

CHRISTIAN, DAVID MARION 674340/1315
DIED 2 JUNE 1965 LTJG, USNR

Reviewed by DPAA IAW DoDM 5400.07 and
P.L. 102-190, 105 Stat. 1290, 1480-1481
Date: 14 Mar 2024 Initials: RW

QC'd by DPAA
Date: 26 Mar 2024
Initials: CG



Lt David Michael Christian, USN, 571-56-3259

Reviewed by DPAA IAW DoDM 5400.07 and
P.L. 102-190, 105 Stat. 1290, 1480-1481
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1770
N122

NOV 10 1986

122
120

Mrs. Ethel Christian
13450 Highway 8, Space 68
Lakeside, CA 92040

Dear Mrs. Christian:

On 5 November 1986, (b)(6) contacted (b)(6), my newly assigned MIA/POW Affairs Special Assistant, and asked if we would duplicate David's personnel file and send it directly to you. It is attached.

I regret the long delay you have experienced as the laboratory in Hawaii works to identify David. Those involved are performing a very thorough examination, and you will be advised of their findings in detail. Your comments and recommendations as well as those of anyone else you may choose to do further examination, will be thoroughly considered.

Should I be able to help you in any way in the meantime please feel free to call me collect at (b)(6) Joe Greer, the Head of Navy Casualty can be reached at (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Sincerely,

W. S. REED, JR.
Commander, U. S. Navy
Director, Community and
Personel Services Department

Enclosure

Material Extracted From Public Domain

MRS. O'GRADY IS A WIDOW

Three years ago, Air Force Maj. John O'Grady was shot down over North Vietnam. His wife, Diana O'Grady of Las Vegas, Nev., has waited since then to learn if he was alive or dead (The Tense Vigil of Mrs. O'Grady, LOOK, December 30, 1969). Recently, she flew with her seven children to Paris to ask the North Vietnamese if they held her husband. She later told what happened to Senior Editor Christopher S. Wren:

When we got to Paris, I wrote a telegram. I said, "I have arrived in Paris with my seven children to learn the fate of my husband. I would like a meeting with you as soon as possible. I do not intend leaving Paris until I have an answer. The American people are aware of my trip here and are anxiously awaiting the outcome."

I ignored the telegram. The next morning, I got someone on the phone there who spoke English. I said, "I am Diana O'Grady from the United States. I sent you a telegram. Did you read it?"

"Maybe someone else did," he said. "I suggest you read it," I said. "I want an appointment to talk to your government about my husband." He told me to call back.

"Be patient, Mrs. O'Grady," he said. "I'm not calling back," I said. "I've been patient for three years, and I will be patient no longer. It is ten o'clock. If I do not hear from you by one o'clock, I'll hold a press conference, and it will be detrimental to your government." He laughed. "I don't intend leaving Paris until I have an answer," I told him and hung up. The phone rang ten minutes later. I had an appointment at ten the next morning.

I didn't sleep that night. I hadn't slept for three nights. I went out and walked around. I prayed a lot I guess: *God give me the strength. I'm going to need it. I can't break. I can't show a tear.*

We got up early. The children had some hot chocolate and buns. I just had a half-cup of tea. I told the children, "Make me proud of you." We arrived ten minutes early. A few reporters had gathered out front. A Vietnamese woman opened the door. "I'm Mrs. O'Grady," I said. She shut the



The North Vietnamese told Diana O'Grady they didn't have her husband.

door, then came back and said only the children and I could come in. She took us up a short flight of stairs into a very large living room with a big portrait of Ho Chi Minh.

We sat down and waited. Two Vietnamese men walked in. One in a gray suit did all the talking. The other in a black suit watched us. They didn't introduce themselves, but shook hands with the children. A woman served us tea.

I began. "Thank you very much for seeing me. I have come a long way and brought my children, because I must have an answer about my husband. I will not leave without an answer."

"We were aware of your coming," he said. "LOOK magazine made inquiries about your husband. We knew of you from the article and from the pressure you have put on us." He looked at me.

I said, "The people of my country are aware of what I am doing."

"We have made a thorough investigation of our prison camps," he said. "Your husband is not in our camps. He is not in our country. It is up to your Government to tell you he is dead. I'm sorry."

It was a turning point in my life. They watched us when they broke the news. They felt we'd break down and leave them alone.

The children didn't flicker an eye. I never took my eyes off him. "Thank you," I said. "I appreciate your telling me. Now, let's get on with the other men who are prisoners of war and missing in action."

When he recovered, he emphasized, "These men are not prisoners of war. They are criminals."

"You may call them anything you want," I said, "but they are still helpless. Why, in God's name, when a wife comes to Paris to ask you if her husband is alive or dead, can't you have the decency to give her an answer? All you're doing is

showing the entire world how heartless you really are."

"All our prisoners are allowed to write letters," he said. "Your Government is holding them back."

"Let's get back to my question. When a woman comes here, why don't you give her an answer?"

He pushed on, "These men have bombed our women, children and old people."

"Yes," I said, "but wouldn't your men do the same? Not every man in my country or in your country believes in the war, but they serve their country as your men do."

He didn't answer.

"We have a strong country," I said. "Our people are strong, and I believe in them. Don't push them. They'll take only so much."

"Your people fight among themselves," he told me.

"Yes," I said, "like a large family, we fight among ourselves. Let an outsider step in, and watch out."

He got impatient. "We gave you the answer you have come for."

I told him, "I don't like to see your people suffer any more than I like to see suffer the wives and children of our men you hold captive. I pray for your people and my people to live in peace. I sincerely mean that." I looked right at him.

We shook hands. When I hit the street, I saw the cameras, and at last I broke down. The press was there. They were terrific.

I believe the North Vietnamese. I don't think they'd gain anything by telling me my husband was dead.

If my husband were a POW, I'd tear this country apart to get him back. These men belong to us. I've heard that in Laos, there are Americans who are kept in a hole 20 feet deep and thrown scraps of food and live in their own waste. These are Americans who believed in their country and were captured, and it's not a closed book. Every American who does nothing is slowly helping to kill the POW's.

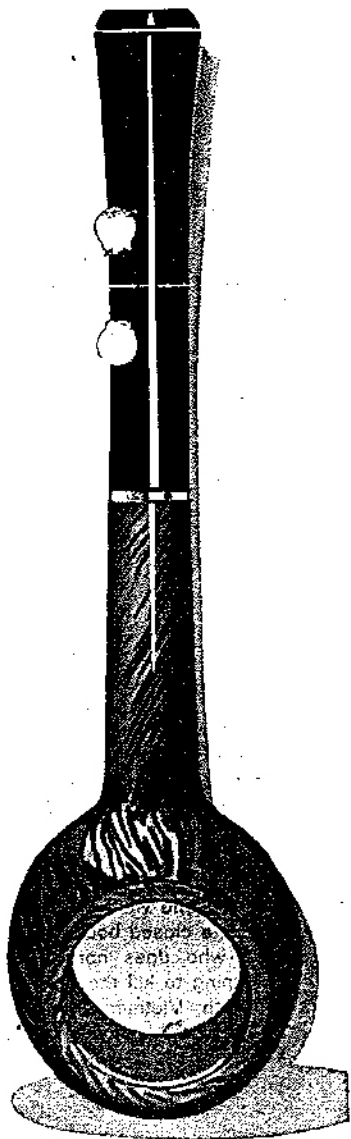
The North Vietnamese were very aware of the publicity I had. They're interested in our people, not our Government, and they're watching. We have to show them that we value every man they've got in there. I think that's worth the effort of every American.

Put your favorite tobacco in any Yello-Bole pipe. The new honey lining in the imported briar bowl gives you the mildest, most flavorful smoke you've ever tasted.

If not, return the pipe with your sales slip to Yello-Bole, and we'll refund your purchase price.

Free booklet shows how to smoke a pipe; styles \$3.50 to \$6.95. Write Yello-Bole Pipes, Inc., New York, N. Y. 10022, Dept. L11.

We guarantee you'll like it.



AN EDITORIAL

WHAT ABOUT THE POW'S?

LOCKHARD

LOCKHARD RONYUN: BOTH USAF

THE PLIGHT OF American prisoners of war in Southeast Asia, as Diana O'Grady said on the preceding page, cannot be "a closed book." More than 1,500 men are missing or presumed captured: some 800 in North Vietnam, 500 in South Vietnam, and 200 in Laos. Their fate should concern every one of us, however we may feel—or differ—about U.S. intervention in Vietnam.

North Vietnam has never extended the POW's their rights under the Geneva Convention on Protection of Prisoners of War, which it signed in 1957. It has evaded this pledge through the fiction that the downed American pilots are criminals. Were this so—and we at LOOK do not believe it is—the men would still be entitled to humane treatment.

But the few returning POW's have told Americans isolated, beaten, and humiliated in North Vietnam, hung by their wrists in Laos, led about like animals or summarily shot in South Vietnam. Such reports gain credence from North Vietnam's complete unconcern for its own prisoners held in the South and in Laos.

Nor can there be any justification for tormenting the wives and children of American prisoners. Why should a woman have to plead for the right to know if her husband is alive? Not until Diana O'Grady got tough did she get an answer. After months of despair, other wives have had to endure propaganda lectures. They have been told they will only get their husbands back if they demonstrate at home against the war. They have been promised information that has then been withheld or leaked only for propaganda purposes.

In 1968 and 1969, LOOK editorials called the Vietnam war a tragic and costly mistake—one that we should end as soon as possible. This does not diminish our concern for the Americans held captive.

That is why we now ask North Vietnam to disclose the names of all the POW's it holds and to urge the National Liberation Front and the Pathet Lao to do the same. We ask for assurance of proper detention facilities, food and medical care for the POW's. We ask for un-



Captured pilots in Hanoi. Some have been POW's almost six years.

their families. We ask for the repatriation of sick or wounded who might not survive captivity. In short, we ask that North Vietnam honor its legal obligations under the Geneva Convention.

We ask that the International Red Cross or International Control Commission be permitted to inspect the prison camps in North Vietnam, as has been done in the South. Refusal can only mean that North Vietnam is ashamed of the way it treats American POW's.

In addition, we have written the Hanoi government requesting that a LOOK team be allowed into North Vietnam to report directly on the condition of the POW's.

We now ask the American people, alone or in community groups, to express their concern for our

to North Vietnam's Premier, Pham Van Dong. Letters sent to: *What About the POW's?*, c/a LOOK, P.O. Box 1, Des Moines, Iowa 50301 will be forwarded to Hanoi.

The welfare of these unfortunate men and the feelings of their families are matters of simple humanity—not politics.

North Vietnam has said in the Paris peace talks that discussion on the POW's cannot begin until the other issues of the war are resolved. This completely misreads the mood of the American people. Yes, we want peace in Vietnam, as much as anyone and as quickly as possible, but first we want assurance about the well-being of all our servicemen in captivity. The sooner Hanoi understands this, the easier it will be to end the war.



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL MILITARY PERSONNEL COMMAND
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20370-5000

IN REPLY REFER TO

1771
N-642
Ser: 20013
5 Feb 87

From: Commander, Naval Military Personnel Command {NMPC-64}
To: U. S. Army Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii
Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5480

Subj: LT DAVID MICHAEL CHRISTIAN, USN, 571-56-3259

Encl: {1} Biographic Data Sheet {pages 1 & 2}
{2} Summary of Incident
{3} Special "Bright Light" Research Narrative

1. Enclosures {1} through {3} are excerpts from CILHI ltr DAPC-PED-H, Subj: Proposed Identification of remains CILHI 0036-83, dtd 23 Oct 86.
2. The hi-lited portions of enclosure {1} indicates the remains may have been buried in proximity of but not at the crash site. See the grid coordinates of the "incident location" and "last known location". I would appreciate your providing us a basis as to how the burial site {secondary location} was ascertained.
3. Enclosure {2} lists grid coordinates for the aircraft impact area. How do we know Lt Christian's remains came from a site {G.C. WG 919 815} that was different from the last known location {G.C. WG 921 815} listed in enclosure {1}?
4. Enclosure {3} indicates the burial site was used as a base point for the circle search. Mrs. Ethel Christian, mother of David asks "How we know this was the burial site? What evidence/information was available or provided regarding the burial site?"
5. Was an Armed Forces Identification and Privilege Card and/or a Geneva Convention Card turned over to us simultaneously with the remains?
6. Was the burial site pinpointed within a specific geographical coordinate or undeterminable within a specific geographical coordinate?
7. The foregoing questions were posed to us by Mrs. Ethel Christian, mother of Lt Christian and it would be appreciated if

Subj: LT DAVID MICHAEL CHRISTIAN, USN, 571-56-3259

a response could be forthcoming not later than 12 February 1987. (b)(6) and (b)(6) are scheduled to personally discuss your ID Data packet with Mrs. Christian on 16 February 1987 and I believe such information would be quite helpful to them in their visit.

W. S. REED, JR.
Director, Community and
Personal Services Division

REF NO: 0092 1 01
ACC NO: 6006

BIOGRAPHIC DATA SHEET

NAME: CHRISTIAN, David M.
GRADE: LTJG/02
SSN: 571-56-3259
SERVICE NO: 674340
SERVICE: U.S. Navy
BIRTH DATE: 15 Jan 41
DATE OF DEATH: 02 Jun 65
RACE: Caucasian
SEX: Male
HAIR: Brown
HEIGHT: 66 3/4" (see rmks)
WEIGHT: 125 lb (see rmks)
BLOOD TYPE: O Pos
BUILD: Slender
ABNORMALITIES: None listed
MEDICAL RECORDS: Yes
DENTAL RECORDS: No
DENTAL X-RAYS: No
PHOTOGRAPHS: Yes
CASUALTY REPORTS/INCIDENT REPORTS: Yes
DIA FILE NO: None listed
DD FORM 1300: Yes
DATE OF MISSION: 02 Jun 65
TYPE OF MISSION: Reconnaissance
TYPE OF INCIDENT: Hostile action

ENCLOSURE (1)

2095793

REF NO: 0092 1 01
ACC NO: 6006



CURRENT STATUS OF INDIVIDUAL: BNR
UNIT ASSIGNED TO: VA-23 USS Midway CVA-41
DUTY POSITION: Pilot
NUMBER OF MIS/BNR: 1 BNR
NAME OF POW CAMP: None listed
TYPE OF LOCATION OF SITE: Secondary location (burial site)
INCIDENT LOCATION: UTM G.C. WG 919 815
LAST KNOWN LOCATION: UTM G.C. WG 921 815
COUNTRY: North Vietnam
PROVINCE: Thanh Hoa
MILITARY REGION: 3
VEHICLE: A-4E
YEAR OF VEHICLE: Not listed
TAIL NO./SERIAL NO. OF VEHICLE: 151144
MISSION CODE NAME/NO: Recon
CALL SIGN: Law Case
TYPE OF INDIVIDUAL WEAPON: None listed
INDIVIDUAL WEAPON SERIAL NO: None listed

REMARKS: The last recorded height and weight for this individual was 68", 130 lb, according to the NAVMED N (Certificate of Death), dated 02 Jun 65. However, it is not known where this information was obtained, nor how accurate it was. Therefore, the recorded height and weight used for David Christian were taken from the Anthropometric Data Form, dated 7 April 1964.

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309579

REF NO: 0092 1 01
ACC NO: 6006

SUMMARY OF INCIDENT

On 2 June 1965, Lieutenant Junior Grade David M. CHRISTIAN was the pilot of an A-4E aircraft on a mission over North Vietnam when the aircraft was hit and started to burn. The aircraft impacted the ground in the vicinity of grid coordinates WG 919 815. Witnesses stated that they thought the pilot ejected, but that there was no man-seat separation. A HU-16 aircraft found the wreckage, but no sign of a survivor.

REPRODUCED AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE

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P.L. 102-190, 105 Stat. 1290, 1480-1481
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2095792

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(2)



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
 UNITED STATES ARMY CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION LABORATORY, HAWAII
 FORT SHAFTER, HAWAII 96858-5490

DAPC-PED-H

3 April 1986

Special "Bright Light" Research Narrative

SUBJECT:

1. The JCRC "Bright Light" parameters were manually searched in a 20 mile diameter circle utilizing the burial site (G.C. 921 815) of CHRISTIAN, David M., REF NO 0092 1 01, as the base point.

2. The search produced ten additional casualties, whose status is BNR, for possible association with subject remains.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REF NO</u>	<u>GRID COORDINATES</u>
MCMICAN, "M.D."	0093 1 01	WG 921 815
AMSPACHER, William H., Jr.	0093 1 02	WG 921 815
ROMANO, Gerald M.	0093 1 03	WG 921 815
PLANTS, Thomas L.	0093 1 04	WG 921 815
DRAEGER, Walter F., Jr.	0067 1 01	WG 893 785
KOONS, Dale F.	1789 1 01	WG 876 925
STOLZ, Lawrence G.	1789 1 02	WG 876 925
HOGAN, Jerry F.	0578 0 01	WG 856 691
COAKLEY, William F.	0457 0 01	WG 838 690

(b)(3):P. L. 102-190 105 Stat. 1290 1480-1481

(b)(6)

Chief, Casualty Data Section

Reviewed by DPAA IAW DoDM 5400.07 and
 P.L. 102-190, 105 Stat. 1290, 1480-1481
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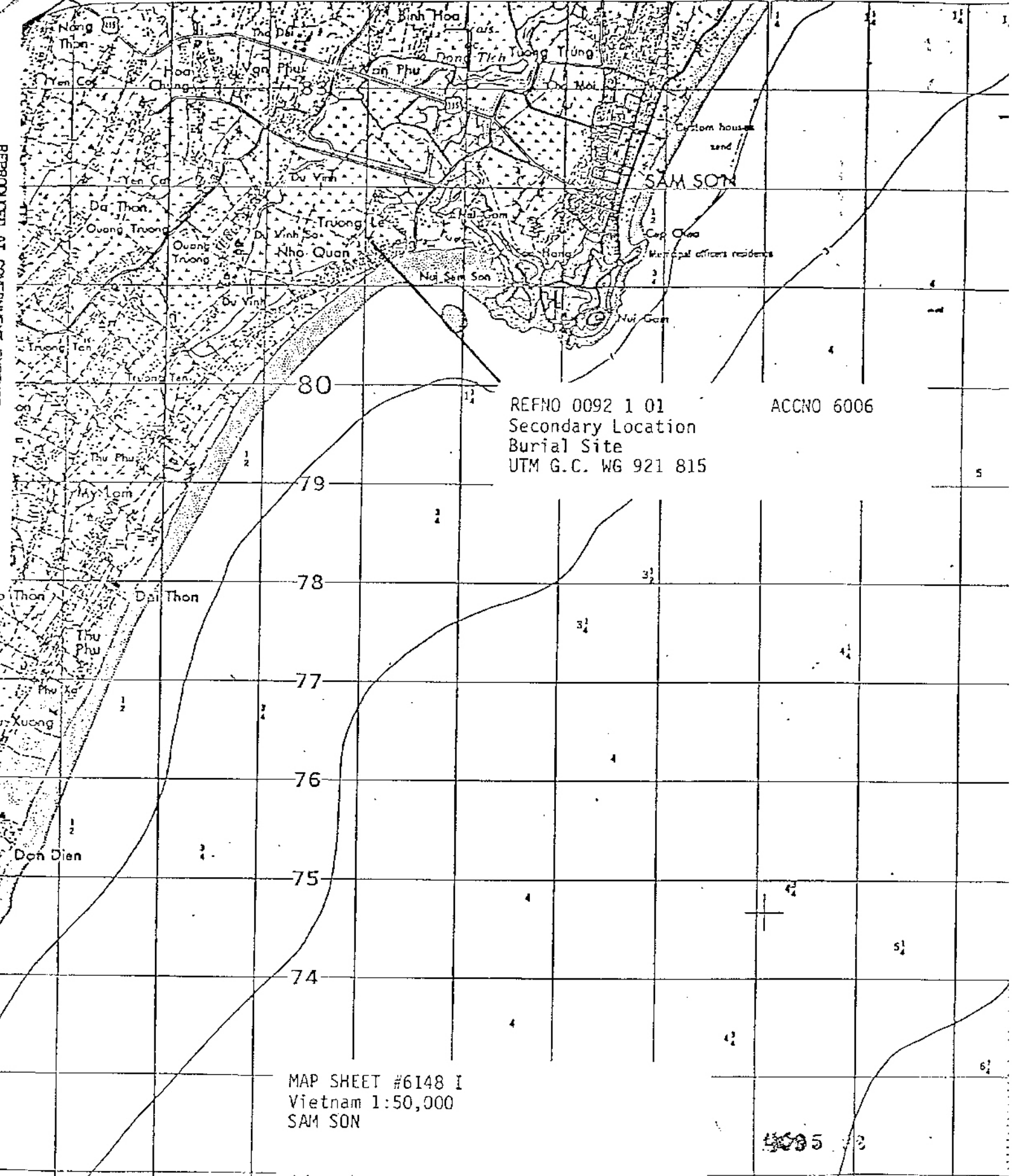
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8095 792

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REPRINTED AT ANKERSMITH

590 591 592 593 594 595 596 597



REFNO 0092 1 01
Secondary Location
Burial Site
UTM G.C. WG 921 815

ACCNO 6006

MAP SHEET #6148 I
Vietnam 1:50,000
SAM SON

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6095 792

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MFR

5 Feb 87

- Rec'd call from

(b)(6)

UA

Central office. D.C.

(b)(6)

; he retrieved

(b)(6)

& Christon's medical

records from the Federal Records Center

in Suitland, MD; researched them & to

determine if any of Lt David's name

Christon's records may have been

inadvertently filed therein. NO,

- So advised

(b)(6)

2-4-87.

Green

64 (b)(6) 1/20
64D (b)(6) 1/23/87

1-16-87

MFR

619-696-6978

- Rec'd call from MBO EdNEY (CACO for Christina)
- Said Mrs Christina asked if a "facial reconstruction" could be done on her son.
- CPO Edney has already talked with a San Diego College Graduate student (b)(6) who specializes in this technique. She will do the work free (only charge will be for materials, i.e., clay, paint, hair). The Chula Vista Police Department will pay for all the photo work free of charge - it will be handled by (b)(6) - forensic scientist - crime lab - Chula Vista P.D. (b)(6) will take approx 1 1/2 weeks.

for phone call to
 MEDIAN not hot on the case
 He will discuss w/ Mrs Christina 1/16 Feb 87

only thing wanted by "worker" re: color of eyes/hair
 - called Cde D. well - he familiar with the technique - will think about it over the week-end + let us know. 1/20.

- Need to advise Cde & Ed.

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL MILITARY PERSONNEL COMMAND
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20370-5000

IN REPLY REFER TO
1771
Ser N64D/07002
7 Jan 87

Address → Mr. Douglas E. Bakko, USN, Ret

Dear Mr. Bakko:

I am assigned as the POW/MIA officer for the Navy and have been tasked to answer a Congressional inquiry in response to questions posed by the next of kin of LTJG David M. Christian. Our Casualty File on this servicemember shows that you were assigned as the Casualty Assistance Calls Officer at Miramar NAS in June 1965.

I know that this was a long time ago and that memories of this duty might be foggy but I hope that you can help me clear up a specific question David's mother asks. Mrs. Christian would like to know "what happened to David's personal effects" that were listed on the Naval Personal Effects Inventory Sheet. Enclosed you will find copies of this inventory sheet and the CACO NAVPERS Form 403 you filled out at the completion of CACO duties. I know that it states "all personal effects delivered", but can you possibly remember to whom or where they were turned over, if not to his mother?

All of this has come about with the repatriation of David's remains from the Hanoi government in the past few months. I feel that this event has dredged up emotions and questions for Mrs. Christian. Anything you can provide in answering her questions is most appreciated.

The Navy Finance Center has forwarded this letter for me as they would not give out your present address to me per Privacy Act regulations.

Thank you for your help! Please call me collect at (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Special Assistant POW/MIA Affairs

Enclosures

Call returned 9 FEB 87. No new information available.

(b)(6)

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PS Form 3811, Dec. 1980

● **SENDER:** Complete items 1, 2, 3, and 4.
Add your address in the "RETURN TO" on reverse.

(CONSULT POSTMASTER FOR FEES)

1. The following service is requested (check one).

Show to whom and date delivered —¢

Show to whom, date, and address of delivery.. —¢

2. **RESTRICTED DELIVERY** —¢
(The restricted delivery fee is charged in addition to the return receipt fee.)

TOTAL \$ _____

3. **ARTICLE ADDRESSED TO:**

MRS. ETHEL E. CHRISTIAN
13450 HIGHWAY 8, SPACE 68
LAKEVILLE, CA 92040

TYPE OF SERVICE: <input type="checkbox"/> REGISTERED <input type="checkbox"/> INSURED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CERTIFIED <input type="checkbox"/> COD <input type="checkbox"/> EXPRESS MAIL	ARTICLE NUMBER P 513 284 043
--	--

Always obtain signature of addressee or agent)
I have received the article described above.

SIGNATURE Addressee Authorized agent

Mrs. Ethel E. Christian

DELIVERY 1-9-87	POSTMARK
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6. **ADDRESSEE'S ADDRESS (Only if requested)**

Same

7. UNABLE TO DELIVER BECAUSE	7a. EMPLOYEE'S INITIALS
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RECEIVED AND CERTIFIED MAIL

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL MILITARY PERSONNEL COMMAND
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20370-5000

IN REPLY REFER TO
1771
Ser N12D/N64D/07019
06 Jan 87

Mrs. Ethel E. Christian
13450 Highway 8, Space 68
Lakeside, CA 92040

Dear Mrs. Christian:

I am assisting Mr. Greer in compiling the information on questions you forwarded to your congressman. It will probably take a few weeks to get return information from the Joint Casualty Resolution Center on some of these questions.

I am forwarding a complete copy of your son's Officer Service Record which was obtained by this office. This record differs from the Casualty File we have on hand and which was forwarded a few weeks ago. Inactive Service Records are stored at a facility in St. Louis, Missouri. I hope that this record helps in fulfilling your request for "any and all information" on your son David.

I will be forwarding a formal letter to Congressman Hunter answering the specific questions posed through him, in the upcoming weeks. Thank you for your patience.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Lieutenant, U.S. Naval Reserve
Special Assistant POW/MIA Affairs

Enclosures

Commander Reed

Feb. 10, '87

Dear Adm. Reed,

I thank you for your letter and the article on (b)(6) I received it today, and just finished reading it. Very interesting! I do like pursuing something about the ones who are making skeletal identifications, and esp. those involved in my situation. I feel sure I will be comfortable and at ease with them, however, they have already concluded that the

"Remnants" in question are
those of (b)(6), and (b)(6)
not. But, I truly do
appreciate a man of (b)(6)
(b)(6) caliber coming
to my home to help in
whatever way he can. And
am most inspired to meet
both he and (b)(6)

I am eagerly await of
information and the "Bright
light" and burial site.
And did you ever see
the film of the Honor
Parade? We have not
been able to locate
(b)(6) as yet.
We just might have a "key"

do not look one word of
my family's inquiry.

Dear Red, you have
been very helpful, kind,
and caring. I appreciate
you. Please give

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

my best regards
as he too has been
very considerate and kind.

Sincerely,
Ethel Johnston

to unlock one door of
my family's inquiry.
Comd. Reed, you have
been very helpful, kind,
and caring. I appreciate
you. Please give Joe
Green my best regards
as he too has been
very considerate and kind.

Sincerely,
Ethel Christian

Commander Reed

February 27, 1967

Dear Cdr. [redacted]:

Thank you for being so generous with your time in telephone conversations with me! Both you and [redacted] (b)(6) have that special Gift of talking as friend to friend. You are also a part of David's "other" family - the Military, and I appreciate you more than I could ever say.

