



Volume V Issue IV

April 2021



President
Jim "JJ" Justice



Vice President
Cindy Flowers

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Chaplin's Corner	2
Inside the Chapter	3
Welcome Home	8
This Month In History	9
Featured Story	10
Sponsor Pages	13

A Note From The President:

I just want to thank all team members for their dedication to our mission on getting all Brevard school flag ceremonies finished by May 15. I'm impressed by the Chapter members getting behind their team leaders and making this happen. The students are very receptive to our ceremony from kindergarten to high school, the JROTC the school staff and the high school bands.

Rolling Thunder Florida Chapter 1 is not only working on our POW*MIA FLAG RAISING, but we are planning to host the 33rd annual Ride for Freedom on Memorial Day here at Merritt Island on May 28,29,30th.

So all this being said, Rolling Thunder Florida Chapter 1, you are doing your part to educate the public and publicize our cause for the full accountability of nearly 82,000 Prisoners of War- Missing in Action fellow service members who were left behind after all wars. Families need closure,

WE WILL NOT FORGET.

THE MAJOR FUNCTION OF ROLLING THUNDER ® INC. IS TO PUBLICIZE THE POW*MIA ISSUE: TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC THAT MANY AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR WERE LEFT BEHIND AFTER ALL PREVIOUS WARS, AND TO HELP CORRECT THE PAST AND TO PROTECT FUTURE VETERANS FROM BEING LEFT BEHIND SHOULD THEY BECOME PRISONERS OF WAR-MISSING IN ACTION. WE ARE ALSO COMMITTED TO HELPING AMERICAN VETERANS FROM ALL WARS.

FROM THE CHAPLIN

I am a practicing Christian. Easter to me is a time to remember and celebrate Christ's Resurrection. We acknowledge and recall that Jesus defeated the powers of sin and death for all who believe. The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ is a basic Christian affirmation of the Christian faith. So how did a Bunny and some eggs ever get to be a part of the Christian High Holiday?

One theory of the Easter Bunny's origins is that it stemmed from early pagan celebrations around the vernal equinox. Pagans celebrated the springtime renewal of life as well as the goddess of dawn and fertility, Eostre, who was often represented by the hare or an egg. As Christianity spread throughout Europe, the celebrations around the vernal equinox may have merged with the observance of Christ's resurrection, since they both occurred around the same time. Missionaries were said to blend pagan traditions with Christian holidays to make the transition smoother, so it is possible that the celebrations of Eostre and the resurrection of Christ became one.

The earliest evidence of a more modern Easter Bunny dates back to the 1600s, when it's first mentioned in German writings. This rabbit, called "Oschter Haws" or Easter hare, was believed to lay a nest of colorful eggs for children who were good.

While there is no actual bunny that once was the iconic hare, the legendary egg-laying rabbit is said to have been brought to America by German immigrants in the 1700s, according to History. As mentioned, children would make nests for Oschter Haws to leave behind eggs. The tradition spread throughout the U.S., where the hare's gifts eventually became chocolates and candies and the nests were replaced by baskets. Chocolate bunny figurines also originated in Germany, where they began making pastries for the fabled rabbit in the 1800s.

As previously mentioned, the rabbit and the egg became intertwined with the spring holiday because of their pagan roots representing fertility and rebirth. It seems possible that these two images merged into the egg-laying rabbit of German lore, instead of a (practical) chicken.

Regardless of who's laying them, eggs are a prominent Easter image that have come to represent Christ's emergence from the tomb and resurrection, says History. One possible reason for decorating eggs is that they were adorned for enjoyment on Easter morning once Lenten fasting was finished.

Whether it was pagan or Christian associations with the rabbit that ultimately influenced the Germans, we may never know. But one thing is certain: The Easter Bunny will continue to bring joy and excitement to children across the country every Easter Sunday

Proverbs 6:20

My son, keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Chaplain Chip Hanson



Best wishes to the following members who have birthday's this month:

Steve Fritz	04/07
Rob Micoli	04/07
Shaiann Hudson	04/11



Editor/Publisher
Bob Ericson

Since the beginning of the year, the Chapter has been pursuing the goal of raising a POW*MIA flag at every county public school. We have raised enough money to purchase the required 83 flags, so thank you all for your generous support in this endeavor. Without the help of donors and sponsors, we would not be able to accomplish this lofty goal. We are over half way there! Stayed tuned as we head into the final stretch.

The focus of this newsletter is to highlight the lives of former prisoners of war during their internment, and to bring awareness of those that never made it back home.

Nearly all of our stories have been about military service men and women, with little mention of the plight of those civilian captives, caught during the fighting.

