

# Tortured POW 'Holds No Grudge'

Travis AFB,  
Solano county

A former prisoner of war who spent five years in North Vietnamese jails said yesterday he could understand the initial cruelty of his captors after his fighter bomber was shot down.

Air Force Captain Carl D. Chambers, 32, of Yuba City — shot down in August, 1967 — fired a question back to a news conference that kept returning to cruelty by the North Vietnamese guards.

Asked whether he now hated the North Vietnamese, Chambers said:

"I don't hold any grudges. What would happen if a North Vietnamese fighter pilot bailed out over Pittsburgh, Pa., and had just gotten through bombing some of the steel plants? What do you think those steel workers would do to him, or in a neighborhood of Los Angeles?"

## UNDERSTAND

He was asked if that meant he could understand the cruelty of the enemy.

He answered, "the initial cruelty, yes. Later on for propaganda purposes I couldn't tolerate that."

Chambers said many American pilots bailed out. "We saw parachutes, but we never saw them again. I was lucky. The army caught me right away. But if the civilians caught me I wouldn't be here today."

## MISSING

In response to a question, he said he thought the men listed as missing in action are dead.

With Chambers at the news conference here were Air Force Captain William W. Butler, 33, of San Rafael, shot down in November, 1967; Air Force Captain James E. Sehorn, 32, of Forest Grove, Ore., shot down in December, 1967; and Air Force Captain David E.



UPI photo

CARL CHAMBERS  
He 'understands'

Ford, 37, of Sacramento, shot down in November 1967.

All related torture stories similar to those that came out Thursday across the country.

## IMMEDIATELY

Ford said he was tortured almost immediately after he was captured and dumped in prison.

"Those stories were true," put in Chambers. "They weren't exaggerating."

He and Butler related stories of an escape and an attempt that ended unsuccessfully with harsh torture by their guards.

Ford said he and three other men were rousted out of their prison rooms in January, 1968, and ordered outside with their belongings for a shakedown inspection.

## PLAN

Ford said they used this chance to plan an "over the wall" bid for freedom, but it was discovered and they were "kept without sleep for

two nights and three days, put in ropes, left on a half loaf of bread and a jug of water for a week, our legs shackled and our hands tied behind us in tight cuffs." Chron. 348-D

Chambers said 2-1/2 weeks after his capture he was in a prison camp north of the demilitarized zone in North Vietnam when he and another prisoner, Captain Glenn Wilson, pilot of his S-4, actually escaped.

Chambers said the guards were playing water ball and did not notice the two men crawl out of their hole and vanish in the direction of the Tonkin Gulf. The two made it to a beach on the gulf and attempted to sail away in a boat made of rotten wood.

## SINK

But the boat swamped in a surf and sank. "That's the kind of wood that was. It sank," Chambers added.

Shortly afterward, he and the pilot were recaptured and tortured as punishment for their escape.

As the other POWs have

## Visit to Wounded

Sacramento

Mrs. Ronald Reagan announced yesterday she plans to visit 195 wounded Vietnam War veterans at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Long Beach on Monday.

The Long Beach veterans hospital, the governor's office said, has the largest rehabilitation facilities for spinal-related injuries of all veterans' hospitals in the nation.

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done, the group of four repatriated men agreed that life was made much more difficult for them because of anti-war activity in the U.S. All made wry, disgusted faces when one mentioned actress Jane Fonda, who visited Hanoi.

Similarly the men were unanimous that they heard there was no collaboration with the North Vietnamese by any other POW, although they readily admitted that they personally had been "broken" by their harsh treatment.

Associated Press