How strange that I would be the One in 19 to choose cremation and burrial at Sea! David was a Naval Aviator and his home away from home was aboard a Carrier out in the south China Sea. It just seems fitting that his remains should be brought back to the peaceful home waters of the Pacific. And [redacted] (b)(6) agrees with me -- God bless him! Of course, as I told you, I feel so comfortable with cremation as the purest way of returning the "ashes to ashes and dust to dust." And, when I viewed the Remains they appeared to me as fragile and deteriorating, weary and sad, and I could not have them handled anymore. It will be comforting for me to know that David's remains will be returned to the elements from which he was called, back under warm sunlight and soft showers. Even the storms at sea are a reflection of the conflict in his heart at leaving those he loved so much. Somehow it will have come full circle and he will be as near as the breeze that blows against my cheek.

That David's remains will be honored and respected in true Navy style and reverence I could never question. But I am aware that there are Navy regulations and if they do not allow for anything but the Remains to be scattered from a ship at sea - I do understand. If it is possible, please let me know the day, I want to be on the Point at Rosecrans. [redacted] (b)(6) will come and my family will place our roses where David's memorial stands overlooking the blue Pacific. I deeply appreciate the fact that you would grant us every request the Navy can give concerning David and the final resting place for his remains. Angels could do no more!

Sincerely,

Ethel Kristian



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL MILITARY PERSONNEL COMMAND
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20370-5000

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1771
Ser 64DD/00132
15 Mar 87

Mrs. Ethel E. Christian
13450 Highway 8, Space 68
Lakeside, CA 92040

Dear Mrs. Christian,

Through an earlier request made by this office on your behalf, we have received the enclosed information from the Joint Casualty Resolution Center regarding David. In looking through the package it seems that all of their file records duplicate items already sent to you from our Navy casualty file.

With the upcoming burial at sea of David's cremains, I know that you have a lot on your mind. I just wanted to send my heart-felt condolences to you during this emotional period and assure you my office will always be available to you in getting answers to any questions you might still have on David's case.

Warm Regards,
Bill Reed
W. S. REED, JR.
Commander, U. S. Navy.
Director, Community and
Personal Services Division

Enclosure



JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER
NAS BARBERS POINT, HAWAII 96862

1700
JCRC-CDD
9 APR 87

To: Commander, Naval Military Personnel Command, ATTN: NMPC N64DD)
Washington DC 20370

Subj: TRANSMITTAL OF DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO LT DAVID M. CHRISTIAN,
USN, 571-56-3259/1315

Ref: (a) ASD Armitage memo of 29 MAR 84; Subj: Notifying the
NOK of Information Which Correlates to Their Serviceman
(b) COMNAVMILPERSCOM ltr 1771 Ser N64DD/07041 of 02 APR 87

Encl: (1) List of JCRC Releasable Documents
(2) List of USN Documents Not Releasable By JCRC
(3) Defense Information Report Evaluation, DD 1480 of 27 FEB 76

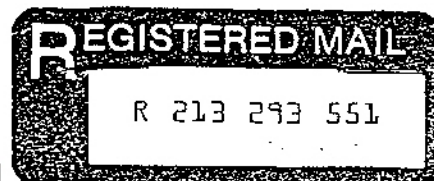
1. Documents/information pertaining to the above named individual case analysis, or to establish a more complete and up to date file. Request the following documents/information be furnished this office:

XXXX 2. Transmitted are documents or information pertaining to the above named individual.

3. Other:

(b)(6)

Chief, Casualty Data Division



LT David M. Christian, USN, 571-56-3259/1315

1. All JCRC releasable documents are forwarded as requested.

(U) PHOTOS: 1 Facial 1 Aircraft

(U) MAP: L701461482ATC01

(U) RPT: Biographic/Site Report 22 APR 85

ENCL (1)

Reviewed by DPAA IAW DoDM 5400.07 and
P.L. 102-190, 105 Stat. 1290, 1480-1481
Date: 14 Mar 2024 Initials: RW

QC'd by DPAA
Date: 26 Mar 2024
Initials: CG



SIMILAR TO LOSS VEHICLE



Depth curves; Soundings in fathoms Vòng độ sâu; Độ sâu tính ra fathoms		
Sunken rocks Mỏm đá ngầm		
Foreshore flat; Lighthouse Đáy biển nông; Hải đăng		
Rocks awash; Reef Mỏm đá sứt mặt nước; Bãi đá		
Limit of danger; Submerged reef Giới hạn nguy hiểm; Bãi đá ngầm		
Wreck; Sunk; Exposed Xác tàu; Chìm; Nổi		
Sea wall or revetment Đê chắn nước biển hay bờ đá		
Wharf or pier Cầu tàu hay dè biển		
HYDROGRAPHIC DATUM APPROXIMATE LEVEL OF LOWEST LOW WATER MẶT THỦY-ĐẠO CHUẨN LA MẶT BIỂN PHÒNG CHỪNG LÚC THẤP NHẤT		

596 55' 597 598 599 600 601 602 603 604 106°00' 19°30'

Miles
3 Nautical Miles
1 ET
VEREST
THỜI 48
Ở ĐEN)
U.T.M.
CHỪNG
XO 1960

ELEVATION GUIDE
CHỈ-DẪN CAO-ĐỘ

BOUNDARIES
NHỪNG ĐỊA-GIỚI

ADJOINING SHEETS
BẢNG RÁP ĐỊA-ĐỒ

6148 IV	6148 I	6248 IV
6148 III	6148 II	
6147 IV	6147 I	

Sheet 6148 II falls within NE 48-3, 1501, 1:250,000

10-72 PRINTED BY 25TH ENGINEER BATTALION (BASE TOPO)

GRID CONVERGENCE
FOR CENTER OF SHEET
HỘI-TỤ ĐƯỜNG KẾ Ở VƯỚNG
TÍNH Ở TRUNG-TÂM BẢN-ĐỒ
0°18' (5 MILS; MIL)

High
Low

<p>GRID ZONE DESIGNATION MỀM KHU VỰC BÀN ĐỒ TRONG KHU VỰC</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt;">48Q</p> <p>100,000 M. SQUARE IDENTIFICATION CHỈ-DẪN Ở VƯỚNG TÍNH 100,000 M.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt;">600</p> <p>CHOOSE THE SMALLER figures of any grid number, these are for finding the full coordinates. Use ONLY the LARGER figures of the grid number. Chọn con số nhỏ nhất của bất kỳ số nào của chỉ-dẫn trong con số 55. Chỉ dùng những con số 55. Chỉ dùng những con số nhỏ nhất của bất kỳ số nào.</p> <p>Example: 48Q 2157000</p>	<p>TO GIVE A STANDARD REFERENCE ON THIS SHEET TO NEAREST 800 METERS</p> <p>PHƯƠNG-CHIẾU PHÁP TÍNH ĐỘ TÍNH TRAM MÊT CHÍNH NHẤT 800 MÊT TRONG BẢN-ĐỒ</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>SAMPLE POINT Δ 122</td> <td>141 04 Δ 122</td> <td rowspan="3" style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;"> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>WG</td> <td rowspan="3" style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">84</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>71</td> </tr> </table> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <p>1 Read lateral identification 100,000 meters square in which the point lies.</p> <p>2 Locate first VERTICAL grid line to LEFT of point and read LARGE figures labeling the line either in the top or bottom margin, or on the line itself.</p> <p>Estimate tenths from grid line to point.</p> </td> <td> <p>1 Đọc chỉ-dẫn ngang ở vướng tính 100,000 mét của ô vuông mà điểm nằm trong đó.</p> <p>2 Lấy đường ở vướng kế ĐƯỢC phía TRÊN hoặc PHẢI của ô vuông để đọc những chữ số lớn của ô vuông. Ước lượng phần mười từ đường kẻ dọc đến điểm.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <p>3 Locate first HORIZONTAL grid line BELOW point and read LARGE figures labeling the line either in the top or right margin, or on the line itself.</p> <p>Estimate tenths from grid line to point.</p> </td> <td> <p>3 Lấy đường ở vướng kế NGANG phía TRÊN hoặc PHẢI của ô vuông để đọc những chữ số lớn của ô vuông. Ước lượng phần mười từ đường kẻ ngang đến điểm.</p> </td> </tr> </table>	SAMPLE POINT Δ 122	141 04 Δ 122	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>WG</td> <td rowspan="3" style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">84</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>71</td> </tr> </table>	WG	84	6	71	<p>1 Read lateral identification 100,000 meters square in which the point lies.</p> <p>2 Locate first VERTICAL grid line to LEFT of point and read LARGE figures labeling the line either in the top or bottom margin, or on the line itself.</p> <p>Estimate tenths from grid line to point.</p>	<p>1 Đọc chỉ-dẫn ngang ở vướng tính 100,000 mét của ô vuông mà điểm nằm trong đó.</p> <p>2 Lấy đường ở vướng kế ĐƯỢC phía TRÊN hoặc PHẢI của ô vuông để đọc những chữ số lớn của ô vuông. Ước lượng phần mười từ đường kẻ dọc đến điểm.</p>	<p>3 Locate first HORIZONTAL grid line BELOW point and read LARGE figures labeling the line either in the top or right margin, or on the line itself.</p> <p>Estimate tenths from grid line to point.</p>	<p>3 Lấy đường ở vướng kế NGANG phía TRÊN hoặc PHẢI của ô vuông để đọc những chữ số lớn của ô vuông. Ước lượng phần mười từ đường kẻ ngang đến điểm.</p>
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<p>SAMPLE REFERENCE</p> <p>48Q 2157000</p>	<p>48Q 14104</p> <p>WG 84 6 71 5</p> <p>WG846715</p>											

TO CONVERT A
MAGNETIC AZIMUTH
TO A GRID AZIMUTH
SUBTRACT G-M ANGLE
MUỐN ĐỔI
PHƯƠNG-GIÁC TỰ THÀNH
PHƯƠNG-GIÁC Ở VƯỚNG
TRỪ GÓC V-T

TO CONVERT A
GRID AZIMUTH TO A
MAGNETIC AZIMUTH
ADD G-M ANGLE
MUỐN ĐỔI
PHƯƠNG-GIÁC Ở VƯỚNG THÀNH
PHƯƠNG-GIÁC TỰ
CỘNG THÊM GÓC V-T

SẦM SƠN, VIETNAM
STOCK NO. L701461482ATC01

Reviewed by DPAA IAW DoDM 5400.07 and P.L. 102-190, 105 Stat. 1290, 1480-1481 Date: 31 AUG 2021 Initials: RW

QC'd by DPAA Date: Initials:

BIOGRAPHIC SITE REPORT AS OF 22 APR 1965

REFNO: 0092-1-01
 NAME: CHRISTIAN DAVID MARION
 N TION LIT UNITED STATES
 SERVICE NAVY
 GRADE O2
 SSAN 571583259
 SERIAL NO 074368
 BIRTH DATE 15 JAN 41
 CREAT DATE 25 FEB 72
 DUTY POS PILOT
 UNIT ASGD VA23 USS MIDWAY CVA 41
 PW CAMP 3
 RPD 1

***** BIOGRAPHIC SECTION *****

STATUS (N) DEAD BUOY NOT RECOVERED
 DATE STATUS ASSIGNED 0 JUN 65
 RACE U S I Z N
 SEX MALE
 HAIR BROWN
 EYES BROWN
 HEIGHT 67 INS 176 CM
 WEIGHT 129 LBS 58.6 KILOS
 COMPLEXION RUDDY
 BLOOD TYPE O
 RELIGION PROTESTANT
 HOME STATE KANSAS
 GRAVE CORR 1

ACNO 6000

WED RECORD Y S
 DEN RECORD NO
 DEN XRAY NO
 DD130 YES
 PHOTO NO
 DIA FILE NO #
 PERS AUTH NO #
 BLOOD GRIT NO #
 WEAPON TYPE #
 WEAPON SERIAL #

INCIDENT LOCATION

SITE NUMBER 0092-0-00
 GRID ZONE DESG. 48U
 UTM 48U 9815
 COUNTRY NORTH VIETNAM
 MILITARY REGION 3
 PROVINCE THANH HOA
 MISSION DATE 02 JUN 65

***** SITE SECTION *****
 *** SITE DATA ***

SITE TYPE CRASH SITE
 CATEGORY 3
 NUMBER HIS BNR 00
 NUMBER RECOVERED 00
 NUMBER POS ID 00
 JCRC SEARCH NO
 JCRC INSPECTION NO
 OTHER INSPECTION NO
 WITNESS STATEMENT YES
 BOARD ACTION NO

*** VEHICLE DATA ***

MISSION NAME RECON
 CALL SIGN LAW CASE
 CRASH TYPE A
 VEHICLE TYPE A4E
 YEAR 3
 SERIAL 18114
 ACCY ACCURATE
 SVC NA
 ENGINE TYPE J52
 1 SERIAL
 2 SERIAL

LAST KNOWN LOCATION

SITE NUMBER 0092-1-00
 UTM 48U 21815
 GRID ZONE DESG. 48U
 COUNTRY NORTH VIETNAM
 MILITARY REG. 3
 PROVINCE THANH HOA
 MISSION DATE 02 JUN 65

*** SITE DATA ***

SITE TYPE SECONDARY SITE
 CATEGORY 3
 NUMBER HIS BNR 01
 NUMBER RECOVERED 00
 NUMBER POS ID 00
 JCRC SEARCH NO
 JCRC INSPECTION NO
 OTHER INSPECTION NO
 WITNESS STATEMENT YES
 BOARD ACTION NO

REPORT 55

REFNO: 0092-1-01 NAME: CHRISTIAN DAVID MARION

UNCLASSIFIED

Reviewed by DPAA IAW DoDM 5400.07 and
 P.L. 102-190, 105 Stat. 1290, 1480-1481
 Date: 14 Mar 2024 Initials: RW

QC'd by DPAA
 Date: 26 Mar 2024
 Initials: CG

LT David M. Christian, USN, 571-56-3259/1315

1. The following are USN documents not releasable by JCRC:

- (U) RPT: DD 1300 3 JUN 65
- (U) RPT: Commander, Naval Intelligence Command, Defenders of
Ham Rung (Russian translation) 6 JAN 70
- (U) Information Sheet: Personnel Data UNDATED
- (U) LTR: NMPC-64 letter 1771 N-642 Ser: 20013 5 FEB 87

ENCL (2)

REPORT OF CASUALTY		REPORT NUMBER AND TYPE 97786-A-1-2 - Corrected	DATE PREPARED Final 3 June 1965
1. SERVICE IDENTIFICATION (Name, Service Number, Grade or Rate, Component, and Home of Record)			
CHRISTIAN, David Marion, 671340/1315, LTJG, USNR		1st Appt: ENS 19 July 1963 DUTY: AERON TWENTY THREE on board USS MIDWAY (CVA-41)	
2. CASUALTY STATUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BATTLE <input type="checkbox"/> NON-BATTLE ASIATIC OI22			
KILLED IN ACTION - Died 2 June 1965 in Vietnam; Result of a military aircraft accident due to hostile action - PILOT			
3. DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH, RACE, RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE 15 January 1941; Oakland, California; Cauc; Protestant			
4. DATE AND PLACE OF LAST ENTRY ON ACTIVE DUTY IN CURRENT STATUS AND HOME OF RECORD AT TIME 13 March 1963; Pensacola, Florida; Lane, Franklin, Kansas			
5. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER, PAY GRADE, LENGTH OF SERVICE FOR PAY, BASIC PAY, INCENTIVE PAY 571 56 3259; O-2; Over 2 yrs; \$384.30			CHECK IF APPLICABLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CREW <input type="checkbox"/> NON-CREW
6. DUTY STATUS Active Duty			
7. INTERESTED PERSONS (Name, Address, Relationship)			
Jess M. Christian		12736 Castle Court Drive, Lakeside, California 92040	Father
Ethel E. Christian		Same	Mother
Ayle Barnett		13050 Lakeshore Dr., Lakeside, California	Sister
Carol Kursave		Emerald Grove Rd., Lakeside, California	Sister
8. REPORT FOR VA TO FOLLOW <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		9. REPORTING COMMAND AND DATE REPORT RECEIVED IN DEPARTMENT USS MIDWAY (CVA-41) 2 June 1965	
10. SELECTIVE SERVICE NUMBER, LOCAL BOARD, AND LOCATION (If unknown, enter date and place of first entry in Armed Services) 4 141 41 90; #141; San Diego, California			
11. PRIOR SERVICE DATA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO ENL USNR-R 11-3-62 to 7-16-63; Service Number 598 27 24			
12. REMARKS			
FOOTNOTES: 1 Adult next of kin. 2 Beneficiary for gratuity pay in event there is no surviving wife or child - as designated on record of emergency data. 3 Beneficiary for unpaid pay and allowances - as designated on record of emergency data.			
13. DISTRIBUTION C-11ND		14. Certified to be a true copy (b)(6) By direction of Chief of Naval Personnel	

DD FORM 1300
1 MAR 63



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL MILITARY PERSONNEL COMMAND
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20370

IN REPLY REFER TO

1771
Ser N64DD/07041
02 Apr 87

From: Commander, Naval Military Personnel Command (N64DD)
To: Commander, Joint Casualty Resolution Center, Barbers
Point, HI 96862-5200

Subj: RELEASE OF INFORMATION TO NEXT OF KIN OF LT CHRISTIAN,
DAVID MARION, USN, 571-56-3259/1315 (KIA 02JUN65)

1. A copy of all releasable data on LT Christian has been requested by his mother, Mrs. Ethel E. Christian. A review of all classified material which can now be declassified is also requested at this time. Of particular interest is a Defense Information Evaluation Report, DD 1480, dated 27FEB76.
2. I request that the data be provided directly to me and it will be mailed with other casualty data that we have copied for them.
3. Your assistance is much appreciated!

(b)(6)

Special Assistant, POW/MIA Affairs

Memorandum

DATE: 3/30/87

FROM: N-64

TO: N-642

SUBJ: CHRISTIAN

Joe,

Pls contact [REDACTED] (b)(6) at DIA re Christian:

- Ethel says she was told by Johnny Welub in mid February that there is a classified report held by DIA that gives more info on exact location of son's shoot-down.

- Conflicts with statements made by wingman, [REDACTED] (b)(6) (CO of VA-23)

- 27 Feb 1976 report indicating his remains had been located.

- ID of 4 others also given (possibly the A-1 described by [REDACTED] (b)(6) in his letter of circumstance)

[REDACTED] (b)(6) is mentioned in Lt Col Welub's letter of 4 Mar 87 to Mrs C. as having info on the Christian burial site.

Thx,
DAR

Memorandum

DATE: 4/1/87

FROM: N-64

TO: N-64DD

SUBJ: Christian

Pls make a request for DIA and ICRC files on David M. Christian, USNR, 511-56-3259/1315

- on behalf of Mrs Ethel Christian (MOTHER)
- Of particular interest is a 27 Feb 76 Defense Info Eval Report, DD 1480.

TH,

WSR

NOV 28 1982

PowlmIA

ANNEX R

Jug 6/8/87

CASUALTY ASSISTANCE CALLS PROGRAM REPORT

NAVPER 1770/7 (REV. 4-81) S/N 0108-LF-017-7036

To: Commander, Naval Military Personnel Command (NMPC-642)

VIA: CACO Coordinator

Report Bupers 1770-1

DATE

A casualty assistance call was made and assistance rendered as indicated. The next of kin was requested to advise or contact me or my successor on any matter wherein difficulty is encountered and to advise when all payments for claims, benefits or rights are received. NAVMILPERSCOM and the cognizant CACO Coordinator will be advised when the case is closed. List an asterisk (*) beside any item to indicate the placement of comments in the Remarks Section

NAME OF DECEASED DAVID M. CHRISTIAN	RANK/RATE LTJG	SSN 571-56-3529	DATE OF DEATH 2 June 1965
NAME, ADDRESS, AND RELATIONSHIP OF PERSON BEING ASSISTED ETHELLE CHRISTIAN 13450 OLD HWY 80, LAKESIDE		MOTHER	DATE NMPC BENEFITS LETTER RECEIVED
DATE/TIME OF PERSONAL NOTIFICATION 8 MAY 1986 (REGARDING I.D. ONLY)	CA	DATES OF SUBSEQUENT VISITS TO NEXT OF KIN NUMEROUS FROM MAY 86 TO APR 87	
DATE CASUALTY CONFIRMATION TELEGRAM/MAILGRAM (Specify) RECEIVED 8 MAY 1986 (PHONECON CWO HUFFMAN, (b)(6))			
DATE LETTER OF CIRCUMSTANCES RECEIVED N/A	DATE JAGMAN INVESTIGATIVE REPORT FORWARDED TO JAG N/A		

CACP MANUAL REFERENCE	SUBJECT	ACTION (AS APPROPRIATE)		
		DATE APPLIED FOR	DATE RECEIVED	N/A
ANNEX C	REPORT OF CASUALTY (DD FORM 1300) (Furnished to primary next of kin without request; also to governmental offices)			X
CHAP. IX	DEPENDENTS ALLOTMENTS AND ALLOWANCES			X

CLAIMS AND APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED

CHAP. V	BURIAL EXPENSES: A. NAVY B. SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION			X
CHAP. VI	DEATH GRATUITY			X
CHAP. VI	UNPAID COMPENSATION (Unpaid Pay and Allowances)			X
CHAP. VI	SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN ANNUITY (Applicable to members with over 20 years of service)			X
CHAP. VI	SERVICEMEN'S GROUP LIFE INSURANCE (Submit claim to OSGLI)			X
CHAP. VI	U.S. GOVERNMENT, VGLI OR NSL INSURANCE (Submit claim to VA)			X
CHAP. VI	COMMERCIAL LIFE INSURANCE APPLICATION SUBMITTED (Indicate in remarks the name of the company with which commercial insurance is carried)			X
CHAP. VI	UNIFORMED SERVICES IDENTIFICATION AND PRIVILEGE CARD (DD 1173) (May include medical care, exchange and commissary privileges)			X
CHAP. VI	DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION (VA action; if undue delay and investigation is desired, furnish VA Claim (XC) Number)			X
CHAP. VI	SOCIAL SECURITY SURVIVOR BENEFITS (Submit claim to local office of Social Security Administration)			X
CHAP. VI	DEPENDENTS' TRAVEL (If applicable, submit claim to Navy Regional Finance Center, Washington, D.C. 20371)			X
CHAP. VI	TRANSPORTATION OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS			X
CHAP. V	GOVERNMENT HEADSTONE OR MARKER (Application not required if burial is in national cemetery)			X
CHAP. V	REIMBURSEMENT FOR HEADSTONE OR MARKER EXPENSES (VA Form 21-8834)			X

ASSISTANCE REQUIRED (Indicate in "Remarks" to whom referred for assistance)

CHAP. III, V	FINANCIAL			X
CHAP. VII	INCOME TAX (W-2 furnished directly to next of kin by Navy finance Center, Cleveland, without request upon completion of processing)			X
CHAP. VII	BANK ACCOUNTS, SAVINGS BONDS, SECURITIES, REAL ESTATE			X
CHAP. VII	WILL			X

MISCELLANEOUS

CHAP. VI	SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE DESIRED (Furnished by NAVMILPERSCOM (NMPC-641C) upon request)			X
CHAP. VII	EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION DESIRED (Contact local employment agency or Office of Personnel Management)			X
CHAP. V	PERSONAL EFFECTS (If complaint made or investigation is desired, explain in "Remarks")			X

INITIAL INTERIM FINAL

R-1

over

NOV 1987

ANNEX R

NAVPERS 1770/7 (REV. 4-81) S/N 0106-LF-017-7038 (Back)

SPECIAL REQUESTS MADE BY BENEFICIARY

ACTION TAKEN BY CACO

ACTION DESIRED BY NAVMILPERSCOM AS FOLLOWS:

AS INDICATED BELOW

GENERAL REMARKS (include liaison and contacts with agencies, individuals and relatives; comments, observations, recommendations and comments of next of kin)

IN JANUARY 1987 THIS CACO RELIEVED (b)(6) UPON HIS RETIREMENT. BETWEEN THAT DATE AND THE CONCLUSION OF THIS ASSIGNMENT I HAVE HAD FREQUENT CONTACT WITH MRS. ETHEL CHRISTIAN AND HER DAUGHTER ARLA BARNETT. THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THESE CONTACTS WAS TO ACT AS A LIAISON BETWEEN THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY AND THE ASGRO (b)(6) AND HEAD OF CASUALTY (b)(6).

WHEN THE CREMAINS OF DAVID CRISTIAN WERE RETURNED TO BALBOA HOSPITAL, (b)(6) (b)(6) WAS THE TRANSPORTING AGENT. (b)(6) COORDINATED THE SCHEDULING OF THE BURIAL AT SEA WITH HSL-45 (NAS) NORTH ISL. THE CREMAINS AND FLOWERS WERE DELIVERED BY (b)(6) ON FRIDAY, 15 MAY 1987 TO HSL-45. ON SUNDAY, 17 MAY 1987 AT APPROXIMATELY 1200 THE CREMAINS OF DAVID CHRISTIAN WERE SPREAD AT SEA OFF THE COAST OF POINT LOMA IN SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA. ON MONDAY, 18 MAY 1987 THIS CACO DELIVERED TO MRS. ETHEL CHRISTIAN, THE RETIRED FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA USED AT HER SONS CEREMONY.

ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN		CACO AUTOVON/COMMERCIAL PHONE NOS.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO CHANGE	<input type="checkbox"/> NEW ADDRESS IS	(b)(6)
(b)(6)	CACO MAKING REPORT	ACTIVITY TO WHICH ATTACHED
	E-7/QMC(SS)	FLEET TRAINING CENTER
FIRST ENDORSEMENT		DATE 29 MAY 87

From: FLEET TRAINING CENTER SAN DIEGO
To: Commander, Naval Military Personnel Command (NMPC-642)

1. Forwarded.

(b)(6)

Signature

*Lockhard USAF
Runyon*

AN EDITORIAL

WHAT ABOUT THE POW'S?

LOCKHARD Runyon Both USAF

THE PLIGHT OF American prisoners of war in Southeast Asia, as Diana O'Grady said on the preceding page, cannot be "a closed book." More than 1,500 men are missing or presumed captured: some 800 in North Vietnam, 500 in South Vietnam, and 200 in Laos. Their fate should concern every one of us, however we may feel—or differ—about U.S. intervention in Vietnam.

North Vietnam has never extended the POW's their rights under the Geneva Convention on Protection of Prisoners of War, which it signed in 1957. It has evaded this pledge through the fiction that the downed American pilots are criminals. Were this so—and we at LOOK do not believe it is—the men would still be entitled to humane treatment.

But the few returning POW's have told us Americans isolated, beaten, and humiliated in North Vietnam, hung by their wrists in Laos, led about like animals or summarily shot in South Vietnam. Such reports gain credence from North Vietnam's complete unconcern for its own prisoners held in the South and in Laos.

Nor can there be any justification for tormenting the wives and children of American prisoners. Why should a woman have to plead for the right to know if her husband is alive? Not until Diana O'Grady got tough did she get an answer. After months of despair, other wives have had to endure propaganda lectures. They have been told they will only get their husbands back if they demonstrate at home against the war. They have been promised information that has then been withheld or leaked only for propaganda purposes.

In 1968 and 1969, LOOK editorials called the Vietnam war a tragic and costly mistake—one that we should end as soon as possible. This does not diminish our concern for the Americans held captive.

That is why we now ask North Vietnam to disclose the names of all the POW's it holds and to urge the National Liberation Front and the Pathet Lao to do the same. We ask for assurance of proper detention facilities, food and medical care for the POW's. We ask for unhampered correspondence with



Captured pilots in Hanoi. Some have been POW's almost six years.

their families. We ask for the repatriation of sick or wounded who might not survive captivity. In short, we ask that North Vietnam honor its legal obligations under the Geneva Convention.

We ask that the International Red Cross or International Control Commission be permitted to inspect the prison camps in North Vietnam, as has been done in the South. Refusal can only mean that North Vietnam is ashamed of the way it treats American POW's.

