many pilots ascending in the cockpits of these planes must be described as "Old-timers" under air war conditions: the losses of the United States in the Vietnam war are so great that the reserve must be called up.

Thorsness declares: X: Major, you flew a total of 93 missions. How many of your friends failed to return during this period I mean during the period of your flights?

Thorsness: I don't specifically know, sir, how many did not come back. There were, there were several, of course. It's known that we have lost quite a number of aircraft over North Vietnam. Some of the people I knew, and many of them I did not, of course, but I didn't keep a running tally of how many friends I lost, but there were quite a few.

Commentary:
First Lieutenant Anderson
First Lieutenant Lockhart
First Lieutenant Plumb
Lt. Commander Tanner
Major Young
Lieutenant Butler
Captain Seeber
Captain Kern
Lt. Commander Stark
Captain Waters
Lt. Commander Griffin
Lieutenant Brudno
Captain Harris
Lt. Commander Stackhouse
Lieutenant Glubb
Lt. Colonel Larson
(?????????) Wohden
Major Everson
Lieutenant Ratzlaff
First Lieutenant Bucheman
Captain Perkins
Lieutenant Walters jr.
Lt. Commander Rivers
Lieutenant Carpenter
Captain Daughtrey
Captain Jones
First Lieutenant McNish
First Lieutenant McNish
First Lieutenant Tschudy
Major Willard
Montage: Signs with numbers of downed US planes

Commentary: Almost daily the total of downed pilots must be altered. Every street of Hanoi has such tallies. These figures were current in...
February 1968, but since then they have been outdated by events.

President Ho Chi Minh – we learned during our presence in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam – has ordered the command of the air defence and militia units to include the shooting down of an enemy plane in the official statistics only after the wreck – or one of the remaining parts – has been, and I quote: "touched by hand."

For this reason parts of crashed aircraft are fished from the inland water-ways and even from the ocean so that the plane may be counted.

American camera men shot these scenes showing the rescue of a U.S. pilot, whose airplane may not appear in Vietnamese statistics, because it sank out of sight to the bottom of the ocean.

His plane may be counted. The pilot, who was drifted ashore, is proof enough.

And this one also documents satisfactorily that another US plane went down in the Gulf of Tonkin.

Excerpt from an order of the Supreme Command of the Vietnamese People's Army: Every village, in whose vicinity a pirate plane crashes, is permitted to retain equipment of the pilot or plane wreckage as a "victory trophy".

During our presence the 2,000th American plane was shot down.

An event to which a Vietnamese cartoon paid tribute in this manner. As we learned, the pilot was able to escape death in this pile
We found Lt. Commander Collins Henry Haynes here in the operating room of the 808 Army Hospital Haynes was able to eject only at the last second and hit the ground hard. He suffered a severe bruise on his knee, which led to effusion of blood. Haynes is being prepared for operation - the intruder in the hands of his conquerors.

Lt. Commander, the world knows that American airplanes have destroyed North Vietnamese hospitals, schools, towns and villages,

and suddenly we find you, an American pilot, here in a North Vietnamese hospital.

Yes, sir. They've done everything possible to help me and to help my leg get better.

Only a few minutes ago you were on the operating table. You injured yourself during ejection, is that correct?

Yes, sir. As I ejected I was a low altitude and, ah, as I landed, came down into the chute, in the chute, the people of the village were already there, and they promptly told, a, took the survival gear and the rest of the gear, and then took me to the village.

How's the pain now?

It's much better.

How many missions have you flown?

32, sir.

Are you married?

Ah, yes, sir, I am.

Do you have children?

Two children.

You can use this opportunity to extend greetings to your wife and family.

If I am allowed to do so I'd send them my warmest love. I'd send them my warmest love, to my, our family.
Colonel Le Dinh Ly, the political officer of the Army Hospital, told us:

As long as the enemy makes use of his weapon he will experience our unmerciful severity - when he has lowered it, he will experience our socialist humanity.

Risner are you a member of a church?

I'm a Protestant and Assembly of God.

Colonel Risner are you a member of a church?

I'm a Protestant and Assembly of God.

I am a Baptist. Baptized in the Baptist Church.

I am a Lutheran

I am a Lutheran

I am a Lutheran

I am of Protestant faith.

I am of Protestant faith.

I am a Protestant by faith.

I am a Protestant by faith.

Yes, I am a Catholic.

Yes, I am a Catholic.
286.
Photo: wounded priest  Commentary:  The Right Reverend Vu Duy Khiem, director of the Catholic Priest Seminary of Xa Doai, was wounded when American air pirates bombed the church and seminary.

287.
Photo. Mass on US aircraft carrier  Commentary:  American pilots at church service shortly before their missions.

288.

289.
Montage: Fuses put on bombs  Commentary:  Bombs such as these dropped in 1967 inside seven months by Evangelic, Baptist, Methodist, and Catholic air pirates destroyed a total of 234 Catholic churches and 23 Buddhist pagodas.

290.
Two B-52's drop bombs  Author's Commentary:  But they do not only drop bombs and rockets on Vietnam -

291.
Rosaries and prayer beads displayed on pole  Commentary:  also this here which we would not have believed had we not seen it for ourselves:

292.
Rosaries and prayer books on ground  Commentary:  Rosaries, prayer-beads and prayer books.

293.
Rosary with crucifix, zoom to Christ figure  "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain."
2nd Book of Moses, Chapter 20, Verse 7.

294.
Fade-over  Commentary:  This is General Curtis Le May, the to photo of experienced Chief of Staff of the US Air Force. He, too, calls himself a Christian.

295.
Abbott declares:  X:  You are a pilot, Lieutenant Abbott, and you certainly have heard of Air Force General Curtis Le May.  
Abbott:  Yes, sir.  
X:  Curtis Le May has stated: "My solution is to tell the North Vietnamese either to pull in their horns or we will bomb them back into the Stone Age."
Abbott: I don't know when he made this statement. I don't know when he made the statement. However you know General Le May does make statements, and he is a military man from the first point he considers everything to be on the military status. If we go to war, he feels that we should go win the war right now and not spend three or four years in conflict. As to Drawing horns in', with North Vietnam, I don't know what he meant by that. I think he has probably referred to, either you guys stop fighting or we're going to go in there and really clean you up.

X: Lieutenant Abbot, you are living proof that the US Air Force will never be able to bomb the Democratic Republic of Vietnam back into the Stone Age. The destruction waged here, however, is tremendous. Do you feel personally responsible for the tremendous amount of destruction here in the North?

Abbott: Well, that's, ah, I'm not avoiding the questions. Now as to my own personal actions whether I am responsible for the bombing in the North. Let's say I am not responsible in a certain phase. I was ordered to come to bomb North Vietnam. However I am responsible for the destruction I have caused and, personal or individual bases being that I initially dropped the bombs.

X: Were you only a part of your airplane, or can you be described as a responsible person?

Ringsdorf declares: Ringsdorf: If I was personally responsible for my acts? No, I don't know of any acts that I have committed to be responsible for. I dive-bombed targets like they've been doing in all the wars since airplanes were invented as far as I know.
297.  
Burning homes  
I did nothing that hasn't been done many, many times before.

298.  
Spain; Legion Condor in air attack  
Commentary: The pilots of the "Legion Condor" also did nothing in Spain during their hay day except "bomb something" With his mental attitude

299.  
Ringsdorf shown  
Ringsdorf would also have been suitable

300.  
Planes of Legion Condor, burning city  
then as a pilot: as a human lever of war technology - incapable of grasping that the actual aim of the bombing flights in Spain, just as in Vietnam, was and is: bombing to smithereens the right of the peoples to self-determination.

301.  
Risner delcares: X:  
If we were to look for those responsible for the air-terror against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, how high up would we have to go on the ladder of responsibility? How do you see it, Colonel Risner?

Risner: Well, I, I can't answer the question, but in answer to your question I would say that I am not seeking to evade my responsibility. I assume all responsibility that is mine for anything that I have done that is wrong, and I am not seeking to evade that at all as a squadron commander. As far how high we would have to go, I really don't know this; ah, I am partially responsible myself. How much responsibility is mine I'm afraid would have to be decided by some people who are much wiser than myself.

302.  
Photo: Russell  
Commentary: Lord Bertrand Russell, British philosopher, honorary president of an international Vietnam tribunal bearing his name. The Russell Tribunal concluded:

303.  
Vietnamese in front of rubble  
the war of the United States in Vietnam is
Shively declares: X: Lieutenant Shively, we both are in agreement that tremendous destruction has been, and is still being done here, Do you see any responsibility during your custody here in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam to - let's say - to personally make up for this?

Shively: I'm not quite sure I understand, Ah, you think that I personally can help make good the damage that has been done? Is that the, your question? Do I think that ....

X: Yes.

Shively: There is probably very little that I personally can do. However I could do my small part perhaps with other captured pilots, help repair some of the bomb damage and that way heal some of the wounds caused by our bombs. But I, it would probably, because of our limited ability to do something big, it would be small effort in the overall destruction that has been caused.

Author's commentary:

The crater of a "three-thousand-pounder". How long would it take First Lieutenant Shively to fill in this hole alone?