This month however, we aim to change that! Our featured story in this months newsletter focuses on two women volunteers in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam conflict, and how they became prisoners-of-war. We also explore how other members of volunteer organizations were caught up in the struggle of humanitarian support during a time that their county was heavily involved in a military operation that ultimately took the lives of over 58,000 American soldiers (men and women).

We are also pleased to highlight an essay written by then 17 year old Shelby Justice on her experiences in Washington D.C. when she and her father visited the National Mall. As you read, it's easy to be immersed in her words and emotions.

Shelby is now a fully patched member of Rolling Thunder® Kentucky 5.

New Veterans Crisis Line Number: 988

Signed into law in 2020, the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act authorized 988 as the new three-digit number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. All telephone service providers in the U.S. must activate the number no later than July 2022; however, many providers will choose to implement the service sooner. Once a Veteran's telephone service provider makes 988 available, Veterans can use this new option by dialing 988 and pressing 1 to contact the Veterans Crisis Line. Veterans may still reach the Veterans Crisis Line with the current phone number — 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1 — by text (838255), and through chat (VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat).



INSIDE THE CHAPTER *(continued)*



*We continue our mission of raising a POW*MIA at all 83 public schools in Brevard County. With the help and support of the District Schools and by private donations, we have been able to purchase enough flags to complete our mission. Pictured - Titusville HS*

Rolling Thunder® Inc. Florida Chapter 1

825 Lakewood Circle

Merritt Island, FL 32952--5887

(321) 720-5032

rtfl1.pres@cfl.rr.com

<https://www.RollingThunderFlorida1.org>

<https://Facebook.com/RollingThunderFL1>



***Notice:** Views and opinions expressed in The Mission Newsletter are those of the publisher, and do not necessarily reflect those of Rolling Thunder® Inc. or Florida Chapter 1. If you have any concerns about any material presented in this newsletter, please contact the publisher at : TheMissionEditor@cfl.rr.com.*

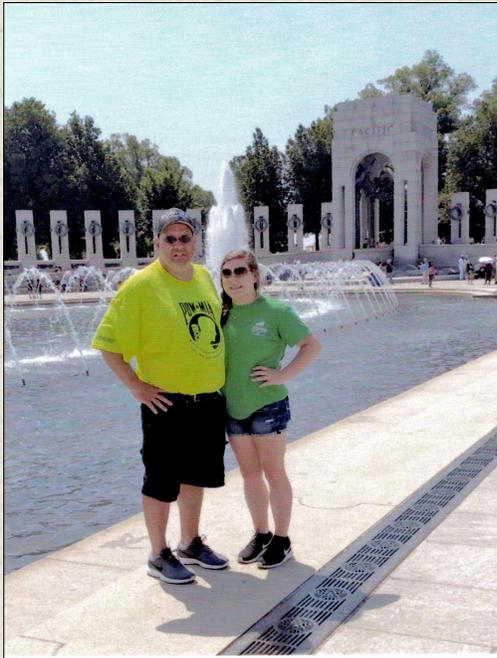
TOGETHER AGAIN - By Shelby Justice, October 8, 2019

I have never been so bombarded with emotion. So much sorrow fills the air along with an overwhelming sense of gratitude. The beautifully manicured grass and sleek black, chain fences lined the walkways crowded with tourists. Overhead, the early morning breeze blew through the trees and across my skin, wicking away the sweat on the back of my neck that had accumulated. Within the National Mall, to my surprise wildlife flourished. Squirrels ran across the paths, and scampered up trees to their abodes. Ducks glided across any body of water they could find and fended off humans from bothering their ducklings. As I walked through the beautiful nature I was surrounded with the chirping of birds, people conversing and cars passing from nearby roadways between the monuments. It was not until I approached the World War II Memorial that I was enveloped with the most calming, serene, beautifully deafening silence I had ever experienced and felt so close to my Great-Grandpa since his passing.

It was unlike anything I had ever experienced before. I felt like I had entered a different realm. Silence. The only noise was the splashing of the water from the fountains in the middle of the memorial. The water glistened as the sun beat down and reflected off of it. The two large fountains are located on each side of the pool with smaller fountains along the border. I walked forward until I was completely immersed in the memorial. The light grey and tan stone surrounded me.