In addition, we have written the Hanoi government requesting that a LOOK team be allowed into North Vietnam to report directly on the condition of the POW's.

We now ask the American people, alone or in community groups, to express their concern for our men missing and captive in a letter

to North Vietnam's Premier, Pham Van Dong. Letters sent to: *What About the POW's?*, c/o LOOK, P.O. Box 1, Des Moines, Iowa 50301 will be forwarded to Hanoi.

The welfare of these unfortunate men and the feelings of their families are matters of simple humanity—not politics.

North Vietnam has said in the Paris peace talks that discussion on the POW's cannot begin until the other issues of the war are resolved. This completely misreads the mood of the American people. Yes, we want peace in Vietnam, as much as anyone and as quickly as possible, but first we want assurance about the well-being of all our servicemen in captivity. The sooner Hanoi understands this, the easier it will be to end the war.

THE EDITORS

A PRAYER FOR PRISONERS OF WAR

Almighty Father, who suffers in the affliction of your children, we call upon you now from the depths of our anxiety and great concern for our countrymen and loved ones who have fallen into the hands of the nation's foes. In the face of the evils that these brave men endure and before the grim burdens are forced to bear, give them courage and hope, and never failing confidence in you.

But most of all, O God, we ask that the day will soon come when we can all celebrate their release and safe return to their homes and kindred.

Give to all of us who wait and hope in the face of every disappointment the will to persevere in the cause of peace and the wisdom to conquer hate with love and every doubt with a renewed faith in you.

Amen



WE ARE SUMMONED TO REMEMBER SOULS AMONG THE LIVING WHO ARE SUFFERING DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY, PAIN, LONELINESS, HUNGER AND THE DAILY PERIL OF PHYSICAL TORTURE--OUR PRISONERS OF WAR IN ASIA.

IF YOUR HUSBAND OR SON OR FATHER OR BROTHER OR FRIEND WERE BEING HELD CAPTIVE, WOULD YOU WRITE YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND HANOI FOR HIM? WOULD YOU PRAY DAILY FOR HIS RELEASE?

These questions need no answers. Of course you would.

BUT WOULD YOU DO IT FOR SOMEONE ELSE'S HUSBAND OR SON OR FATHER OR BROTHER?

That question does need an answer---your answer in the form of prayerful concern and positive action.

Express your concern by writing, in the name of humanity, that

....all injured prisoners be released as quickly as possible.

....all names of all prisoners be published

....prisoners be allowed to exchange mail with their families.

....impartial inspection be made immediately of prisoners facilities

....prisoners receive proper diet and medical care

....all prisoners be released as soon as possible.

Letters should be brief and to the point. They should NOT be abusive.

Airmail postage is 25 cents for a letter under 1/2 ounce. Address the envelope to:

Office of the President
Democratic Republic of Vietnam
Hanoi, North Vietnam
(Via Hong Kong)

Write your Congressmen and Senators and express your concern.

Will these letters help the P.O.W. situation? YES!! I can assure you they will and have already done so.

" A PRAYER for PRISONERS" was written by Rear Admiral James W. Kelly, CHC, USN Chief of Chaplains

Mrs. Jess M. Kristensen
12732 Castle Court
Lakeside, Calif. 92040

May 3, 1972

Dear Sirs:

This is to notify you of our change of address from 12736 Castle Court in Lakeside, Calif., to 12732 Castle Court in Lakeside, Calif.

I thought perhaps I should also mention that the 1971 November pkg. we sent to David Kristensen as a possible POW, has not been returned. Therefore, we sent a pkg. in April 1972. Both the Nov. pkg. of 1970, and the Feb. 1971 pkgs. were returned and we thought it wise to send no more until last November of 1971. If our April pkg. is returned we will send no more until further time.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Jess M. Kristensen

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

5 Apr 1971

Mrs. Jess Christian
12736 Castle Court
Lakeside, California 92040

Dear Mrs. Christian:

The enclosed photograph shows the two prisoners of war who have been identified as Captain Lockhart and Major Runyan of the Air Force. This still was made from a short sequence of the Hanoi PW parade that appears in a classified film. I feel that (b)(6) might have had this film, or a similar one in mind, when he mentioned his belief that the picture that later appeared in LOOK magazine was originally from a film. All the available information indicates that such was not the case. I regret that I cannot forward the film for your viewing due to its classification. I know that you would be interested in this still from the film, which shows the individual you feel might be your son in a slightly different perspective than the LOOK photograph. Both my wife and I were sorry that we were unable to meet with you on our recent trip to the West Coast. I am looking forward to that pleasure on my next swing West.

Please do not hesitate to call on me if I might be of further assistance in this or any other matter.

By direction of the Chief of Naval Personnel:

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Special Assistant for PW Matters

Encls:
Two prints

(b)(6)

FEB 25 1970

Dear Mrs. Christian:

Thank you for your letter of 17 February 1970. I have given careful consideration to your request that David's name be placed on the list of MIA and POW personnel which was submitted to the North Vietnamese delegation in Paris and must regretfully advise you that this course of action is not considered to be in the best interests of our captured and missing personnel. The entire matter has been reviewed with Colonel Work, who indicated that he did not intend to convey any commitment to you beyond his confidence in the Navy's evaluation of the case.

Realizing that you will not agree with this course of action, I would like to take this opportunity to discuss some of the factors which were considered in reaching this decision. I know that you are aware of the difficulties we have encountered in attempting to get information from the North Vietnamese concerning United States servicemen held by them, or concerning whom they may have knowledge. The tendering of a full list of our personnel carried as captured or missing was yet another move in our efforts to establish a reliable flow of prisoner information. We believe that we have a more persuasive and urgent case, and one which will draw maximum support and pressure from world opinion, if we elect to press initially for information on persons carried as missing or captured. The North Vietnamese will ultimately be called upon to account for all of our personnel who may possibly have come into their hands. The omission of an individual's name from the current list of personnel on whom we seek information will not relieve them of that accountability, and they have no reason to believe that it will.

We believe that the North Vietnamese are aware of the names of all of our personnel carried as killed in action in Southeast Asia. Their failure to find your son's name on a list of captured and missing personnel would therefore come as no surprise. On the contrary, the insertion on such a list of the name of a person known to have been carried previously as killed in action would be seized upon by them as a basis for challenging the validity of the list and our sincerity in presenting it. Further, to submit the name of any one person carried in a KIA status, whose remains have not been recovered, without submitting all such names would be a breach of faith on our part with the applicable next of kin. They too have a right to an accounting concerning their loved ones. As mentioned previously, we intend to demand such an accounting but for the present deem it wise to press only for information concerning those carried as missing or captured.

In the meantime, Mrs. Christian, let me assure you that your son's case is by no means closed out or forgotten. A casualty file containing all data relating to his loss is retained by the Bureau of Naval Personnel and the Naval Intelligence Command. Current intelligence is thoroughly reviewed for possible application to any of our personnel, whether they are carried as captured, missing or killed in action. Further, the debriefing of released prisoners is carefully screened and evaluated for possible correlation. Any information concerning your son would lead without fail to his file and to any appropriate notification, reconsideration, or other indicated action. Past experience in your son's particular case has proven the validity of this procedure.

The Secretary of the Navy is in agreement with the position I have described, so I cannot lend any encouragement that your request can be honored. Although I regret that I am unable to provide you with a reply more completely in accord with your wishes, I hope that I have conveyed to you our continuing concern and alertness for any information which might relate to your son. If I can be of any further assistance to you on this or any other matter, please feel free to call upon me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

D. H. GUINN
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy
Deputy Chief of Naval Personnel

Mrs. Jess M. Christian
12736 Castle Court
Lakeside, California 92040

February 17, 1970

Admiral Quinn

Sir:

I wish to thank you for your time and courtesy in talking to me a few weeks ago in regard to my son, Lieutenant David Marion Christian #674340 who was lost over North Vietnam on June 2, 1965.

A few days prior to my conversation with you I talked with Colonel Work of the Defense Department. He was very sympathetic to our position and said that if it was the desire of our family, David's name would be put on the list of MIA's and POW's which was recently given to Hanoi. I assured him that it was our desire to have David's name on that list. Will you please send us the date on which David's name was added to that list and the name of the person responsible for putting it there?

*Most sincerely
Mrs. Jess M. Christian*

Mrs. Jess M. Christian
12736 Castle Court
Lakeside, California 92040

12736 Castle Ct.
Lakeside, Ca.
March 20, 1970

D. E. Guinn
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy
Deputy Chief of Naval Personnel

Sir:

Thank you for your time and consideration concerning our request that our son David's name be put on the list of men missing in action over North Vietnam. I have carefully read the factors you present in coming to your decision and I would like to take one last opportunity to try to convey my family's feelings toward this whole situation.

First of all, I do not agree that Hanoi will ever have to account for any personnel who has come into their hands. We have been at the Peace table with them for two years and scolded them time after time and there is at this time no visible evidence that we or any other nation has any persuasive power over them. World opinion does not appear to be at this time in our favor either.

Secondly, David's case is not the same as all men listed as KIA. If it were, I should have to agree with you that we would be asking a special favor above other families in that category. Hanoi most certainly does know who are listed as KIA. They also know that David's name appeared in the Russian "Pravda" in October of 1965 in connection with the name of Captain Stockdale. (b)(6)

(b)(6) verifies that what the Pravda said of her husband is true. Yet the Navy gave no credence to the information concerning David, and we were not told why until Captain Webster explained to me over the telephone that it is often a trick of the North Vietnamese to put out an article of that nature on one man who had been listed as KIA. However, the article was not written by Hanoi but by a Russian Correspondent. What did he have to gain by that particular bit of propoganda? Moreover, there is no written record, according to (b)(6), that any inquiry was made of the Russian correspondent concerning the Pravda article. There was some evidence, however questionable the reliability, received by the Navy in December 1967 of the possibility that David was a POW. In view of these two factors, it is very difficult to understand why David's status was not changed to that of MIA at that time. We are not now and have never asked that his status be changed to that of POW even though I believe in (b)(6) mind this is true.

Our past experience, Admiral Guinn, has proven that it is almost impossible to get a review of David's case after a lapse of five years. It has been like pulling eye teeth to get any one in the Navy to agree that we may have any claim whatever to our belief that David might possibly be alive in North Vietnam.

Who does David have beside his family and friends to plead his case? We, the parents, and the wives and children of men who are listed as MIA and POW have crying out quietly these past five years for help, and no one has answered. We receive only pacifiers. We are looking for some one to help our loved ones who are held captive in a foreign land --- those who cannot help themselves, and there is no man. We are all realistic enough to know that the fate of 1400 men is not going to change the course of the war. But we do have one question: How many years must the Prisoners remain in captivity while we Vietnamize the South Vietnamese? You are right, it is a question for the Congress and the President. And I have written the President about our anxieties and have received no answers. So great a nation! And so weak leadership! We fear of offending Hanoi, and Hanoi laughs at us.

I am sure there must be others whose status is in question, as is Davids. I plead their case also.

In my opinion, Hanoi has never stopped questioning our sincerity. They are the ones who are giving us an ultimatum. And we question their sincerity. And I regret that the Navy which David served so well feels that it would be a breach of faith with all families whose loved ones are listed as KIA, to inquire of Hanoi as to the validity of the Pravda article and also to question any other source of information. After five years, they surely must know some information would have filtered out of the north. They are not stupid.

Thank you for reading this rather lengthy letter. I appreciate your past courtesies and your promptness in answering my last letter.

Most sincerely

Wesley Jess Robinson

(b)(6)
25 Mar 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR (b)(6), DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Subj: LTJG David Marion Christian, USNR (KIA 2 Jun 1965)

Encl: Pravda Article of 11 Oct 1965

1. The subject officer was declared KIA as a result of information provided by his wingman at the time of loss. His aircraft was hit by enemy fire over North Vietnam, the engine flamed out, and he glided over the coastline a short distance to sea. The wingman stayed with him and thinks he observed LTJG Christian eject just before impact, but did not sight a parachute. Several aircraft joined the wingman immediately to search, but there was no indication of survival. Thus the squadron decision of KIA.

2. On 11 October 1965 the attached PRAVDA article was published. Its contents were noted, but it was determined that there was not sufficient reason to change status. I have checked with the intelligence people and they are unable to verify that an attempt to seek further information from the writer of the PRAVDA article, V. Sharapov, was made.

3. LTJG Christian was unmarried. His mother feels strongly that the content of the PRAVDA article is evidence he is not dead, and with the publishing of the combined PW/MIA list in December she has repeatedly asked that her son's name be included on the list. As a policy matter the Navy has declined to do so in such cases.

4. There is one positive step I feel should be accomplished, and that is the purpose of this memo. I believe a request should be made through State channels as to whether or not the PRAVDA writer mentioned earlier can shed further light on the fate of LTJG Christian. Perhaps mention of the mother's plight since becoming aware of the article might induce a reply. The mother has written to him in recent months at the following address obtained by our public information people: V. Sharapov, (b)(6) (b)(6). If she has received a reply she has not advised me, and I believe she would have.

5. Should you need any further information, please give me a call.

(b)(6)

Special Assistant for PW Matters

MAR 27 1970

Dear Mrs. Christian,

Thank you for your letter of 20 March 1970. There are two points which I feel should be clarified: First, concerning the PRAVDA article, I am sure you are aware that the content does not address the subject of your son's survival. The writer was able to accomplish his purpose without any discussion of David's fate. We have requested that the State Department pursue the matter of the PRAVDA article through diplomatic channels to determine whether additional information can be made available. Naturally we will advise you of any information received, and know that you will do the same should you get a reply to the personal inquiry you made of (b)(6).

Secondly, there is no difficulty whatever in having your son's case reviewed. Let me assure you that David's case is well known among our personnel who work in prisoner of war and missing personnel matters, and that it has been thoroughly reviewed in the recent past.

Your frankness is appreciated, and while I know I have not been able to resolve the matter to your satisfaction, I hope that some increased understanding has developed.

Sincerely,

D. H. GUINN
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy
Deputy Chief of Naval Personnel

Mrs. Jess Christian
12736 Castle Court
Lakeside, California 92040

(b)(6)

Moscow, USSR

April 23, 1970

OFFICIAL-INFORMAL
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

(b)(6), Esquire
Special Assistant to the Under Secretary
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear (b)(6):

With reference to your letter of April 8 concerning the fate of Lieutenant (JG) David M. Christian, I discussed this matter on April 14 with Mr. K. G. Fedoseyev, Deputy Chief of the USA Division of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs. At that time I left with him an informal paper giving full details about Lieutenant Christian. Mr. Fedoseyev commented that in general the Ministry did not consider it appropriate to intervene in matters relating to American military personnel in Vietnam. Since, however, a Pravda article was involved in this case, he agreed to look into the matter to see whether anything could be done.

On April 23 I inquired informally about the case and was told that there was nothing to report as yet.

I shall, of course, continue to press the matter as appropriate and will let you know as soon as there is any word.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Counselor for Political Affairs

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20350

21 MAY 1970

Mrs. Arla Barnett
13050 Lakeshore Drive
Lakeside, California 92040

Dear Mrs. Barnett:

Your telegram of April 26, 1970 to President Nixon concerning your brother, Lieutenant junior grade David M. Christian, has been forwarded to me for reply. I have given careful consideration to the ideas expressed therein and to the record of the Navy's prior actions and correspondence regarding the loss of your brother. Although his determination of status was made prior to my appointment to the Navy Secretariat, I have nevertheless examined that determination objectively, and tested it against my own conscience, in order that I may give you the thoughtful and independent reply you deserve.

It is true, as you have noted, that the October 11, 1965 issue of PRAVDA made reference to your brother. Unfortunately, the general content of that particular part of the article did not address the subject of whether or not he survived, but rather discussed "Lieutenant David M. Christian's papers." In the case of Captain Stockdale, the author specifically mentions the details of his capture and the fact that he (the author) personally saw Captain Stockdale. Admiral Quinn's letter of March 27, 1970 advised your mother that the Navy has requested the State Department to pursue the subject of this PRAVDA article through diplomatic channels in order to determine whether the author can provide additional information concerning your brother. An interim reply from Moscow dated April 23, 1970 indicates that the matter was discussed with a member of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs and that there is nothing to report as yet. We will, of course, keep your family advised of any pertinent developments.

Because of the time element involved, it is not possible to comment upon Captain Williams' specific remarks with regard to the information conveyed in December 1967. A review of the record shows that an intelligence agency report indicated the possibility that Lieutenant junior grade Christian survived the ejection from his aircraft. Since the agency providing this information was unable to evaluate the validity of this report, you were informed that the Navy Department did not feel that this information was of high enough reliability to warrant a change in status. After carefully reviewing the circumstances surrounding your brother's loss, I consider this to be a proper decision.

With regard to the omission of Lieutenant junior grade Christian's name from the list of personnel submitted at the Paris peace talks, I can only refer to Admiral Quinn's letter to your mother of February 25, 1970, in which he indicated that the Navy Department did not inform your family that your brother's name would be submitted. Apparently your mother received this impression in her telephone conversation with (b)(6), who is a member of the staff for the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs. (b)(6) has advised us that he did not intend to convey any commitment with regard to the submission of your brother's name beyond the fact that he was confident that the Navy would properly evaluate the situation and take whatever action was deemed necessary.

The Missing Persons Act sets certain standards of reasonableness as the ultimate test for continuing a serviceman in a missing status or for making a determination of death. This is an imprecise test, it is true. It is one which you, in your personal faith, would undoubtedly resolve in favor of survival for your brother. I admire the faith and the courage with which you have clung to the belief in such survival, and I fervently hope that your faith may be rewarded. My own review of the available information, however, compels me, in all good conscience, to the conclusion that the initial status determination concerning Lieutenant junior grade Christian was correct.

It is regretted that I cannot provide you with a reply more completely in accord with your wishes. I can assure you that information will continue to be reviewed for applicability to your brother's case and that we will explore every avenue which may hold some promise of yielding additional information concerning him.

Sincerely yours,

James D. Hittle
Assistant Secretary of the Navy
(Manpower and Reserve Affairs)

SECNAV Files (3)
Control # 2915

Prepared by:

(b)(6)

Pers-Ga, Rm 1B21 ARLEX

Ext: 42339/41770

Date prepared: 14 May 1970

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY AND THE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

REFERRED TO OFFICE OF:	PURPOSE:
ASSISTANT SECRETARY (INSTALLATIONS AND LOGISTICS)	A - PREPARATION OF REPLY FOR SECRETARIAL SIGNATURE. COORDINATE WITH OTHER OFFICES AS NECESSARY (See Note (1))
NAVAL PETROLEUM AND OIL SHALE RESERVES	B - NECESSARY ACTION (Action addressee is expected to take necessary action and coordination as considered appropriate) (See Note (2))
ASSISTANT SECRETARY (FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT)	C - PLEASE REPLY DIRECT FOR THE SECRETARY. COORDINATE WITH OTHER OFFICES AS NECESSARY. (See Note (2))
THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY	D - PLEASE FURNISH DATA ON WHICH TO BASE A REPLY
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER	E - INFORMATION AND RETENTION
ASSISTANT SECRETARY (RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT)	F - CLEARANCE (INITIAL) AND RETURN
CHIEF OF NAVAL RESEARCH	G - SIGNATURE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY (MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)	H - INFORMATION AND RETURN FOR SECNAV OFFICIAL FILES
DIRECTOR, CIVILIAN MANPOWER MANAGEMENT	I - COMMENT OR RECOMMENDATION
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, NAVY DEPARTMENT	J - COORDINATE WITH ACTION ADDRESSEES AS NECESSARY
GENERAL COUNSEL	NOTE: (1) Follow SECNAV INSTRUCTION 5216.1 (Current Series) in preparing correspondence for the Secretary of the Navy or his Civilian Executive Assistants.
CHIEF OF INFORMATION	(2) Forward for SecNav files a copy of any acknowledgement, interim reply, or final reply that is made direct. SecNav Control No. to appear on copy.
JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL	REMARKS
CHIEF OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS	Attention
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF PROGRAM APPRAISAL	(b)(6)
CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS	008856
CHIEF OF NAVAL MATERIAL	Action =
COMMANDER, AIR SYSTEMS COMMAND	1970
COMMANDER, SHIP SYSTEMS COMMAND	Bureau
COMMANDER, ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS COMMAND	POW Status
COMMANDER, ORDNANCE SYSTEMS COMMAND	X-56147
COMMANDER, SUPPLY SYSTEMS COMMAND	5-11-70
COMMANDER, FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND	2915
CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL <i>Code Ga)</i>	Control No.
CHIEF, BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY	674340
COMMANDER, MILITARY SEA TRANSPORTATION SERVICE	Christian, David Marian Lt
COMMANDANT, MARINE CORPS	4-1299

Reviewed by DPAA IAW DoDM 5400.07 and P.L. 102-190, 105 Stat. 1290, 1480-1481
 Date: 14 Mar 2024 Initials: RW

QC'd by DPAA
 Date: 26 Mar 2024
 Initials: CG

SUSPENSE D.

(b)(6)

ROUTING DATE

5-11-70

CONTROL NO.

2915

Christian, David Marian Lt 674340

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

5 May 1970

MEMO FOR OSD-White House Control Section

Subj: SECNAV Files #2915 - BARNETT
SECDEF WH-10173

(b)(6) suggested that this letter be sent to Captain Webster, USN, Assistant for POW matters, Bureau of Naval Personnel (Pers Ga), for action. This office was advised that (b)(6) answers Navy POW mail.

D. L. Bagnall
D. L. BAGNALL
LCDR, MSC, USN
Head, White House
Correspondence Section

PK:rd

TO DOD - FOR DIRECT REPLY
DATE 4/27/70 *fa*

*by Light House
Ch. Douglas*

1970 APR 27 AM 10 35
WA219 (L SDA010) CB NL PDF 5 EXTRA

TDSD LAKESIDE CALIF 26

THE PRESIDENT

THE WHITE HOUSE

2815

DEAR HONORABLE PRESIDENT NIXON

I AM IMPLORING AND PLEADING WITH YOU TO PLEASE PERSONALLY

3 INVESTIGATE MY BROTHERS STATUS AS KILLED IN ACTION IN NORTH VIETNAM

MY FAMILY WAS INFORMED OF LIEUT DAVID MARIAN CHRISTIAN 674340.

DEATH JUNE 2, 1965. IN OCT 11 1965 AN ARTICLE APPEARED

2 IN THE RUSSIAN PRAVDA AND WAS DELIVERED TO OUR FAMILY BY THE

WH 10173

I 4851/70.

NAVY DEPT. THE PRAVDA CONTAINED MY BROTHERS NAME AS WELL OAS
THAT OF CAPT. STOCKDALE. (b)(6) VERIFIED THE
INFORMATION CONCERNING (b)(6) AS TRUE. IN DEC. 1967
(b)(6) OF THE NAVY DEPT PERSONALLY CAME FROM WASHINGTON
WITH INFORMATION THAT THERE WAS GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT MY
BROTHER WAS ALIVE. THE NAVY INFORMED US THAT DAVID'S NAME WOULD
BE INCLUDED ON THE LIST, GIVEN AT THE PARIS PEACE TALKS BUT
OUR INVESTIGATION WE FIND THIS NOT TO BE THE CASE. THERE SEEMS
ALSO TO HAVE BEEN NO FOLLOWUP ON THE PRAVDA ARTICLE. PRESIDENT
NIXON, SINCE THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY OF HIS BEING A PRISONER

OF WAR WE ARE BESEECHING YOU TO HAVE HIS STATUS CHANGED, AS
IT NOW STANDS HANOI DOES NOT HAVE TO GIVE AN ACCOUNT OF HIM.
OUR FAMILY IS DEEPLY WORRIED ABOUT HIS PRESENT STATUS, AND
APPEAL TO YOU AS OUR LAST AND ONLY HOPE

MRS ARLA BARNETT 13050 LAKESHORE DR LAKESIDE CALIF.

DECEASED - LTJG David Marion CHRISTIAN, USNR, 674340/1315
attached to ATKRON 23 on bd USS MIDWAY (CVA 41)

3 June 1965

Mr. and Mrs. Jess M. Christian
9642 Los Coches Road
Lakeside, California

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Christian,

It is with a deep sense of personal loss that I write to you today. I know, of course, that my feelings in no way compare with the grief you both are suffering at the loss of your son. Please accept the heartfelt sympathy and condolences of all the officers and men of Attack Squadron TWENTY-THREE. To answer some of the questions I am sure you must have, I would like to explain the circumstances as best I can.

Dave was flying his aircraft and accompanying me on an armed reconnaissance flight over North Vietnam. We departed the USS MIDWAY, in the South China Sea, early on Wednesday morning, 2 June 1965. We had been briefed to deliver our weapons against military targets in the coastal area between Vinh and Thanh Hoa in North Vietnam. About ten miles south of Thanh Hoa we discovered a complex radar installation entrenched on top of a hill. We began attacking with rockets. Dave, on his first run, got a direct hit on an extremely difficult target in a narrow, deep revetment, effectively destroying that portion of the installation.

At this time we noticed that the target was being defended by automatic weapons and Dave wisely made his second run on an easterly heading toward the coast, the shortest direction to the "friendly" environment of the sea. I was rolling in for my third run and had Dave in sight pulling out of his second attack when he called that he had been hit by ground fire and his engine had "flamed-out". His aircraft began trailing flames as Dave used his speed to gain altitude and began a glide for the coast five miles away. The bullet had apparently severed the main fuel line cutting off fuel to the engine and causing the flames beneath his aircraft.

Dave stuck with his plane, handling the glide beautifully. Trailing closely behind him, I momentarily lost sight of him as he passed through a cloud at the coast line but picked him up again on the otherside as he "stretched" his glide out to sea. At this time he was very low and I called for him to eject, but I am sure he had already lost use of his radio. We were under low dark clouds, and in the reduced visibility I believe I did see his ejection seat leave the aircraft moments before his plane hit the water. However, no parachute was sighted.

A propeller driven A-1 Skyraider aircraft with four crewman aboard had been on the scene while we were attacking the radar sight and aided me in searching the area and retracing Dave's flight path for any sign that he might possibly have survived. Shortly we were joined by an amphibious search and rescue aircraft and other A-1's but it became painfully obvious that Dave had not survived. Our A-1 Skyraider that had been with us from the beginning was making a low, searching pass along the beach when he too was struck by ground fire, crashed and exploded, killing all four crewman aboard.

Your son was extremely well liked and admired by both the officers and men of his squadron. He was highly regarded for his ability as an officer and as a combat aviator. He may have mentioned his assignment as the Line Division Officer, a critical and demanding function in the operation of jet aircraft aboard an attack carrier. His performance in that position was truly outstanding. It was a great reassurance to myself and the other pilots to know that through Dave's leadership and dependability our aircraft were always properly serviced and ready before each flight.

Only last week [REDACTED] (b)(6) and I were discussing how fortunate we had been to have Dave assigned to this squadron. We have continually mentioned this with regard to his ability as an aviator, but on this particular occasion we were reviewing the evaluation reports on all enlisted personnel which had been prepared by the squadron division officers. Dave's keen sense of perception, mature judgement, and ability to express himself in writing were reflected in the manifestly superior quality of his reports. This was just another example of Dave's innate ability and tremendous potential.

Dave played a vital part as an attack pilot here in the Vietnam area. The responsibilities he had and his ability to shoulder these responsibilities contributed directly to maintaining the freedom our country supports throughout the world. You can be justly proud of the way Dave served his country.

We will hold a memorial service for your son and our shipmate on Sunday, 6 June 1965, on board USS MIDWAY while steaming in the South China Sea. The service, following the customs and traditions of the naval service, will allow the 3,600 men aboard USS MIDWAY and, more specifically, the officers and men of Attack Squadron TWENTY-THREE to offer their respects for Dave.

