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UPI Telephoto

RICHARD WALDHAUS  
Captured

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## Mystery of Civilian Held By Viet Reds

By Michael Grieg

Bay Area relatives of Richard G. Waldhaus—identified in a Hanoi broadcast as a civilian prisoner of the Viet Cong—said last night they have “no positive proof” he is being held.

“I just don’t know for sure,” said his mother, Mrs. George F. Waldhaus of Pittsburg, Contra Costa county, after receiving word of the broadcast listing her 25-year-old son at one of 14 captured. “I have no positive proof of anything.

“I don’t wish to put anyone in jeopardy. I don’t know what will happen . . . I don’t wish to make any statement whatever.”

A great-uncle who lives in San Francisco, Bernard Nuttman of 78 Gladstone drive, said that Waldhaus

had lived with him about a year but that he had not seen his grand-nephew since the summer of 1971.

### MEDIC

Nuttman said that Waldhaus, who had served three years as an Army medic in South Vietnam before being discharged and returned home, attended California State University, San Francisco, for a time.

“Except for the fact that he was a hippie type with long hair and funny pants, he was quiet-spoken and perfectly all right,” Nuttman said.

“He never talked about the war or going back to Vietnam. In fact, he never talked much, period. Then he just left my place, and I haven’t heard from him since.”

A government spokesman, who declined to be identified, said Waldhaus visited Europe and Africa before going to Cambodia in 1971. Later, he slipped into South Vietnam where he was arrested for speeding.

### VISA

According to the source, South Vietnamese police discovered he did not have a proper visa and sent him to the U.S. Embassy in Saigon where he was advised to leave the country. He got his visa problems straightened out and his passport was returned to him Aug. 2, 1971.

Embassy officials said that his last word on that day was that he would try to catch a bus back to Cambodia although he was advised against it because of Viet Cong in the area, the spokesman said.

In some transcriptions of the Hanoi broadcast, monitored in Hong Kong, Waldhaus was listed as captured two days later. Others in the broadcast list of 14 prisoners appeared to be servicemen.

According to State Department records, Waldhaus held a U.S. passport issued in 1969 for the purpose of going to South Vietnam to study.

“Otherwise,” the spokesman said, “he was completely unknown to us or to any agency of the government.”