It being my first time there, I wandered around the memorial by myself first to

acquaint myself with all the different aspects of it and take it all in. I first made my way to the left side of the memorial, the Pacific. As I went up the ramp I passed by pillar after pillar. These sturdy stone pillars stood tall surrounding the entire memorial. Each pillar proudly held a green metal wreath at the top and was stamped with one of the fifty states names in black capital letters about eye level. In the middle of the Pacific and Atlantic sides directly across from each other on opposite sides of the memorial there are large, rectangular, grey pavilions. These pavilions dedicated to the Pacific and Atlantic by the words written in large print on them extend higher into the air than the pillars that surround them. Inside suspended in the four corners are four large, beautiful metal eagles that are holding up a larger version of the wreaths that decorate the state pillars.



*Shelby and her Dad, Jesse
at the World War II Memorial*

After passing through the Pacific pavilion, I descended down the ramp and paused at the pillar that is home to Kentucky. As I placed my hand on the stone that was surprisingly still cool despite the hot sun baking down on everything within its reach, I begin to think of my Great-Grandpa. This is his memorial and this is his home. Kentucky.

I reached the bottom and as I began my walk over to the Atlantic side of the memorial just ahead of me to my left glistening in the sunlight, I saw a golden wall. I reached the wall that was still glistening in the sunlight. While it threw sunlight back at me, I began to read the plaque that served as the explanation for

TOGETHER AGAIN *(continued)*

the glowing surface. The golden orb that clung to the wall was made up of four thousand and forty-eight individual golden stars each representing one hundred American service members lost in World War II. The saying "Freedom in not Free" never rang more true. I stood in awe of the gleaming, golden wall as I studied each star thinking about how each one was there for me. Each star was there for everyone at the memorial. Those stars that hung off the wall were there as a result of a brave service member fighting for every American.

After spending some time in thought in front of the Freedom Wall my dad gestured me over towards the Atlantic side of the memorial. Little did I know he was about to show me the part of the memorial I would hold most dear for the rest of my life. In front of the Atlantic pavilion on the ground level of the memorial there was a smaller fountain.

Upon approaching the beautifully crafted fountain I did not immediately see the personal attachment I had to this portion of the memorial that my Dad had called me over to show me. As he walked me around the curved fountain engraved with quotes and specific battles, I saw it. On the right-hand side of the fountain carved into the stone in all capital letters, THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE jumped out at me. That was the battle my Great-Grandpa was captured in. That was the battle that made him a Prisoner of War, the battle that made him have to flee for his life. As I stood there in the sweltering heat next to my dad, we looked down at the words each in our own thoughts.

The heat and bright sun faded away, and the splashing of the water behind us softened, for those moments it just me, my dad, and my great grandpa. In the eight years since his passing this was the closest I had felt to him again. Every care I had in the world ceased and my vision became blurry. Hidden behind sunglasses my glossy, brown eyes filled with

tears and inevitably they poured down my flushed cheeks as I was overwhelmed with so many emotions.

I had never felt so much gratitude in my life. I was grateful for my Great-Grandpa and his bravery to escape his captors because it made the moment I was experiencing possible. I was also filled with heartache. I missed the old, frail man I had shared a birthday with that always welcomed me with open arms. I wanted nothing more than to see him again, to speak to him one last time now that I was grown, and to thank him for being the man he was. Time seemed to have stood still. I felt as if I could have stayed there forever with him. After a few minutes my dad and I stepped away from the fountain so he could take me on an educational tour of the memorial.



Turning around from the fountain to walk away was the hardest part of my entire trip to the National Mall because I felt as if I was saying goodbye. I didn't want to leave.

TOGETHER AGAIN *(continued)*

I wanted to do some catching up with him. After all, it had been eight years since his passing and I was no longer a little girl. I wanted to stay feeling so close to him again forever.

The National Mall will always hold a special place in my heart. The beautiful nature sprinkled with some of the nations most prized possessions offers a humbling escape for me. The serenity of the World War II Memorial will never grow old to me as it is the place I feel as close to my Great-Grandpa as possible.

In the quiet of the memorial, it is just him and I and I have no other worries in the world when I am immersed in what feels like a whole different realm. It feels as if the Atlantic side fountain is our fountain, and those words were carved into the stone specifically for him. It is a place for us to come together again, a place for him to feel my gratitude, and a place for him to feel that he will forever be missed, and never forgotten.

The Battle of the Bulge

In late 1944, during the wake of the Allied forces' successful D-Day invasion of Normandy, France, it seemed as if the Second World War was all but over. On December 16, with the onset of winter, the German army launched a counteroffensive that was intended to cut through the Allied forces in a manner that would turn the tide of the war in Hitler's favor. The battle that ensued is known historically as the Battle of the Bulge. The courage and fortitude of the American Soldier was tested against great adversity. Nevertheless, the quality of his response ultimately meant the victory of freedom over tyranny.