As your son's Commanding Officer I wish to ensure all your questions regarding this tragedy are answered. If there are any details you wish to have amplified please contact me by letter. Unfortunately, being here at sea did not allow me to telephone nor to personally talk with you.

I have received a message from Vice Admiral Paul P. BLACKBURN, Jr., Commander Seventh Fleet, requesting that his condolences be passed to you and Dave's shipmates. Once again may I also express my heartfelt sympathy for your great loss.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

RECEIVED
MAR 10 1982

ГА

Нам вот еще один образец диалога, который должен, по мнению американского военного авиатора, состояться у любого летчика с кем-нибудь из местных жителей:

-- И -- американец, я не говорю на вашем языке. Неудачно встретилесь ли вы с кем-нибудь из коммунистов.

Подите ли, американские летчики, которые могут умереть в разрушениях восточному народу, хотят, чтобы он и тогда не и «защитил» их. Мне кажется, я в этой связи еще одна встреча.

Ночью когда мы были в Тхань-Хой, где, вдали от городской больницы авиационных летчиков, стояли несколько домов. Приближались к ним и машина, и два самолета американской авиации. Это был американский самолет -- истребитель Дюваль В. Стандал, его командир и один из пассажиров -- лейтенант в полете в 30 от Тхань-Хой. Среди них были авиационный лейтенант Дэвид Раймонд и хозяйка дома, где мы остановились. -- Дэвид Раймонд. Они рассказали нам подробности, как увидели парашют, как американцы пытались подняться до верха, но в этом месте на дереве у самой крыши дома. Нам нам кружили три самолета, пытались обеспечить падение парашюта. Американский истребитель стрелял по парашюту и упал на землю, сломав ногу. Здесь его и подобрал авиационный. Врачи оказали американцу помощь, а самолеты, кружившие над деревней, так и ушли на север.

Мы рассказали Раймонду о том, что известно в разговоре для американских летчиков, как хотел они присутствовать в защите от коммунистов. Дэвид Раймонд ответил. Потом Дэвид Раймонд.

Пусть американский агрессор не имеет среди нас союзников. Мы все стали свидетелями своего рочества.

Да, рядом с американскими самолетами на земле Хан-Нонга, на постах у авиационных Хан-Хай, у лагерей Вьетнама стоит весь американский народ, которого не заставить, не словить инициации бомбачи.

В. ПАРАНОВ
(Секр. корр. «Ираке»)

г. Тхань-Хой.

Reviewed by DPAA IAW DoDM 5400.07 and P.L. 102-190, 105 Stat. 1290, 1480-1481 Date: 19 Mar 2024 Initials: RW

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ЗАЩИТНИКИ ХАМ-ЖОН

Иногда в этот момент защитники группы в отчаянии. Легко подсчитать сплосканные часы, чем то, сколько раз в сутки им приходится прибывать в убежища. Следили за передвижениями американских самолетов и жесты с ними вой. Давать, а порой и слышать раз в день звучит из позиции из сигнала тревоги. Это и теперь, когда командир батальона Ха Хюнг Куанг только начал рассказ о последних схватках, с поста наблюдения сообщала, что в Хань-Хон приближается группа американских истребителей.

Мы встретились с воинами этой батареи в мае. Они подвезли как тогда мы на вертолетах изобретения американского изобретателя «Р-101», сделанные солдатами из остатков самолетов, оббитых ими в северном бок у моста Хан-Жон. Тогда командир батальона выслал в надежде от неприятельских. Сейчас группа стоит на вертолетах войск, откуда хорошо виден мост.

Помню, мы выжили во Вьетнаме другого объекта, на который американская авиация сбрасывала бомбы, как на мост Хан-Жон. Он превратил мосту двумя годами над полноводной рекой Ми у города Хань-Хон. Миа не хотелось увидеть его таким, каким его создали люди. Лишь кадры документального кино на фотографии запечатлели его строение.

Впервые я попал в эти места несколько месяцев назад. Мы слышали тогда в крупных газетах американской авиации на мост Хан-Жон, но не представляли всех возможностей вражеских бомбардировщиков. У самой реки Ми нам сказали, что представляется на другой берег будет на первом мосте поврежден. Ночь была лунная, светила на Хан-Жон было много было смотреть искореженные тавры, пролеты, рухнувшие в воду.

Мосты стали одной из основных целей, по которым наносили удары американские авиации. С первых налетов на территорию Демократической Республики Вьетнам на страницах американских газет замалчивали фотографии разрушенных мостов. Министр обороны Макнамара сам лично демонстрировал такие снимки перед журналистами, рассказывая о мощи и точности бомбовых ударов сво-

ей авиации. Американские пропагандисты предлагали немало усилий, чтобы убедить людей мысль о том, что авиация мосты — чисто военные объекты. Нет, американская авиация бомбит мосты в Северном Вьетнаме не потому, что по ним могут пройти солдаты. Со стороны Штатов всякий курс на подрыв всей экономической жизни страны, на создание трудностей в промышленности и сельском хозяйстве Демократической Республики Вьетнам.

Мост Хан-Жон — один из крупнейших в республике. Он был сдан в эксплуатацию в мае 1964 года. Как раздалось тогда вьетнамские строители! Они знали, что им нужен для того, чтобы ускорить развитие народного хозяйства республики. Именно по нему американская авиация и наносит наиболее частые и мощные удары.

Челеты разрабатывались тщательно. Охажены в районе моста на большой высоте несколько раз пролетели американские разведчики. Затем они на огромной скорости пролетали над самим мостом. Вскоре десятки бомбардировщиков налетела на мост. До Лев недалеко от Хань-Хон. Защитники сбивли три вражеских самолета, но убрали мост из не удасть. Один американский реактивный истребитель попытался резко атаковать Хан-Жон, но был сбит и упал на берег реки. Вслед за истребителями появились другие самолеты. Они шли группами по 12—15 машин. Стался из атакующим самолетами на бомбежку. Защитники встретили их огнем. Загорелся один самолет, второй, третий... Но калет не прекратился. Он продолжался пять долгих часов.

Рядом с воинами отчаянно сражались неродные ополченцы из небольшой деревушки Нам-Ланг. Они стреляли по низколетящим самолетам из винтовок и пулеметов, перемещаясь вешками, подползли боярности. Среди отважных защитников моста была и девушка Нгуен Тхи Ханг, о которой уже рассказывалось в страницах «Презды». (Недавно Нгуен Тхи Ханг побывала в составе вьетнамской делегации в Москве).

На следующий день атака повторилась. Самолеты противника делали непрерывные заходы. Стремясь поддаться огню защитников, они перемещали тяжести удары на позиции артиллеристов. За два дня на Хан-Жон было сброшено более 800 бомб весом от 250 килограммов до тонны каждая. Самолеты выпустили за нему сотни ракет различного калибра.

После этих налетов я и увидел мост. А потом еще дважды проезжал здесь. Люди боролись за мост, несмотря на непрекращавшиеся налеты. И он, как стойкая неприступная крепость, продолжал оставаться в строю, служить своей республике.

Защитникам все время приходилось отбивать атаки. Это бывало в тридцать, тот знает, какая нагрузка стоит здесь днем. Неповторно трудно беловому работать в этих условиях. Защитникам приходилось по несколько часов подряд отбивать атаки. Только в районе, где сражался батальон младшего лейтенанта Ха Хюнг Куанга, было за день сброшено свыше 200 бомб.

Однажды ночью на мост снова прекратилась. Было лишь несколько попыток перебросили группыми атаковать его. Это сбили зачастили самолеты-разведчики. И вот по неравновесному мосту был нанесен новый массированный удар. Снова падали бомбы, взрывались ракеты.

Одним из крупных налетов на Хан-Жон лично командовал министр обороны США Макнамара, прибывший со специальным визитом в Южный Вьетнам. В американских газетах появились фотографии, на которых улыбающийся Макнамара стоял в шлемофон на борту авиакорабля «Индепенденс»: он только что выжил из мосту катапультироваться в выжигал бомбардировщик в отаровой влетке из Демократической Республики Вьетнам. 17 американских самолетов взяли курс на Хан-Жон. Для обеспечения успеха в этот район был послан самолет-разведчик «Р-37», а затем и беспилотный самолет-разведчик.

Легко пролетать у американских летчиков не получалось. Им пришлось долго залетать за этот мост. Вьетнам-

ские защитники сбивли четыре самолета, в том числе и беспилотный разведчик. Одним из первых был сбит самолет американского подполковника, руководившего полетом. Он выпрыгнул с парашютом и был пойман на реке Ми, куда упал. Самолет подполковника рухнул в километре от моста. В том же бок был сбит и один еще один американский истребитель, тоже выпрыгнул с парашютом, был пойман на восточной окраине.

В августе в северной атаке на Хан-Жон предполучился. Всего американская авиация более 10 раз бомбила и обстреливала его, сбросив около полутора тысяч бомб и свыше тысячи ракет. В результате несколько десятков километров от моста остаются 13 сбитых здесь американских самолетов. Много впадших пиратов рухнула в море.

Наличием тоннами повсюду или добытые документы, каталоги у американских летчиков. Отрывали пилотов и налеты на Демократическую Республику Вьетнам, американские командование шло снабжает их воюющей авиацией аппаратурой и другими вещами, начиная от минимального авиационного радиопередатчика до целого радиоприемника и усилителя.

Вот документы доброты Дэвид М. Пристона. И них подробно описаны дни его полета и сна, раст, вес, группа крови и даже проставлены ипечатушки пальцев левой и правой руки. Среди его вещей несколько долларов, западногерманских марок и фотографии голландской девушки Коры с бычковым адресом на обратной стороне. Там же прощальная дата — 21 апреля 1965 года.

На случай случая прихватила и собой лейтенант и разведчик, сестрички из вьетнамской, тайландской, индонезийской, вьетнамской и французской авиации. (Какая география). Помоща допросов в горной воде, сест там и палаточный диалог, Читай на радио на стра-

— Как далеко находится отсюда дружелюбная парашютист? Где один? Скажи-те им, чтобы они послали за мной.

I happened into these places for the first time several months ago. We heard then about the great attack by American aviation on the Ham Song Bridge but never knew just all the consequences of the tremendous bombing. At the May river they told us that we will cross over to the other bank, on a ferry, the bridge was damaged. The night was lunar and bright. On the Ham Song it was painful to see the distorted girders and spans which had crashed down into the water. Bridges were one of the primary targets against which American aviation directed its attacks. From the first attacks on the territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam photographs of demolished bridges have glittered on the pages of American newspapers. Secretary of Defense Rusk in a self-satisfied manner showed such photos to journalists, extolling the power and accuracy of the bombing attacks of his aviation. American propagandists are making no little effort to prompt the idea to the people that Viet Nam are purely military objectives.

American aviation bombs bridges in North Viet Nam not because soldiers can use them for movement. The United States did this to undermine the entire economic life of the country, to create difficulties in its industries and rural economy of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

The Ham Song bridge is one of the largest in the Republic. It went into operation in May 1964. It cost the Viet Nam constructors more than 100 million dollars. They knew that

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"The Defenders of Ham Song" (phonetically from the Russian)
 (Translated from "Pravda", issue of 11 October 1965) by
 Brig. Gen. J. F. Miniaty, U.S. Army (Ret.)

The life of the Viet Nam anti-aircraft crew is difficult and dangerous. It is easier to reckon the quiet hours, than how many times each twenty-four hours, having clung to their weapons, they have to watch out for approaching American planes, and to engage them in battle. The alarm signal sounds "stations" ten, and at times twenty times a day. Here even now when the battery commander, Ha Hui Quang, only began the story about the latest fights, it was announced from the observation post that a group of American fighters were approaching TRAN HOA.

We met the soldiers of this battery in Kay. They gave us a gift, at that time, of a miniature representation of the American fighter plane "F4U" made by the soldiers, from the remains of a plane shot down by them during the first battle at the Ham Song bridge. At that time the battery was not far from the electric power station. Now the weapons are standing in rice fields, from where the bridge is plainly seen.

I dare say, one cannot find another objective in Viet Nam on which American aviators would drop so many bombs than on the Ham Song bridge. It crosses over, between two mountains, above the deep Ma river, at the town of Fasan F-tho T-han Hoa. I did not happen to see how the people built it. Only documentary cinema films have presented its severe beauty.

It was necessary to accelerate the development of the national economy of the Republic. That is, exactly, why American aviation leads its heaviest and most powerful blow against it.

The attacks are carefully worked out. Once, in the bridge area, American reconnaissance planes passed over several times, at a great height. Then, at great speed, flew over, above the bridge itself. Shortly after, tests of how best to attack the bridge. Do ten, not far from T-han Han. Anti-aircraft gunners shot down three enemy planes but they did not succeed in hitting the bridge. One American jet fighter attempted to suddenly attack Han Han but was shot down and fell on the river bank. Immediately after the fighting planes, other planes appeared. They flew in groups of 10 to 15 machines. Echelon after echelon came in for the bombing. The anti-aircraft gunners met them with fire. One plane, a second, a third, burned down. But the attack did not cease. It continued five long hours. The national militiamen from the small village of Nam-Ngan fought bravely alongside the soldiers. They fired at the diving planes with rifles and machine gun guns, bandaged the wounded, and brought up military supplies. A young girl, Nguyen T-hi Hany, about whom it has already been related on the pages of "Pravda", was among the brave defenders of the bridge. (Recently Nguyen T-hi Hany visited Moscow as a member of the Viet Nam delegation.)

The attack was repeated the next day. Enemy planes

Made continuous flights over the target. Attempting to suppress the fire of the anti-aircraft gunners, they shifted the weight of the attack on to the artillery positions. In two days more than 800 bombs weighing from 250 kilograms to a ton, were dropped on Ham-Song. The planes let go hundreds of rockets of various calibre against it.

I saw the bridge after these attacks. And later, passed by here again, twice. People fight for the bridge, in spite of increasing attacks. And like a steadfast soldier, covered with wounds, it continued to remain in operation, serving its population.

During the entire time the anti-aircraft crews had to repel the attacks. Anyone who has been in the tropics, knows what kind of stuffy air is here during the day. It is incredibly difficult for a man to work under these conditions. The anti-aircraft men had to repel attacks for several hours one after another. In the area alone where the battery of fought, over 200 bombs were dropped in one day.

One time the attacks against the bridge almost ceased. There were only several attempts by small groups to attack it. But then, observation planes came here often. And then a new massed blow was dealt to the bridge covered with wounds. Again, the bombs dropped and the rockets exploded. The Defense Secretary Ho Tamara personally commanded one of the heaviest attacks on Ham Song. Having arrived on a special visit to South Vietnam. Photographs appear

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in American newspapers in which the smiling Mc Namara stands in a phone booth, on board the aircraft carrier "Independence"; he had just pushed the button of the catapult and released a bomber for an attack on the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. 17 American planes set course for Hanoi-Vong. In order to ensure success in that region an "RB-57" reconnaissance plane was sent, and after that, a pilot-less reconnaissance plane.

The Americans did not have an easy walk. They had to pay heavily for this attack. Viet Nam anti-aircraft crews shot down four planes, including the pilot-less reconnaissance plane. The plane of the American lieutenant Colonel who led the attack was one of the first shot down. He jumped in his parachute, and was fished out of the water. (b)(6) had fallen. The lieutenant Colonel's plane crashed a kilometer from the bridge. In the very same battle another American pilot who also had jumped in his parachute was taken prisoner. He was suspended from a coconut palm.

Review
Unit 2

In August and September the attacks on Hanoi-Vong continued. In all, American aircraft bombed and shot it up more than 40 times, and dropped about one and a half thousand bombs and over a thousand rockets. The remains of 12 American planes, shot down here, lie about within a radius of several tens of kilometers from the bridge. Many are minutes crashed into the sea.

The Viet Nam Commanders showed no curiosity towards taken from American airplanes. When pilots are sent in

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albums on the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the American command furnished them with every kind of information, literature and other things beginning with incense, handkerchiefs, chewing gum and tables to prevent sleep.

Here are the documents of Saint David M. Christian. In them are set forth the color of his hair and eyes, height, weight, blood group, and even the fingerprints of the right and left hands are available. Among his things were several dollars, some East German stamps, and a photograph of a Thailand girl, Koon, with the Bangkok address on the rear side. The date also, was available - 21 April 1965.

On most any occasion, the lieutenant also had a phrase book in the Viet Nam, Thailand, Indonesian, Chinese and French languages. (What geography!) Besides questions about boiled water, there are political dialogues drawn from one of the papers.

"How far from here are friendly partisans? With me, are they, or tell them to stand for me."

Well, there is one other form of dialog which much in the opinion of the American State Department, takes place between the State down activists and one of the local inhabitants.

"I am an American. I do not speak your language. Disfortune compels me to ask you to give me food, shelter, and protection against Communists."

You see, American flyers who bring death and destruction to the Vietnamese people, must, ~~however~~, however, be protected. In this connection Lara reminds

factories, stand the entire Viet Nam people who
will not be intimidated, nor broken, by any bomb

V. Sharapov
(Special Correspondent of "Pravda")
Town of Thanh Hoa

reminded of another encounter

TRAVJA 11 Oct 1965
ЗАЩИТНИКИ ХАМ-ЖОН

Жизнь защитников Хам-Жон... сколько раз в сутки им приходится... Легче подсчитать... сколько раз в сутки им приходится... Легче подсчитать...

ей авиации. Американские пропагандисты припадают немало усилий, чтобы внушить людям мысль о том, что вьетнамские мосты — чисто военные объекты. Нет, американская авиация бомбит мосты в Северном Вьетнаме не потому, что по ним могут пройти солдаты. Соединенные Штаты взяли курс на подрыв всей экономической жизни страны, на создание трудностей в промышленности и сельском хозяйстве Демократической Республики Вьетнам.

Мост Хам-Жонг — один из крупнейших в республике. Он был сдан в эксплуатацию в мае 1964 года. Как возводился тогда вьетнамские строители. Они знали, что он нужен для того, чтобы ускорить развитие сельского хозяйства республики. Именно по нему американская авиация наносит наиболее частые и мощные удары.

Палеты разрабатываются тщательно. Оказавшись в районе моста за большой выстрел несколько раз пролетев американские разведчики. Затем они на огромной скорости пролетели над самим мостом. Вскоре десятки бомбардировщиков налетели на мост. До Лев начался от Тхань-Хон. Разбитики сбивали три вражеских самолета, уберегли мост им не удалось. Один американский реактивный истребитель попытался внезапно атаковать Хам-Жонг, но был сбит и упал на берег реки. След за истребителями появились другие самолеты. Они шли группами по 12—15 машин. Эшелон за эшелоном заходили они на бомбежку. Зенитчики встретили их огнем. Загорелся один самолет, второй, третий... Но палет не прекращался. Он продолжался пять долгих часов.

Рядом с войсками отважно сражались народные ополченцы из небольшой деревушки Нам-Тхань. Они стреляли по американским самолетам из винтовок и пулеметов, переносили раненых, подносили боеприпасы. Среди отважных защитников моста была и девушка Нгуен Тхань Ханг, о которой уже рассказывалось на страницах «Привет». (Названия Нгуен Тхань Ханг добывала в составе вьетнамской делегации в Москве).

На следующий день стала повторяться. Самолеты противника делали непрерывные заходы. Стремясь подавить удары на позиции артиллеристов. За два дня на Хам-Жонг было сброшено более 800 бомб весом от 250 килограммов до тонны каждая. Самолеты выпустили по нему сотни ракет разлитого калибра.

После этих налетов в я ушел в ст. А потом еще дважды проезжал здесь. Люди боролись за мост, несмотря на непрекращающиеся палеты. И он, как стойкий вьетнамский солдат, продолжал оставаться в строю, служить своей республике.

Зенитчикам все время приходилось отбивать атаки. Кто бывал в тропиках, тот знает, какая духота стоит здесь днем. Непременно трудно человеку работать в этих условиях. Зенитчикам приходилось по несколько часов подряд отбивать атаки. Только в районе, где сражалась батарея младшего лейтенанта Ха Хюнг Куанга, было за день сброшено свыше 300 бомб.

Одно время палеты на мост почти прекратились. Было лишь несколько полетов небольшими группами атаковать его. Это снова зачастили самолеты-разведчики. И вот до израненному мосту был нанесен новый массированный удар. Своим заданием бомбы, взрывались ракеты.

Одним из крупных налетов на Хам-Жонг лично командовал министр обороны США Макнамара, прибывший со специальным визитом в Южный Вьетнам. В американских газетах появились фотографии, на которых улыбающийся Макнамара стоял в шлемофон на борту закорючки «Индипенденс»: он только что вылез из кювету катапульти и выпустил бомбардировщик в очередь влететь на Демократическую Республику Вьетнам. 17 американских самолетов взяли курс на Хам-Жонг. Для обеспечения успеха в этот район был послан самолет-разведчик «RR-57», а затем и беспилотный самолет-разведчик.

Легко прогляди у американских летчиков не получились. Им пришлось долго сражаться за этот мост. Вьетнам-

ские зенитчики сбив четыре самолета, в том числе и беспилотный разведчик. Одним из первых был сбит самолет американского подполковника, руководившего налетом. Он выбросился с парашютом и был взорван на реке Ма, куда упал. Самолет подполковника рухнул в километре от моста. В том же направлении в плен еще один американский пилот, тоже выбросившийся с парашютом. Он поспе на кокосовой пальме.

В августе и сентябре атаки на Хам-Жонг продолжались. Всего американская авиация сбросила более 40 раз бомбы и обстреляла его, сбросив около полутора тысяч бомб и свыше тысячи ракет. В радиусе нескольких десятков километров от моста налетают естество 13 единиц войск американских самолетов. Много воздушных пиратов ружью в море.

Взаимные солдаты похищали и уничтожали документы, валяны американских летчиков. Отправляла пилотов и палеты на Демократическую Республику Вьетнам, американское командование гидро снабжает их всякой справочной литературой и другими вещами, нацинал от миниатюрного аэрометеорологического радиопередатчика до широтной станции и таблиц от бесконечности.

Под документом лейтенанта Лорнда М. Кристмана, в них подробно указаны дивет его волос и глаз, рост, вес, группа крови и даже проставлены отпечатки пальцев левой и правой руки. Среди его вещей несколько долларов, заграничные марок и фотографии танка с сивой Джулиан Корн и британского адресом на обратной стороне. Там же проставлена и дата — 21 апреля 1965 года.

На всякий случай прихватила с собой лейтенант и разговорины, состоявшиеся на вьетнамском, таиландском, индонезийском, италийском и французском языках. (Какая география!). Помимо вопросов о горючей воде, есть там и полиграфический словарь, карта на одной из страниц.

Как далеко находится отсюда друженствителю партизана? Где один? Скажи ты им, чтобы они послали за мной.

Reviewed by DPAA IAW DoDM 5400.07 and P.L. 102-190, 105 Stat. 1290, 1480-1481 Date: 19 Mar 2024 Initials: RW

QC'd by DPAA Date: 26 Mar 2024 Initials: CG

REPRODUCTION

Page 7 missing.

"The Defenders of Ham Song" (phonetically from the Russian)
(Translated from "Pravda", issue of 11 October 1965, by
Brig. Gen. J. F. Amisano, USAF (Ret)).

The life of the Viet Nam anti-aircraft crew is difficult and dangerous. It is easier to reckon the quiet hours, than how many times each twenty-four hours, having clung to their weapons, they have to watch out for approaching American planes, and to engage them in battle. The old "signal sound" stations" ten, and at times twenty times a day. Here, even now, when the battery commander, Ha Hui Quang, only began the story about the latest fights, it was announced from the observation post that a group of American fighters were approaching TRAN HOA.

We met the soldiers of this battery in May. They gave us a gift, at that time, of a miniature representation of the American fighter plane "F-105" made by the soldiers from the remains of a plane shot down by them during the first battle at the Ham Song bridge. At that time the battery was not far from the electric power station. Now the weapons are standing in rice fields, from where the bridge is plainly seen.

I dare say, one cannot find another objective in Viet Nam on which American aviators would drop so many bombs than on the Ham Song bridge. It crosses over, between two mountains, above the deep Ma river, at the town of Tran Hoa. I did not happen to see it built. Only documentary cinema films have immortalized it.

I happened into these places for the first time several months ago. We heard then about the great attack by American aviation on the Ham Song Bridge last November. I learned all the consequences of the treacherous bomb-attacks. At the Ma River they told us that we had crossed over to the other bank, on a ferry, the bridge was damaged. The night was lunar and bright. On the Ham Song it was painful to see the distasteful girders and spans which had crashed down into the water.

Bridges were one of the primary targets against which American aviation directed its attacks. From the first attacks on the territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam photographs of demolished bridges have glittered on the pages of American newspapers. Secretary of Defense Rusk in a self-satisfied manner showed such photos to journalists, extolling the power and accuracy of the bombing attacks of his aviation. American propagandists are making no little effort to promote the idea to the people that Viet Nam are purely military objectives.

to American aviation bombs bridges in North Viet Nam not because soldiers can use them for movement. The United States did this to undermine the entire economic life of the country, to create difficulties in the industries and rural economy of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

The Ham Song bridge is one of the largest in the Republic. It went into operation in May 1964. It was glad the Viet Nam constructors were there! They knew that

It was necessary to accelerate the development of the
 national economy of the Republic. That is exactly why
 financial matters were the foremost and most prominent
 along with it.
 The attack was amazingly successful. Once, in the
 bridge over the river, American reconnaissance planes passed over
 several times, at a great height. Then, at great speed,
 they were shot down. Shortly after, from the
 town they attacked the bridge, Do Ten, not far from
 Tan Hoa. The aircraft gunners shot down three or
 four planes but they did not succeed in burning the bridge.
 The Americans got higher, attempted to parachute attack
 Tan Hoa, but were shot down and fell on the main tank.
 Immediately after the fighting planes, other planes appeared
 flying in groups of 10 to 15 machines. Section after section
 for some in for the landing. The anti-aircraft gunners
 met them with fire. One plane, a second, a third, turned
 down. But the attack did not cease. It continued
 for long hours. The national resistance from the front
 village of Nam-Ngan fought bravely against the planes.
 They fired at the diving planes with rifles and machine
 gunners, changed the mortar, and brought up anti
 aircraft. A young girl, Nguyen Thi Hang, about sixteen
 years old, was killed in the bridge. (Recently, Nguyen
 Thi Hang visited Hanoi as a member of the Viet Nam
 delegation.)
 The attack was reported the next day, in my paper

made no mention of the bridge at all, and the only mention of the bridge was in the paragraph concerning the attack on the bridge. The bridge was destroyed on the night of the attack on the bridge, and the only mention of the bridge was in the paragraph concerning the attack on the bridge. The bridge was destroyed on the night of the attack on the bridge, and the only mention of the bridge was in the paragraph concerning the attack on the bridge.

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XERO COPY

100-100

in American newspapers in which the smiling MacArthur stood, in a phone helmet, on board the aircraft carrier "Independence"; he had just pushed the button of the catapult and released a bomber for an attack on the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. 17 American planes set course for Ham-Song. In order to ensure success in that region an "RB-57" reconnaissance plane was sent, and after that, a pilot-less reconnaissance plane.

The Americans did not have an easy walk. They had to pay heavily for this attack. Viet Nam anti-aircraft crews shot down four planes, including the pilot-less reconnaissance plane. The plane of the Australian lieutenant Colonel who led the attack was one of the first shot down. He jumped in his parachute, and was fished out of the water. He was taken to Hanoi, where he had fallen. The lieutenant Colonel's plane crashed a kilometer from the bridge. In the very same battle another American pilot, who also had jumped in his parachute was taken prisoner. He was suspended from a coconut palm.

Demer
Hunt

In August and September the attacks on Ham Song continued. In all, American aircraft bombed and shot it up more than 400 times, and dropped about one and a half thousand bombs and over a thousand rockets. The remains of 12 American planes, shot down here, lie about within a radius of several tens of kilometers from the bridge. They are scattered and crashed into the sea.