Other craters

Vietnam's soil has deep wounds. The greatest injury amongst the people is not caused by these bombs, which rip such craters in the earth, but by these insidious bomblets, each of them not larger than a tennis ball.

A so-called "Mother Bomb", which looks externally like a normal explosive bomb - opening itself a few seconds after being dropped from a height of about 1,000 meters - and the contents fall out.
310. Pan to cluster bombs in "Mother bomb"

The so-called mother bomb contains up to 600 of these cluster bomb units. Each of them is filled with the highly explosive charge cyclo-ton, and each casing contains 300 steel pellets of 6 millimeter diameter.

311. Parts of cluster bomb units Arrow points

The fuse – the charge – which explodes the casing of the cluster bomb and scatters the steel pellets in all directions. One single pellet can be lethal.

312. Cluster bomb container Zoom and return

The Americans call their invention Cluster Bomb Unit, in short C.B.U.

313. Cluster bombs dropped

The CBU: a weapon designed to kill living targets. The Cluster Bomb: a murder tool.

314. Shively declares X:

Lieutenant Shively, did you drop cluster bombs over the territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam?

Shively: Yes, sir.

X: Then you are competent enough to explain to us the function of this bomb. We are handing you part of this bomb and ask you to please explain how it works.

Shively: Yes, sir. Sir, this is what we call a CBU bomb, it's a, an anti-personnel type of weapon, they are carried in a canister of these baseball-type things and as they go off they come out of the canister at a pre-set altitude and then when they strike the ground or strike anything there's an explosive charge inside that throws these little pellets in all directions.

X: On May 5, 1967, that is, on the day of your last mission, did you have CBU bombs on board?

Shively: Yes, sir, that's what myself and the other members of my flight were carrying that day, sir.

X: Which targets did you select for your CBU bomb?

Shively: Sir, we were on the Nguyen Vien railroad classification
X: Did you unload all your bombs on the prescribed target?
Shively: Ah, they, we don't drop the CBU bombs right on the target, sir, we drop around, around the area, sir.

315. Montage: Author's Commentary: So they drop the cluster bomb "around the target". This flexible formulation permits the pilot to drop his vicious tool of murder on each and every area of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam - which actually is the case.

315a. "Mother bomb" A single mother bomb, that is 600 cluster bombs - 180,000 6-mm steel pellets, which cover with the force of a pistol shot an area 3,000 feet wide. This is systematic head hunting.

316. Duart declares: Duart: This piece here is the type that I am familiar with. This is the one that I carried on my aircraft. This one here I am not familiar with. I have not seen this type before. The principle looks to be the same. This one here, these bomblets are now dumped out into the air and they aim by centrifugal force to rotation which is caused by the fuse on the bomb itself. It rotates, it goes through the air, arming the fuse inside. This is the safety factor in case of an accident on the ground. Once it is armed then it simply drops until it hits the ground and explodes and it explodes breaking up in pieces and firing out these pellets as you see here. This one here, as I see, was not too effective. Here are many pellets here that were not shot out.

Commentary: That's how an expert speaks about the cluster bomb. A single pellet is enough.

317. Photo: Portrait of teacher
318. Photo: Back of head
Thanks only to the skill of a surgeon who removed the pellet from the center of her brain.

the girl lived.

Yes, sir, this is a series that we drop and, ah, the weapon inside is similar to those with a round top. We drop it –

in a canister of the same size as similar to a surface bomb,

a hard surface bomb and it falls down so far, and the bomb comes apart and the CBUs spread out over an area.

The family of farm woman Doan Thi Phuc was sitting in the direction in which the pellets flew. Four persons - four wounded.

Colonel, the electricity has been switched off. There is an air raid warning, but we still want to clear up another question, and to do so we are switching on our emergency lighting. You have certainly experienced many air raids since you have been here?

Yes, sir, we have, yes sir, we had, we have had many during my stay here since the 5th of May.

If you were to experience an attack here on this area in which we are now conducting this interview, which type of weapon - if you had the choice - would you prefer to be hit by? With high-explosive bombs of say, from 750 lb to 3,000 pounds, with rockets or by cluster bombs?

Let me put it this way: the CBU would be the least desirous, followed by 3,000 pounder, then the 750 lb bomb, then the rockets. The reason for this is that, ah, the odds of the rocket or the bombs hitting you are not, are not as certain as with the CBU which has a pattern,
a broad pattern, and, too, as I think, you're trying to point out the steel pellet is not a desirous thing. It is a very, a very destructive and a very painful bomb to have fall in a community.

X: Thank you for your precise opinion.

326. Photo: back of a woman killed by cluster bombs

Commentary: A "painful, destructive" weapon. "Not a desirable thing". This woman is no longer alive.

327. Torkelson delcares: Torkelson:

Ah, well as far as I know, ah, they use the steel-pellet bomb for flak suppression and for anti-aircraft suppression; ah, usually a flight carrying or an aircraft carrying the steel-pellet bomb will drop on the guns that are in the target area when they see it start shooting.

328. Shirt, hat and farm tools of farm woman

Commentary: This shirt did not belong to an anti aircraft-gunner, but to the farm woman Phung Thi Lu. On the 12th of March 1967 she was tilling her field when she was killed at 12.28 by a cluster bomb unit.

329. Duart declares: Duart:

I think the steel pellet bomb that you refer to is the CBU bomb. The primary purpose of this, ah, it's used in North Vietnam would be to suppress the triple A or any aircraft weapons in the immediate target area prior to the bomb run of the strike aircraft. This is used to suppress temporarily the heavy fire that we've been running into in almost every target area.

330. Photo: Wounded girl

Commentary: Not an anti aircraft-gunner, but 12-year-old Nguyen Thi ???op, several times wounded in the back by a cluster bomb unit.

331. Shively delcares: Shively:

As they come over the target and their pop- up and start their dive they're to look around the area and find the areas in which the most guns are firing. And they drop the
CBUs in a hope that the effect of the CBUs will lessen the amount of firing at the later aircraft, so that they will not have such a hard time at the targets.

332. 
Photo: Mother with child 
Commentary: 
Non an anti-aircraft gunner. 
The left foot of this small boy was so severely injured by splinters of a cluster bomb unit that it had to be amputated.

333. 
Hughes declares: 
Hughes: 
Upon contact with the ground they detonate and, as we can see here, there are steel pellets in this particular one, and when it does detonate, these pellets and the shrapnel fly in the immediate vicinity of the detonation.

X: 
Then it is used especially against living targets?
Hughes: 
It is designed primarily for flak suppression, and yes, sir, that would be contrued as personnel.

334. 
X-ray photos illuminated 
Author's 
Commentary: 
X-ray of living targets. A single pellet penetrated here into a human spine. Dr Tjung indicates the path of the projectile.

335. 
Dang Hinh in bed 
Commentary: 
We saw the spinal column of this man.

336. 
Montage: 
Destroyed school room 

337. 
Prof. Tung, other doctors 
examine patient Dang Hinh 
Commentary: 
After the attack the teacher lay helpless - as here - incapable of moving his legs, but seemingly uninjured. Among the physicians working to heal Dang Hinh is Prof. Ton That Tung. Professor Tung is a member of the Medical Academy of the USSR, a corresponding member of the Surgeons Society of the GDR and France. Professor Tung and his colleagues in the Vietnamese/German hospital found out what was wrong with the legs of Dang Hinh. A 6
milimetre pellet had penetrated his back here. This is only a few of these small pellets which surgeons have had to extract by the hundreds and thousands from human bodies.

338. Testtube with pellets

339. Paralysis of legs demonstrated. X-rays

Externally everything seems to be in order - but this 26-year-old man has been paralysed from the waist down. Ever since the pellet injured his spinal column.

340. Doctors at bedside of wounded girl

She is also a victim of the cluster bomb: 7-year-old Nguyen Thi Tuyet.

341. Head

These X-rays show how two of the small X-rays pellets penetrated the brain of this girl. Vital parts of the brain were hit:

342. Attempts to move

little Tuyet, who only two days before our visit survived the brain operation, will remain paralysed on her left side the rest of her life.

343. Skull X-rays illuminated

X-ray photos. Matter-of-fact, objective evidence. Here a pellet penetrated the cheek and went on to lodge in the brain.

344. Bed-ri-den student. Zoom to face and scar

It was the cheek of a young woman . . . Nguyen Thi Phuong is a senior at the University for Electrical Engineering. We will not show you the legs, chest and back of this young woman which are so horribly scared. Worse still than these injuries is this small scar, similar almost scar, similar almost to a birthmark. This is where the pellet which lodged in her brain entered.

345. Prof. Tung tests eye-sight of student

These tests here prove what is now irrevocable: the engineering student Thi Phuong is totally blind in her right eye.

346. The teacher's wife at his bedside

Danh Hinh, who is paralysed in both legs, has a visitor. She wants
to tell him about their child: There are moments of tenderness and family happiness in this place of suffering. We vividly remembered these scenes when we asked the air pirates if they wanted to take opportunity to greet their family....

347.
Hubbard declares: Hubbard: In this camera?
X: Yes, in this camera here.
Hubbard: I'd like to say hello Beverley and Dave and all my family, and as you can see, I am very well and healthy and you have nothing to worry about as far as my health. I love you all very much and pray for the day that we'll be together again. Please keep faith in God and never give up. Pray for me and one of these days I'll be back.