Early on the misty winter morning of Dec. 16, 1944, more than 200,000 German troops and nearly 1,000 tanks launched Adolf Hitler's last bid to reverse the ebb in his fortunes that had begun when Allied troops

landed in France on D-Day. Seeking to drive to the coast of the English Channel and split the Allied armies as they had done in May 1940, the Germans struck in the Ardennes Forest, a 75-mile stretch of the front characterized by dense woods and few roads, held by four inexperienced and battle-worn American divisions stationed there for rest and seasoning.

After a day of hard fighting, the Germans broke through the American front, surrounding most of an infantry division, seizing key crossroads, and advancing their spearheads toward the Meuse River, creating the projection that gave the battle its name.

Supreme Allied commander, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower rushed reinforcements to hold the line of the German penetration. Within days, Lt. Gen. George S. Patton Jr. had turned his Third U.S. Army to the north and was counterattacking against the German flank. But the story of the Battle of the Bulge is above all the story of American Soldiers. Often isolated and unaware of the overall picture, they did their part to slow the Nazi advance, whether by delaying armored spearheads with obstinate defenses of vital crossroads, moving or burning critical gasoline stocks to keep them from the fuel-hungry German tanks, or coming up with unique questions to stump possible Nazi infiltrators.

Within days, Patton's Third Army had relieved Bastogne, and to the north, the 2nd U.S. Armored Division stopped enemy tanks short of the Meuse River on Christmas. Through January, American troops, often wading through deep snow drifts, attacked the sides of the shrinking bulge until they had restored the front and set the stage for the final drive to victory.

Never again would Hitler be able to launch an offensive in the west on such a scale.



Army Air Forces Tech.
Sgt. Alfred F. Turgeon 23,
of Ketchikan, Alaska

On August 1, 1943, 177 B-24 bombers take off from an Allied base in Libya, bound for the oil-producing city Ploiești, Romania, nicknamed “Hitler’s gas station.” The daring raid, known as Operation Tidal Wave, resulted in five men being awarded the Medal of Honor—three of them posthumously—but failed to strike the fatal blow its planners had intended.

Operation *Tidal Wave* began ominously, with an overloaded bomber crashing shortly after takeoff and another plunging into the Adriatic Sea. 167 of the original 177 bombers made it to Ploiești, whose oil fields and refineries provided the Germans with over 8.5 million tons of oil per year. Whereas most Allied bombing in World War II was carried out from a high altitude, the bombers that raided Ploiești flew exceptionally low in order to evade the Germans’ radar. The bombers lost the element of surprise, however, when one group veered off on the wrong direction, forcing the others to break radio silence in order to direct them back on course. This unplanned adjustment also led to the bombers approaching from the south, where the Nazis had concentrated their anti-aircraft batteries.

The ensuing attack was dramatic, chaotic and costly. The Allies suffered heavy casualties, and smoke from the explosions caused by the first wave of bombers made visibility difficult for subsequent waves. Survivors reported debris like branches and barbed wire hitting and even ending up on the inside of their planes. Lt. Col. Addison Baker and Maj. John Jerstad were awarded the Medal of Honor for their (unsuccessful) attempt to fly higher and allow the crew to bail out of their

badly damaged plane. Another pilot, Lt. Lloyd Herbert Hughes, also received a posthumous Medal of Honor for flying his critically-damaged B-24 into its target. Col. John Kane and Col. Leon Johnson, who each led bombing groups that reached their targets, were the only men who were awarded the Medal of Honor and survived the raid.

Although the Allies estimated that the raid had reduced Ploiești’s capacity by 40 percent, the damage was quickly repaired and within months the refineries had outstripped their previous capacity. The region continued to serve as “Hitler’s gas station” until the Soviet Union captured it in August of 1944. 310 airmen died, 108 were captured and another 78 were interned in neighboring Turkey. 88 of the original 177 B-24s returned, most of them seriously damaged. Despite setting the record for most Medals of Honor awarded to airmen in a single mission, Operation Tidal wave was never repeated—the Allies never again attempted a low-altitude assault against German air defenses.

U.S. Army Air Forces Tech. Sgt. Alfred F. Turgeon, assigned to the 344th Bombardment Squadron, 98th Bombardment Group (Heavy), 9th Air Force, was serving as a radio operator on one of those B-24 Liberator’s which crashed as a result of enemy anti-aircraft fire. a pilot.

It wasn’t until 2017 when the DPAA began exhuming unknowns believed to be associated with unaccounted for airmen from Operation TIDAL WAVE losses. These remains were sent to the DPAA Laboratory at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, for examination and identification.

Tech. Sgt. Turgeon was accounted for on January 13, 2021. He will be buried in Shoreline, Washington, at a yet to be determined date.