The Viet Nam Communists showed no curious concern to be taken from American air attacks. When pilots are sent in

Reminded I am the instructor

V. Sharapov
(Special Representative of Prayda)
Town of T-han Hoa

factoring, stand the status Viet Nam people who
will not be interested in doing any work

CASUALTY BRANCH CHECK OFF LIST

CHRISTIAN, David Marion, 674340/1315, LTJG, USNR

REPORT NO. 97786-A

(NAME) LAST FIRST MIDDLE SERV. NO.

CASO: (b)(6)

ANALYZED BY HALL

CLAIMS SERV 6/4/65

NOTIF. TELEGRAM DTG BUPERS ORIGINATOR BUPERS DATE

DD FORM 1300 24 April 65 PHOTODUPLICATION MADE 6/3/65

REPORT OF CASUALTY PREPARED 6/3/65

DISTRIBUTION OF REPORT OF CASUALTY

59 Jun 65 - Parents

SECNAV CONDOLENCE LETTER

TO

(RELATIONSHIP)

INSURANCE COMPANIES

PRUDENTIAL INS. CO. OF AMERICA, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY;

DEATH BENEFITS

FINISH FILE PERS G-25A

FINISH FILE PERS G-25A

DOCUMENT

UNPAID PAY & ALLOWANCES

JUN 1965

BY

REMARKS

DEATH GRATUITY CLAIM

8 JUN 1965

GUARDIANSHIP PAPERS

NYX-6-4-65

ADMINISTRATIVE LETTERS

CERTIFIED BENEFICIARY FOR DEATH GRATUITY

21a - mother

NAME Death Gratuity paid 4 June 1965
Claim fwd.

RELATIONSHIP

NO DESIGNATION/DESIGNATION

NAME Jess M. Christian - Father

RELATIONSHIP

8 JUN 1965

Ethel E. Christian - Mother

NAME 9642 Los Coches Road

RELATIONSHIP

Lakeside, Calif.

CERTIFIED BENEFICIARY FOR UNPAID PAY AND ALLOWANCES

DESIGNATION/NO DESIGNATION

NAME Jess M. Christian - 50%

RELATIONSHIP

Father

ADDRESS F21a - P.

Lakeside,

NAME 9642 Los Coches, Calif.

RELATIONSHIP

ADDRESS

NAME Ethel E. Christian - Mother

RELATIONSHIP

29 JUN 1965

ADDRESS

9642 Los Coches road, Lakeside, Calif.

ROUTINE

RESEARCH

CONDUCT

June 3, 1970

(b)(6)

Dear Sir,

I am sending these pictures to you since you have been so kind to speak to the Navy about them for me.

Please note the horizontal scar just below the left eyebrow and above the left eye. Also the place, high on the right side of David's forehead which is about the size of a half dollar and slightly raised. There is also a tiny white scar there.

Please return the pictures!

Other similarities such as the nose, (broken,) mouth, chin line and hair line, even the ear, I'm sure you will see

Most sincerely
Mrs. Christian

Handwritten notes and signatures at the top of the page, including "L4" and "11".

June 4, 1970

Handwritten initials "DWS" on the right side of the page.

Mr. and Mrs. Jess M. Christian
12736 Castle Court
Lakeside, California

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Christian:

Secretary Rogers has asked me to respond to your moving telegram expressing your concern about the possibility that North Vietnam may put our men on trial as "war criminals." I fully understand your concern about this situation after the length of time since your son was lost.

North Vietnam has referred to our men as "war criminals" since early 1965 and from time to time has threatened to conduct "trials." The threat appeared most serious in 1966 when the men were paraded through the streets of Hanoi and other action indicated extreme propaganda exploitation. This aroused world-wide public and diplomatic concern, in the face of which North Vietnam announced that the "trials" had been called off. Since that time, there have been no significant actions by North Vietnam to indicate such "trials" would be held.

Needless to say, our Government is fully concerned about this situation and is prepared to take all useful action to protect our men and to prevent illegal propaganda procedures such as these "trials" would be. We are pressing North Vietnam to release our men soon, and in the meanwhile to treat them properly, as required by the Geneva Prisoner of War Convention. We will also demand the fullest possible accounting of the dead and missing.

Sincerely,

Frank A. Sieverts
Special Assistant to
the Under Secretary

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : (b)(6)
Naval Intelligence Command

Pers-G231-pai
DATE: 17 Jun 1970

FROM : Head, Navy Casualty Branch

SUBJECT: LTJG David Marion CHRISTIAN, USNR, 674340/1315, KIA 2 Jun 65

Encl: (1) Letter from mother of subject dated 3 Jun 70 w/4 encls

1. It is requested that a photograph analysis be made on the enclosed photographs and we be advised of the results of the analysis. The photographs will then be returned to Mrs. Christian and the results of the analysis will be forwarded for her information and retention.

(b)(6)

CNP

REFERRED TO OFFICE OF:		PURPOSE:
ASSISTANT SECRETARY (INSTALLATIONS AND LOGISTICS)		A - PREPARATION OF REPLY FOR SECRETARIAL SIGNATURE. COORDINATE WITH OTHER OFFICES AS NECESSARY (See Note (1))
NAVAL PETROLEUM AND OIL SHALE RESERVES		
ASSISTANT SECRETARY (FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT)		B - NECESSARY ACTION (Action addressee is expected to take necessary action and coordination as considered appropriate) (See Note (2))
THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY		
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER		
ASSISTANT SECRETARY (RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT)		C - PLEASE REPLY DIRECT FOR THE SECRETARY. COORDINATE WITH OTHER OFFICES AS NECESSARY. (See Note (2))
CHIEF OF NAVAL RESEARCH		
E ASSISTANT SECRETARY (MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)		D - PLEASE FURNISH DATA ON WHICH TO BASE A REPLY
DIRECTOR, CIVILIAN MANPOWER MANAGEMENT		
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, NAVY DEPARTMENT		E - INFORMATION AND RETENTION
GENERAL COUNSEL		F - CLEARANCE (INITIAL) AND RETURN
CHIEF OF INFORMATION		G - SIGNATURE
JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL		H - INFORMATION AND RETURN FOR SECNAV OFFICIAL FILES
CHIEF OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS		
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF PROGRAM APPRAISAL		I - COMMENT OR RECOMMENDATION
E CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS		J - COORDINATE WITH ACTION ADDRESSEES AS NECESSARY
CHIEF OF NAVAL MATERIAL		
COMMANDER, AIR SYSTEMS COMMAND		NOTE: (1) Follow SECNAV INSTRUCTION 5216.1 (Current Series) in preparing correspondence for the Secretary of the Navy or his Civilian Executive Assistants. (2) Forward for SecNav files a copy of any acknowledgement, interim reply, or final reply that is made direct. SecNav Control No. to appear on copy.
COMMANDER, SHIP SYSTEMS COMMAND		
COMMANDER, ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS COMMAND		
COMMANDER, ORDNANCE SYSTEMS COMMAND		
COMMANDER, SUPPLY SYSTEMS COMMAND		
COMMANDER, FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND	(b)(6)	
E CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL	(b)(6)	
CHIEF, BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY		
COMMANDER, MILITARY SEA TRANSPORTATION SERVICE		
COMMANDANT, MARINE CORPS		

SUSPENSE DATE 12 AUG 1970	ROUTING DATE 6 AUG 1970	CONTROL NO. 2 6806
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CONTROLLED MAIL RECORD

CONTROL NO. **R/S- SN 2 6806 8/7/70** BY **JJ** REG. MAIL NO. **470** OPNAV FORM 5216-3 (REV. 4-65)

FROM	SERIAL	DATE	DATE RECEIVED 8/6/70	FILE SYMBOL
ORIGINATOR (Basic document) NRS. JESS M. CHRISTIANCE	SERIAL None	DATE 8/1/70	TOTAL NO. OF COPIES REC. 0-1g	
TO SENAV			ENCLOSURE(S) RECEIVED	
SUBJECT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE WILL ULTIMATELY BE CALLED UPON TO ACK ACCOUNT FOR ALL OF OUR PERSONNEL WHO MAY POSSIBLY HAVE COME INTO THEIR HANDS (A) 8/XX12/70			REPLY DUE BY 8/12/70	

PROMPT ACTION IS REQUIRED-

IN THE HANDLING OF THE ATTACHED UNCLASSIFIED MATERIAL

OP.	FOR	COPY NO.		COPY RETENTION	RECEIPT SIGNATURE	OUT DATE	OP.	FOR	COPY NO.		COPY RETENTION	RECEIPT SIGNATURE	OUT DATE
		LTR	ENCL						LTR	ENCL			
01	A1					8/7/70							

SECRETARIAL MAIL - URGENT

- * SYMBOLS**
- A-Action
 - C-Comment
 - I-Information
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 2. Sign receipt copy of Control Record to acknowledge receipt of material.
 3. Sign Original of Control Record when copies are retained and enter number in RETENTION column.
 4. When material is endorsed to an activity outside the OPNAV organization, the Control Record must be attached to the "GREEN" file copy of the endorsement.
 5. Action office will indicate below, action taken, including letter, serial and date, if applicable. If no action is required, so indicate.

REMARKS (Copy disposition, action taken, etc.)	ACTION LETTER SERIAL AND DATE
	CONTROL CENTER USE ONLY F. F. BY DATE
	CONTROL NO. R/S- SN 2 6806

Reviewed by DPAA IAW DoDM 5400.07 and P.L. 102-190, 105 Stat. 1290, 1480-1481
Date: 19 Mar 2024 Initials: RW

QC'd by DPAA
Date: 26 Mar 2024
Initials: CG

12736 Castle Court Drive
Lakeside, California
August 1, 1970

The Honorable the Secretary of the Navy
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

You will not remember me, but I had the pleasure of meeting you at a reception given by you and Vice Admiral and (b)(6) at Coronado in April 1969. I am writing you concerning a matter of utmost importance to me and my family and, perhaps the very life of my son.

My son is David Marion Christian, a Naval Aviator for the United States Navy. He flew the Sky-hawk A4-E. He was shot down while on a mission over North Vietnam on June 2, 1965. He was listed as Killed in Action.

I will try to be brief and to the point but I feel I must give you the facts as I understand them and make it clear why I write this letter.

In the October 11 issue, 1965, of the Russian "Pravda" David's name and the name of Captain Stockdale appeared. The article in which their names appeared was written by V. Sharapov, special correspondent for Pravda. It gave David's name, listed some personal items, and mentioned documentary information which I believe most Pilots carry. It did not, however, say whether David was dead or alive. I have been told by (b)(6) in Washington that there is no record of the Pravda article being inquired into at that time. This past year I have taken it upon myself to write to (b)(6) Sharapov seeking information as to whether he saw David alive. I have had no answer. I have also written to the Russian Ambassador in Washington and received no response. It has been shocking to learn that David's government was not concerned enough over one Pilot to attempt to obtain information from (b)(6). (b)(6) may have interviewed David live. The very fact that David's name appeared after he was downed gives his family hope.

In December of 1967 the Department of the Navy sent

(b)(6) and (b)(6) to our home in Lakeside, California with a short letter marked "Top secret" saying there was a possibility David could be a Prisoner of War. We were not allowed to keep the letter nor tell anyone of this information. We were led to believe that (b)(6) (b)(6) was sent to California, in large part, just to give us this bit of hope. But, the Navy said, David's status could not be changed. The reasons, and I quote: "Information was obtained through sensitive sources. They cannot accurately evaluate the validity of this report. The information is not of high enough reliability to change status." Since nothing has come through to add support to this possibility, the Navy now feels there is less hope for David than before. I do not understand their reasoning.

We have asked for a review of David's case. Admiral Guinn assures me this has been done. We have also asked both the Navy and the Defense Department to place his name on the list of men our government is asking Hanoi to account for. We feel it may be vital to David's life. I am well aware Sir, that the Navy does not operate on Mothers Intuitions but I know my son is alive. If he had died I would have known. And I will not give up fighting for him to be listed as MIA. I know too many wives whose husbands are so listed and they have heard nothing from them. Enclosed you will find two letters from Admiral Guinn stating the Navy's position on our request, and one letter from me to the Admiral in which I convey the sincere feelings of my family concerning the handling of David's case and the POW situation in general.

Enclosed also is a picture of two POW's presumably taken by the North Vietnamese in 1966. My family did not see the picture until it appeared in Look magazine in May of this year. You will recognize the picture as the same one being used by the National League of Families of prisoners in Southeast Asia. Many of David's High School friends and College buddies, Our Minister who has known David for more than ten years, and our family feel that one of the men could very well be David. I firmly believe that it is. I have sent (b)(6) in Washington some pictures of David and asked that they be compared with the POW picture in the Navy photo lab. Two weeks ago I called to ask for a progress report on them and was told it would be another 4 to 6 weeks before we would know. The Navy did not feel the pictures were of significant importance to put any priority on them.

In view of the things which have come to the Navy's attention concerning David these past five years, we are asking You Sir, why David's status cannot be changed? If there is the slightest question of a KIA status, if there is the smallest bit of information that he may be alive,

If there is even a flicker of the light of hope for David's life as a prisoner of war, how in the name of God can his country fail to give both him and his family the benefit of it? If David's name is not openly put on the list which is given Hanoi, they do not have to account for him. Korea is an excellent example of this.

Our family has concluded that the reason the Navy will not change David's status is because of the Legal matter of insurance. The money due him as a Prisoner of War would of necessity have to be put into an account for him where it would draw interest. Be assured we do not want our son's money, we, his parents, were not dependent upon David for our support.

I do not believe we are asking the impossible. We believe we have reason to ask for a change of status for David from That of KIA to that of MIA. And this, Mr Secretary, is what we are requesting you to do. We are not now nor have we ever asked for David to be listed as a POW.

I am asking you to please return the two letters from Admiral Guinn and the one letter I had written to him as I keep all Official mail and coppies of letters I write.

Thank you for reading this rather lengthy letter. I will be looking forward to your answer in the very near future.

Sincerely,

Miss Jess M. Huston



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20370

IN REPLY REFER TO

Pers (b)(6)

FEB 25 1970

Dear Mrs. Christian:

Thank you for your letter of 17 February 1970. I have given careful consideration to your request that David's name be placed on the list of MIA and POW personnel which was submitted to the North Vietnamese delegation in Paris and must regretfully advise you that this course of action is not considered to be in the best interests of our captured and missing personnel. The entire matter has been reviewed with (b)(6), who indicated that he did not intend to convey any commitment to you beyond his confidence in the Navy's evaluation of the case.

Realizing that you will not agree with this course of action, I would like to take this opportunity to discuss some of the factors which were considered in reaching this decision. I know that you are aware of the difficulties we have encountered in attempting to get information from the North Vietnamese concerning United States servicemen held by them, or concerning whom they may have knowledge. The tendering of a full list of our personnel carried as captured or missing was yet another move in our efforts to establish a reliable flow of prisoner information. We believe that we have a more persuasive and urgent case, and one which will draw maximum support and pressure from world opinion, if we elect to press initially for information on persons carried as missing or captured. The North Vietnamese will ultimately be called upon to account for all of our personnel who may possibly have come into their hands. The omission of an individual's name from the current list of personnel on whom we seek information will not relieve them of that accountability, and they have no reason to believe that it will.

We believe that the North Vietnamese are aware of the names of all of our personnel carried as killed in action in Southeast Asia. Their failure to find your son's name on a list of captured and missing personnel would therefore come as no surprise. On the contrary, the insertion on such a list of the name of a person known to have been carried previously as killed in action would be seized upon by them as a basis for challenging the validity of the list and our sincerity in presenting it. Further, to submit the name of any one person carried in a KIA status, whose remains have not been recovered, without submitting all such names would be a breach of faith on our part with the applicable next of kin. They too have a right to an accounting concerning their loved ones. As mentioned previously, we intend to demand such an accounting but for the present deem it wise to press only for information concerning those carried as missing or captured.

2 6806

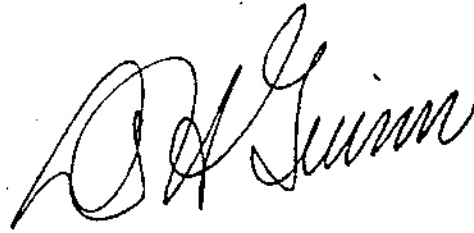
Reviewed by DPAA IAW DoDM 5400.07 and
P.L. 102-190, 105 Stat. 1290, 1480-1481
Date: 19 Mar 2024 Initials: RW

QC'd by DPAA
Date: 26 Mar 2024
Initials: CG

In the meantime, Mrs. Christian, let me assure you that your son's case is by no means closed out or forgotten. A casualty file containing all data relating to his loss is retained by the Bureau of Naval Personnel and the Naval Intelligence Command. Current intelligence is thoroughly reviewed for possible application to any of our personnel, whether they are carried as captured, missing or killed in action. Further, the debriefing of released prisoners is carefully screened and evaluated for possible correlation. Any information concerning your son would lead without fail to his file and to any appropriate notification, reconsideration, or other indicated action. Past experience in your son's particular case has proven the validity of this procedure.

The Secretary of the Navy is in agreement with the position I have described, so I cannot lend any encouragement that your request can be honored. Although I regret that I am unable to provide you with a reply more completely in accord with your wishes, I hope that I have conveyed to you our continuing concern and alertness for any information which might relate to your son. If I can be of any further assistance to you on this or any other matter, please feel free to call upon me at your convenience.

Sincerely,



D. H. GUINN
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy
Deputy Chief of Naval Personnel

Mrs. Jess M. Christian
12736 Castle Court
Lakeside, California 92040

12736 Castle Ct.
Lakeside, Ca.
March 20, 1970

D. H. Guinn
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy
Deputy Chief of Naval Personnel

Sir:

Thank you for your time and consideration concerning our request that our son David's name be put on the list of men missing in action over North Vietnam. I have carefully read the factors you present in coming to your decision and I would like to take one last opportunity to try to convey my family's feelings toward this whole situation.

First of all, I do not agree that Hanoi will ever have to account for any personnel who has come into their hands. We have been at the Peace table with them for two years and scolded them time after time and there is at this time no visible evidence that we or any other nation has any persuasive power over them. World opinion does not appear to be at this time in our favor either.

Secondly, David's case is not the same as all men listed as KIA. If it were, I should have to agree with you that we would be asking a special favor above other families in that category. Hanoi most certainly does know who are listed as KIA. They also know that David's name appeared in the Russian "Pravda" in October of 1965 in connection with the name of Captain Stockdale. (b)(6)

(b)(6) verifies that what the Pravda said of her husband is true. Yet the Navy gave no credence to the information concerning David, and we were not told why until (b)(6) explained to me over the telephone that it is often a trick of the North Vietnamese to put out an article of that nature on one man who had been listed as KIA. However, the article was not written by Hanoi but by a Russian Correspondent. What did he have to gain by that particular bit of propaganda? Moreover, there is no written record, according to (b)(6), that any inquiry was made of the Russian correspondent concerning the Pravda article. There was some evidence, however questionable the reliability, received by the Navy in December 1967 of the possibility that David was a POW. In view of these two factors, it is very difficult to understand why David's status was not changed to that of MIA at that time. We are not now and have never asked that his status be changed to that of POW even though I believe in (b)(6) mind this is true.

Our past experience, Admiral Guinn, has proven that it is almost impossible to get a review of David's case after a lapse of five years. It has been like pulling eye teeth to get any one in the Navy to agree that we may have any claim whatever to our belief that David might possibly be alive in North Vietnam.

Who does David have beside his family and friends to plead his case? We, the parents, and the wives and children of men who are listed as MIA and POW have ^{been} crying out quietly these past five years for help, and no one has answered. We receive only pacifiers. We are looking for some one to help our loved ones who are held captive in a foreign land --- those who cannot help themselves, and there is no man. We are all realistic enough to know that the fate of 1400 men is not going to change the course of the war. But we do have one question: How many years must the Prisoners remain in captivity while we Vietnamize the South Vietnamese? You are right, it is a question for the Congress and the President. And I have written the President about our anxieties and have received no answers. So great a nation! And so weak leadership! We fear of offending Hanoi, and Hanoi laughs at us.

I am sure there must be others whose status is in question, as is Davids. I plead their case also.

In my opinion, Hanoi has never stopped questioning our sincerity. They are the ones who are giving us an ultimatum. And we question their sincerity. And I regret that the Navy which David served so well feels that it would be a breach of faith with all families whose loved ones were listed as KIA, to inquire of Hanoi as to the validity of the Pravda article and also to question any other source of information. After five years, they surely must know some information would have filtered out of the north. They are not stupid.

Thank you for reading this rather lengthy letter. I appreciate your past courtesies and your promptness in answering my last letter.

Most sincerely

Mrs. Jean M. Schuster



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20370

IN REPLY REFER TO
Pers- (b)(6)

MAR 27 1970

Dear Mrs. Christian,

Thank you for your letter of 20 March 1970. There are two points which I feel should be clarified: First, concerning the PRAVDA article, I am sure you are aware that the content does not address the subject of your son's survival. The writer was able to accomplish his purpose without any discussion of David's fate. We have requested that the State Department pursue the matter of the PRAVDA article through diplomatic channels to determine whether additional information can be made available. Naturally we will advise you of any information received, and know that you will do the same should you get a reply to the personal inquiry you made of Mr. Sharapov.

Secondly, there is no difficulty whatever in having your son's case reviewed. Let me assure you that David's case is well known among our personnel who work in prisoner of war and missing personnel matters, and that it has been thoroughly reviewed in the recent past.

Your frankness is appreciated, and while I know I have not been able to resolve the matter to your satisfaction, I hope that some increased understanding has developed.

Sincerely,

D. H. GUINN
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy
Deputy Chief of Naval Personnel

Mrs. Jess Christian
12736 Castle Court
Lakeside, California 92040

2 6806

A PRAYER FOR PRISONERS OF WAR

Almighty Father, who suffers in the affliction of your children, we call upon you now from the depths of our anxiety and great concern for our countrymen and loved ones who have fallen into the hands of the nation's foes. In the face of the evils that these brave men endure and before the grim burdens are forced to bear, give them courage and hope, and never failing confidence in you.

But most of all, O God, we ask that the day will soon come when we can all celebrate their release and safe return to their homes and kindred.

Give to all of us who wait and hope in the face of every disappointment the will to persevere in the cause of peace and the wisdom to conquer hate with love and every doubt with a renewed faith in you.

Amen

D. →
believe
their
hands
I know
his hands
and was
scars, one
high on the
forehead.
One under
the left
eyebrow



2 6806

WE ARE SUMMONED TO REMEMBER SOULS AMONG THE LIVING WHO ARE SUFFERING DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY, PAIN, LONELINESS, HUNGER AND THE DAILY PERIL OF PHYSICAL TORTURE--OUR PRISONERS OF WAR IN ASIA.

Pers (b)(6)
AGG 1 3 1970

Dear Senator Murphy:

This is in reply to your inquiry of 5 August 1970 concerning Lieutenant (junior grade) David M. Christian.

Lieutenant (junior grade) Christian was reported killed in action 2 June 1965, while on a combat mission over North Vietnam. His jet aircraft was hit by enemy antiaircraft artillery fire. He attempted to glide his burning aircraft clear of the land and crashed into the sea a short distance offshore. No parachute deployment was seen, and search efforts which followed were unfruitful. The incident was observed by Lieutenant (junior grade) Christian's Commanding Officer. This officer felt there was conclusive evidence that the pilot had perished in the crash and formally determined, in accordance with service regulations, that Lieutenant (junior grade) Christian had been killed in action.

In the 11 October 1965 issue of PRAVDA, a Soviet journalist reported having been shown several documents known to once have been in Lieutenant (junior grade) Christian's possession, among them his Armed Forces Identification Card. No mention was made of the pilot's condition or of the circumstances by which the documents were obtained by the North Vietnamese. In this same article the author described seeing Captain James Stockdale and recounted details of that officer's capture.

In late November 1967, the Navy obtained information through a sensitive source that raised the possibility of Lieutenant (junior grade) Christian's survival. This information was passed to Mr. and Mrs. Christian on 1 December 1967 with the qualification that its validity could not be accurately evaluated, and that the information was not considered to be reliable enough in itself to warrant a change in their son's status.

The information was equally applicable to another former Navy pilot with the same surname as Lieutenant (junior grade) Christian. This other officer was subsequently confirmed through other intelligence sources to be a prisoner of war. He has written to his family and is named in the list recently published by the Committee of Liaison in the New York Times.

The man in the picture referred to by Mrs. Christian has been positively identified as an Air Force pilot. In view of her continuing belief that the individual in the picture could be her son, a photo analysis was made using comparison pictures supplied by Mrs. Christian. The results of this analysis were negative and the report has been forwarded to Mrs. Christian.

Mrs. Christian has been assured that, while the substantive information received since the date of his loss has not been sufficient to warrant a change in status, her son's case is by no means closed. The Navy continues to screen and evaluate all intelligence data for possible correlation to any of our captured, missing or killed personnel. Further, at the first opportunity and certainly upon the completion of hostilities, the North Vietnamese will be pressed to account for all of our North Vietnam casualties. Since they have made public some of Lieutenant (junior grade) Christian's personal effects, it would be ludicrous for the North Vietnamese government to disclaim any knowledge of him.

Your interest in this matter is appreciated. It is hoped that this information will be helpful to you.

By direction of the Chief of Naval Personnel:

Sincerely yours,

(b)(6)

Special Assistant for PW Matters

Honorable George Murphy
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Copy to:
OLA R.S. 8-553

(b)(6)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 08-14-2001 BY SP-2001-08-14-2001
 (SECRETARY OF DEFENSE)

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C. PLEASE REFER TO THE NUMBER
 CONGRESS DISTRICT

D. [Illegible]

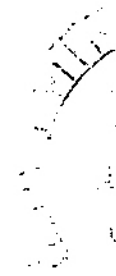
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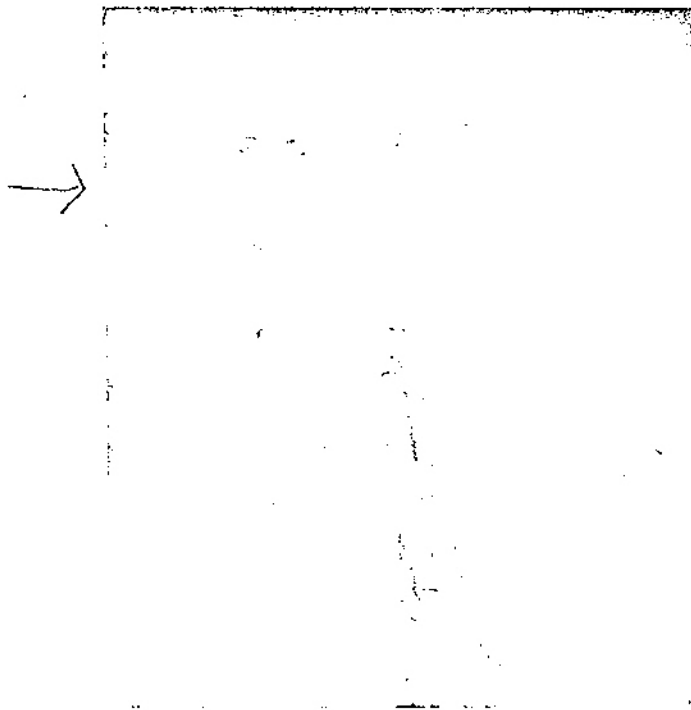
PRAYER FOR PRISONERS OF WAR

Almighty Father, who suffers in the affliction of your children, we call upon you now from the depths of our anxiety and great concern for our countrymen and loved ones who have fallen into the hands of the nation's foes. In the face of the evils that these brave men endure and before the grim burdens are forced to bear, give them courage and hope, and never failing confidence in you.

But most of all, O God, we ask that the day will soon come when we can all celebrate their release and safe return to their homes and kindred.

