

March 2006

The enclosed documents are the originals of a diary that I kept in North Vietnam of events leading up to our release on 12 February 1973 and the few days following at Clark AFB in the Philippines.

The notes are written on various pieces of paper, depending on what was available. Since the Vietnamese were required to provide each POW with a copy of the 27 January 1973 Paris Peace Accords, this was a good source for paper. The ink and pencil were both stolen. Vietnamese ink came in little packets of powder that they mixed with water. The pen was made from bamboo. The weather brief was provided by the crew of the C-141 that flew us from Clark to San Francisco on 16 February with a short stop at Hickham AFB in Hawaii.

In the diary notes, many abbreviations are used. Initials are used for individuals, especially in the notes prior to release. Some initials refer to codenames for buildings in the compound, others are for guards and interrogators and others are simply shorthand for longer words.

Abbreviations: (not inclusive)

Dog Patch	= Prison at Cao Bang, near Chinese border
Percy	= Bob Purcell
V	= Vietnamese
Comm	= Communications
QS	= Quick Silver – the codename for the building next to us.
Ratz	= Dick Ratzlaff – I had lived with him back in 1967 in the Zoo
Mark	= One of the guards
Cooker	= another guard
JLR	= Johnny Long Rifle, another guard
MN	= Marty Neuens – the man I was manacled to for the trip from Dog Patch
HH	= Hanoi Hilton – Hoa Lo Prison
Elf	= Vietnamese interrogator
Bulls	= AF Colonels
Plant.	= Plantation – another prison in Hanoi
BB/VB	= Basketball/Volleyball
FC	= Fred Cherry
Freddy	= WO Freddy Fredericks, who later died of typhus
CCO	= Vietnamese Camp Commander
QC	= Quincy Collins – wrote down the music to a song I wrote for Marty
Smitty	= Smitty Harris
NGV	= New Guy Village – a section of the Hanoi Hilton
Q	= Quiz = Interrogation
JF	= John Flynn – Senior POW
RR	= Robbie Risner
Kiss	= Henry Kissinger

Cat = Vietnamese interrogator
HBH = Heartbreak Hotel – 8-cell section of Hanoi Hilton
Hey Rube! = Alert that there are cameras in the prison.
Shu = Bob Shumaker
Sky = Code name for John Flynn
Fox = Camp Commander

The plastic bag containing the documents originally held three T-shirts that were issued to me at Clark AFB.

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