AGENCY: FBI
RECORD NUMBER: I24-90029-10001
RECORD SERIES: HQ
AGENCY FILE NUMBER: CR 100-408384-1

ORIGINATOR: ARMY
FROM: USA
TO:

TITLE:

DATE: 11/06/1953
PAGES: 9

SUBJECTS: THOMAS R. PEASNER
[Restricted]

DOCUMENT TYPE: PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION: Unclassified
RESTRICTIONS: 3
CURRENT STATUS: Redact
DATE OF LAST REVIEW: 09/15/1998

OPENING CRITERIA: APPROVAL OF USA
COMMENTS: SUMMARY;
SUBJECT: HIBBERD, Winthrop B.  
Corporal RA 19360997.  
CRF No. C-8053239

1. BIOGRAPHICAL DATA AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF CAPTURE

a. HIBBERD, Winthrop B., RA 19360997, Corporal, Caucasian  
twenty-one (21) years of age, eleven (11) years formal education,  
home address - c/o Mr. Bernard BREMER, 1228 So. Lane St., Burbank,  
California.

b. (1) Subject surrendered to the CCF at NUNG-CAL, Korea  
on 18 May 1951. Subject stated that His group which was down to  
three (3) men, was surrounded and that they were trying to fight  
their way out when they surrendered.

(2) When He surrendered Subject had Heavy Weapons  
MOS. He acted as a platoon runner, assistant radio operator and  
ammo bearer in Company D, 1st Battalion, 38th Regiment, 2d Division.

(3) Subject was returned to UN control at "Panmunjon"  
on 19 August 1953. He was returned to CONUS on the USMS Marine  
Adder on 5 September 1953.

(4) In the Psychiatric Survey it was stated that Subject was  
marched to the North for nine (9) days after his surrender, but  
then managed to escape for four (4) days before His recapture.  
No other details given.

2. INTERNEMENT

a. CAMP OR PLACE  LOCATION  DATES

(1) "Mining Camp"  (None given)  July - 18 Sep 51
(2) Camp #1  Changsong  6 Oct 51 - 13 Aug 53
b. Camp Organization and Control

(1) Subject stated that squad and unit leaders were picked at random and that they remained in these positions depending on their cooperation. At Camp #1 the Chinese selected new leaders whom the Chinese thought would cooperate.

(2) According to source the Chinese platoon leaders occasionally asked squad leaders if all the men were present.

3. (a) Subject described physical security as consisting of guards between the companies, roving guards, and guard towers; but, no fences.

(b) Subject stated that other than the Chinese eavesdroppers he had no knowledge of an informant net within the camps.

c. Enemy Personalities

HIBBERD identified the following Chinese personalities at camps to which he was assigned:

(1) Yung, "Flyboy" - 2nd Company interpreter
(2) Luea, (fnu) - 3rd platoon leader
(3) Chin, "Krinkka" - platoon leader
(4) Ho, "Spitfire Sam" - Company instructor & interpreter
(5) Jon, "Lightnin" - officer, Company instructor and interpreter
(6) Siong, (fnu) - 3rd company interpreter
(7) Lu, (fnu) - platoon interpreter
(8) Shinw, (fnu) - 3rd platoon instructor and interpreter
(9) Jon, "Rubberneck" - platoon leader
(10) Shin, (fnu) - regiment

d. Duties and Activities of Subject

(1) Subject claimed that he had no position in the PW camp. He said that he chopped wood for the cooks, slept, read, played cards, volleyball, softball, and basketball.

(2) HIBBERD stated that there is some good and bad about every system, but that he would never want to live under Communism. He claims that communism in practice is different than its dictionary definition. He does not see where Communism would work in the U.S. He asserts that he wants the privilege to set up in the world and that he has the guts and brains to do so, and that one doesn't get something for nothing. Subject states that Communism is not very democratic, although Communists say it is the only true democracy. He says that under Communism there is no political freedom, and no justice in trials. Subject states that the Communist socialized medicine might be all right.
(3) In December 1952 Subject wrote a letter to Mr. Ray Taylor, Route #5, Box 330, Little Rock, Arkansas congratulating him on his work in getting signatures on a petition for a cease fire in Korea.

(4) Subject asserted that he saw guards pick marijuana and give it to Pows, and that after the Pows developed a taste for it the Chinese wouldn't let them have it, stating it was bad for their health. Subject said a guard gave him a handful of marijuana one day. Source added that if the Chinese wanted a charge against a POW, they would allow the POW to sneak out of camp for marijuana, then catch him and accuse him of attempted escape or rape.

(5) Source advised that PRESSLY, Ralph had kept a skimpy diary in camp.

e. Categorical Segregation

Negative

f. Transfer of Prisoners

Subject gave the following information regarding the transfer of prisoners:

(1) On or about 5 August 53, several men in two groups were moved from Camp #1 to an unknown location. The identified Pows in these groups were:

(a) LYLES, Thomas - US Army
(b) RALEIGH, William "Ripper" - US Army (New York, NY)
(c) GORSY, (fnu) - US Army
(d) NAZARES, Joe - US Army
(e) OUTFIT, "Chuck" - US Army (Pennsylvania)
(f) DI CATO, Joseph - US Army (Boston, Mass.)