Give to all of us who wait and hope in the face of every disappointment the will to persevere in the cause of peace and the wisdom to conquer hate with love and every doubt with a renewed faith in you.

Amen



TO REMEMBER SOME OF THE
ARE SUFFERING DEPRIVATION, TY,
AND INESS, HUNGER AND THE DAILY OF
TORTURE--OUR PRISONERS OF WAR

FOR HUSBAND OR SON OR FATHER OR BROTHER
OR FRIEND WERE BEING HELD CAPTIVE, WOULD YOU
WRITE YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND HANOI FOR HIM?
WOULD YOU PRAY DAILY FOR HIS RELEASE?

These questions need no answers. Of course
you would.

BUT WOULD YOU DO IT FOR SOMEONE ELSE'S
HUSBAND OR SON OR FATHER OR BROTHER?

That question does need an answer---your
answer in the form of prayerful concern and
positive action.

Express your concern by writing, in the name
of humanity, that

....all injured prisoners be released as
quickly as possible.

....all names of all prisoners be published :

....prisoners be allowed to exchange mail
with their families.

....impartial inspection be made immediately
of prisoners facilities

....prisoners receive proper diet and
medical care

....all prisoners be released as soon as
possible.

Letters should be brief and to the point.
They should NOT be abusive.

Airmail postage is 25 cents for a letter
under 1/2 ounce. Address the envelope to:

Office of the President
Democratic Republic of Vietnam
Hanoi, North Vietnam
(Via Hong Kong)

write your Congressmen and Senators and
express your concern.

Will these letters help the P.O.W. situation?
YES... I can assure you they will and have already
done so.

"PRAYER for PRISONERS" was written by
Admiral James W. Kelly, CHC, USN
Chief of Chaplains

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"A PRAYER for PRISONERS" was written by
Rear Admiral James W. Kelly, CHC, USN
Chief of Chaplains

SKW

Mrs. Jess Christian
12736 Castle Court
Lakeside, California 92040

Dear Mrs. Christian:

Thank you for your recent letter and the attached correspondence concerning your son's loss. I recall with pleasure the reception held at Admiral Shinn's quarters and regret that I was unable to spend more time with you and the other ladies attending.

Your thoughts, as expressed in your correspondence, have been given the careful consideration they merit. After reviewing the information available concerning your son's loss, it is my conclusion that a proper determination of status has been made, and that the information received since June 2, 1965 does not justify a change.

As your letter eloquently expresses your concern and anguish as to the manner in which the Navy has handled your son's case, permit me to examine it in some detail with you. I hope as a result you will understand our position and agree with me that it is the only honest stand we can take under the circumstances.

Considerable weight must be placed in the original finding of David's Commanding Officer. He determined that there was conclusive evidence your son perished in the crash of his aircraft. Therefore, the case was not passed to higher levels for a status determination. (b)(6) (b)(6) was not required by regulation to make such a definite finding. Had he possessed a reasonable doubt he would have made only a recommendation, leaving the actual determination to others. Yet he was closer to this event than any who would have otherwise had to weigh these same facts. Details were known to him that could never be fully conveyed in the reports of your son's loss. As you are aware, (b)(6) a fine officer, personally witnessed the event. After careful deliberation it was his firm conviction that your son lost his life in the crash.

When such incidents occur in enemy controlled territory where investigation of the crash site is impossible, the chance of error always exists. There have been three indications to suggest the possibility that (b)(6) studied finding was incorrect: the article appearing in the October 11, 1965 issue of PRAVDA; the intelligence report shown to you in December, 1967; and the picture appearing in LOOK magazine.

The PRAVDA article tells us only that a Soviet journalist was shown several documents that had been in David's possession. In contrast with the writer's personal contact with Captain Stockdale, and the account of that officer's capture, the author gives not a hint as to your son's condition. It is most likely the North Vietnamese possessed this information. We cannot be at all sure that (b)(6) has any knowledge as to your son's fate. As Admiral Guinn stated in his letter of March 27, 1970, the State Department has attempted to obtain any additional facts that (b)(6) might know, without results to date. These efforts are continuing. In the absence of any such amplification, all we really can be sure of is that the North Vietnamese have obtained some of David's effects, a development which is not surprising in itself and which unfortunately gives no clue as to whether or not your son survived the crash.

On the face of it, the intelligence report might seem more promising. Yet, as you realize, all items of intelligence cannot be considered of equal value. This particular report was impossible to verify at the outset. It was relayed to you because it is the Navy Department's policy to provide the families of our men with all the information we possibly can concerning their loved ones. As you were advised by (b)(6) the circumstances of this report offer a most plausible explanation for its inapplicability to your son.

By now I am sure that you have received the report of the photo analysis of the picture appearing in LOOK magazine which you felt was your son. I am sorry that the results did not confirm your impression.

Regretfully, none of these items, either singly or in combination are judged to be of sufficient import to warrant a finding that your son is either missing in action or a prisoner of war. In reaching this painful decision, I am guided solely by an obligation to insure that the status determination is objective and reasonable in the light of all the information available. I can assure you that financial considerations have absolutely no bearing in such deliberations.

Turning from the substantive facets of your son's case, I would like to briefly address your concern that your son's name should be included in the list of missing and captured personnel presented to the North Vietnamese lest they have no responsibility to account for him when the war is over. While Admiral Guinn in his letter of February 25, 1970 has explained why we felt it unwise to include names of personnel carried as killed in action on this list, there is an additional point that should ease your apprehension in this regard. The North Vietnamese have announced that they have some, if not complete, knowledge of your son's fate. In showing David's personal effects to the Soviet journalist they have made it impossible to later disclaim any knowledge of your son.

Let me express my regret at being unable to comply with your wishes. Please accept my personal sympathy and my assurance that responsible personnel are alert for any information bearing on David's loss.

Sincerely yours,

Copy to:
SECNAV Files (3) Control #2 6806
CNO Files (1) R/S SN 2 6806
BuPers Files (1)

Prepared by:

(b)(6)

Date prepared: 8-10-70

River, where he had fallen. The lieutenant colonel's aircraft crashed a kilometer from the bridge. Another American pilot was taken prisoner in this battle. He also bailed out. He was suspended in a coconut palm.

The attacks on Ham Rung continued in August and September. All told, U.S. aircraft bombed and strafed it over 40 times, dropping about 1500 bombs and firing over 1000 rockets. Within a radius of several dozen kilometers from the bridge lie the remains of 13 U.S. aircraft shot down here. Many air pirates crashed into the sea.

My Vietnamese comrades showed me some interesting papers taken from American pilots. In sending pilots on raids against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the U.S. command generously supplies them with all sorts of reference material and other items, ranging from a miniature, automatic radio receiver to chewing gum and sleeping tablets.

Take, for example, Lt. David M. Christian's papers, with full details concerning the color of his hair and eyes, his height and weight, blood type and even prints of the fingers of his left and right hand. His effects also contained several dollars, West German marks and a photograph of a Thai girl (Cora), with a Bangkok address on the reverse side. It was dated: 21 April 1965.

To be on the safe side, the lieutenant carried with him a phrase book, in Vietnamese, Thai, Indonesian, Chinese and French (such geography!). In addition to questions about hot water, it also contains political dialogues. I shall read from one of the pages:

"How far are friendly partisans from here? Where are they? Tell them that they should send for me."

Or here is another example of the dialogue which, in the opinion of the U.S. Defense Department, a downed pilot should carry on with some of the local inhabitants:

"I am an American and do not speak your language. My misfortune compels me to ask you to give me food, shelter and protection from the Communists."

Don't you see, American pilots who are bringing death and destruction to the Vietnamese people nevertheless want to be "protected." In this connection I am reminded of another encounter.

4.
11 Oct 65
Applicable excerpt
from PRAVDA article

One night, when we were at Thanh Hoa, near the city hospital we saw a vehicle and some Vietnamese standing near it. A tall, tow-headed lad sat on a bench with his back leaning against the vehicle. It was an American pilot taken prisoner - Capt. James V. Stockwell. He was captured by peasants of a small fishing village, 30 km from Thanh Hoa. Militiamen (b)(6) and (b)(6) [obscure spelling] and the head of the household where we stayed - (b)(6) - were among them. They told us in detail how they spotted the parachute, how the American attempted to reach the sea, but then fell into a tree at the very edge of the water. Three aircraft circled him, attempting to clear an approach for a helicopter. The American pilot cut the parachute cords and fell to the ground, breaking his leg. The militiamen picked him up here. The doctors assisted the American, but the aircraft, circling the village went away empty-handed.

We told the fishermen what had been written in the phrase book for American pilots, how they wish to ask the Vietnamese for protection against the Communists. The people had a good, long laugh. Then (b)(6) said:

"Let not the American aggressor search for Communists among us. We have all become defenders of our homeland."

Side by side with Vietnamese soldiers in the defense of Ham Rung, at their posts at the Ban That Dam and in the factories at Vinh stand the entire Vietnamese people, who cannot be intimidated or subdued by any bombs.

In the meantime, Mrs. Christian, let me assure you that your son's case is by no means closed out or forgotten. A casualty file containing all data relating to his loss is retained by the Bureau of Naval Personnel and the Naval Intelligence Command. Current intelligence is thoroughly reviewed for possible application to any of our personnel, whether they are carried as captured, missing or killed in action. Further, the debriefing of released prisoners is carefully screened and evaluated for possible correlation. Any information concerning your son would lead without fail to his file and to any appropriate notification, reconsideration, or other indicated action. Past experience in your son's particular case has proven the validity of this procedure.

The Secretary of the Navy is in agreement with the position I have described, so I cannot lend any encouragement that your request can be honored. Although I regret that I am unable to provide you with a reply more completely in accord with your wishes, I hope that I have conveyed to you our continuing concern and alertness for any information which might relate to your son. If I can be of any further assistance to you on this or any other matter, please feel free to call upon me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

D. H. GUINN
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy
Deputy Chief of Naval Personnel

Mrs. Jess M. Christian
12736 Castle Court
Lakeside, California 92040

MAR 27 1970

Dear Mrs. Christian,

Thank you for your letter of 20 March 1970. There are two points which I feel should be clarified: First, concerning the PRAVDA article, I am sure you are aware that the content does not address the subject of your son's survival. The writer was able to accomplish his purpose without any discussion of David's fate. We have requested that the State Department pursue the matter of the PRAVDA article through diplomatic channels to determine whether additional information can be made available. Naturally we will advise you of any information received, and know that you will do the same should you get a reply to the personal inquiry you made of Mr. Starapov.

Secondly, there is no difficulty whatever in having your son's case reviewed. Let me assure you that David's case is well known among our personnel who work in prisoner of war and missing personnel matters, and that it has been thoroughly reviewed in the recent past.

Your frankness is appreciated, and while I know I have not been able to resolve the matter to your satisfaction, I hope that some increased understanding has developed.

Sincerely,

D. H. GUINN
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy
Deputy Chief of Naval Personnel

Mrs. Jess Christian
12736 Castle Court
Lakeside, California 92040

DCNP ltr dtd
27 Mar 1970

Pers-Gs-jw

FEB 25 1970

Dear Mrs. Christian:

Thank you for your letter of 17 February 1970. I have given careful consideration to your request that David's name be placed on the list of MIA and POW personnel which was submitted to the North Vietnamese delegation in Paris and must regretfully advise you that this course of action is not considered to be in the best interests of our captured and missing personnel. The entire matter has been reviewed with Colonel Work, who indicated that he did not intend to convey any commitment to you beyond his confidence in the Navy's evaluation of the case.

Realizing that you will not agree with this course of action, I would like to take this opportunity to discuss some of the factors which were considered in reaching this decision. I know that you are aware of the difficulties we have encountered in attempting to get information from the North Vietnamese concerning United States servicemen held by them, or concerning whom they may have knowledge. The tendering of a full list of our personnel carried as captured or missing was yet another step in our efforts to establish a reliable flow of prisoner information. We believe that we have a more persuasive and urgent case, and one which will draw maximum support and pressure from world opinion, if we elect to press initially for information on persons carried as missing or captured. The North Vietnamese will ultimately be called upon to account for all of our personnel who may possibly have come into their hands. The omission of an individual's name from the current list of personnel on whom we seek information will not relieve them of that accountability, and they have no reason to believe that it will.

We believe that the North Vietnamese are aware of the names of all of our personnel carried as killed in action in Southeast Asia. Their failure to find your son's name on a list of captured and missing personnel would therefore come as no surprise. On the contrary, the insertion on such a list of the name of a person known to have been carried previously as killed in action would be seized upon by them as a basis for challenging the validity of the list and our sincerity in presenting it. Further, to submit the name of any one person carried in a KIA status, whose remains have not been recovered, without submitting all such names would be a breach of faith on our part with the applicable next of kin. They too have a right to an accounting concerning their loved ones. As mentioned previously, we intend to demand such an accounting but for the present deem it wise to press only for information concerning those carried as missing or captured.

DCNP ltr dtd
25 Feb 1970

(b)(6)

DECEASED - LTJG David Marion CHRISTIAN, USNR, 674340/1315
attached to ATKRON 23 on bd USS MIDWAY (CVA-41)

3 June 1965

Mr. and Mrs. Jess M. Christian
9642 Los Coches Road
Lakeside, California

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Christian,

It is with a deep sense of personal loss that I write to you today. I know, of course, that my feelings in no way compare with the grief you both are suffering at the loss of your son. Please accept the heartfelt sympathy and condolences of all the officers and men of Attack Squadron TWENTY-THREE. To answer some of the questions I am sure you must have, I would like to explain the circumstances as best I can.

Dave was flying his aircraft and accompanying me on an armed reconnaissance flight over North Vietnam. We departed the USS MIDWAY, in the South China Sea, early on Wednesday morning, 2 June 1965. We had been briefed to deliver our weapons against military targets in the coastal area between Vinh and Thanh Hoa in North Vietnam. About ten miles south of Thanh Hoa we discovered a complex radar installation entrenched on top of a hill. We began attacking with rockets. Dave, on his first run, got a direct hit on an extremely difficult target in a narrow, deep revetment, effectively destroying that portion of the installation.

At this time we noticed that the target was being defended by automatic weapons and Dave wisely made his second run on an easterly heading toward the coast, the shortest direction to the "friendly" environment of the sea. I was rolling in for my third run and had Dave in sight pulling out of his second attack when he called that he had been hit by ground fire and his engine had "flamed-out". His aircraft began trailing flames as Dave used his speed to gain altitude and began a glide for the coast five miles away. The bullet had apparently severed the main fuel line cutting off fuel to the engine and causing the flames beneath his aircraft.

Dave stuck with his plane, handling the glide beautifully. Trailing closely behind him, I momentarily lost sight of him as he passed through a cloud at the coast line but picked him up again on the otherside as he "stretched" his glide out to sea. At this time he was very low and I called for him to eject, but I am sure he had already lost use of his radio. We were under low dark clouds, and in the reduced visibility I believe I did see his ejection seat leave the aircraft moments before his plane hit the water. However, no parachute was sighted.

C.O.'s ltr to parents
at time of loss

A propeller driven A-1 Skyraider aircraft with four crewmen aboard had been on the scene while we were attacking the radar sight and aided me in searching the area and retracing Dave's flight path for any sign that he might possibly have survived. Shortly we were joined by an amphibious search and rescue aircraft and other A-1's but it became painfully obvious that Dave had not survived. Our A-1 Skyraider that had been with us from the beginning was making a low, searching pass along the beach when he too was struck by ground fire, crashed and exploded, killing all four crewmen aboard.

Your son was extremely well liked and admired by both the officers and men of his squadron. He was highly regarded for his ability as an officer and as a combat aviator. He may have mentioned his assignment as the Line Division Officer, a critical and demanding function in the operation of jet aircraft aboard an attack carrier. His performance in that position was truly outstanding. It was a great reassurance to myself and the other pilots to know that through Dave's leadership and dependability our aircraft were always properly serviced and ready before each flight.

Only last week CDR King, the squadron executive officer, and I were discussing how fortunate we had been to have Dave assigned to this squadron. We have continually mentioned this with regard to his ability as an aviator, but on this particular occasion we were reviewing the evaluation reports on all enlisted personnel which had been prepared by the squadron division officers. Dave's keen sense of perception, mature judgement, and ability to express himself in writing were reflected in the manifestly superior quality of his reports. This was just another example of Dave's innate ability and tremendous potential.

Dave played a vital part as an attack pilot here in the Vietnam area. The responsibilities he had and his ability to shoulder these responsibilities contributed directly to maintaining the freedom our country supports throughout the world. You can be justly proud of the way Dave served his country.

We will hold a memorial service for your son and our shipmate on Sunday, 6 June 1965, on board USS MIDWAY while steaming in the South China Sea. The service, following the customs and traditions of the naval service, will allow the 3,600 men aboard USS MIDWAY and, more specifically, the officers and men of Attack Squadron TWENTY-THREE to offer their respects for Dave.

As your son's Commanding Officer I wish to ensure all your questions regarding this tragedy are answered. If there are any details you wish to have amplified please contact me by letter. Unfortunately, being here at sea did not allow me to telephone nor to personally talk with you.

I have received a message from Vice Admiral Paul P. BLACKBURN, Jr.,
Commander Seventh Fleet, requesting that his condolences be passed to
you and Dave's shipmates. Once again may I also express my heartfelt
sympathy for your great loss.

Sincerely,

John R. DEWENTER, Jr.
Commander, U. S. Navy
Commanding Officer
Attack Squadron TWENTY-THREE

RECEIVED
AUG 10 1982

17 AUG 1965

Mrs. Jess M. Christian
12736 Castle Court Drive
Lakeside, California 92040

Dear Mrs. Christian:

Thank you for your letter of August 1st and the attached correspondence concerning your son's loss. I recall with pleasure the reception held at Admiral Shinn's quarters and regret that I was unable to spend more time with you and the other ladies attending. I am returning the correspondence you sent me, as you requested.

Your thoughts, as expressed in your correspondence, have been given the careful consideration they merit. After reviewing the information available concerning your son's loss, it is my conclusion that a proper determination of status has been made, and that the information received since June 2, 1965, does not justify a change.

Your letter eloquently expresses your concern as to the manner in which the Navy has handled your son's case. I would like to examine it in some detail with you, and I hope that, as a result, you will understand our position and agree with me that it is the only honest stand we can take under the circumstances.

Considerable weight must be placed upon the original finding of David's Commanding Officer. He determined that there was conclusive evidence that your son perished in the crash of his aircraft. The case was therefore not passed to higher levels for a status determination. (b)(6) was not required by regulation to make such a definite finding. Had he had any reasonable doubt of David's status, he would have made only a recommendation, leaving the actual determination to others. He was nevertheless closer to the event than any who would otherwise have had to weigh the same facts. (b)(6), a fine officer, personally witnessed the event. Details were known to him which could never have been so well conveyed in the reports of your son's loss as to give a later reviewer as full and reliable a basis for making the status determination. After what you may be sure was a careful and soul-searching deliberation, it was his firm conviction that your son lost his life in the crash.

When such an incident occurs in enemy-controlled territory where investigation of the crash site is impossible, it cannot be denied that a chance of error may exist. There have been three indications to suggest a possibility that (b)(6) studied finding was incorrect --

AIR MAIL
AUG 17 1965
inf.

the article appearing in the October 11, 1965, issue of PRAVDA; the intelligence report shown to you in December, 1967; and the picture which appeared in LOOK magazine.

The PRAVDA article tells us only that a Soviet journalist was shown several documents which had been in David's possession. In contrast to the writer's personal contact with (b)(6), and the account of that officer's capture, the author gives no hint as to your son's condition or his exact fate. It is most likely that the North Vietnamese had such information. We cannot be at all sure, however, that (b)(6) has any knowledge as to your son's fate. At our request, of which Admiral Guinn informed you in his letter of March 27th, the State Department has attempted to obtain any additional facts that (b)(6) might have. These efforts have yielded no results to date, but are continuing. In the absence of further amplification of the information which has come to us, all we really can be sure of is that the North Vietnamese have obtained some of David's effects. This development is not surprising in itself, but unfortunately it gives us no clue as to whether your son survived the crash of his aircraft.

On the face of it, the intelligence report which was shown to you might seem more promising. Not all items of intelligence, however, can be considered of equal value. At the very outset, this particular report was impossible to verify. It was relayed to you because it is the Navy Department's policy to provide the families of our men with all of the information we possibly can concerning their members missing or killed in action. As you were advised by Captain Webster, the circumstances surrounding this report offer a most plausible explanation for its inapplicability to your son.

I am sure that you have by now received the report of the photographic analysis of the picture which appeared in LOOK magazine and which you felt was a photograph of your son. I am sorry that the results of the analysis did not confirm your impression.

Regretfully, none of these items, either singly or in combination, can be judged to be of sufficient import to warrant a finding that your son is either missing in action or a prisoner of war. In reaching this decision, I am guided solely by an obligation to ensure that the status determination is objective and reasonable in the light of all of the information available. I assure you that financial considerations are given no weight whatsoever in such deliberations.

Turning from the evidentiary aspects of your son's case, I would like to address your concern with the fact that your son's name was not included in the list of missing and captured personnel presented to the North Vietnamese, lest they would thereby escape responsibility for accounting for him when the war is over. Admiral Guinn, in his letter of February 25th, explained why we felt it unwise to include on that

list the names of personnel carried as killed in action. There is an additional point which should be made in this connection, however, and I hope it will ease your apprehension. The North Vietnamese have revealed that they have at least some knowledge -- if not complete knowledge -- as to David's fate. In showing his personal effects to the Soviet journalist, they have made it impossible to disclaim all knowledge of his case at a later time.

I very much regret that I cannot comply with the wishes you expressed in your letter. I extend once again my fullest personal sympathy and my assurance that responsible personnel continually are alert for any information bearing upon David's loss. You will most certainly be promptly advised of any such information which comes to our attention.

Sincerely yours,

John H. Chafee
Secretary of the Navy

Attachments

Copy to:

CNO Files (1) R/S SM 26806
BuPers files (1)
Pers-Ga

Prep:

(b)(6)

Rewritten:

(b)(6)

Mrs. Jess Christian
12736 Castle Court
Lakeside, California 92040

Dear Mrs. Christian:

Thank you for your recent letter and the attached correspondence concerning your son's loss. I recall with pleasure the reception held at Admiral Shinn's quarters and regret that I was unable to spend more time with you and the other ladies attending.

Your thoughts, as expressed in your correspondence, have been given the careful consideration they merit. After reviewing the information available concerning your son's loss, it is my conclusion that a proper determination of status has been made, and that the information received since June 2, 1965 does not justify a change.

As your letter eloquently expresses your concern and anguish as to the manner in which the Navy has handled your son's case, permit me to examine it in some detail with you. I hope as a result you will understand our position and agree with me that it is the only honest stand we can take under the circumstances.

Considerable weight must be placed in the original finding of David's Commanding Officer. He determined that there was conclusive evidence your son perished in the crash of his aircraft. Therefore, the case was not passed to higher levels for a status determination. Commander DeWenter was not required by regulation to make such a definite finding. Had he possessed a reasonable doubt he would have made only a recommendation, leaving the actual determination to others. Yet he was closer to this event than any who would have otherwise had to weigh these same facts. Details were known to him that could never be fully conveyed in the reports of your son's loss. As you are aware, Commander DeWenter, a fine officer, personally witnessed the event. After careful deliberation it was his firm conviction that your son lost his life in the crash.

When such incidents occur in enemy controlled territory where investigation of the crash site is impossible, the chance of error always exists. There have been three indications to suggest the possibility that Commander DeWenter's studied finding was incorrect: the article appearing in the October 11, 1965 issue of PRAVDA; the intelligence report shown to you in December, 1967; and the picture appearing in LOOK magazine.

Ed M
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Ed Beer
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The PRAVDA article tells us only that a Soviet journalist was shown several documents that had been in David's possession. In contrast with the writer's personal contact with Captain Stockdale, and the account of that officer's capture, the author gives not a hint as to your son's condition. It is most likely the North Vietnamese possessed this information. We cannot be at all sure that Mr. Sharapov has any knowledge as to your son's fate. As Admiral Guinn stated in his letter of March 27, 1970, the State Department has attempted to obtain any additional facts that Mr. Sharapov might know, without results to date. These efforts are continuing. In the absence of any such amplification, all we really can be sure of is that the North Vietnamese have obtained some of David's effects, a development which is not surprising in itself and which unfortunately gives no clue as to whether or not your son survived the crash.

On the face of it, the intelligence report might seem more promising. Yet, as you realize, all items of intelligence cannot be considered of equal value. This particular report was impossible to verify at the outset. It was relayed to you because it is the Navy Department's policy to provide the families of our men with all the information we possibly can concerning their loved ones. As you were advised by Captain Webster the circumstances of this report offer a most plausible explanation for its inapplicability to your son.

By now I am sure that you have received the report of the photo analysis of the picture appearing in LOOK magazine which you felt was your son. I am sorry that the results did not confirm your impression.

Regretfully, none of these items, either singly or in combination are judged to be of sufficient import to warrant a finding that your son is either missing in action or a prisoner of war. In reaching this painful decision, I am guided solely by an obligation to insure that the status determination is objective and reasonable in the light of all the information available. I can assure you that financial considerations have absolutely no bearing in such deliberations.

Turning from the substantive facets of your son's case, I would like to briefly address your concern that your son's name should be included in the list of missing and captured personnel presented to the North Vietnamese lest they have no responsibility to account for him when the war is over. While Admiral Guinn in his letter of February 25, 1970 has explained why we felt it unwise to include names of personnel carried as killed in action on this list, there is an additional point that should ease your apprehension in this regard. The North Vietnamese have announced that they have some, if not complete, knowledge of your son's fate. In showing David's personal effects to the Soviet journalist they have made it impossible to later disclaim any knowledge of your son.

Let me express my regret at being unable to comply with your wishes. Please accept my personal sympathy and my assurance that responsible personnel are alert for any information bearing on David's loss.

Sincerely yours,

Copy to:
SECNAV Files (3) Control #2 6806
CNO Files (1) R/S SN/2 6806
BuPers Files (1)

Prepared by: CAPT D. E. WEBSTER
Pers-Ga, Rm 1821 ARLEX
Ext: 42339/41770
Date prepared: 8-10-70

Pers-Oa-pai
674340/1315
18 Aug 1970

Mrs. Jess Christian
12736 Castle Court
Lakeside, California 92040

Dear Mrs. Christian:

The enclosed photographs of your son are those which you sent to (b)(6) (b)(6) of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs).

In addition, I am enclosing a pre-capture photograph of the man whom you had tentatively identified as your son. As the report of the photograph comparison points out, there are marked similarities between this individual and your son. He has been confirmed as a prisoner by several sources and has written to his family.

If I may be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

By direction of the Chief of Naval Personnel:

Sincerely yours,

(b)(6)

Special Assistant for PW Matters



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL INTELLIGENCE COMMAND
2461 EISENHOWER AVENUE
ALEXANDRIA, VA. 22314

Christian file

IN REPLY REFER TO
NIC-35/eom
Ser U787-70
10 August 1970

MEMORANDUM

From: Commander, Naval Intelligence Command (NIC-35)
To: Chief of Naval Personnel (Pers Ga)
Subj: Photo comparison LTJG David M. CHRISTIAN, KIA 2 Jun 1965;
information concerning
Ref: (a) Head Casualty Branch memo of 17 Jun 1970
Encl: (1) Head, Navy Casualty Branch memo of 17 Jun 1970 with
Mrs. Christian's letter of 3 Jun 1970, Lockhart/
Runyon photograph, newspaper clipping, 2 photos D.M.
CHRISTIAN
(2) Copy of letter to Mrs. M. Christian signed by (b)(6)
(b)(6) of 27 Jul 1970
(3) Copy of Results of Photo Comparison

1. Reference (a) requested that a photo comparison be made of photos of LTJG CHRISTIAN and PW photograph previously identified as CAPT Lockhart and LTCOL Runyon.

