

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ROGER HALL, et al.,)	
)	
Plaintiffs,)	
)	
v.)	Civil Action No. 04-814 (RCL)
)	
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE)	
AGENCY,)	
)	
Defendant.)	
_____)	

AFFIDAVIT OF CAPTAIN
EUGENE B. MCDANIEL, U.S. NAVY (RET)

Captain Eugene B. McDaniel, U.S. Navy (Ret.) hereby swears
and affirms:

1. On May 19, 1967, James Kelly Patterson and I were flying
a fully loaded (15,000 lbs. of bombs and 15,000 lbs. of fuel) A-6
Intruder on our 81st mission over North Vietnam. We were in a
loose formation of 24 aircraft flying deep into the country to bomb
Van Diem, a truck repair facility.

2. About forty miles away from our target our instruments indicated missile activity nearby. Shortly thereafter, we began to have the indication on our instrument panel that a SAM (surface-to-air missile) was "locked on" to our aircraft. The missile looks like a telephone pole with a plume of gray smoke appearing on the firing end. We could normally out-maneuver the SAM if we could see it.

3. While dodging one missile, we were hit by another one that we did not see. On impact the aircraft pitched down, controls frozen, and began to burn. Our one option was to eject one second apart from one another into the jungle of North Vietnam. Patterson landed on one side of the mountain range and I landed in a tall tropical tree on the other side. My parachute had snagged into a tree limb and I was dangling about 40 feet above the ground.

4. As I struggled to reach the trunk of the tree to descend, the limb broke and I fell 30-40 feet to the ground, crushing two vertebrae in my back. I later learned that Patterson was alive

without capture for four days and then disappeared into oblivion, never to be seen again.

5. The Vietnamese, who are known to be impeccable record-keepers, have given his family three different locations of his burial: (1) in a stream bed that has been washed out, (2) in another location that animals have dug up, leaving no traces of remains, and (3) another location that I do not recall, but I remember thinking when I heard it that it was also totally unrealistic. The U.S. government has never recovered any of his remains. During my almost six years of captivity I asked the guards and interrogators many times about Patterson's whereabouts. I was told many different stories. Based on what I was told, I believe that he survived and reached the Hanoi Hilton compound.

6. I was able to survive almost six years (2,117 days) of brutal and barbaric torture by clinging to a false belief that "the United States government would never abandon living Americans." Had I known then what I have learned since being released—that

records indicate that my country has abandoned POWs after every war since WW II—I could not have survived that long in captivity.

7. My captivity experience was among the most brutal, primarily due to an unsuccessful escape attempt in May 1969. My cell was the communication link between two adjoining camps that contained more than 200 prisoners. The breakout was successful, but the escapees were recaptured the next day. USAF Major Ed Attaberry was tortured severely and died shortly after recapture. During the next six weeks more than 20 POWs were tortured brutally. At the end of that period, the interrogators came to my cell, and for two weeks I was brutalized to confirm all that the enemy had learned from torturing other POWs. Confirming their confessions was impossible. The torture that occurred in May and June 1969 resulted in POW leadership cancelling a White House-approved escape plan in 1972 (Operation Thunderhead). With the exception of the May 10, 1969, escape attempt and the resulting torture, my captivity was consistent with that of others who were

held. My story is chronicled in the book *"Scars & Stripes: The True Story of One Man's Courage in Facing Death as a Vietnam POW"*

(Library of Congress Catalog Number: 79-56818 ISBN 0-89081-231-4)

8. In 1978 I was interviewed and selected to become Director of Navy/Marine Corps Liaison to the U.S. House of Representatives. During my tour of duty on Capitol Hill, after seeing multiple aerial photographs and hearing of Vietnamese "boat people" who had seen Caucasians in a captive environment long after the war's end, I became convinced that our country had abandoned some of our POWs.

9. In 1986, four years after retiring from the U.S. Navy, I began to speak out publicly about our missing men. Almost immediately, the power brokers on the POW issue began to attempt to attack my character. Up until this time, I had received accelerated promotions twice, selected to command two Navy ships (USS Niagara Falls and aircraft carrier USS Lexington). These two

command assignments indicated that I was on a “fast track” to flag rank.

10. It was not long after I began to “speak out” in 1986 that I received a late-night phone call from a National Security Council official confirming that we did indeed still have living American POWs in Southeast Asia. I was admonished to “be patient” and advised that we would have them home “in two or three years, plus.” I heard three years ago that in 1988 we had extracted 62 POWs from Hoa Binh, a POW camp southwest of Hanoi. I read that these POWs were taken to a VA hospital in Oklahoma City, in the book, *“An American in the Basement,”* at page 272.