348.
Photo: Victim - Music -
349.
Alvarez declares: Alvarez: I say hello to my mum and dad and my sisters, my wife of course, my sweetheart.

350.
Photo: Victim - Music -
351.
Shively declares: Shively: I'd like to say hello to my mother and father and tell them that I love them very much and that I miss them very much and for them not to worry about me, that I am being treated well, that I am healthy, that I am fed well and that I am confident that some day I will be able to return and we will be able to return to our normal lives that we had once before.

352.
Photo: Victim - Music -
353.
Ringsdorf declares: Ringsdorf: I don't really know what to say except I miss her very much and I hope to be home soon.

354.
Photo: Victim - Music -
355.
Torkelson declares: X: If you look in this camera there is a real chance that your wife will see these pictures, we'll take care of that.
Torkelson: I'd just like to say that I'm
all right now, very well taken care of and I hope that you don't worry too much about me. I think that when the war is over the Vietnamese people will release me and I hope that you're doing fine and that you'll help to comfort my mother and father and don't worry too much. I'll be home in the near future.

356.
Photo: Victim

Abbott declares: X:

Abbott: Lieutenant Abbott, we are now giving you a chance to greet your wife. Do you wish to make use of this opportunity?

I'd just like to tell you, ah, Lena, that I am alright, and I'm fed well, and taken care of good and that I shall be home some day. Take real good care of yourself, cause I'd like to see you when I get home.

358.
Photo: Victim

Risner declares: X:

Risner: Commander, you have the opportunity to greet your family with a few words. Do you wish to make use of this opportunity?

Yes, sir, I would. Kathleen and Rob, Jeff, Carl, Timm and Danny, I miss you very much and, God willing, I'll return.

360.
Photo: Victim

Hughes declares: Hughes:

To my wife and my two children: I regret having departed, ah, the United States. I regret taking part in this, in this conflict. I am not certain that my coming here was totally worthwhile venture.

362.
Photo: Victim

Thorsness declares: Thorsness:

I appreciate the opportunity and I guess the words I would say are to to keep faith and pray in God... and that some day, in the not too far future hopefully we will be united, re-united, an, and everything will in the end
turn out fine and life will be fuller and richer for any experience you have and I think that includes being a prisoner-of-war. There is something to be gained from everything. And so hopefully some day the entire family, not only me, but all prisoners, will be re-united with their wives, their mothers, fathers, their loved ones.

364.
Photo: Victim

365.
Duart delcares: X:

Major Duart, we wish to give you the opportunity to send personal words of greeting to you family, your wife and your children.

Duart: If you don't mind, I'd prefer not to. I'm afraid that it would be too much for me.

Author's Commentary: Major Duart could not. It would be, he feared, too much for him. What are we experiencing here? A moment of truth? A powerful invasion of reality in the mind of a human being? Had he never thought that his "job" must sooner or later lead him to a personal catastrophe?

366.
Duart's hands with fragment of cluster bomb

367.
Shot of Duart

368.
Vietnamese women weave straw hats

369.
Children with straw hat

370.
Risner delcares: X:

Did he not just tell us that this fragment of a cluster bomb had not exploded "effectively"?

We will be frank: we do not feel that the emotion of the Major is particularly "effective", for the number of victims of the cluster bomb droppers would be much greater -

If these people did not do everything in their power to defend themselves - and be it only that up and down the country these wide-brimmed straw hats are being woven to protect what is most precious - the children.

- Music -

I wish to hand you something. Please examine this hat and let us know why you think, or for which purpose, it is worn.
here in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. Also examine the size of it. It's, it's very heavy, very heavy and thick. I can think of no reason. I don't think the sun gets that hot and I don't know whether it's made for rain or what. I don't know. I don't think I have ever seen one like that. It looks like maybe a Spanish hat.

371. Children with straw hats on their way to school

These hats are worn here by Vietnamese children on their way to school or to the kindergarten as protection against the steel pellets in the CBU bombs. Many thousands of children have been killed or severely injured by this weapon of the US Air Force.

372. Risner declares: X:

I wish to ask you, Colonel Risner, whether you would ever like to see your son, your youngest son, have to wear a hat such as this?

Risner: No, I pray that this will never happen.

373. Hughes declares: Hughes:

I, I wouldn't suspect children to wear a hat quite this heavy, no.

374. Children with straw hats

The hat that you have there in your lap is worn by children of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam on their way to school, on their way to kindergarten and when they are playing, in order to protect them for the effects of the CBU bomb. It is a protective hat. How does this conform with your statement that the CBU bombs are used above all to suppress flak?

375. Hughes declares: Hughes:

The only answer I have is that in the use of the CBU, ah, apparently it is not hitting its target in every case,

376. Children in air raid shelters

and, as a result, the people of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam have had to take measures to protect their,

377. Hughes declares:

ah, their populace from these ill-pointed bombs.
378.
Thorsness declares: A straw hat.
Thorsness: Yes. Do you think its purpose is sun protection? Test its strength.
X: Thorsness: Well, I'd assume it's for sun or rain or some of the elements, yes, sir.
X: Don't you think thinner material would be used for a sun hat?

379.
Child with protective hat
It's not easy to wear such a heavy hat on your head.

380.
Thorsness declares: Ah, a thinner material would do; maybe it's for rain, I don't know, sir, it is thicker than what you need for pure sun protection. I don't know much about straw hats.
X: Do you see any connection between this hat and the other thing you now have in your hand?
Thorsness: No, no direct connection, no direct relationship, no, sir.
X: But you know what that is in your left hand?
Thorsness: It's, ah, it must be a portion of a bomb, a piece of shrapnel out of a bomb. Evidently you're inferring that -

381.
Child with straw hat

382.
Thorsness X: Yes, that's exactly it. In your left hand is part of a CBU bomb you dropped here, and in your right hand is a straw hat,

383.
Children with straw hat worn by Vietnamese children as protection against these bombs.

384.
Thorsness declares: I see.

385.
Abbott declares: It's too small for you, isn't it? Who do you think would wear a hat like this, of this size?
Abbott: Maybe a gunner. Perhaps small children.

386.
Vietnamese children in street X: Do you mean that little the
Democratic Republic of Vietnam man anti-aircraft positions?

387.
Abbott declares: Abbott: No, but I think a boy of 13 or 14 could. But whether he, this would fit his head or not, I do now know.

388.
Shively declares: Shively: Sir, it seems to be a very thick hat, a small hat, perhaps a child's hat.
X: Try to put it on. It is too small for your, isn't it.
Shively: Yes, sir; yes, sir.
X: You're quite right. Hats of this type are worn by children. Now test the strength of the material.
Shively: Yes, sir, yes, sir. It's very solid.
X Do you think any one would wear a hat like this for protection against the sun?
Shively: Ah, no sir. I think it is much too heavy to wear against the sun, sir.
X: Why do you think it's worn then?
Shively: Sir, it's probably worn as protection against debris of perhaps the steel-pellet bomb, or debris from buildings as they blow up, things like this, things falling through the air.
X: Lieutenant Shively, we have the impression that you have been open and honestly expressed your mind during our talk, and that you did not make any bones about it. It is really so difficult to recognise the whole truth about the CBU bombs -

389.
Vietnamese mother with child on arm

390.
Shively declares: Shively: I mean that they are also dropped on civilians.

Shively: Sir, it's very possible and probably, very probable in very populated areas where some of our targets are located that the bomb the CBU bombs, which have a pretty wide area, as you can imagine, with so many pellets coming out and being dispersed in the air that they cover quite a large area, and I'm, I'm sure that probably they fall in, ah, areas inhabited by the
X: Then you have no illusions about the fact that these bombs hit other than military targets?

Shively: Sir, I know that many people are killed when we drop bombs up here, yes, sir.

X: I will now ask you a very precise question, Lieutenant Shively. If you had to remain in custody just one hour for each civilian, for each woman, for each child, for each elderly person, who has already been hit here in North Vietnam by the CBU bomb, do you think your life, which is still very young, would be long enough to serve this term?

Shively: Probably not, sir. No, sir.
THE PRODUCERS OF THIS FILM EXTEND PARTICULAR THANKS TO THE COMRADES OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE'S ARMY AND THE FILM STUDIOS IN HANOI FOR THEIR COMRADELY ASSISTANCE!

THE QUESTIONS IN THE INTERVIEWS WITH THE US AIR FORCE OFFICERS WERE ASKED IN GERMAN AND TRANSLATED SIMULTANEOUSLY. THEY WERE DUBBED FOR THE ENGLISH VERSION OF THE FILM.