2. Concurrent with reference (a), a request was received by this office from Mrs. Jess M. Christian for a similar photo comparison.

3. Enclosure (2) is a copy of this office's reply to Mrs. Christian which contained a copy of enclosure (3).

(b)(6)

27 July 1970

Mrs. M. CHRISTIAN
12736 Castle Court
Lakeside, California 92040

Dear Mrs. Christian,

I'm sorry it took so long but at last I have the results of the photo analysis you requested.

It's too bad that the analysis does not confirm your identification of your son as the individual in the questioned photograph. To the untrained eye, including mine, there is a definite resemblance but the analysts have picked out four distinct differences as shown in the attached report.

I know this is a disappointment for you but I'm sure you will continue to have hope for David's eventual return. We will continue by all means available to seek information on David and hope we will be able to get some information soon.

If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to write or call me collect.

Respectfully,

(b)(6)

In Capt Webb's

23 July 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: [Redacted] (b)(6)

SUBJECT : Results of Photo Comparison
Case No. #11,933

REFERENCE : XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Photo No. #1
(attached photograph of two prisoners)

1. The following report contains the final technical results of the comparison between the unidentified photo and the enclosed photos submitted by your office.

LT. D. M. CHRISTIAN:

Christian and POW are extremely similar types, both having the same general face and feature shapes. However, because of the following dissimilarities noted, it is felt POW is probably not Christian:

Christian has thicker and bushier eyebrows; his lips are fuller, with a definite Cupid's Bow evident; the concha area of his ear is very deep with a prominent frame around it. The scar, or mark, noted on POW is a vertical one at the outer area of both his eyebrows.

RELEASED BY (b)(6)		DRAFTED BY (b)(6)		PHONE EXT. NR (b)(6)		PAGE	PAGES	
DATE 2 JUN 1965	TOR/TOD	ROUTED BY		CHECKED BY		OF	4	
MESSAGE NR	DATE/TIME GROUP (GCT)	PRECEDENCE	FLASH	EMERGENCY	OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE	PRIORITY	ROUTINE	DEFERRED
	021905Z	ACTION						
		INFO						

FROM: BUPERS

TO: MR AND MRS JESS M CHRISTIAN
9642 LOS COCHES ROAD
LAKESIDE, CALIFORNIA

INFO: COMELEVEN

UNCLAS

DEATH CONFIRMATION NO REMAINS PRIMARY #7
CHRISTIAN, D M

DISTRIBUTION:
(PAGE ONE ONLY)

UNCLASSIFIED

DATE/TIME GROUP (GCT)

Telex

WESTERN UNION

Telex

SENDING BLANK

CALL LETTERS	NGC 021	GOVT	CHARGE TO	CNO
Washington, D. C. 2 Jun 1965 3:00 PM				SHEET ONE OF TWO
Mr and Mrs Jess M. Christian				REPORT DELIVERY
9642 Los Coches Road				DON'T PHONE
Lakeside, California				

I deeply regret to confirm on behalf of the United States Navy that your son, Lieutenant (junior grade) David Marion Christian, USNR was killed in action in the Southeast Asia area on 2 Jun 1965 as a result of an aircraft accident.

It is with further regret that I must advise you that your son's remains were not recovered. Your son died while serving his country. I wish to assure you of every possible assistance together with the heartfelt sympathy of myself and your son's shipmates. A letter from his commanding officer setting forth the circumstances of death will follow. If I can assist you please write or telegraph the Chief of Naval Personnel, Department of the Navy, Washington, D.C. 20370.

(DEATH - no remains - Primary) #7

Send the above message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

PLEASE TYPE OR WRITE PLAINLY WITHIN BORDER - DO NOT FOLD

1269-R 4-551

Telex

WESTERN UNION

Telex

SENDING BLANK

CALL LETTERS	NGC 021	GOVT	CHARGE TO	CNO
				SHEET TWO OF TWO
My personal representative can be reached by telephone at Oxford 42746 during working hours and Oxford 42768 after working hours.				
Vice Admiral B. J. Semmes, Jr., Chief of Naval Personnel				

(DEATH - no remains - Primary) #7

Send the above message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

PLEASE TYPE OR WRITE PLAINLY WITHIN BORDER - DO NOT FOLD

1269-R 4-551

NAVAL MESSAGE
OPNAV FORM 21 10-28 (REV. 3-61)

RELEASED BY (b)(6)		DRAFTED BY (b)(6)		PHONE EXT NR (b)(6)	PAGE	PAGES		
DATE 2 JUN 1965	TOR/TOD	ROUTED BY		CHECKED BY	OF			
MESSAGE NR	DATE/TIME GROUP (GCT)	PRECEDENCE	FLASH	EMERGENCY	OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE	PRIORITY	ROUTINE	DEFERRED
	021915Z	ACTION					X	
		INFO						

FROM: BUPERS

TO: USS MIDWAY

INFO: BUMED
 CTF SEVEN SEVEN
 NAS LEMOORE
 COMSEVENTHFLT
 NAVFINGEN CLEVE
 CINCPAC
 COMFAIRALAMEDA
 COMELEVEN
 COMNAVAIRPAC
 CINCPACFLT
 CFAD LEMOORE

UNCLAS

CHRISTIAN, DAVID MARION LTJG 674340/1315 USNR

1. PARENTS PERSONALLY NOTIFIED BY COMNAVAIRPAC. OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION NOTIFICATION BEING SENT BY MY WUTEL 021900Z.
2. COMPLY WITH BUPERS MAN ART C-9803 ASAP.

DISTRIBUTION:
(PAGE ONE ONLY)

UNCLASSIFIED

DATE/TIME GROUP (GCT)

2 JUN 65 19 12z

NNNNCHA407LCB651

PP RUECH

DE RUWDC 102B 02/1832Z

ZNR

P 021832Z

FM COMELEVEN

TO RUWDAK/NAS MIRAMAR

INFO RUECH/BUPERS

RUECEF/BUMED

RUEGFY/NAVFINCEN CLEVE

RUMGCR/USS MIDWAY

RUWDAF/COMNAVIAIRPAC

RUWSAA/CTF SEVEN SEVEN

BT

UNCLAS

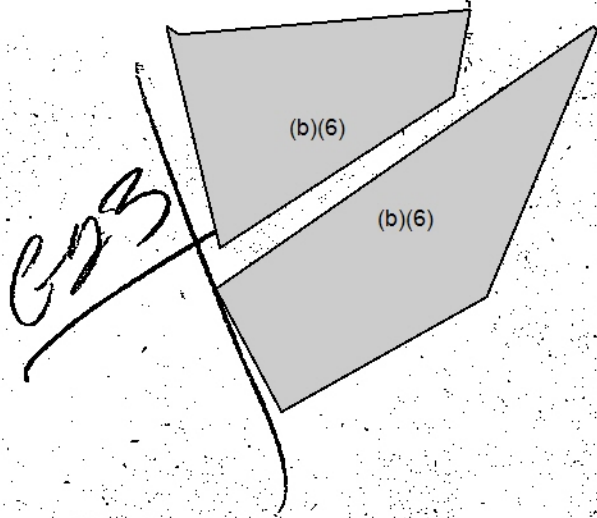
LTJG DAVID MARION CHRISTIAN, USNR, 674340/1315 (DECEASED)

A. USS MIDWAY 020547Z (PASEP)

1. INITIATE CACP IAW COMELEVENSNT 1750.1F (NOTAL) WHEN NOK HAS BEEN NOTIFIED.

1. FOR INFO ADDEES, REQ NAS MIRAMAR BE INFO ALL MSGS THIS CASE.

BT



NNNNCHA670LCA708

RR RUECH

3 JUN 65 05 22z

DE RUWDAK 148 02/2338Z

ZNR

R 022339Z

FM NAS MIRAMAR

TO RUWDC/COMELEVEN

INFO RUECH/BUPERS

RUECEF/BUMED

RUEGFY/NAVFINCEN CLEVE

RUMFUJ/USS MIDWAY

ROWDAF/COMNAVAIRPAC

RUMFUS/CTF SEVEN SEVEN

BT

UNCLAS

LTJG DAVID MARION CHRISTIAN, USNR, 674340/1315 (DECEASED)

A. YOUR 021832Z

1. IAW REF (A)

(b)(6)

ASSIGNED CACO

BT

623

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

NNNNCHA884LCA855

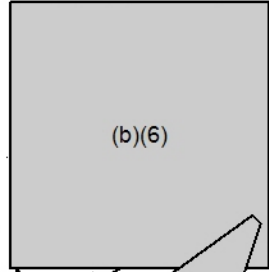
RR RUECH

DE RUWDAK 203 03/1807Z

ZNR

R 031807Z

3 JUN 65 20 09z



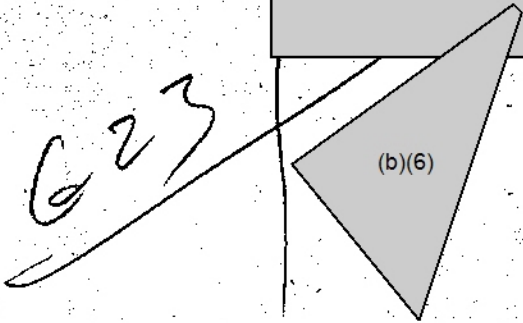
FM NAS MIRAMAR

TO RUMFUJ/USS MIDWAY

RUWSAL/NAS LEMOORE

INFO RUWDC/COMELEVEN

RUECH/BUPERS



BT

UNCLAS

CHRISTIAN, DAVID MARION LTJG, USNR, 674340/1315 (DECEASED)

1. MEMORIAL SERVICES WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE WESLEYAN METHODIST SKYLINE CHURCH 1345 SKYLINE DR., LEMON GROVE, SAN DIEGO, CALIF. 1900
L 6 JUNE 1965.

2. FOR VA-23 REQUEST SHIP PERSONAL EFFECTS NOK ASAP.

BT

3 JUN 65 00

55

ROUTINE

DELIVERED TO SUPER
DUTY OFFICER BY HAND
FOR ACTION

SIGNED _____

683

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

WUB415 0B348

O SDA664 COLLECT SAN DIEGO CALIF 2 NPT

VICE ADMIRAL B J SEMMES JR CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL

ASKG REPORT DELIVERY SY WA501 GOVT PD FAX 31P EDT FAX WASHDC

YOUR MESSAGE MR AND MRS JESS M CHRISTIAN LAKESIDE CALIF DELIVERED

450 PDT

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH CO.

856P EDT JUN 2 65

REPORT OF CASUALTY		FORM 1300-1		DATE: 2 June 1965	
1. SERVICE IDENTIFICATION (NAME, GRADE, SERVICE NUMBER, COMMAND, BRANCH, COMPONENT, ZONE, AND ORGANIZATION)					
CHRISTIAN, David Marion, 674360/1315, LTJG, USNR			1st App'd ENS 19 July 1964 DUSTA, ATKRON TWENTY THREE on USS MIDWAY (CVA-41)		
2. CASUALTY STATUS (a) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DEATH (b) <input type="checkbox"/> MISSING (c) <input type="checkbox"/> MIA (d) <input type="checkbox"/> KILLED IN ACTION (e) <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER					
KILLED IN ACTION - Died 2 June 1965 in Vietnam, northeast area. Result of a military aircraft accident due to hostile action - PILOT					
3. DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH, RACE, RELIGION, PREFERENCE					
15 January 1941, Oakland, California; Race, Cauc; Protestant					
4. DATE AND PLACE OF LAST ENTRY ON ACTIVE DUTY IN CURRENT STATUS AND HOME OF RECORD AT TIME					
13 March 1963, Pensacola, Florida			Lara, Franklin, Kansas		
5. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER, PAY GRADE, LENGTH OF SERVICE FOR PAY, BASIC PAY, INCENTIVE PAY					CHECK IF APPLICABLE
571 56 3259; O-2; Over 2 yrs; \$381.30					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CREW <input type="checkbox"/> NON-CREW
6. DUTY STATUS					
Active Duty					
7. INTERESTED PERSONS (Name, Address, Relationship)					
Jess M. Christian		9612 Los Coches Rd., Lakeside, California		Father	
Ethel E. Christian		Same		Mother	
Arle Bennett		13050 Lakeshore Dr., Lakeside, California		Sister	
Carol Kneave		Emerald Grove Rd., Lakeside, California		Sister	
8. REPORT FORM VA TO FOLLOW		9. REPORTING COMMAND AND DATE REPORT RECEIVED IN DEPARTMENT			
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		USS MIDWAY (CVA-41)		2 June 1965	
10. SELECTIVE SERVICE NUMBER (LOCAL BOARD AND CITY, STATE) (If individual, enter date and place of first entry to Armed Services)					
4 11a 11 90, #11a, San Diego, California					
11. PRIOR SERVICE DATA					
None. No ENL USNR R 11-9-62 to 7-18-63; Service Number 598 27 24					
12. REMARKS					
FOOTNOTES: 1. Add next of kin. 2. Beneficiary for gratuity pay in event there is no surviving wife or child. 3. Beneficiary for unpaid pay and allowances - as designated on report.					
13. DISTRIBUTION		14. CONTINUED TO BE A TRUE COPY			
C-11ND		(b)(6)			
By direction of Chief of Naval Personnel					

DD FORM 1300 1 MAR 60

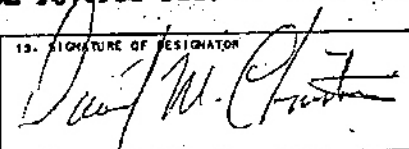
RECORD OF EMERGENCY DATA
SEE INFORMATION ON REVERSE BEFORE MAKING ENTRIES

C-1

SHIP OR STATION
Attack Squadron TWENTY-THREE, C/O FPO, San Francisco, California

1. WIFE OR HUSBAND NEVER MARRIED		ADDRESS			
2. NAMES OF CHILDREN NONE		ADDRESS	MARRIED YES NO	SEX	DATE OF BIRTH
3. FATHER Jess M. CHRISTIAN		ADDRESS 9642 Los Coches Rd., Lakeside, California			
4. MOTHER Ethel E. CHRISTIAN		ADDRESS 9642 Los Coches Rd., Lakeside, California			
5. ADULT NEXT OF KIN NOT NAMED IN ANY OTHER ITEM Mrs. Arla BARNETT		ADDRESS 13050 Lakeshore Dr., Lakeside, California			
6. ALL PERSONS RECEIVING MORE THAN 50 PERCENT OF THEIR SUPPORT FROM ME (OTHER THAN WIFE OR CHILDREN UNDER 21) None		ADDRESS	RELATIONSHIP	DATE OF BIRTH	
7. PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE WHO ARE NOT TO BE NOTIFIED DUE TO ILL HEALTH None		ADDRESS			

DESIGNATIONS				
		NAME	ADDRESS	RELATIONSHIP
8. BENEFICIARY FOR GRATUITY PAY IN EVENT THERE IS NO SURVIVING SPOUSE OR ELIGIBLE CHILD(REN); NAME PARENTS OR BROTHERS OR SISTERS ONLY (10 USC SECTIONS 1475-1480).		Jess M. CHRISTIAN	Same as item 3	Father
		Ethel E. CHRISTIAN	Same as item 4	Mother
9. BENEFICIARY OR BENEFICIARIES FOR UNPAID PAY AND ALLOWANCES (10 USC SEC 2771) WHICH INCLUDES ENLISTED MEMBERS' SAVINGS DEPOSITS. PERCENT OF SHARES MUST TOTAL 100%.	50 %	Jess M. CHRISTIAN	Same as item 3	Father
	50 %	Ethel E. CHRISTIAN	Same as item 4	Mother
10. PERSON TO RECEIVE ALLOTMENT OF PAY IF MISSING OR UNABLE TO TRANSMIT FUNDS.	PERCENT OF PAY EACH MO. 80%	Jess M. CHRISTIAN	Same as item 3	Father

11. INSURANCE POLICIES IN FORCE INCLUDING USGLI AND NSLI (Agencies to be notified in case of death in active service)		
FULL NAME AND ADDRESS OF COMPANY	ADDRESS OF OFFICE RECEIVING PAYMENT OR HOME OFFICE	POLICY NO.
Prudential	Allotments - Disbursing Office *No statement or entry made on reverse side of this form*	
(b)(6)	12. SIGNATURE OF DESIGNATOR 	DATE SIGNED 24 April 1965
		SEC. SEC. NO. (Officers only) 571 56 3259
NAME OF DESIGNATOR (Last, first, middle) CHRISTIAN, David Marion	FILE/SERVICE NO. 674340	GRADE/RATE LTJG
		BRANCH OF SERVICE USNR

RECORD OF EMERGENCY DATA - NAVPER 2 (Rev 4-61)

Pers-G232
674 340
4 June 1965

AIR MAIL

Mr. and Mrs. Jess M. Christian
9642 Los Coches Road
Lakeside, California

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Christian:

The Chief of Naval Personnel desires that you be assured of his sincere personal sympathy and understanding in the loss of your son, Lieutenant (Junior grade) David Marion Christian, United States Naval Reserve.

In order that personalized assistance may be furnished to you, an officer of the United States Navy, known as a Casualty Assistance Calls Officer, undoubtedly already has called upon you or assured you of his availability. You may rely upon him to counsel and assist you at any time mutually agreeable.

Realizing that you are faced with many problems, the forms for those survivor benefits provided by the Government, to which you may have entitlement, are enclosed. It is requested that all forms be completed by each parent jointly.

Copies of DD Form 1300, Certifications of Casualty are also enclosed and are acceptable as proof of death for such purposes as the cashing of United States Savings Bonds, for shipment of household goods, for use as a basis for settlement of commercial insurance, and for certain other purposes such as states rights and benefits.

Please read carefully the instructions printed on all forms enclosed, in order that you will understand certain requirements of laws and regulations must be met before eligibility can be determined. By complying with these instructions as soon as possible you will enable the office concerned to take final action on your claims. It is important that the full name, grade or rate, and file or service number of the Navy member be shown on all applications and correspondence.

We of the Navy share your loss and extend our condolences to you. If we, or the Casualty Assistance Officer assigned to help you, can be of further assistance please call upon us.

By direction of Chief of Naval Personnel:

Sincerely yours,

Copy to:

CACO,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Casualty Branch

NAS, MIRAMAR

WORK SHEET FOR BENEFITS LETTER - NEXT OF KIN

Pers-G232

(file or service #)

674 340

5 Jun 1965

AIR MAIL

~~Mr. and Mrs. Jess M. Christian~~
~~9642 Los Coches Road~~
~~Lakeside, California~~

Dear ~~Mr. and Mrs. Christian~~

The Chief of Naval Personnel desires that you be assured of his sincere personal sympathy and understanding in the loss of your son; ~~Lieutenant (junior grade) David Marion Christian, United States Naval Reserve.~~

In order that personalized assistance may be furnished to you, an officer of the United States Navy, known as a Casualty Assistance Calls Officer, undoubtedly already has called upon you or assured you of his availability. You may rely upon him to counsel and assist you at any time mutually agreeable.

Realizing that you are faced with many problems, the forms for those survivor benefits provided by the Government, to which you may have entitlement, are enclosed. ~~It is requested that all forms be completed by each parent jointly.~~

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We of the Navy share your loss and extend our condolences to you. If we, or the Casualty Assistance Officer assigned to help you, can be of further assistance please call upon us.

By direction of Chief of Naval Personnel:

Sincerely yours,

FOR USE OF CASUALTY BRANCH ONLY

Blind Copy to: CACO

(b)(6)

NAS MIRAMAR

Forms Enclosed Were: (Check appropriate block)

(X) Benefit Guide (B31)

(X) Headstone Form

(X) VA Form

21-535

() DD Form 397

() SF 1174 - 2

() Form CA-785

(X) NavPers 1927 A

() SF 1175 - 2

(X) DD Form 1302 - 62

NNNNJXJMCHA138LCA105

RR RUECH

DE RUWDAK 265 04/0116Z

ZNR:

R 040115Z

FM NAS MIRAMAR

TO RUMFUJ/USS MIDWAY

RUWSAL/NAS LEMOORE

INFO RUWDC/COMELEVEN

RUECH/BUPERS

BT

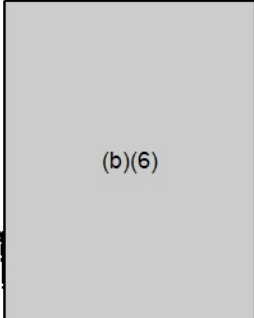
UNCLAS

CHRISTIAN, DAVID MARION, LTJG, USNR, 674340/1315 (DECEASED)

A. MY 031807Z

1. CHANGE MEMORIAL SERVICES TIME TO 1630 LOCAL VICE 1900 LOCAL.

BT



(b)(6)

4 JUN 65 07 12z

G23

7

06 7/6 JUN 65 00

TO BUPERS PERS 623

USS MIDWAY (CVA-41) 020547Z CONCERNING LTJG DAVID R.
CHRISTIAN, USNR 674346, DECEASED. REQ AUTH TO PAY
DEATH GRATUITY TO PARENTS
1522Z

Reviewed by DPAA IAW DoDM 5400.07 and
P.L. 102-190, 105 Stat. 1290, 1480-1481
Date: 19 Mar 2024 Initials: RW

QC'd by DPAA
Date: 27 Mar 2024
Initials: CG

DEPR 6/4 JUNE., 1965.

PASS TO CENTRAL ACCTS CODE C.

REFERENCE USS MIDWAY CASUALTY MESSAGE.

PLS MAKE PAYT DEATH GRATUITY TO JESS AND EMMEL CHRISTIAN PARENTS OF
LTJG DAVID MARION CHRISTIAN, USMC DESIGNATED BENEFICIARIES
TO RECEIVE THIS BENEFIT. ADV WHEN PAYT EFFECTED. ANDERSON SEMS.
1448Z

Reviewed by DPAA IAW DoDM 5400.07 and
P.L. 102-190, 105 Stat. 1290, 1480-1481
Date: 19 Mar 2024 Initials: RW

QC'd by DPAA
Date: 27 Mar 2024
Initials: CG

CA 3/7 JUN 65 C:VESNESKY

TO BUPERS PERS G23

YOUR BEPH 6/4 JUN 65. LTJG DAVID MARION CHRISTIAN USNR
674340 DECEASED. DEATH GRATUITY CKS AT \$1500.00 EA MAILED
FATHER AND MOTHER 4 JUN

1212Z

LIST OF PERSONAL EFFECTS

ITEM	CLASS CODE	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY AND UNIT	DISPOSITION* (For use of Supply Officer)
1	5	Suitcase, gray	1	
2	2	Shirts, khaki	14	
3	2	Shirts, white	7	
4	5	Shirts, civilian	2	
5	5	Shorts, civilian	3	
6	5	Trousers, cotton	1	
7	5	Hankerchiefs	5	
8	5	Belt, civilian	2	
9	2	Belts, uniform	6	
10	5	Duffel Bag	1	
11	5	Undershirts, cotton	10	
12	5	Underdrawers, cotton	9	
13	2	Socks, khaki pair	10	
14	2	Socks, white pair	7	
15	2	Socks, black pair	5	
16	5	Socks, brown pair	1	
17	2	Gloves, uniform	3	
18	5	Gloves, civilian	1	
19	5	Sweater, civilian	2	
20	5	Tie, civilian	1	
21	2	Tie, Black	2	
22	2	Raincoat, black, uniform	1	
23	5	Laundry bags	2	
24	2	Capcovers, uniform	4	
25	5	Camera bag & movie camera	1	
26	2	Shoes, white pair	1	
27	2	Shoes, Brown pair	1	
28	2	Shoes, black pair	1	
29	2	Shoes, brown pair	1	
30	5	Shoes, shower	1	
31	2	Shoes, flight deck pair	1	
32	5	Shaving kit	1	
33	2	Belt buckle	2	
34	5	Tooth brush	1	
35	5	Soap box	1	
36	5	Cigarettes, packages	3	
37	5	Razor, electric	1	
38	5	Pen and pencil set	1	
39	2	Shoulder boards	1	
40	2	Name tag	1	
41	5	Wristwatch	1	
42	2	Wings uniform	1	
43	5	Wings, miniature	1	
44	2	Buttons	7	

INVENTORY BOARD

DATE OF INVENTORY 5 JUNE 1965	SENIOR BOARD MEMBER (Signature) <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 15px; margin: 0 auto;">(b)(6)</div>	OTHER BOARD MEMBER (Signature) <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 15px; margin: 0 auto;">(b)(6)</div>
CLASS CODE: 1-Navy-owned special clothing and equipment; 2-Clothing prescribed by Navy Uniform Regulations; 3-Money; 4-Negotiable and nonnegotiable instruments; 5-Miscellaneous articles of intrinsic, sentimental, and utility value.		APPROVED: (Signature of Appointing Officer) <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 15px; margin: 0 auto;">(b)(6)</div>

*If other than return to owner or bail shipment to other activity.

INVENTORY OF PERSONAL EFFECTS
 (LOST - ABANDONED - UNCLAIMED)
 NAV. S. AND A. FORM 29 (REV. 11-60)

SHIP OR STATION Attack Squadron TWENTY-THREE		EFFECTS ACQUIRED (Date)
NAME OF OWNER (Last) (First) (Middle) (Rank/rate) CHRISTIAN, David Marion LTJG		FJLE OR SERVICE NO. 671310/1315
LAST KNOWN DUTY STATION ATKRON TWENTY-THREE USS MIDWAY (CVA-41)		LAST KNOWN HOME ADDRESS 9642 Los Coches Rd. Lakeside, California
NAME AND LAST KNOWN ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN, HEIR, LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE Jess M. CHRISTIAN 9642 Los Coches Rd. Lakeside, California		
<input type="checkbox"/> DECLARED ABSENTEE <input type="checkbox"/> DECLARED DESERTER		AOL/AWOL FROM (Hour and date)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DECEASED <input type="checkbox"/> MISSING <input type="checkbox"/> INCAPACITATED		DATE 2 JUNE 1965
INVENTORY BOARD APPOINTED		DATE OF APPOINTMENT
SENIOR: OTHER: (b)(6)	3 JUNE 1965	APPOINTED BY (Typed name of Commanding Officer or Officer in Charge) J.R. DEWENTER, CDR, USN
Received from the inventory board the personal effects listed herein		(above)
DATE: 7 JUN 1965	(b)(6)	6/7/65
OWNED TO ABOVE-NAMED MEMBER BY	AMOUNT	OWNED BY ABOVE-NAMED MEMBER TO
POST-INVENTORY ACTION		
PERSONAL EFFECTS BEING SHIPPED TO		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEXT OF KIN	<input type="checkbox"/> LEGAL OWNER	(Personal effects distribution points)

MINI SH 11-1-65 2012

INVENTORY BOARD LIST OF PERSONAL EFFECTS

ITEM	CLASS CODE	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY AND UNIT	DISPOSITION* (For use of Supply Officer)
1	5	Suitcase, gray	1	
2	2	Shirts, khaki	14	
3	2	Shirts, white	7	
4	5	Shirts, civilian	2	
5	5	Shorts, civilian	3	
6	5	Trousers, cotton	1	
7	5	Hankchiefs	5	
8	5	Belt, civilian	2	
9	2	Belts, uniform	6	
10	5	Duffel Bag	1	
11	5	Undershirts, cotton	10	
12	5	Underdrawers, cotton	9	
13	2	Socks, khaki pair	10	
14	2	Socks, white pair	7	
15	2	Socks, black pair	5	
16	5	Socks, brown pair	1	
17	2	Gloves, uniform	3	
18	5	Gloves, civilian	1	
19	5	Sweater, civilian	2	
20	5	Tie, civilian	1	
21	2	Tie, Black	2	
22	2	Raincoat, black, uniform	1	
23	5	Laundry bags	2	
24	2	Capcovers, uniform	4	
25	5	Camera bag & movie camera	1	
26	2	Shoes, white pair	1	
27	2	Shoes, Brown pair	1	
28	2	Shoes, black pair	1	
29	2	Shoes, brown pair	1	
30	5	Shoes, shower	1	
31	2	Shoes, flight deck pair	1	
32	5	Shaving kit	1	
33	2	Beltbuckle	2	
34	5	Tooth brush	1	
35	5	Soap box	1	
36	5	Cigarettes, packages	3	
37	5	Razor, electric	1	
38	5	Pen and pencil set	1	
39	2	Shoulder boards	1	
40	2	Name tag	1	
41	5	Wristwatch	1	
42	2	Wings uniform	1	
43	5	Wings, miniature	1	
44	2	Buttons	7	

INVENTORY BOARD

DATE OF INVENTORY 5 JUNE 1965	SENIOR BOARD MEMBER (Signature) LT J. L. HARDGRAVE, USN	OTHER BOARD MEMBER (Signature) LTJG J. W. SLOAT, Jr., USN
---	---	---

CLASS CODE: 1- Navy-owned special clothing and equipment; 2-Clothing prescribed by Navy Uniform Regulations; 3-Money; 4-Negotiable and nonnegotiable instruments; 5-Miscellaneous articles of intrinsic, sentimental, and utility value.	APPROVED: (Signature of Appointing Officer) J. R. DEWENTER
--	--

*If other than return to owner or back-shipment to other activity.