When one American is not worth the effort to be found, we as Americans have lost.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

April 1, 1998 - A federal judge in Little Rock, Arkansas, dismissed a sexual harassment case against President Bill Clinton, stating the case had no "genuine issues" worthy of trial. Although President Clinton had denied any wrongdoing, a unanimous ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court in May 1997 allowed the case to proceed, thereby establishing a precedent allowing sitting presidents to be sued for personal conduct that allegedly occurred before taking office.

April 2, 1865 - General Robert E. Lee informed Confederate President Jefferson Davis that he must evacuate the Confederate capital at Richmond, Virginia. Davis and his cabinet then fled by train.

April 3, 1860 - In the American West, the Pony Express service began as the first rider departed St. Joseph, Missouri. For \$5 an ounce, letters were delivered 2,000 miles to California within ten days. The famed Pony Express riders each rode from 75 to 100 miles before handing the letters off to the next rider. A total of 190 way stations were located about 15 miles apart. The service lasted less than two years, ending upon the completion of the overland telegraph.

April 3, 1995 - Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor became the first woman to preside over the Court, sitting in for Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist who was out of town.

April 4, 1968 - Civil Rights leader Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King was shot and killed by a sniper in Memphis, Tennessee. As head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, he had championed non-violent resistance to end racial oppression and had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. He is best remembered for his I Have a Dream speech delivered at the 1963 Civil Rights March on Washington. That march and King's other efforts helped the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. In 1986, Congress established the third Monday in January as a national holiday in his honor.

April 10, 1942 - During World War II in the Pacific, the Bataan Death March began as American and Filipino prisoners were forced on a six-day march from an airfield on Bataan to a camp near Cabanatuan. Some 76,000 Allied POWs including 12,000 Americans were forced to walk 60 miles under a blazing sun without food or water to the POW camp, resulting in over 5,000 American deaths.

April 12, 1981 - The first space shuttle flight occurred with the launching of Columbia with astronauts John Young and Robert Crippen aboard. Columbia spent 54 hours in space, making 36 orbits, then landed at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

April 16, 1862 - Congress abolished slavery in the District of Columbia and appropriated \$1 million to compensate owners of freed slaves.

April 17, 1961 - A U.S.-backed attempt to overthrow Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba failed disastrously in what became known as the Bay of Pigs fiasco. About 1,400 anti-Castro exiles invaded the island's southern coast along the Bay of Pigs but were overrun by 20,000 Cuban soldiers and jailed. Trained and guided by the U.S., the exiles had expected support from U.S. military aircraft and help from anti-Castro insurgents on the island. Instead, due to a series of mishaps, they had fended for themselves with no support. The failed invasion heightened Cold War tensions between Cuba's political ally, Soviet Russia, and the fledgling administration of President John F. Kennedy. The following year, the Russians brazenly installed nuclear missiles in Cuba resulting in the Cuban Missile Crisis.

April 22, 1864 - "In God We Trust" was included on all newly minted U.S. coins by an Act of Congress.

Dr. Marjorie Nelson, 28, was a member of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) team in Quang Ngai, South Vietnam, serving as a doctor at the Quaker Rehabilitation Center. On February 5, 1968, during the Tet Offensive, Dr. Nelson and her friend and school teacher, Sandra Rae Johnson, who was serving in Vietnam as an International Voluntary Service worker, were taken captive by the National Liberation Front of Vietnam (Viet Cong). Two other volunteers working in Hué were also taken three days prior - Marc Cayer, a French-speaking Canadian national who arrived in Vietnam in October of 1967, and Returning Peace Corps Volunteer Gary Daves.

After months of working for long hours with little free time and constant reminders of the human tragedy of the war, Marge planned to take a vacation to the city of Hué during the Tet holidays. On January 29, 1968, she left for a week's visit with Sandra Johnson, a friend at a volunteer agency in Hué. However, both women disappeared shortly after Marge arrived.

On February 9, a secretary from the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) reported seeing a cadre of Viet Cong escorting the two young women out of the city of Hué. The women were wearing pajamas, walking hand in hand. For the next two months, AFSC staff, the women's families, and U.S. officials tried to learn their whereabouts, with no success. The women's names became part of the U.S. State Department's list of 18 U.S. civilians "known to have been taken prisoner by North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces during the Tet Offensive."

The bombing of Hué began in late January, right after Marge's arrival, and continued into early February. Marge and Sandra took refuge in Sandra's bomb shelter, surviving for several days on Tet candies before they were discovered by NLF soldiers, who



*L-R: Jill Richards, Marjorie Nelson and
Nguyen thi Xuan Lan,
Quang Ngai, Vietnam,
circa 1967-1968*

took them to another location. They remained there for several more days, while all around them the city exploded under military force.