- Music -

PILOTS

IN PYJAMAS

4 THE THUNDERCHIEFS

squadron commander on the aircraft carrier 'Enterprise'.

squadron commander on the aircraft carrier 'Oriskany'.

squadron commander at Ta Khli air base

Lt. Colonel Gordon Albert Larson

338th Fighter Squadron at Korat.
17. Photo: Thunderchief in flight

18. Colonel Edward B. Burdett - He was also a squadron commander at Korat

19. Photo: Thunderchief in flight

20. Colonel John P. Flynn - Squadron Commander at Camran Airbase

21. Photo: Thunderchief in flight

22. Commander James P. Mehl, he also -

23. Deck of aircraft carrier

24. Photo of grave: Colonel Nelson William Humphrey - deceased since 20 July 1966 - was also -

25. Air base

26. Risner walks down gravel path

27. Photo: Lindergh with his plane

28. Photo: Lindbergh's plane in flight

29. Photo: Lindbergh's plane after landing

30. Photo: Lindbergh and his Lindbergh.

30a. Photo insert: Risner and his plane

31. Risner walks down gravel path

32. Facsimile - Name is underlined

33. Risner walks down Author's We were not the first film
34. Da Nang Airport - Risner in his plane

An American film team of NBC interviewed the famous commander for the 67th Tactical Squadron in Da Nang. At that time Risner gave a sober and matter of fact evaluation of the Vietnamese air defence.

Risner: Well actually the fire that you see is in the minority, I would suppose. It's mostly the stuff you don't see that gets you. You could see the heavy anti-aircraft automatic fire. Sometimes you can see tracers from the lighter weapons, but its some of the stuff that have no tracers and no anti-aircraft bursts that get to you.

35. Risner walks down gravel path

The famous pilot was also put on the cover of the cover page of the largest US News Magazine.

36. Cover-page with Risner

"Who's fighting in Vietnam - a gallery of American combatants."

37. Zoom to writing

38. Rapid reverse, Risner with helmet again in scene

"This is how WE met him -

39. Fade-over to Risner as prisoner

40. Fade-back to Risner with helmet

"This is how he's known to American: a Thunderchief.

41. Helmet

The Thunderchief's proud ornament. Our Vietnamese friends gave it to us as a souvenir.

42. Zoom to "Fighting Cock" symbol

The coat of arms of Risner and his pilots: A "Fighting Cock" symbol

43. Risner declares: X:

You commanded the 67th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Korat, Thailand. Is that correct?

Risner: Yes, that's correct.

X: How many airplanes are assigned to such a squadron?

Risner: Ah, they vary from 18 to 25. My squadron was 18.

X: Colonel, you are a man with
many years of experience; and even your assignment here in Asia represents in principle nothing new for you.

Risner: I, I was, I participated in the Korea action as well.

X: Have you been awarded any decorations during your military career?

Risner: I received awards, the Air Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross for action in Korea.

X: As far as I know the Distinguished Flying Cross is one of the highest decorations awarded a pilot in the Air Force.

Risner: Ah, it, it is fairly high. There are about three more above that. I, I was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for ah, my part in shooting down MiGs, Mig airplanes in Korea and the Air Medals for, ah, participating in a certain number of missions.

X: That means you must have been a very successful pilot in Korea?

Risner: I was very fortunate, yes.

X: Can this luck be expressed in figures?

Risner: Well, I believe, ah, I believe very much, very deeply in God. I think God blessed me and helped me and .... Perhaps you mean how many MiGs did I shoot down?

X: Yes, please.

Risner: Yes, eight.

X: Have you heard anything about your buddy Lt. Colonel Kassler? Do you know him?

Risner: I know a Major Kassler, I believe. I am sure of his rank, but I think one that I am acquainted with is Major Kassler. Yes, I am acquainted with him.

44.

Photo montage 

Risner and Kassler

Commentary: Kassler, now a Lieutenant Colonel, is considered a Korean hero in the Air Force just ast Risner.

45.

Risner declares:  X: Do you know anything of his present condition.... of his whereabouts?

Risner: I do know that he is a captive here in North Vietnam, that he was shot
Photos: Kassler

Commentary: Yes! The prominent Air Force expert Kassler was also brought down by this Vietnamese pilot of a Soviet MIG.

Risner declares: X:

Colonel, you didn't command your 67th Tactical Fighter Squadron very long, because you have been here for 2 years already. How many people did you lose before your capture?

Risner: Yes, I think, it's well known here that, ah, four more of my unit is also captives here.

X: Was that the normal percentage during your command....five losses?

Risner: Ah, at the time that I was shot down, the second time, our losses were running a little higher than the others.

X: If I understand you correctly, you have been shot down twice.

Risner: Yes, yes, I was shot down once before on an attack on a radar site. The North Vietnamese defence forces shot me down and I had to bail out once before and I bailed out at sea and was recovered by friendly - by my own forces.

Base in Thialand

Commentary: During Commander Risner's time the "Fighting Cocks" were stationed at this air base in Thailand.

According to his own figures his squadron had 18 "Thunderchief" aircraft.

Again according to Risner's figures in 1965 - one - two - three - four "Fighting Cocks" had already been shot out of the sky.

Squadron Commander Risner himself had to be fished out of the water once before.

With this new "Thunderchief", the chief of the fighting
cocks kept flying. Until he was irrevocably knocked out by 20-millimeter flak during his 44th mission.

The fifth and sixth plane of the "Fighting Cocks" in 1965 were used up then by their commander.

Risner has been in the "Hilton-Hanoi" for over two years.

And if the "Fighting Cocks" met the same fate in the years following 1965, then today one of Risner's men are still flying.

This uniform too was once worn by a "Fighting Cock"; Major Ronald E. Byrne followed Squadron Commander Risner into captivity - thanks to a Soviet anti-aircraft shell which was once contained in this casing.

And the photo of this man in his sorry vehicle has gone around the world by now. It has great symbolic value: for Major Gordon S. Willard too was once a "Fighting Cock".

What do you, as an officer with years of experience, think about the fact that here in South East Asia the strong military power of the United States and a comparatively small people have been facing one another for years now, and that the large military machine of the United States has not been able to book decisive victory for itself in these hostilities?

Ah, I don't quite understand the questions. Ah, could you add to it a little bit to enlarge on it?

I want to get at the moral factor of this struggle. What do you think about the will and the strength of the people here to resist?

I, I believe very definitely
that every people of every
land not only have the right
but the obligation to defend
their country with all means
possible.

X: Colonel, I ask you to please
explain for us your own
opinion of the value of
personal freedom.

Risner: I think personal freedom is
necessary to all life, I
think it's worth everything,
and I believe that personal
freedom also extends to
nations' freedom as well.

X: Does a large nation have the
right to force its will on a
small nation which wishes to
decide itself on its way of
life?

Risner: Ah, all nations, it is my
opinion that all nations have
the right to self-determination and no
nation, simply because of its
power or strength, has the
right to impose their will
upon another nation.

X: Colonel Risner, I wish to
point out that there is a
crass discrepancy between
your opinion and the fact of
your presence here in South
East Asia. If you are of
the opinion that every nation
has the right to
self-determination then I
fail to understand how you
can attempt to bomb North
Vietnam "back into the stone
age", as one of your superior
officers expressed it. How do
you explain this discrepancy?

Risner: Well, of course, as a
military man I can't
explain political issues. I
can only tell you my personal
feelings and give you my
opinions, as far as my
limited knowledge goes I
believe that all nations do
have the right of self-
determination and that
other nations do not have the
right because of power to
impose their will upon
others. I believe that, as
you have asked about the
reasons for the war in North
Vietnam and South Vietnam, I
think that these have fallen
short of what is supposed to
be their objective, in other
words, the bombing of North Vietnam appears to have only increased the determination of the North Vietnamese people and the fighting in South Vietnam has also grown stronger, so I would say that the hoped-for objective had not been reached. It appears that this is caused by the Vietnamese people's determination to reunify their country and, as I said before, their right to self-determination.

X: Do you see any chance whatsoever for the United States of America to decide the outcome of this war by military force?

Risner: Ah, as I said, the air attacks against North Vietnam, and of course you understand, my knowledge is limited because of my position, but it appears from a, ah, that the fighting only grows more determined in North Vietnam and I do believe that eventually, that we must return to the Geneva Conventions in order to settle this instead of bombing North Vietnam.

X: A very direct question, Colonel. According to existing rules of the Code of Conduct, you are committed to answer a total of only four questions: Rank, Service Number, Name, and Date of Birth. We have spoken here in detail with one another. How does this conform with your pledge to silence? Isn't it so that in our talk you have violated your directives?

Risner: Yes, I definitely have. I have broken the rules of the Code of Conduct and other things that I have been taught to respect and obey. However my situation here is not one that I had ever anticipated, and I might say I've been unable to do those things which I always thought I could and do.

X: Colonel Risner, all of us here in this room persipiring, so if you like, make use of your towel. The temperature is well over a...
hundred degrees and we have a very high humidity. Anyone seeing this scene could get the impression you have broken out in a cold sweat.

59a. Risner wipes sweat
Risner:
No, it's nothing like that.

60. Title with Risner
Fade-over to
Commentary:
The famous chief of the "Fighting Cocks" has become, in two years of captivity - a thoughtful man. This has been a period which appear as symbols of power and splendor.

61. Risner as prisoner

62. Pilots in cockpits
At their bases, the Thunderchiefs still appear as symbols of power and splendor.

63. Helmet, shot into helmet
A look INSIDE the shining helmets reveals, however, a shocking measure of indifference.

64. Alvarez declares:
X:
Lieutenant Alvarez, have you taken an interest in politics during your life-time?
Alvarez:
An no, I have never had a great interest in politics, no.
X:
What are your personal interests? Do you have hobbies, or is flying your main interest in life?
Alvarez:
Yes, flying and ah, I like water sports, swimming. I like all sports football, baseball, basketball. I like sports very well.