11. Shortly after the fall of the USSR, an investigative reporter in the respected Moscow newspaper *Commersant* wrote in an article published on November 4, 1991, that a “U.S. second pilot shot down over North Vietnam on May 19, 1967, was taken overland through a ‘window’ in the China-Soviet border to Saryshagansk on Lake Balkash in the then Soviet Socialist Republic of Kazakhstan during

the fall of 1967.” A copy of that article is attached. The author suggested that the American was still working in the area (although he later recanted this). A February issue stated that he was transferred to nearby Prlozersk. These were in a closed Russian military region dedicated to missile research and testing.

12. Kelly Patterson’s case is the only unresolved M.I.A. case meeting Pankov’s criteria. Note: He (Patterson) was an expert in the use of his aircraft’s state-of-the-art electronics system being used to defeat Vietnam’s Russian-made missile defense system. Saryshagansk, Kazakstan, was the site of a modern Soviet military missile research facility involved in the development of more sophisticated and effective technology to circumvent the American countermeasures.

13. I continued to pursue getting the truth out about the POW/MIA issue for many years through the non-profit organization I founded in 1983, the American Defense Institute (ADI). ADI was instrumental in helping to get a Senate Select Committee on

POW/MIA Affairs established in August of 1991. We thought we had gotten the national attention needed to get an earnest look at all the evidence surrounding this issue and that the full story would finally be known. We soon discovered that it would become more of the same of the U.S. Government bureaucracy keeping the truth of this tragic episode of history hidden from the American public.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief


Eugene B. McDaniel

Date: September 14, 2016.

Commerzant

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THE SOVIET BUSINESS WEEKLY ♦ November 4, 1991

AMERICAN MIA'S IN RUSSIA?

By YURI PANKOV



A former KGB official claims that American servicemen missing in action (MIA) were brought to the Soviet Union and *Commerzant* has been told by confidential sources that one American MIA is living in Saryshagansk. On the heels of these reports, the US Senate began hearings on October 29 to shed some light on the fate of MIA's.

A private investigation by this correspondent has led to

one such MIA, who was brought to Alma Ata in September 1967 and then on to Saryshagansk. The American's name cannot be disclosed here, because this was requested by *Commerzant's* informants connected with the man through work. He served as a second pilot with the US Air Force and was shot down over Vietnam on May 19, 1967.

On October 27 the *Los Angeles Times Magazine* published an interview with KGB Maj.-Gen. (Ret.) Oleg Kalugin. In it he claimed that an acquaintance had personally interrogated Americans in Vietnam.

Two days later, Senator Bob Kerry, speaking at the Senate hearings, presented direct proof of Kalugin's disclosure. He read from a declassified CIA intelligence information report (of which *Commerzant* has a copy), saying, in part:

"Preliminary debriefing site for captured US pilots in Vinh Phu province and presence of Soviet and communist Chinese personnel at the site.

"1. A preliminary debriefing point for US pilots shot down over Vinh Phu province, North Vietnam (NVN), was located at the Lam Thao superphosphate plant (WJ301588) near Thach Son village, Lam Thao dis-

trict, Vinh Phu province.

"Two US pilots were taken to the debriefing point on one occasion in 1965; eight, in 1966; and an unknown number, in 1967. The prisoners were escorted to the site by personnel of the armed public security forces (APSF), and students from a nearby school served as perimeter guards... Upon their arrival at the plant, the guards lined up, forming a corridor through which the pilots entered the building. At this point a Soviet, a Chinese and a Vietnamese greeted the pilots and led them into the building.

"The pilots usually remained in the building for several hours. When they emerged, they had changed from uniforms into civilian clothing. (Deleted) said (deleted) had told him the foreigners were Soviet and communist Chinese. Soviet personnel had been stationed at the plant, since its construction in 1963, but in 1965 the number of Soviets was reduced to three or four, and is remained at that level as of June 1967."

Alexander Karbatov, public relations chief of the KGB's successor — the Inter-Republican Security Service, said he could not clarify the MIA story. An informant, though, from among KGB officers who served in

Vietnam during the 1960s disclosed that US POW's were a target, in particular, for Soviet scientific and technical intelligence seeking information about US aircraft. Interrogations were conducted not only in Vietnam but also in Laos.

Another Soviet Vietnam war veteran, Pavel Ponomarev, said that as the navigator of a transport plane in 1962, he had personally flown US POW's out of South Vietnam and that the "deportations" had been overseen by a KGB official he refused to identify. Other Soviet military personnel serving in Vietnam during the war say there were also several attempts to bring sick POW's from Hai Phong to Vladivostok in the Soviet Far East. One such sea lift ended with five Americans dying from fever.

What happened to the GI's brought to the Soviet Union later, just as their overall number, is anybody's guess. US press reports say that President George Bush asked Mikhail Gorbachev to clear up the MIA controversy during their summit last July. But experts do not believe this will happen at any time soon. Some MIA's may have been "turned" over during their stay in the Soviet Union and might now be working abroad as Soviet spies.

Commersant
The Soviet Business Weekly
November 4, 1991

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