On approximately February 9th, Marge and Sandra were tied at the wrists and walked out of the city of Hué. Crossing through the mountains with nothing but wooden "house" shoes, Marge's feet quickly became sore with blisters. They traveled for hours through the dark, sometimes in bare feet, other times in borrowed shoes, finally arriving at a mountain village early in the morning.

They came to a gate with an arch over it, a typical entryway to a Vietnamese village, but this one was different - "It looked very forlorn," Marge recalls. "I thought, 'Abandon all hope, ye who enter here.'"

Nelson and Johnson were kept outside in a fenced-in area. "It was very cold with a fine rain falling. We slept on the ground with no cover... That was a bad night, but we survived it." The next day the women were forced to

FEATURED STORY *(continued)*

begin a week-long trek through the jungle and across mountains with little food or water. They both suffered from blisters and amoebic dysentery, and were reminded by their captors that they were being moved away from Hué for their own protection. For Daves and Cayer however, it was the beginning of five years and ten days as prisoners of war. They too were taken to the mountains, after a long day of walking with their elbows tied tight behind their backs. About a week later, they were joined by Nelson and Johnson.

Soon after that, the four of them began walking toward Laos. For 13 days they slept on the ground with just a plastic tarp to shield them from the morning rain.

When they reached the camp, Nelson and Johnson were well fed and cared for under the direction of the soldiers' commander, a man known as 'Nam'. They were given VC fatigues to wear, with apologies from 'Nam' that there were no women's clothes available. They remained in this location for several weeks, being interrogated by soldiers and interacting with the other prisoners.

While there though, American planes were dropping bombs, and during one of those raids, Cayer was badly wounded in his left foot. A few days later he and Daves were separated from the other prisoners and were taken by truck on a nine-day journey on the Ho Chi Minh trail. "It was a terrible experience," writes Cayer, "rough roads, bombings, no sleep and little food." Daves and Cayer remained captives until March 27, 1973.

Ed note: The wounding of Cayer is disputed in the Official Debriefing of Nelson and Johnson - but he could have been wounded after February 19th)

Near mid-March, Nelson and Johnson began another forced march to another camp,

again on foot but this time with boots the soldiers had found for them. Three days into their journey, two of the other prisoners escaped. Nelson recalled that "The lists were gotten out, and roll was called"

It wasn't just that two of the prisoners had escaped; They had been told that there might be more bombings that morning. The two women up until this point, had always eaten with the men prisoners and slept in a separate area. This particular night, however, the men were called for their meal, and Sandra and Marge were not. 'Nam' appeared with another soldier and fed the women separately. After they had eaten, he sadly announced he would not be continuing on with them. They were now worried about what would happen next. They had felt safe with 'Nam' and the rest of the group, but were now anxious that the move might put them into the hands of people less interested in their welfare. Nonetheless, the next morning they were separated from the rest of the prisoners and moved by foot to another camp.

The first words from the new camp's commander were, "Do not escape!" They stayed at this camp for about four days. Despite this warning, it soon became apparent to Nelson that the move was in preparation for their release. "It sort of occurred to them, I guess, that maybe we . . . shouldn't really be prisoners. We were really more like guests, and they sort of began to be a little embarrassed at this prisoner business".

Nelson and Johnson - still in the camp - were instructed not refer to themselves as prisoners. Near March 20th, the two women were instructed to write release statements. Nelson wrote, in part, "Almost everyone I met has been both kind and friendly to me. I have been impressed with the courage, dedication, enthusiasm, and cheerfulness of the NLF

Do you have something you'd like to share with our world-wide readers? If so, just send a note to the editor (TheMissionEditor@cfl.rr.com) along with a picture or two, and we'll be happy to include it in an upcoming issue.

FEATURED STORY (CONTINUED)

Likewise, the statement by the NLF distinguished between U.S. military aggression and U.S. citizens, many of whom the NLF soldiers understood were not part of the war machine. The statement said, in part, "Both above-mentioned American women showed more or less sympathy with the Vietnamese people's struggle for national independence and peace."

On March 31, 1968-nearly two months after the Tet Offensive - Marjorie Nelson and Sandra Johnson were released north of Hué. They were directed to a path leading to railroad tracks and then to a road. Still dressed in VC fatigues, they caught a bus filled with soldiers from the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN), and found their way back into the city. During the weeks of Marge's detention, the AFSC staff members with whom she had worked had pulled out of Quang Ngai, due to unrest after the offensive.