Reviewed by DPAA IAW DoDM 5400.07 and P.L. 102-190, 105 Stat. 1290, 1480-1481
Date: 31 AUG 2021
Initials: RW

QC'd by DPAA
Date:
Initials:

LIST OF PERSONAL EFFECTS

ITEM	CLASS CODE	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY AND UNIT	DISPOSITION* (For use of Supply Officer)
45	2	Insignia	4	
46	5	Pictures	7	
47	5	Letters	13	
48	5	Officer roster	1	
49	5	Mess receipts	2	
50	5	Briefcase with orders	1	
51	5	Paint brushes	4	
52	5	Flashlight	1	
53	5	Nailcutters	1	
54	5	Tweezers	1	
55	5	Scissors	1	
56	5	Brush	1	
57	5	Pipe cleaners	1 pkg.	
58	5	Key	1	
59	5	Clock, electric	1	
60	5	Lazy susan, wood	1	
61	5	Plaque, wood	1	
62	5	Figurine, wooden	1	
63	5	Bowls, wooden	2	
64	5	Color movies, real	1	
65	5	Book	4	
66	5	Sun glasses	2	
67	5	Cap, baseball	1	
68	5	Cap, combination	1	
69	5	Wallet	1	
70	5	Clothes bag	1	
71	2	Trousers, khaki	3	
72	5	Trousers, civilian	2	
73	2	White uniform, dress	1	
74	2	Blouse, khaki	1	
75	1	Sport coat	1	
76	1	Suit, brown	1	
77	2	Blue uniform, dress	1	
78	5	New Testament	1	Items 78 through 82 sent via registered mail to the Casualty Assistance Calls Officer, LT Douglas E. BAKKO, USN, 6/6823/6802, NAS Miramar San Diego, California for delivery to the NOK.
79	4	\$14.75 (Check for balance from Wardroom Mess)	1	
80	4	\$42.67 (Converted to Money Order)	1	
81	5	(Package of Financial Papers including Record of Personal Affairs)	1	
82	4	Book of 18 - 8¢ Stamps	1	

NO FURTHER ENTRIES BELOW THIS LINE				
X	X	X X X X X X X X	X X	X X X X X
X	X	X X X X X X X X	X X	X X X X X
X	X	X X X X X X X X	X X	X X X X X

INVENTORY BOARD

DATE OF INVENTORY 5 JUNE 1965	SENIOR BOARD MEMBER (Signature) LT J.L. HARDGRAVE, USN	OTHER BOARD MEMBER (Signature) LTJG J. W. SLOAT, Jr., USN
CLASS CODE: 1- Navy-owned special clothing and equipment; 2-Clothing prescribed by Navy Uniform Regulations; 3-Money; 4-Negotiable and nonnegotiable instruments; 5-Miscellaneous articles of intrinsic, sentimental, and utility value.		APPROVED: (Signature of Appointing Officer) J. R. DEWENTER

*If other than return to owner or bailment to other activity.

INVENTORY OF PERSONAL EFFECTS
(LOST - ABANDONED - UNCLAIMED)
NAV. S. AND A. FORM 29 (REV. 11-60)

SHIP OR STATION Attack Squadron TWENTY-THREE			EFFECTS ACQUIRED (Date)
NAME OF OWNER (Last)	(First)	(Middle)	(Rank/rate)
CHRISTIAN, David Marion			LTJG
LAST KNOWN DUTY STATION		LAST KNOWN HOME ADDRESS	
ATKRON TWENTY-THREE USS MIDWAY (CVA-41)		9642 Los Coches Rd. Lakeside, California	
NAME AND LAST KNOWN ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN, HEIR, LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE			
Jess M. CHRISTIAN 9642 Los Coches Rd. Lakeside, California			

<input type="checkbox"/> DECLARED ABSENTEE	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLARED DESERTER	AOL/AWOL FROM (Hour and date)
--	--	-------------------------------

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DECEASED	<input type="checkbox"/> MISSING	<input type="checkbox"/> INCAPACITATED	DATE 2 JUNE 1965
--	----------------------------------	--	----------------------------

INVENTORY BOARD APPOINTED	DATE OF APPOINTMENT	APPOINTED BY (Typed name of Commanding Officer or Officer in Charge)
SENIOR: LT James L. HARDGRAVE	3 JUNE 1965	J. R. DEWENTER, CDR, USN
OTHER: LTJG James W. SLOAT, Jr.		

Received from the inventory board the personal effects of **David Marion Christian**
DATE: **7 JUN 1965**

SIGNATURE, RANK, TITLE OF RECEIVING OFFICER (Ship or station, if other than above)
[Signature] **LTJG James W. SLOAT, Jr.** **6/7/65**

STATEMENT OF UNSETTLED FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS			
OWNED TO ABOVE-NAMED MEMBER BY	AMOUNT	OWNED BY ABOVE-NAMED MEMBER TO	AMOUNT

POST-INVENTORY ACTION

PERSONAL EFFECTS BEING SHIPPED TO

NEXT OF KIN LEGAL OWNER (Personal effects distribution points)

Reviewed by DPAA IAW DoDM 5400.07 and P.L. 102-190, 105 Stat. 1290, 1480-1481
Date: 31 AUG 2021
Initials: RW

QC'd by DPAA
Date:
Initials:

LIST OF PERSONAL EFFECTS

ITEM	CLASS CODE	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY AND UNIT	DISPOSITION* (For use of Supply Officer)
45	2	Insignia	4	
46	5	Pictures	7	
47	5	Letters	13	
48	5	Officer roster	1	
49	5	Mess receipts	2	
50	5	Briefcase with orders	1	
51	5	Paint brushes	4	
52	5	Flashlight	1	
53	5	Nailcutters	1	
54	5	Tweezers	1	
55	5	Scissors	1	
56	5	Brush	1	
57	5	Pipe cleaners	1 pkg.	
58	5	Key	1	
59	5	Clock, electric	1	
60	5	Lazy susan, wood	1	
61	5	Plaque, wood	1	
62	5	Figurine, wooden	1	
63	5	Bowls, wooden	2	
64	5	Color movies, reel	1	
65	5	Book	4	
66	5	Sun glasses	2	
67	5	Cap, baseball	1	
68	5	Cap, combination	1	
69	5	Wallet	1	
70	5	Clothes bag	1	
71	2	Trousers, khaki	3	
72	5	Trousers, civilian	2	
73	2	White uniform, dress	1	
74	2	Blouse, khaki	1	
75	1	Sport coat	1	
76	1	Suit, brown	1	
77	2	Blue uniform, dress	1	
78	5	New Testament	1	Items 78 through 82 sent via registered mail to the Casualty Assistance Calls Officer, LT Douglas E. BARKO USN, 646823/6802, NAS Miramar San Diego, California for delivery to the NOK.
79	4	\$14.75 (Check for balance from Wardroom Mess)	1	
80	4	\$42.67 (Converted to Money Order)	1	
81	5	(Package of Financial Papers including Record of Personal Affairs)	1	
82	4	Book of 18 - 8¢ Stamps	1	
----- NO FURTHER ENTRIES BELOW THIS LINE -----				
X	X	X X X X X X X X X	X X	X X X X X X
X	X	X X X X X X X X X	X X	X X X X X X
X	X	X X X X X X X X X	X X	X X X X X X

INVENTORY BOARD

DATE OF INVENTORY 5 JUNE 1965	SENIOR BOARD MEMBER (Signature) LT J.L. HARDGRAVE, USN	OTHER BOARD MEMBER (Signature) LTJG J. W. SLOAT, Jr., USN
---	--	---

CLASS CODE: 1- Navy-owned special clothing and equipment; 2-Clothing prescribed by Navy Uniform Regulations; 3-Money; 4-Negotiable and nonnegotiable instruments; 5-Miscellaneous articles of intrinsic, sentimental, and utility value.	APPROVED: (Signature of Appointing Officer) J. R. DEMETER
--	---

*If other than return to owner or batch shipment to other activity.

Reviewed by DPAA IAW DoDM 5400.07 and P.L. 102-190, 105 Stat. 1290, 1480-1481
Date: 31 AUG 2021
Initials: RW

QC'd by DPAA
Date:
Initials:

TO: Chief of Naval Personnel (Pers-G23)

VIA: Commandant ELEVENTH Naval District

DATE 24 JUNE 1965

A casualty assistance call was made and assistance rendered as indicated. The next of kin was requested to advise or contact me or my successor on any matter wherein difficulty is encountered and to advise when all payments for claims, benefits or rights are received. BUPERS and the cognizant commandant will be advised when the case is closed.

NAME OF DECEASED CHRISTIAN DAVID MARION	RANK OR RATING LTJG	SERVICE NUMBER 674340
---	-------------------------------	---------------------------------

NAME, ADDRESS, AND RELATIONSHIP OF PERSON CALLED ON
JESS M. AND ETHEL E. CHRISTIAN (FATHER/MOTHER) 9642 LosGoches Rd. Lakeside, Calif.

DATE OF DEATH 2 JUNE 1965	DATE OF FIRST CALL 2 JUNE 1965	DATE OF SUBSEQUENT CALLS JUNE 3,6,9,15, AND 21st
-------------------------------------	--	--

CACF MANUAL REFERENCE	SUBJECT	ACTION		COMMENT	SEE REMARKS
		YES	NO		
ANNEX, C	CERTIFICATION OF CASUALTY (DD FORM 1300) (Furnished to primary next of kin without request; also to Governmental offices)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		NO. ADD'L COPIES	
CHAP. X	DEPENDENTS ALLOTMENTS AND ALLOWANCES (Explanation of discontinuance made)			NA	

CLAIMS AND APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED

III	BURIAL EXPENSES FURNISHED INFORMATION ON SERVICES PROVIDED BY NAVY			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE	
V	DEATH GRATUITY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
	PAYMENT RECEIVED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
V	UNPAID PAY AND ALLOWANCES (ARREARS OF PAY)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
	SETTLEMENT RECEIVED		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	APPLIED FOR	
VI	U. S. GOVERNMENT OR NSL INSURANCE (Submit claim to VA)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE INVOLVED	
VI	COMMERCIAL LIFE INSURANCE APPLICATION SUBMITTED (Indicate in remarks the name of the company with which commercial insurance is carried)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> NONE INVOLVED	PRUDENTIAL OF AMERICA
IX	UNIFORMED SERVICES IDENTIFICATION AND PRIVILEGE CARD (DD 1173) (May include medical care, exchange and commissary privileges)			NA	
VII	DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION (VA action; if undue delay, and investigation is desired, furnish XC-number assigned)			xc. NA	
VIII	SOCIAL SECURITY SURVIVOR BENEFITS (Submit claim to local Office of Social Security Administration)			NA	
V	DEPENDENTS' TRAVEL (If applicable, submit claim to Navy Regional Accounts Office, Washington 25, D. C.)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE	
V	TRANSPORTATION OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE	
VII	GOVERNMENT HEADSTONE OR MARKER (Application not required if burial is in national cemetery)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
ASSISTANCE REQUIRED (Indicate in "Remarks" to whom referred for assistance) (If "X")					
V	FINANCIAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
VIII	INCOME TAX (Form 1041 furnished directly to next of kin by Navy Finance Center (Cleveland) without request upon completion of processing)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
VIII	BANK ACCOUNTS, SAVINGS BONDS, SECURITIES, REAL ESTATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
VIII	WILL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

MISCELLANEOUS

IX	EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION DESIRED (Furnished by BUPERS, Pers-G221, upon request)			NA	
IX	EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION DESIRED (Contact local employment agency or Civil Service Commission)			NA	
III	PERSONAL EFFECTS (If complaint made or investigation is desired, explain in "Remarks")	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

interview report

SPECIAL REQUESTS MADE BY BENEFICIARY

ACTION TAKEN BY CACO

ACTION DESIRED BY BUPERS AS FOLLOWS:

GENERAL REMARKS (Include liaison and contacts with agencies, individuals and relatives; comments; observations, recommendations; and comments of Next of Kin)

This case is nearly complete, the only item's pending are the shipment of LTJG Christian's belongings from the Midway and moving his library (approximately five hundred pounds of books) from Lane, Kansas to the NOK, arrangements to accomplish these task have been completed.

David Christian appears to have been a very exceptional young man, extremely well thought of by everyone who knew him in his community and church. This was well attested to by the large attendance at his memorial service. A second memorial service is to be conducted at the Lakeside City Park on the 4th of July, this should be most impressive. David could well be the shining example of an outstanding Christian, citizen, and loyal Military man that we, the Navy, should hold up to our Young men just entering the service. I have suggested to the Public Information Officer At N.A.S. North Island that perhaps some excerpts from the writings of David could well be presented to the public. David's parents are most agreeable to this.

The Navy in a sense has taken a son away from Jess and Ethel Christian yet I defy anyone to produce parents with more pride in the Navy and in their son for the part he played in it.

ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN

NO CHANGE

NEW ADDRESS IS

(b)(6)

ACTIVITY TO WHICH ATTACHED

NAS MIRAMAR

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

FROM: COMMANDANT Eleventh NAVAL DISTRICT

TO: CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL (PERS-623)

DATE 1 July 1965

1. Forwarded.

PERSONAL AFFAIRS DIVISION
JUL 09 1965
RECEIVED

(b)(6)

By direction

(Signature)

SPECIAL REQUESTS MADE BY BENEFICIARY

ACTION TAKEN BY CACO

ACTION DESIRED BY BUPERS AS FOLLOWS:

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ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN

NO CHANGE

NEW ADDRESS IS

(b)(6)

ACTIVITY TO WHICH ATTACHED

NAS MIRAMAR

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

FROM: COMMANDANT Eleventh NAVAL DISTRICT
TO: CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL (PERS-623)

DATE 1 July 1965

1. Forwarded.

Reviewed by DPAA IAW DoDM 5400.07 and P.L. 102-190, 105 Stat. 1290, 1480-1481 Date: 31 AUG 2021 Initials: RW

RECEIVED
JUL 09 1965
NAVAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

(b)(6)

By direction

(Signature)

QC'd by DPAA Date: 27 Mar 2024 Initials: CG

NNNNR0000HA679000170

RR RUECH

DE RUMABA 7G 2261000

25 Jul 65 12 33z

ZNY EEEEE

R 240536Z

FM NATCO CLARK AB PI

TO RUWSS/NSC OAKLAND

INFO RUWHDL/NATCO TRAVIS AFB

(RUWSAA/NRACCO ALAMEDA

RUECH/SUPERS

RUMFC/USS IDWAY

RUWDEA/NSC SAN DIEGO

RUMFM/NSD SUBIC

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

A. NSD SUBIC 0607583 *CH*

B. TCN N00651/5160/B008-XX

1. MAT ON REF FWD ON MATS MISSION 1600/135

C124/21025 MANF 0048.

BT

C 23

Christian DM

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

NNNNCHA9640CC499

RR RUECH

DE RUMFA 196A 1871130

ZNY EEEEE

R 060758Z

FM NSD SUBIC

TO RUWSS/NSC OAK

INFO RUMAOB/NATCO CLARK AB

RUWHDL/NATCO TRAVIS AFB

RUWSAA/NRACCO ALAMEDA

RUECH/BUPERS

RUAUBUJ/NIIW/USS MIDWAY

RUWDEA/NSC SDIEGO

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

PEREF, CHRISTIAN, DAVID M., LTJG, USN, DECEASED.

A. N006515160B008-XX, 1 PC, 200 LBS, 14 CU.

1. REF A FWDD 5183 F/CRK-SUU TO NSC OAK FOR PROCESSING FFT NOK MRS. JESS M. CHRISTIAN, 9642 LOS COCHES RD., LAKESIDE, CALIF.

2. REQ NATCO CLARK AND NATCO TRAVIS ADV ONWARD SHIPDA.

BT

6 JUL 85 17 20z

G23

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

674348

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Christian:

I learned with regret of the death of your son, Lieutenant (junior grade) David Marion Christian, United States Naval Reserve, on June 2, 1965 as a result of hostile action during aerial combat in Vietnam.

He made the ultimate sacrifice in laying down his life, and thus, even in death, made a contribution to efforts being made by peace-loving nations the world over to achieve the much-desired peace. I hope the memory of your son's faithful service and the knowledge that his contribution to the security of our Nation will give you comfort in your grief.

(b)(6) joins me in sending our heartfelt sympathy to you.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. Jess Milton Christian
9642 Los Coches Road
Lakeside, California

LBJ:AJ:bp

FINISH FILE-PERS - 8255

August 6, 1965

Casualty Assistance Office
Dear Sirs,

This is to notify you of our
change of address. The address
is: Mrs. and Messrs. Jess M. Christian
12736 Castle Court Drive
Lakeside, California 92040

The telephone number remains
the same. 443-1762

Thank you
Mrs. Christian

Pers-G233-bjk
674340/1315
10 August 1965

Mr. and Mrs. Jess M. Christian
12736 Castle Court Drive
Lakeside, California 92040

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Christian:

The Certification of Casualty (DD Form 1300) in the case of your son, the late Lieutenant (junior grade) David Marion Christian, United States Naval Reserve, has been amended to show your current address.

Copies of the superseding Certification of Casualty are enclosed for your personal use. If this office can be of further assistance to you, please let us know.

By direction of the Chief of Naval Personnel:

Sincerely yours,


(b)(6)

Casualty Branch

Encl:
(1) DD Form 1300 (10)

Copy to:
COMELEVEN (CACO)

FOOD FOR DIED 2 JUNE 1965

REPORT OF CASUALTY		REPORT NUMBER AND DATE Supt. Rpt. 8/10/65 97786-A-1-a Corrected	DATE PREPARED Final 10 June 1965												
1. SERVICE IDENTIFICATION (Name, Service Number, Grade or Rate, Component, Branch and Organization)															
CHRISTIAN, David Marion, 671340/1315, LTJG, USNR DUSTA: ATRON TWENTY THREE on board 1st App't: ENS 19 July 1963															
2. CASUALTY STATUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BATTLE <input type="checkbox"/> NONBATTLE ASIATIC 0122 USS MIDWAY (CVA-41)															
KILLED IN ACTION - Died 2 June 1965 in Vietnam; Result of a military aircraft accident due to hostile action - PILOT															
3. DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH, RACE, RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE 15 January 1941; Oakland, California; Cauc; Protestant															
4. DATE AND PLACE OF LAST ENTRY ON ACTIVE DUTY IN CURRENT STATUS AND HOME OF RECORD AT TIME 13 March 1963; Pensacola, Florida; Lane, Franklin, Kansas															
5. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER, PAY GRADE, LENGTH OF SERVICE FOR PAY, BASIC PAY, INCENTIVE PAY 571 56 3259; O-2; Over 2 yrs; \$384.30			CHECK IF APPLICABLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CREW <input type="checkbox"/> NON-CREW												
6. DUTY STATUS Active Duty															
7. INTERESTED PERSONS (Name, Address, Relationship)															
<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Jess M. Christian</td> <td>12736 Castle Court Drive, Lakeside, California 92040</td> <td>Father</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ethel E. Christian</td> <td>Same</td> <td>Mother</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Arla Barnett</td> <td>13050 Lakeshore Dr., Lakeside, California</td> <td>Sister</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Carol Kussave</td> <td>Emerald Grove Rd., Lakeside, California</td> <td>Sister</td> </tr> </table>				Jess M. Christian	12736 Castle Court Drive, Lakeside, California 92040	Father	Ethel E. Christian	Same	Mother	Arla Barnett	13050 Lakeshore Dr., Lakeside, California	Sister	Carol Kussave	Emerald Grove Rd., Lakeside, California	Sister
Jess M. Christian	12736 Castle Court Drive, Lakeside, California 92040	Father													
Ethel E. Christian	Same	Mother													
Arla Barnett	13050 Lakeshore Dr., Lakeside, California	Sister													
Carol Kussave	Emerald Grove Rd., Lakeside, California	Sister													
8. REPORT FOR VA TO FOLLOW <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		9. REPORTING COMMAND AND DATE REPORT RECEIVED IN DEPARTMENT USS MIDWAY (CVA-41) 2 June 1965													
10. SELECTIVE SERVICE NUMBER, LOCAL BOARD, AND LOCATION (If unknown, enter date and place of first entry in Armed Services) 4 141 41 90; #141; San Diego, California															
11. PRIOR SERVICE DATA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO ENL USNR-R 11-3-62 to 7-18-63; Service Number 598 27 24															
12. REMARKS															
FOOTNOTES: 1 Adult next of kin. 2 Beneficiary for gratuity pay in event there is no surviving wife or child - as designated on record of emergency data. 3 Beneficiary for unpaid pay and allowances - as designated on record of emergency data.															
13. DISTRIBUTION C-11ND		14.  (b)(6) By inspection of files in Naval personnel													

DD FORM 1300 MAR 60

TO: Chief of Naval Personnel (Pers-G2a)
VIA: Commandant **ELEVENTH** Naval District

DATE: 15 September 1965

A casualty assistance call was made and assistance rendered as indicated. The next of kin was requested to advise or contact me or my successor on any matter wherein difficulty is encountered and to advise when all payments for claims, benefits or rights are received. BUPERS and the cognizant commandant will be advised when the case is closed.

NAME OF DECEASED CHRISTIAN, David Marion		RANK OR RATING LTJG	SERVICE NUMBER 674340
NAME, ADDRESS, AND RELATIONSHIP OF PERSON CALLED ON Jess M. and Ethel E. Christian (Father/Mother) Lakeside, California			
DATE OF DEATH 2 June 1965	DATE OF FIRST CALL 2 June 1965	DATE OF SUBSEQUENT CALLS June 3, 6, 9, 15, 21, July 4 and 26th.	

CACP MANUAL REFERENCE	SUBJECT	ACTION		COMMENT	SEE REMARKS
		YES	NO		
ANNEX C	CERTIFICATION OF CASUALTY (DD FORM 1300) (Furnished to primary next of kin without request; also to Governmental offices)	OK	X	NO. ADD'L COPIES	
CHAP. X	DEPENDENTS ALLOTMENTS AND ALLOWANCES (Explanation of discontinuance made)	OK	NA		

CLAIMS AND APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED

III	BURIAL EXPENSES	OK		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE	
	FURNISHED INFORMATION ON SERVICES PROVIDED BY NAVY				
V	DEATH GRATUITY		X		
	PAYMENT RECEIVED	OK	X		
V	UNPAID PAY AND ALLOWANCES (ARREARS OF PAY)		X		
	SETTLEMENT RECEIVED		X		
VI	U. S. GOVERNMENT OR NSL INSURANCE (Submit claim to VA)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE INVOLVED	
VI	COMMERCIAL LIFE INSURANCE APPLICATION SUBMITTED (Indicate in remarks the name of the company with which commercial insurance is carried)	OK	X	<input type="checkbox"/> NONE INVOLVED	
IX	UNIFORMED SERVICES IDENTIFICATION AND PRIVILEGE CARD (DD 1173) (May include medical care, exchange and commissary privileges)		NA		
VII	DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION (VA action; if undue delay, and investigation is desired, furnish XC-number assigned)	OK	NA	XC- _____	
VII	SOCIAL SECURITY SURVIVOR BENEFITS (Submit claim to local Office of Social Security Administration)		NA		
V	DEPENDENTS' TRAVEL (If applicable, submit claim to Navy Regional Accounts Office, Washington 25, D. C.)			OK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE	
V	TRANSPORTATION OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS	OK	X	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE	
III	GOVERNMENT HEADSTONE OR MARKER (Application not required if burial is in national cemetery)	OK	X		

ASSISTANCE REQUIRED (Indicate in "Remarks" to whom referred for assistance)

IV	FINANCIAL		X		
VIII	INCOME TAX (W-2 furnished directly to next of kin by Navy Finance Center, Cleveland, without request upon completion of processing)	OK	X		
VIII	BANK ACCOUNTS; SAVINGS BONDS; SECURITIES; REAL ESTATE		X		
VIII	WILL		X		

MISCELLANEOUS

IX	EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION DESIRED (Furnished by BUPERS, Pers-G221, upon request)		NA		
IX	EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION DESIRED (Contact local employment agency or Civil Service Commission)	OK	NA		
III	PERSONAL EFFECTS (If complaint made or investigation is desired, explain in "Remarks")	OK	X		→

Interim report

SPECIAL REQUESTS MADE BY BENEFICIARY

ACTION TAKEN BY CACO

ACTION DESIRED BY SUPERS AS FOLLOWS:

NONE

GENERAL REMARKS (Include liaison and contacts with agencies, individuals and relatives; comments; observations, recommendations; and comments of Next of Kin)

ALL PERSONAL EFFECTS DELIVERED, ALL SETTLEMENTS RECEIVED, CONSIDER THIS CASE CLOSED.

RECEIVED
SEP 20 1965
PERSONAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

OK ON PD 707M/300

ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN

NO CHANGE

NEW ADDRESS IS

12726 CASTLE COURT DRIVE LAKESIDE, CALIFORNIA

(b)(6)

ACTIVITY TO WHICH ATTACHED
NAS MIRAMAR

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

FROM: COMMANDANT Eleventh NAVAL DISTRICT
TO: CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL (PERS-G23)

DATE 16 September 1965

1. Forwarded.

(b)(6)

by direction

(initials)

SPECIAL REQUESTS MADE BY BENEFICIARY

ACTION TAKEN BY CACO

ACTION DESIRED BY DUPERS AS FOLLOWS:

None

GENERAL REMARKS (Include liaison and contacts with agencies, individuals and relatives; comments; observations, recommendations; and comments of Next of Kin)

ALL FEDERAL REPORTS DELIVERED, ALL CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED, CONSIDER THIS CASE CLOSED.

RECEIVED
SEP 20 1965
PERSONAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN

(b)(6)

LE COURT DRIVE LAKESIDE, CALIFORNIA

ACTIVITY TO WHICH ATTACHED

NAS HERAFOR

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

FROM: COMMANDANT Eleventh NAVAL DISTRICT
TO: CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL (PERS-G231)

DATE 15 September 1965

1. Forwarded.

(b)(6)

By direction

(signature)

674 340

My dear Mr. and Mrs. Christian:

I learned with deep regret of the death of your son,
Lieutenant (junior grade) David Marion Christian, United
States Naval Reserve, which occurred on 2 June 1965.

My sincere sympathy is extended to you in the loss
of your son.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. and Mrs. Jess M. Christian
9642 Los Coches Road
Lakeside, California

CHRISTIAN, DAVID M.

~~FUCHER, EDWIN B.~~

PHOTOS / NEGATIVES

Best Copy Available

