

# Vietnam's List Of 12 Dead U.S. Fliers

Paris

The Vietnamese government yesterday gave the U.S. Embassy the names of 12 American airmen it said were killed in the Vietnam war. The Communists said the fliers had been listed as missing in action.

The move was called a goodwill gesture by the Vietnamese Communists.

It was seen as significant because Hanoi communicated directly with the American Embassy instead of through a congressional committee, as it has for the past year.

Observers said it appeared to be an attempt to ease U.S. opposition to Vietnam's application for membership in the United Nations and to spur war reparations from Washington under the Paris cease-fire accords.

A Pentagon official in Washington said one of 12 men had been listed as killed in action, one was listed as a prisoner of war and the other ten were listed as missing in action.

The Vietnamese Embassy here gave the names, ranks, birth dates and serial numbers for the 12 men. The Pentagon refused to release their home towns until it notifies the next of kin.

According to G. V. Montgomery (Dem-Miss.), chairman of the House Select Committee on Missing Persons in Southeast Asia, all were shot down between 1965 and 1968 and most — if not all — over North Vietnam.

The mother of Air Force Captain Samuel E. Waters, one of the 12 listed, said she had expected the bad news.

"We didn't really expect to hear any good news, but of course you always hope," said Virginia Waters of Mocksville, N.C.

She said her son had been missing since Dec. 13, 1966. The

family held a memorial service two years ago, after North Vietnam made a general release of American prisoners of war. At that time the Defense Department changed her son's status from missing to dead, she said.

The father of Air Force Lieutenant Bruce C. Ducat, who was also on the list, said his son was shot down northwest of Hanoi on Dec. 2, 1966. He was named on a list of prisoners compiled by released POWs in 1969, but was never

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identified as such by either the United States or Hanoi.

"It's a relief. We have been working almost ten years for information," said Alexander C. Ducat of Bethesda, Md.

Although the Pentagon had only listed Captain Waters as dead, the wife of Major James H. Metz of Poplar Bluff, Mo., said she, too, had been told her husband was dead. A memorial service for him was held in Poplar Bluff in May 1975. Mrs. Metz said, after his status was changed from missing in action.

"I knew that my husband was dead. I just didn't know how or when," said Mrs. Metz. "As far as I was concerned, the memorial service was the end, the final thing we could do for him."

Metz's parents have died since he was first declared missing in action, his father last year and his mother in 1973. "She died with the hope he would return," Mrs. Metz said.

The parents of Captain Lawrence H. Goldberg said they had all but stopped waiting for his return.

"We had kind of given up hope when the POWs came home," said Mrs. Marvin Goldberg of Duluth, Minn. "It's never been the same the last ten years, but at least now we know for sure."

Goldberg was 32 when he was shot down in 1966 and declared missing in action. His wife, Margaret, and two children, Steven, 13, and Susan, 11, live in Columbus, Ohio.

The Vietnamese statement identified the 12 as follows:

1. Air Force Major Elwyn Rex Capling, born July 15, 1930, serial number FV 3058025.

2. Navy Captain William M. Roark, born Oct. 23, 1938, serial number 64158.

3. Air Force Major James H. Metz, born June 12, 1931, serial number 31149 A.

4. Navy Lieutenant Commander Thomas C. Kolstad, born July 17, 1935, serial number 613094.

5. Navy Lieutenant William Blue Klenert, born Oct. 17, 1940, serial number 68923.

6. Air Force Lieutenant Stephen W. Diamond, born July 1, 1940, serial number 3447934.

7. Air Force Major Curtis Abbot Eaton, born July 1, 1924, serial number 2073835.

8. Air Force Captain Samuel Edwin Waters Jr., born May 8, 1937, serial number 59427 A.

9. Navy Lieutenant Commander Roy Howard Bowling, born Dec. 16, 1929, serial number 575995.

10. Air Force Lieutenant Bruce Chalmers Ducat, born June 9, 1941, serial number FR 75625.

11. Air Force Captain Lawrence H. Goldberg, born Dec. 31, 1932, serial number AO 221367.

12. Navy Lieutenant Commander Guy David Johnson, born Oct. 26, 1929, serial number 511390.

The Pentagon lists 795 Americans as still missing in action in the Vietnam war — 527 of them in Vietnam itself. It lists 1710 others as killed in action without their bodies being recovered — 1347 of them in Vietnam.

Most of the missing are fliers, and it is generally presumed they are dead.

Vietnam and the other Communist governments in Southeast Asia will not allow American searchers to look for the remains.

The United States has refused to normalize its relations with the unified Vietnamese state or to let it into the United Nations pending a satisfactory accounting.

In a statement accompanying the list, the Vietnamese Embassy said the Hanoi government "shares

the feelings of American families who have relatives who disappeared in Vietnam" and was handing over the list as a good-will gesture.

"It is to be hoped that the government of the United States will also demonstrate its good will through concrete acts toward settlement of the postwar problems between the two countries," it added, apparently referring to war reparations.

The United States refused to make any contribution to North Vietnam's reconstruction until the Communists provided information and assistance in locating the missing.

*Associated Press*