The AFSC team did not resume its work at the rehab center until May. Nelson flew home to the United States, but, just six-and-a-half months after her release, she returned to Vietnam on September 10th to finish out her term on the AFSC staff.

After her debrief, Sandra Johnson returned to the United States and resigned from the AFSC.

Marc Cayer was held captive for 5 years and 10 days prior to his release from the Hanoi Hilton on February 13, 1973. In 1990, Marc authored a book - in English, "Prisoner in Vietnam," In 1988 he and his wife returned to visit North Vietnam for 11 days. Cayer retired from Government service in 1997.

In copy

Yentas, Cpt

P 314632
FM SSO NAGV
TO SSO ACS1 DA
LEN

COL COON, DIRECTOR, C1, NAGV, JK SENDS FOR HEAVER
SUBJECT: DEBRIEFING OF MR. MARJORIE NELSON AND SANDRA JOHNSON

REF: WDC S&C INTEL, DATED 14 APRIL 1968.

1. THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WERE IDENTIFIED BY NELSON AND JOHNSON AS LAST BEING SEEN ON 19 FEBRUARY.

A. RUSSEL PAGE, AMERICAN EMPLOYED BY PAEE, HUE. PAGE WAS SUFFERING FROM SEVERELY INFECTED FEET

B. SARGE (NFI), AMERICAN. APPROX 6 FEET TALL. 150 LBS. POUNDS WOUNDED IN STOMACH BY PIECE OF SHRAPNEL WHICH ENTERED THROUGH RIGHT DIAPHRAGM, LODGING IN AN AREA WHICH CAUSED PNEUMOTHORAX. (NFI) BOUND DESCRIPTION FITS SFC JOHN ANDERSON, AFVN, HUE IDENTIFIED BY HAYBURYST AND DEWELING.

C. JACK OR JERRY, NFI, AMERICAN, OCCUPATION UNKNOWN. IN-

OF HAYBURYST AND DEWELING. DESCRIPTIONS FITS CPT HAYBURYST AND DEWELING. IDENTIFIED BY HAYBURYST AND DEWELING.

2. FOLLOWING LAST SEEN APPROX 25 FEB 68 WHEN WOMEN AND TWO OTHER PRISONERS SEPARATED FROM LARGER BODY.

A. DONALD J. HANDEL, AMERICAN - IDENTIFIED BY HAYBURYST AND DEWELING AS SSG, 10TH MI CO HUE. SUFFERED WOUND IN LEFT ARM, CAUSING DISCOMFORT IF FORCED TO CARRY ANY ITEMS. WOUNDS APPEARED TO BE HEALING.

B. FRENCHIE (NFI) AMERICAN EMPLOYED PAEE, SUE, WOUNDED IN LEFT SHOULDER APPEARED TO BE HEALING. NELSON IDENTIFIED FRENCHIE AS DONALD J. GOULIN FROM PHOTOS ON FILE, WITH CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO WEIGHT LOSS AND BEARD.

C. GARY DAVES, AMERICAN EMPLOYED BY IVS, HUE. NOT WOUNDED APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD PHYSICAL SHAPE.

D. MARC CAYER, CANADIAN EMPLOYED BY IVS, HUE. GOOD CONDITION. NO WOUNDS.

E. PHILLIP HANWARD, AMERICAN, IDENTIFIED BY HAYBURYST AND DEWELING AS SENIOR PROVINCE ADVISOR, HUR, INFECTED AND BLISTERED FEET, AND HOPE BURNS ON ARMS FROM ROPES BINDING HIM DURING INITIAL CAPTIVITY.

F. CHUC, WILLIS, AMERICAN, VOICE OF AMERICA, HUE, SUFFERING FOOT BLISTERS, SOME INFECTION. WAS TO BE TRANSPORTED TO HANOI.

G. POP OR POPP - FILIPINO - EMPLOYED VOICE OF AMERICA - HUE. EXCELLENT PHYSICALLY.

H. TOM RAGSDALE, AMERICAN, IDENTIFIED AS AGRICULTURAL ADVISOR, CORNUS, HUE. CUT THUMB FROM RIFTS; THUMB APPEARED TO BE HEALING.

I. FRED DEERING - AMERICAN - POSSIBLY US ARMY, HUE

Official Debriefing of Marjorie Nelson and Sandra Johnson
April 1968

6-30-76

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20520

Memorandum for the Files:

Regarding the attached letter from Capt. Harris, USA, I had already informed the Washington office of IVS that we had sensitive but good indications that Gary Daves was held in North Vietnam, and that it was possible the Canadian, Marc Cayer, was with him. I had informed the Personnel Director of P A S, Mr. Klafew, that Houston and other FA S E employees were in care status, and USA ~~had~~ regarding Mr. Willis. I assume the Navy and Army have taken appropriate action with regard to Cayer, Stark, and Heaver.