65. Hubbard declares:
Hubbard:
Well, flying is something I've wanted to do ever since I was a little boy. I wanted to fly aircraft, that's why I joined the Air Force.
X:
Then your love for flying led you to the armed forces?
Hubbard:
Yes, Sir.
X:
And what you are flying for in the armed forces, for which aims, that is actually of little interest to you?
Hubbard:
Well, I, ah, definitely felt that by being in the military service, I was fulfilling an obligation to my country, ah, I guess, you would say a patriotic service to protect and defend my country if I was ever called upon, but
X: Lieutenant Hubbard? Do you have hobbies?

Hubbard: Yes, sir. I enjoy photography, which just happens to be one of my favorite hobbies. I just sort of picked it up well, when I started flying reconnaissance and I got interested in photography. Primarily I guess you'd say that's my biggest hobby as well as flying. And athletics.

X: Lieutenant Torkelson, have you ever occupied yourself with political affairs?

Torkelson: Ah no, not particularly. I was interested in, ah, the politics of my country, but I was not, ah, ah, so to speak, an avid supporter of either party. I voted every time and I tried to keep informed on the government policies and different platforms and doctrines of both our political parties. I wasn't what you'd call a real active politician.

X: Allow me to conclude that we feel you are a highly specialised, but rather narrowly specialised person.

Ringsdorf: How do you mean that? I don't understand that statement.

X: Your knowledge as a pilot is certainly excellent, but you are only slightly interested in the social mechanism you are active for. With a man such as yourself every war, even the most contemptible, is possible.

X: Major Duart, which personal ideals or persons have
influenced your life?

Duart: I assume that you are speaking of military people, ah, military leaders?

X: It is possible that your ideals were, above all, members of the military, but I mean in the general sense of the word.

Duart: I am at a loss for words. Ah, ah, all I can think of is, several air aces of many previous wars including some from your country, such as Richthofen and Hans Nach from World War Two, I read his books and I was impressed by their ability in the air war and, of course, if we come beyond World War Two, we would have to go through the Korean War, there were some air aces which I will not say that I know them real well, but I have met some. That was strictly a clean-out air battle that I am talking about, it was man against man, and I was influenced by them.

X: You certainly know that the two best-known

69. Photo montage: Risner and Kassler

69a. Duart declares:

Duart: They more or less flew into the Hilton Hanoi just as you did.

Duart: I, the reason that I am here is because of my enjoyment of flying. If I had not enjoyed it to the extent that I do I would have found another form of employment many years ago.

70. Airplane cockpit Commentary:

The love flying, then, is what brought the Major to Vietnam.

71. Bombs dropping

Duart discovers in this inferno his own private and personal pleasure his love of flying.

[#72 & part of #73 were not in original document]

Risner: Ah, this has been true, very much so, I'm afraid. Ah, as you may know, the American people and the American servicemen as well, we have been raised, you might say,
to depend pretty much solely upon the decisions of others and to depend upon our government that we have elected, and for that reason I myself and maybe the case in many other cases have not interested ourselves in political or diplomatic relations, international issues as we should have. Of course, we will do much more so in the future, I assure you.

74.
Photos: of Risner Pan past Ringsdorf, Torkelson, Duart, Alvarez

Commentary: Based on Squadron Commander Risner and others who were who were questioned it is not difficult to characterise the American pilot.

75.
Scenes from Da Nang air base

Commentary: Da Nang air base in South Vietnam. This is the base of the 366th Tactical Fighter Squadron, whose members call themselves - the "Gun-Fighters".

76.
Insert: "Gunfighters"

77.
Da Nang air base

Author's Commentary: The US pilots who up to now know about the Hilton Hanoi only through hearsay also prove to have a shocking measure of indifference. We are in a position to prove our point by four short talks with American pilots interviewed for us in Da Nang.

78.
Major McKeller

Commentary: This is Major Donald McKeller

79.
Major Olds

80.
Major Wright

81.
Lt. Col. Haeffner

82.
Major Wright

X: What motive do you have for your job here in South East Asia.

Wright: I'm Air Force.

X: Then not because of political motives?

Wright: I go where I'm sent, yes. I'm pretty well career.

83.
Major Mckeller

X: What are your reasons for being here in Vietnam; political motives?
McKeller: It uh, (cleared throat). My reason is I am a military man and I this is my job, to uh, come and fight wars.

84. Major Olds X: Major Olds, how many missions have you flown over North Vietnam?
Olds: Well, this is my first one.
X: Were you afraid you wouldn't return? Were you attacked by the Vietnamese?
Olds: Yes, they did.
X: Why are you flying here? What were you looking for in North Vietnam?
Olds: What was our target?
X: What you were looking for in North Vietnam
Olds: Oh we dropped bombs.
X: On which targets?
Olds: We had a road intersection and a truck park.

84a. Bomb explosion X: Do you like this new kind of work?
Olds: Yes we did.
X: Can you tell us why?

85. Major Olds Olds: I like flying very much.
X: You enjoy flying, but you drop bombs
Olds: Well I think that first of all it's my job, and secondly we'd like to help to stop communism in South East Asia, and for the, another thing, I think we uh, would like to help the South Vietnamese uh, find some self-determination for themselves.

86. Lt. Col. Haeffner X: Colonel Haeffner, how do you like your job?
Haeffner: Oh, my job as a squadron commander is outstandings. It's uh, the best job in the air force. I, I guess every fighter pilot looks forward to being a squadron commander of a fighter squadron some day in this life. I've, uh, I really enjoy it, it's very adventurous, exciting job.

86a. Bomb explosion X: What do you do after returning from an "exciting job", after such a mission?
Haeffner: Oh, uh, we uh, a normal mission we just come back and, and debrief and, uh, sit down and talk about it and
have a few drinks and enjoy ourselves. But after you got your 100th mission, which is a tour over here, a hundred missions over North Vietnam, we usually have a rip-snorting uh, party. Uh, I guess you could call it equivalent to one of the German Fasching parties.

87.
Phantom takes off

Commentary: Following his humorous comment, Haeffner again flies toward the North. In his "Phantom", then, sits a man who likes to have a few drinks, is pleased with the coming air-pirate spree, and generally has a lot of fun in Vietnam.

88.
Lt. Col. Haeffner

Haeffner: Well, on today's mission we had, we had, uh, 20 millimeter cannon on the centerline and we were carrying six 500 lb bombs.

X: And you left all of your bombs in the North?

Haeffner: Uh, yes we dropped all of our ordnance and expended most of our 20 millimeter cannon ammunition.

89.
Pan over the group

Major Wright here, his backseater, they went up and cut a whole bunch of barges in two up off the coast of North Vietnam and my backseater, Lt. French and myself we expended our 20mm cannon on some gun positions along the shore.

90.
Plane is hit

For which we took a hit, by the way.

91.
Lt. Col. Haeffner

Haeffner: I've flown uh, 99 missions North, as has Lt. French. He's got 99. And uh, Lieutenant Wright's got 99. And uh, Major Wright, excuse me. And Lieutenant Bittner is a new boy as we call them with about 10 missions up North.

X: And when you have a hundred, Colonel, what comes then?

Haeffner: Well, when we get a hundred missions we have quite a parade back here. Day after tomorrow I hope to have a big parade back here for the three of us. We get hosed.
down with a fire truck and uh, we're paraded all over the base continuously being hosed by a fire truck and some of our comrades, and uh, we have a big bottle of champagne that we get to drink between the three of us. And then we'll go to the club and have a good old Fasching party.

92. Wounded and captured US pilots  
Commentary: They didn't make it for their jubilee. The 100 tour-prank lies far distant. The Vietnamese air defences gave these air pirates a cold shower.

93. Major Wright  
X: Major Wright, how long do you think the North Vietnamese will be able to resist? Do you have a definite opinion on this?

Wright: None, really. It's sort of a loaded question. A lot of people smarter than I am can't answer it. I'm certain I can't.

94. Major McKeller  
McKeller: I really have no idea. It uh, may be very short and it may be again very long.

95. Major Olds  
Olds: I think that's a very difficult question to answer.

96. Lt. Col. Haeffner  
Haeffner: Well (sign) that's kinda hard to say. I guess they'll continue to resist until their bosses, or whoever their bosses are, decide it's time to quit and we've given them enough punishment.

97. Photos of the 4 pilots in Da Nang  
Author's Commentary: Four Thunderchiefs. Three majors and a Lt. Colonel. They enjoy flying, act like "hot-shot Charleys" and call themselves the "Gun Fighters".

98. Squadron sign  
Commentary: Their squadron commander is Colonel Robert W. Malloy - now we will get to meet him too. . .

99. Malloy in air craft  
100. Rescue operation, Malloy in helicopter  
101. - Music -
The Colonel will make it back to his base again - not in this "Phantom", but in a rescue helicopter.

Risner declares: Commander, I wish to ask you a strictly political question, although I know that as a military man you do not feel competent. How do you explain the presence of so many American troops in South Vietnam? What are the reasons for this?

