

# Horror Stories From North Vietnam Prisons

Washington

Stories of torture, deprivation and brutality tumbled from released American war prisoners yesterday, hours after the return of the last 67 captives from Hanoi freed the POWs to talk.

They told of shoulders being torn from their sockets, of jaws being forced apart with iron bars of years in solitary confinement, and of being beaten senseless and denied medical treatment.

Navy Captain James A. Mulligan Jr., who was captured in March, 1966, estimated that 95 per cent of the 589 POWs were severely tortured, and that 80 per cent finally gave in to demands for propaganda statements.

Air Force Colonel Robinson Risner told reporters at Andrews Air Force Base that prisoners of the North Vietnamese were bound with ropes in such a way that their toes were forced into their throats.

"They would leave you in this manner," he said, "until you acquiesced in what they wanted you to do."

## RECORDED

After continuous torture, he said, "my will no longer functioned."

He said he finally gave both tape recorded and written anti-war statements.

"I wrote what they told me to write. I said what they wanted me to say. If they said they were winning in South Vietnam, I said they were winning in South Vietnam. If they said I was a criminal, I said I was a criminal."

He said he is sure that some Americans died at the hands of their captors.

One may have been Captain Edwin Atteberry, of

## Peace Corps Money OK'd

Washington

A \$157 million authorization to keep 7000 Peace Corpsmen in 58 countries over the next two years was approved by the House yesterday, 299 to 72.

House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Thomas E. Morgan (Dem-Pa.), said the money is for 7000 corpsmen and trainees now on 955 projects in 58 countries. *Associated Press*

Dallas, who escaped only to be captured 18 hours later.

Lieutenant Colonel John A. Dramesi of Blackwood, N.J., who escaped with Atteberry said he is sure his fellow-officer was tortured to death.

At hurriedly arranged press conferences around the country, the ex-prisoners told of horrors at prison camps called by the Americans the Zoo, Little Vegas, Dog Patch, the Plantation, the Briar Patch, Dirty Bird, the Zoo Annex and others.

They recounted how their spirits improved after they learned from recently captured pilots that U.S. forces had helicoptered into Son Tay prison in November, 1970, in a futile rescue attempt that found the prison empty. They recalled some slapping others on the back and saying "God Bless Tricky Dick" while B-52's rained bombs around Hanoi last December.

Colonel Dramesi told of two escapes from prisons and of being captured and tortured each time.

Colonel Norman Gaddis of Dandridge, Tenn., who was captured in May 1967, said the North Vietnamese appeared to feel he knew all of the U.S. war plans and tortured him four times during the first 48 hours, trying to get military information.

Air Force Colonel Fred V. Cherry said he lost the use of his left shoulder because an injury received when he bailed out of his F-105 went untreated for two weeks, then was treated improperly.

Lieutenant Commander Everett Alvarez, of Santa Clara, Calif., the pilot imprisoned longest by the North Vietnamese — eight years, six months, and seven days — said the enemy hanaled his arms and forced him to go for long periods without sleep in an effort to extract antiwar statements.

## CONFESSION

Physically forced to sign a confession of guilt, he said, "I thought immediately I should have died for it. But then I looked at it this way: You live today and come back tomorrow."

"Basically we went from day to day with the state of mind, "We made it through one day; we can do it again," Alvarez said at the Bethesda, Md., naval hospital.

Marine Lieutenant Colonel John Howard Dunn of Neptune Beach, Fla., who was held for more than seven years, said Alvarez was an inspiration to the others because he was the first prisoner in North Vietnam.

"Alvie was a great inspiration to me when I first arrived," Dunn said. "I'd think 'he's already made it for 16 months, and I can, too.'"

*L.A. Times Service*





*UPI Telephoto*

**Colonels Fred Cheery, (from left) Robinson Risner, Norman Gaddis and Lieutenant Colonel John Dramesi told newsmen at Andrews Air Force Base of their prison experiences**