H. S. [Signature]

29 June 1971.

750317,10

U.S. Department of State memo
regarding Daves and Cayer
June 1971

SPONSORS

We thank all our sponsors of this publication. Your generosity makes it possible for us to continue our mission of "educating the public" about our prisoners-of-war, and missing-in-action, while at the same time, promoting your cause or business. //Ed

Windows By Grace, Inc.

- DECORATING -
Window Fashions ♦ Vertical Blind Factory

Ph (321) 259-9979 2535 N. Harbor City Blvd.
Fax (321) 259-6678 Melbourne, FL 32935
windowsbygrace2@yahoo.com
www.WindowsByGrace.com
We also do repairs

Island Barber Parlour

Dana King Barber

525 N. Courtenay Pkwy. Mon.-Fri.: 9am-5pm
Merritt Island, FL. 32953 Sat.: 9am-2pm
321-459-0181

ARMSTRONG CHIROPRACTIC

OFCOCOABEACH.COM
(321)783-4455

- Volunteer Chiropractor for:
 - Brevard Sheriff's Office since 1999
 - Stand Down for Homeless Veterans since 2003
 - Patrick AFB Hospital 2008-2013
- Former USAF B-52 Flight Instructor
- VFW, American Legion & Rolling Thunder Florida 1 Member
- Car & Motorcycle Accident Injury Repair



"Severe Body Injury Repair With Global Patient Base."

Accident/Injury? Call Us



SINCLAIR LAW



321-253-4200



SINCLAIRLAW.COM

Please contact the Editor (TheMissionEditor@cfl.rr.com) to place an ad

SPONSORS (CONTINUED)



Watson Realty Corp. REALTORS®

Leading
REAL ESTATE
COMPANIES
IN THE WORLD

The Fritz Team
Steve & Sheliah
REALTORS®

LLP LUXURY
PORTFOLIO
INTERNATIONAL

Cell: 321-987-5511
Office: 321-724-9500
Fax: 321-728-8422
fritz.homes4u@gmail.com
TheFritzTeam.watsonrealtycorp.com

470 S. Wickham Road
Melbourne, FL 32904



Do you know someone who is thinking about buying or selling a home? Refer them to us and we'll donate up to \$500 to your favorite charity after closing.

Duonguannak Keo, D.M.D., P.A.



Amazing Smiles
Art of Modern Dentistry

295 S. PLUMOSA ST.
MERRITT ISLAND, FL 32952
(321) 452-6000
www.dockeodental.com

DALE BOETTCHER
MCO-407-816-9344

ROGER HURLEY
TPA-813-249-6493

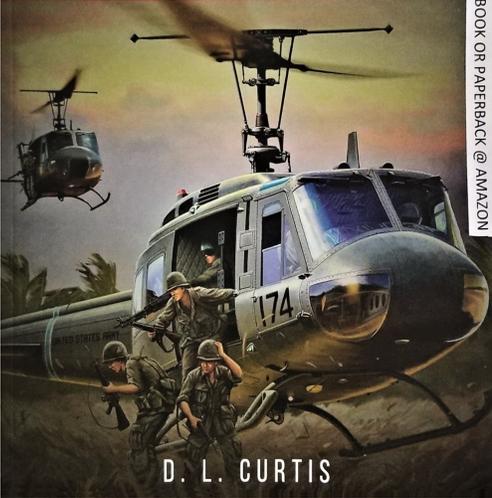


24-7 SPECIALS, LLC
THE FORWARDER'S SPECIAL SPECIALISTS

10950 Palmbay Drive • Orlando, FL 32824
Fax: 407-816-9428

**BULLETS, BLADES
& BADGES**

ADVENTURES OF AN ADRENALINE JUNKIE



AVAILABLE IN E-BOOK OR PAPERBACK @ AMAZON

D. L. CURTIS

AVAILABLE IN E-BOOK OR PAPERBACK @ AMAZON



**C. WILCOX
REAL ESTATE**
6255 Minton Road, NE
Palm Bay, FL 32907



Ofc: 321-727-7855
Fax: 888-476-1136
Cell: 321-258-4542

Carol Wilcox
Broker/Sales
c.wilcox47@yahoo.com



"See" Wilcox get the job done!



Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Florida Chapter 1 is a not-for-profit 501 (c) (4) organization, and everyone donates his or her time because they believe in the POW/MIA Issue.