Risner: Ah, I don't know the exact number of course, of troops in South Vietnam and I understand it changes frequently. I really can't myself explain the presence of the US troops in South Vietnam, as you said, as a military man, they are all there, I might imagine, brought there for the purpose which we were told, that we were coming to fight for South Vietnam.

Americans disembark

Risner shown

Hughes declares: But perhaps American Lieutenant Colonel Hughes knows?

Hughes: I must confess, no. As I mentioned earlier, I was an engineer, deeply engrossed in my work, having just graduated from the electrical engineering school, and the requirement for pilots has become rather heavy, and so I was, with short notice, withdrawn from that job and processed rather rapidly through training to come over here, none of which was training on the political aspect or on the actual understanding of the people.
attempt to explain to me the presence of American troops and your personal presence.

Shively: Ah, sir, ah, to answer the first part of your question: My understanding was that the United States came to Vietnam at the request of a friendly government again to help them against outside intervention.

X: You have just stated that the government of the United States and South Vietnam are on friendly terms. That is true, but another question is the relationship between the government of South Vietnam and its own people. I want to read to you a quote by a man, none other than the former President of the United States, Dwight D. Eisenhower, who wrote the following in his book "Mandate for change": "I have spoken to no Indo-China expert who was not of the same opinion as I, that if an election was held, 80% of the population would vote for the Communist to Chi Minh". And now please consider in which manner this estimation of Eisenhower conforms with the question of self-determination and also with the presence of American troops in South Vietnam.

Shively: Yes, sir. From that statement it's kinda hard for me to justify the United States coming in at the request of the majority of the South Vietnamese people. I really don't know what else I can say. You have kind of got me at an impasse. That statement and the reasons that we are given that the United States came in at the request of a friendly government that had the support of the people, they seem to be opposed to one another.

109. Thorsness declares: X: Which thoughts or ideas do you get from the name Dien Bien Phu?

Thorsness: Dien Bien Phu? Yes, sir, that's, that's not the town where I bailed out but when I hear of Dien Bien Phu, of
course, that's the famous, ah, fall, fall of the French, ah, colonialism or the big battle, the final battle between the North Vietnamese people and the French people, in which the French in fact did surrender after that battle. It was a very famous battle for....

X: That means the "famous battle of the French" is perhaps not exactly appropriate since it was in reality the famous battle of the Vietnamese, this victory of Dien Bien Phu.

Thorsness: Yes, it was the telling blow, the straw that broke the camel's back, as I understand it, for the French and the Vietnamese, ah, attained, ah, their victory, their final victory over the French at that time.

110. Khe San, burning planes
Commentary: The American military base of Khe San has been under attack by the South Vietnamese National Liberation Front for many weeks. US President Johnson barked at his Generals that he didn't want any damned Dien Bien Phu.

111. Photos: US President Johnson

112. Montage: Captured US pilots in DR Vietnam, wounded GI's in South Vietnam alternating

113. Torkelson declares: X: It is a coincidence that we are holding our talk today on the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America. Did you know that the Declaration of Independence of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam begins with the same words as the Declaration of Independence of the United States of North America?

Torkelson: Ah no, I didn't know that.

X: Then you know it now. The
only difference that exists between both countries is that Vietnam is a small country in comparison, and the USA is the largest capitalist country of the world. Do you think that this gives it the right to deny the small countries their independence and right to self-determination, to hinder this through the force of arms?

Torkelson: Ah, well in this particular case the United States came into this country upon request of the government, ah, of the South Vietnamese people, and it is part of our foreign policy to stop the spread of communism in this part of our foreign policy, and anything that would threaten the security of the United States either at the present or in the future...

114. Americans in South Vietnam

Commentary: So according to this the Americans came to this country at the request of the people of South Vietnam, to stop the further development and progress of communism.

115. Dead NLF fighters

Author's Commentary: Those lying here in their own blood on South Vietnamese soil. The program of the NLF, for which they fought, is not a communist program: it calls for elimination of the corrupt Saigon regime and the withdrawal of their accomplices so that in South Vietnam a policy of peace an neutrality, democratic domestic development, increase in productivity, and work and bread for everyone would be possible. And for this goal they were shot down by American bullets; and that means in the language of imperialism: struggle against communism.

116. Abbott declares:

Abbott: Our country thought, at the time, it was essential to intervene in the country to stop the continuation of the widespread, ah, of communism.

117. Captured NFL soldier

118.
Abbott declares: as our country prefers it down in South Vietnam you have the ideology of, let's say, the Ky regime.

119. Ky Commentary: This is General Ky, after whom the Saigon regime is named. His claim to fame: "South Vietnam needs two Hitlers if it is going to be freed."

120. Photo series: Here an NLF fighter is being led away by General Ky's parachutists and this beast, is General Loan, who is South Vietnam's Chief of Police, shoots the prisoner in broad daylight, as if he were doing a self evident thing. This cold-blooded murderer also needs the support of his American partner, and they call the fight against the people: "the fight against communism".

121. Duart declares: X: What is your personal attitude towards Communism? Duart: My personal attitude towards communism, it's more or less a military attitude in that I am in the military of a capitalist country and we are opposed to communism, and I therefore believe that my orders, whereever they may assign me to help prevent the spread of it, are correct.

122. Montage: Commentary: Major Duart of course has been taught by the DRV air defence forces that an American cannot practice his "military attitude" against communism and go unpunished: they shot down the intruder.

123. Anti-aircraft Author's Commentary: And the air defence forces of the German of GDR People's Army Democratic Republic are also prepared for in position and being the event, should militant anti-communists transported stretch out their fingers toward our socialist homeland, before whose Western frontier Major Duart was also stationed for years as a NATO pilot, before he went to the Vietnam theatre of war.
Duart declares: I even was sent direct from West Germany, an assignment which I had then been on for two and a half years and had not even been in the United States since 1964 and due to the type of aircraft that I was flying early in 1965 it became obvious that everyone that flew the aircraft would eventually get a tour in South East Asia. And the type of aircraft being the F 105 the tour meant that our missions would all be over the DRV. This aircraft is not used in South Vietnam. And we all know this and it was just a matter of waiting until the orders came, which they did in the end, and we all moved our families to the States, we were given adequate leave to find a place for them to be comfortable and then we were moved on to South East Asia. And this has been obvious to all F 105 pilots, as I say since 1965, that we would end up here.

X: Where were you stationed during your two and a half years in West Germany?

Duart: During my tour in Germany I was stationed at Spangdahlen air base which is in the Eifel Mountains, near Wittlich, West Germany.

X: And what was your duty there?

Duart: My duty was jet-fighter pilot in the squadron of F 105a.

X: Was your squadron integrated in the NATO command?

Duart: My squadron as well as the entire wing was in the NATO complex, yes.

Hubbard declares: Was West Germany one of the 20 countries of the world you visited as an American world policeman?

Hubbard: Yes, sir.

X: What impressions do you have of West Germany; what did you see there? Which cities did you get to know?

Hubbard: In Wiesbaden I visited, I don't even really remember what it is, but it's a very large Russian orthodox church or something that sets upon a hill above the city, has big
gold spires, I have a very beautiful picture, I got of that, and I just visited a very good place to eat and everything in Germany a lot of the castles and things like that.

X: Do you still remember a couple of German words, or maybe a song that you heard there?

Hubbard: Ah, the only German I learnt, I don't remember much of it now, is just to say yes and no and thank you and things like that. And I learnt to read enough things on the menu, that I could eat.

X: But besides all of those things you also still remember one or the other military bases in West Germany?

Hubbard: Well, nothing except the airbases. The airbases where I .. at Ramstein and Wiesbaden and places where I knew people who were stationed or something.

X: Ramstein - that is one of the largest NATO air bases in West Germany.

Hubbard: Yes, sir.

X: From there you certainly took a trip to Kaiserslautern?

Hubbard: Yes, sir, I bought some Danish teak furniture at Kaiserslautern from Anton Down and well, I never spent that much time, I went to Landstuhl - there are some very nice restaurants in Landstuhl, a couple of times.

126.

Risner declares: X: Colonel Risner, during your years of military service you were also stationed in West Germany for some time?

Risner: Yes.

X: Where were you stationed there?

Risner: It was at Hamm, Hamm, Germany.

X: What was your duty there?

Risner: I was flying a fighter there. I was just part of the Force. I went there in 1953, and returned to the United States, part of the NATO Forces.

X: You have told us that you came here to South East Asia
because you were ordered to do so. What was the reason you went to West Germany? Did you give any thought to the political background at the time.

Risner: No, at the time we went over as part of the NATO force, in other words, I don't exactly know the composition of NATO, nor its exact purpose, we were just, I was just a fighter pilot and we just went over and had good enjoyed the flying and we enjoyed the country and the people.

X: Can you still remember a few German words from this period?

Risner: I remember a few like "Einbahnstrasse", "wo ist der Bahnhof", a few things that we needed to know in order to make our way about, but only a few words.

127.

Thorsness declares: Major Thorsness, during your military service you were stationed for three years in West Germany?

Thorsness: Yes, sir.

X: Which German words do you still remember from the time of your duty there?

