

# POWs Say They 'Talked'

## Lied Under Torture, 3 Report

Washington

A former prisoner of war said yesterday any American captive who totally refused to cooperate with the North Vietnamese did not live to return home after the cease-fire.

"I don't know of anyone who said, "I will not give you any military information or participate in propaganda activities," said Air Force Colonel Norman Gaddis of Knoxville, Tenn. "Those men are not with us today."

Gaddis was interviewed on ABC's "Issues and Answers" along with two other POW, Navy Commander Eugene McDaniel of Kinston, N.C., and Army Major William Hardy of Winterville, N.C.

### TORTURE

All three men said they were tortured by their captors, but still endorsed proposals for U.S. reconstruction aid to North Vietnam. McDaniel said such aid would make "an inroad to stability" in Southeast Asia.

McDaniel said many of the prisoners began to lie to their captors when they were tortured for military information. Gaddis added

that he had no "first hand knowledge" of any prisoner who participated in anti-war propaganda in Hanoi.

Many POWs simply "disappeared" during captivity and were believed to have been killed by the North Vietnamese, McDaniel said. He said two of these men, Lieutenant Colonel. Norm Schmidt and Major Ron Storz, were listed among those who died in captivity.

### ESCAPE

Gaddis said Major Edwin Atterberry, one of two men who escaped briefly from a Hanoi POW camp in 1969, disappeared shortly after he

was recaptured and "I assume the Vietnamese probably tortured him to death."

Pentagon officials said they had no hometowns for Schmidt, Storz, or Atterberry.

McDaniel said he was treated so badly that "if I had any opportunity, I would have died."

Gaddis said he began to lie to his Communist captors when he was placed in irons, handcuffed and tied with rope, rendering him unconscious. "After 48 hours, I began to bounce back," he said. "I managed to hang in for about 35 days before

they gave me medical treatment."

Hardy, who was held by the Viet Cong in South Vietnam, said he was never beaten but that other prisoners with him were killed by starvation and overwork — "the thing that I will not forgive those people for."

He said he escaped once for about eight or ten hours. When he was recaptured, he said, he was forced to spend 30 days in a hole in the ground with nothing but a bed of sticks to keep him from lying in the rain water that collected in the bottom of the hole.

UPI Telephoto

Norman Gaddis, William Hardy and Eugene McDaniel said prisoners who totally refused to cooperate 'are not with us today.'

United Press