Thorsness: Fraulein and "good morning" you'd know and a few basic words like how do you do, dies ist schone Wetter and just greeting words words you'd say to someone when you meet them in the street: how are you and wie geht es Ihnen, just the basic words that you walk into a store. I used to know more words than I know now because I've forgotten, because now - wieviel - and things like this, but I could go into a store and ask the price, I've forgotten, I didn't, I never know the German language fluently.

X: Where were you stationed in West Germany?

Thorsness: I was at Spangdahlen Flugplatz.

X: That is a large NATO air base in the Eifel, is it not?

Thorsness: Yes, sir, it's in the Eifel, near Wittlich and Trier.
X: What was your job there? Which duties did you have to perform there?

Thorsness: I was a pilot there also just as, it was an air base, and I was a pilot, the same as I was when I was captured, the pilot of a 105, sir.

X: Which forms of war were you trained for in West Germany?

Thorsness: In West Germany we were trained for, ah, well, for all forms of war, I guess. The 105 is capable of (clears throat) Excuse me - of both nuclear and conventional deliveries of ordinance. And we were trained for all types of war, I think you could say.

X: Did you also have maps in your possession showing the other territory of Germany, the other part of Germany?

Thorsness: The other part being East Germany? That was our local flying area, so to speak. And this is what we, this is what I carried maps of, of course.

X: If a so-called X-day, that is if a dangerous situation and arisen, during your assignment in West Germany, and you had been given targets in East Germany to attack, cities such as Leipzig, Rostock, or Magdeburg - would you have flown?

Thorsness: Would I have flown to East Germany had a war broken out? Yes, sir, that was one of the reasons, of course, we were in West Germany was the protection under NATO, of the West Germany and all the NATO countries and had a war broken out between the communist bloc, East Germany, Russians, and so on. That was of course why we were there was to defend the NATO, the NATO organisation, the NATO countries.

128.

Duart declares: Major Duart, how was it actually during the time your were stationed in West Germany? Were you in possession of maps and other material about the other part of Germany? Do you know the
names of such cities as Leipzig, Rostock, Magdeburg and others?

Duart: During my tour in West Germany, of course, our military interests were on the other side of the so-called Iron Curtain. I do not think that it's been a long time, and

128.
Duart declares: X: Major Duart, how was it actually during the time you were stationed in West Germany? Were you in possession of maps and other material about the other part of Germany? Do you know the names of such cities as Leipzig, Rostock, Magdeburg and others?

Duart: During my tour in West Germany, of course, our military interests were on the other side of the so-called Iron Curtain. I do not think that, it's been a long time, and I don't remember well, and I don't think that this is the place to discover, I mean to discuss what little I still know possibly of the NATO effort, and I think it is evident to everybody that the, shall we say, the interest in case of any conflict is obvious, the other side of the Iron Curtain.

129.
Photo-tableau with the ten pilots
129a. The four are optically highlighted
129b. Close-up photos of

Commentary: From 10 of the American bomb droppers shot down in Vietnam -

four did their "job" as NATO pilots in West Germany - prepared there too to give their last, their worst -

as Major Duart and Thorsness admitted to us without blinking an eye.

130.
Duart declares: X: Major Duart, you mentioned before that the interests of the NATO forces in West Germany lie behind the "iron curtain", to use your words. If you had been given orders to fly into the socialist countries with nuclear weapons on board, would you
Duart: Yes, sir. I think that the situation would most certainly be different than here, in Europe, but my duty would be to obey orders, yes sir.

131. Thorsness declares: Major Thorsness, would you have installed nuclear warheads on your rockets, if you had been ordered to do so?

Thorsness: Warheads?

X: Did you have nuclear weapons on board your plane?

Thorsness: The airplane, yes, sir, was capable of carrying atomic weapons, yes, sir. The 105 is capable of carrying atomic weapons.

X: During your period in West Germany did you also go on a trip to Berlin?

Thorsness: Yes, I did visit Berlin, sir.

X: What did you see there?

Thorsness: We saw, ah, we went to the standard tourist attractions, ah, Kaiser-Wilhelm Church, the new church, the old church and had some very good food, ah, and visited East Berlin as well as West Berlin, took a tour, a military tour, ah, primarily we were just a tourist although it was very interesting.

132. Americans on guided tour Democratic Berlin

This is how they are often seen, as they through ride thorough our capital with harmless faces: friendly, prepared to smile. That's right, they are members of imperialist armed forces; but don't they look like you and I? Viewing such scenes, we would hardly have thought that THIS; that this type of tourist who today is walking around amoung us --

133. Pilots climb into planes in Vietnam

could climb into their airplanes tomorrow somewhere in South East Asia, to drop bombs on Vietnam.

134. Americans on Berlin tour

They are nice to look at, the way they take snapshots there with their cameras, they appear clean --

135.
Pilots in cockpits, but the dirty warrior is embodied in each of bombs are fused them, because they are involved in a dirty business, and are the functioning element - whether they do their job with enthusiasm or not.

136.
Torkelson declares: Torkelson: Ah well, I wasn't particularly happy about it, but I have a job to do in the military and this was my assignment and I follow and obey orders of the military which I am a member of.

137.
Photo: Adolf Eichmann Commentary: SS-Obersturmbannfuhrer Adolf Eichmann -- for the "final solution of the Jewish problem" he organised the liquidation of six million Jews.

138.
Hubbard declares: Hubbard: Well, I've been in the military for quite a long while and I am under an obligation to obey the orders of my commanders and I received orders to come to South East Asia and it never even entered my mind to reject them or to oppose them or anything else, I just accepted them.

X: In our opinion your standpoint makes possible the death of guiltless people, because you blindly follow orders.

Hubbard: Well, yes, sir, that's, as a professional military man that's how I feel, or felt.

139.
Photo: Demonstration with Eichmann placard Commentary: Anti-Vietnam-War demonstrators in demonstration with Washington. On their posters, "I only followed orders - Eichmann".

140.
Ringsdorf declares: Ringsdorf: I think that is a duty; if you are in the military you obey your orders I can't say that I understood fully the whole situation, I can't say that I understand it now, but I feel that it is the duty of a military officer, you carry out your orders you may not understand exactly what they are, but you do it.

141.
Button with head Commentary: Buttons worn by American
of Eichmann opponents of the Vietnam war: "I Only Following Orders - Eichmann".

142.
Duart declares: X: Then you simply carried out your orders without thinking why or against what you were being used. This was secondary for you, or maybe not even interesting at all. You just unconditionally carried out your orders?

143.
Captain Noyd leaves courthouse, gets into car Commentary: This Air Force officer had enough courage to say NO. Captain Dale Noyd refused to train student pilot for the war in Vietnam. His reason: "I am prepared to fight in every war in which the United States is attacked. But in Vietnam this not the case". Captain Noyd is facing court-martial, but his standpoint is food for thought.

144.
Shively declares: X: Was the attitude of those people talked about at the Air Force Base? Was this question discussed or talked about?

Shively: Not a whole lot, sir. We sometimes discuss it. Mainly our discussions centered on the fact that they were hurting the war effort, prolonging the war, because we felt that the kind of war we are fighting here is not essentially a test of strength, but is a kind of a test of determination, and that by people in the United States demonstrating, refusing to go to Vietnam it indicates to the other side that perhaps our determination is not that strong. That was our, the way we discussed it, sir.

145.
Anti-Vietnam war demonstrators march to Pentagon Commentary: The determination to bring the Vietnam war to an end is also growing in the United States. Anti-war demonstrators. Their destination: The Pentagon in Washington.

146.
Fighting between demonstrators and Military Police at Pentagon - Music -
They are presently serving long prison sentences because they refused to fight against the Vietnamese people.

Abbott declares: What is your opinion of these three American citizens who refused to go to Vietnam and chose to go to prison instead?

Abbott: I don't know what their reason was, but they are free to do that and express an opinion not to go, but they also have to receive the punishment for not going.

X: Who do you think is now more free in conscience? The three who said: "we are not participating in this dirty war", those are the words of the three, or those like you, who went to war and who are now also not exactly the freest?

Abbott: No, I'm not free; I hope some day I will be. However these people aren't free either, they may be perhaps in their minds feel that they do the right thing, but they disobeyed the whole idea of our country, of our concept of our country. We will fight for our country by the order of our President. No, I am not free and I was not free when I was in Thailand either. I was under a military system. However, I feel that I have served my country and, whether it be right or wrong, I have done my duty and these people have not.

Planes dropping bombs

Right or wrong - he "only did his duty". For all of the air pirates interviewed loyalty is an empty formula, needed by them to appease occasional feelings of bad conscience, because it excuses everthing.
And yet - in the situation of captivity even First Lieutenant Abbott begins to reflect about himself and his actions.

First Lieutenant Abbott wrote this letter to his wife Linda, in the United States. "If the bombing would cease, the road to peace I'm sure would be opened. From there this would lead to the end of the war, and my return home to you, Mom and Dad."

No officer would write words such as these if he believed his superiors were on victory street. First Lieutenant Abbott wants peace talks.

Yes I'd like to see an end of the conflict, of bombing and peace negotiations to stop this, say, as you call it, the dirty war.

Major Duart, how long do you think you will have to wear these pyjamas?

I have no idea how long I will be forced to live in this country as a prisoner, but I know that I am alive and as long as I am able to maintain hope for the end of this war, ah, ah, I think that I will be taken care of.

Permit me to make a very personal statement. Anyone looking at you, with your blue eyes, would get the feeling you wouldn't hurt a fly. But you are sitting in front of us as a man who has dropped cluster bombs on this territory here, and in spite of this speaks of his joy of flying. I fear that with people like you any kind of war can be carried out, and I would like to ask you in conclusion a very serious question: When the time comes for you to take off this suit of clothing what is your life
going to be like? What are your plans for the future?

Duart: I hope that my country will still have a use for me in the service when I go back. However, if they do not, I will have to look for something else to do. I can always still fly but of course now it will cost me money when I have to do it on my own. I am approaching the age where I cannot easily get a job with airlines and so on. I may be able to stay on for two or three more years which I would certainly try if I were not of any use in the military. --- In any case, how my life will change, one thing that will definitely change is that I am going to spend more time in church. I pray that there would not be another war that I would have to serve in.

158a.
Shot of Duart

Author's
In future, the US global strategies will probably have to do without this man who has expressed his distaste of the war in Vietnam in such a plain manner.

159.
Risner declares:

And how does Colonel Risner think about his future? This man, who has such a long military career behind him?

Risner: I say be like others. I don't know, however, I have no plans at this moment. My plans for the future depend on many things. Since, since coming here as a captive I have searched myself very deeply, and, as I said before, I have always been a Christian, but I have learned to know God as I did not know him before and my future depends a great deal on what I feel that God wants me to do. Whether it involves the Air Force or not I don't know.

X: Then you feel you have no personal responsibility for your destiny and place it in the hands of higher powers.

Risner: That is correct.

160.
Risner -

Cover photo of

Commentary: Risner will hardly be useful again as the squadron
"Time"

161. Fade-over to
Photo of Risner
as prisoner

162. Shot of Torkelson
Commentary:
First Lieutenant Torkelson

163. Facsimile
of envelope

164. Photos of Torkelson
Voice of
Torkelson:
"Protesting and demonstrating this war and talking to people about the cruelty of it would help to end it sooner. I love you and miss you, Toren."

165. Shot of Torkelson
Author's
Commentary:
American prisoners of the Korean war were court martialed for letters such as these. It is very likely that First Lieutenant Torkelson will have to be struck from the rolls of the Air Force.

166. Shot of Hughes

167. Facsimile of
envelope

168. Photos of Hughes,
lines from letter jump
forward

169. Thorsness declares:
X:

Thorsness:
Major Thorsness, what plans do you have for life after this war has ended? What would you like to do most of all if some day you could take off these pyjamas? Well, I would like to, ah, some day in the future, ah, I am either going to be a, an instructor in a high school or a college. I think this would be a very rewarding job to teach children and if it, if it's not that, then I would like to be in politics. I would like very much to be a senator some day, or a governor of a state, I would like to be on the, on the deciding end of United States policy rather than on the doing end, and I would like very much to, to help form United States policy, to have a voice in forming United
States policy, other than just as a voter. I would like to be in the political field itself. 

What policy would the politician Thorsness want to conduct? Would he follow Johnson's line? Hardly. For in a letter to his wife the Major wrote:

"Gaylee, speaking personally, you may be able to get an appointment to see either Senator Skets from Iowa or possibly Senator Symington; and you pass on to them that you, for one - and me - would like to see this war justly ended as soon as possible. Prayerfully, yours with love, Leo."

First Lieutenant Shively wrote to his parents in the United States:

"I pray daily for the end of the war and hope that you do also. There are other ways in which you can help to shorten the war also, you can write letters to our Senators and Congressmen and to the newspapers, expressing your opposition to the US war on Vietnam. Remember me in your prayers. With love, Jim."

First Lieutenant Shively has had enough. It can hardly be expected that he will ever put on his helmet again and transform himself into a Thunderchief. Has he also considered what he will make of his life some day?

Sir, that's a difficult question. I'm sure that I don't want to fly combat again. I've had my taste and not particularly pleased with it. I think I would like to live a quiet
life from now on, without guns going off, being shot at, living in a constant day-to-day worry of will I return tomorrow from a mission. Probably, I've just thought about this and felt that maybe i't like to be an apple-orchard farmer back in my home state of Washington, sir. Something quiet and simple.

X: We wish you the best of luck in this.

Shively: Thank you, sir.

179.
Planes shot down, wrecks burning on ground

Author's Commentary: The end of the Thunderchiefs. The end of a legend. American superiority, invincibility - The bubble has burst.

180.
Issue for prisoners in camp

Anyone putting on these pyjamas also has time to think. A lot of time.

181.
Room in "Hilton Hanoi"
Pan to map of world on wall

Commentary: The former world policeman in the Hilton Hanoi are also permitted to study the world maps hanging on the walls of various cells - they are a portion of Vietnam development aid for the educational system of the United States.

182.
Hubbard declares: X:

In the United States did you - you and your family - ever feel personally threatened by the Vietnamese people?

Hubbard:

No, sir, I never, I wasn't even real sure where Vietnam was until I got my orders to come over here and I took my world book out and looked it up to see exactly where I was going.

Commentary: This First Lieutenant of the U.S. Air Force didn't even know where Vietnam was.

183.
Captain Bay speaking. - Original sound Vietnamese - On 26 April, 1966, I shot down a Phantom On April 29th a Thunderchief On September the 9th another Phantom On September the 16th still another On 21 Jan. 1967 another Thunderchief On 24 April the next Phantom
and 5 days later another Phantom.

Author's Commentary: Seven shot down. Seven victories. Seven times honest work, seven times the same feeling of pride the bridge builder has after completing his work.

184. Captain Bay and other pilots with flowers

Captain Bay was worthy of the flowers he received from President Ho Chi Minh, which grow on the top soil,

185. Soldiers with flowers at missile

on the holy land, from which a small people draws its great strength. Vietnam - here the words of the German poet Holderlin are becoming living reality that the just ones wield their swords like magicians.

186. Missile position

At the time of our visit the regiment of which this rocket unit is a member had already shot down 30 air pirates. One of them, who - as the saying goes, fell out of the clouds - was

187. Shot of Hubbard:

First Lieutenant Hubbard, the unpolitical American elite-officer....

188. Hubbard declares: X:

Are you interested in political affairs now, based on your present day experiences?

Hubbard: Well, since I'm here I would be, much more than I ever was before, yes, sir. I think when I get out of here I will probably take a much greater interest in things that I felt before were not my main interest.

X: How long do you think you will have to wear those pyjamas?

Hubbard: I am looking forward to getting out of them sometime in the summer or fall of 1969.

X: How did you figure this date out?

Hubbard: Well the only thing I can base it on is if in the election next year in November of 68 there's a new president elected and if his feelings are strong enough against the war or his stand
is such that he ends the war, I'm assuming that it will end similar to the way Korea did approximately a year after a change in administration.

Edward Lee Hubbard hopes for a new President......and expresses thereby the hopes of numerous pilots in pyjamas

These men wrote a camp song for themselves, which is sure to turn the ears of the global strategists in Washington red; as a rejection, as the funeral march of a defeated policy.

- Music -

Song: Original sound English

When I crashed in the Red River Valley

My jet had been hit by a SAM.

I was captured by a posse of peasants,

And my life as a prisoner began.

But tied and led off to their village,

I was praying and feared for my life.

I was doctored and fed by their

Just as though I had caused no strife.

I have moved to the Hanoi Hilton

With its

New clothes, twin blanket and toothpaste

Hot soup, good rice from the cooks.

As I study and read up their history

Their long struggle for unity and peace
Militia men

191r - t.
Vietnamese landscape
Vietnamese landscape
Vietnamese landscape

191u.
Peasants harvesting rice

191v.
Peasants harvesting rice

192.
Photos of the ten pilots, zooming back

193.
People's militia
flak MG unit
Credit titles
jump forward

Their high hope and great plan for the future,
I pray that this war will soon cease.
Some day when the peace talks have ended
I'll return to the ones I love dear.
I'll remember this Red River Valley
and it's people, who live peacefully there.

- Song whistled -

- Music -

PILOTS IN PYJAMAS

The Thunderchiefs
Ein Film von Heynowski & Scheumann
Kamera:
Hans Leupold
Gerhard Munch
Peter Hellmich
Fotos:
Thomas Billhardt
Montage:
Traute Wischnewski
Spezialaufnahmen:
Horst Donth
Peter Voigt
Rodaktion:
Gert Prokop
Peter Petersen
Sprecher:
Herwart Grosse
Dometscher:
Perry Friedman
Übersetzung aus dem Amerikanischen:
Dr. Gunter Walch
Dr. Ernst Adler
Billy Mullis
Synchronisation:
Ernst Dahle
Wolfgang Kruger
Ton:
Hans-Jürgen Mittag
Musik:
Reiner Bredemeyer
Produktionsleitung:
Walter Martsch
Jochen Stoff
IM AUFTRAGE DES DEUTSCHEN FERNSEHFUNKS HERGESTELLT IM DEFA-STUDIO FUR WOCHENSCHAU UND DOKUMENTAR--FILME UND IM DEFA-STUDIO FUR SYNCHRONISATION