Source stated that the above-mentioned Pows were leading reactionaries and he believes the Chinese moved them to avoid trouble when the Armistice and repatriation took place. Source further stated that shortly after his arrival in KALSONG, North Korea on 18 August 53, he saw LYLES, OUTFIT, and DiCato on trucks moving through KALSONG to an unknown destination.

(2) Returnee stated that the following Pows were removed from his camp because he believes the Chinese thought they might harm some of the "progressives":
HIBBERD, Winthrop B., RA 15360397, Corporal

(a) RILLY, (fnu)
(b) CALCOCK, Donald
(c) VECCHIO (phonetic), (fnu)
(d) VABELLA (phonetic), (fnu)
(e) EVANS, Bill
(f) also DiCato, RADIGAN, LUTTIT, GREY, and

MANES above.

c. Prisoners Not Repatriated

(1) Subject stated that about 1 Aug 53 several Pows were sentenced to prison by the Chinese. Among these Pows were;

(a) FULKS, Harry, - US Army charged with assisting another PW to escape from jail and other Charges. Sentenced to Three (3) years Confinement.

(b) KAKU, (fnu) - US Army, Hawaiian Charged with instigating reign of terror in camp. Sentenced to Two (2) years Confinement.

3. INTERROGATION

a. Techniques

Subject reported that all POWs were interrogated at one time or another, and whenever the Chinese thought a PW knew something of importance to the Chinese. Source said that POWs were required to write self-criticisms; and a compulsory autobiography listing their military history, names and address of parents and relatives, occupation, property, income, friends, and political affiliation.

b. Essential Elements of Information

HIBBERD did not reveal information in regard to enemy EEL.

c. Mistreatment

(1) Source asserted that after his surrender medical treatment was inadequate; that maggots infested the wounds, no fresh dressings, and that bandages were worn for two (2) or three (3) weeks. Returnee stated that he was beaten with a stick, was kicked, and had his eyes gouged with fingers, because he tried to rest from the exhausting march. He said he lost sixty (60) pounds because of the worm-infested food; but that the Chinese food was much better after October 1951.

(2) Source claimed that the following POW might have information on mistreatment or atrocities;

(a) RUFF, (fnu)
(b) FREEMAN, Bill D.
(c) SHEPHERD, (fnu)
HIBBIRD, Winthrop B., RA 19360997, Corporal

FRANKEN, Bill D. and SHEPHARD, (fnu) were on march from the bean camp - out of 700 PsW who started the march only 250 reached Camp #1.

(3) Returnee stated that at one time the Chinese tried to set up a disciplinary committee among the prisoners to decide on punishment for violations by the PsW. It didn’t work. Subject further advised that HARRIS, (fnu), negro mess sergeant at "Mining Camp" (summer 1951) sold prisoner’s rations and refused food to a sick prisoner, who hadn’t been able to eat for several days previously.

(4) Returnee stated that HELLER, (fnu) was charged unjustly (charge not stated) by the Chinese, taken out of the Company during the night (winter 1952-53) and placed in unheated confinement. HELLER’S toes froze. The PsW appealed to the Chinese who answered that HELLER would be confined until he confessed. Some PsW released HELLER and took him to a Company room. The Chinese then took HELLER to regiment where Subject believes he was put in a cage and confined for 90 days before he confessed. Subject stated that there were similar and worse cases (not enlarged upon).

4. Indoctrination and Collaboration

a. Indoctrination

(1) Subject Matter of Propaganda

Subject stated that the first lecture he heard at "Mining Camp" was given by the Chinese on "Primitive Communism". He further stated that at "Mining Camp" study was compulsory, eight (8) hours a day; that it was compulsory at Camp #1 until early 1952; and that in October 1952 there was compulsory attendance at lectures on germ warfare. These lectures on germ warfare were given by the Chinese, but Source claimed he heard wire-recordings made by Americans on this topic. Subject said that HIBBIRD, (fnu) was the head of the voluntary study group in the 3rd Company.

Returnee advised that books on Communism, lectures movies on the progress of industry and construction under Communism, and charts were other means used during indoctrination.

(2) Special Training

Returnee had nothing to report on training.

(3) Newspapers, Periodicals, and Other Publications

HIBBIRD believes he saw a copy of "New Life" pasted on a wall at Camp #1; that it was published in KANGID. Subject further stated that he saw one issue, and remembers an Anti-American cartoon by HAMMOND, Joe entitled "A GI Wakes Up". Source also recalls the following papers and periodicals in Camp:

CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION

NW 66000 Docld:32324509 Page 6
HIBBERD, Winthrop D., MA 19360997, Corporal

Shanghai News
Daily Worker
Towards Truth and Peace
National Guardian
Peoples World
Peoples China
China Monthly Review
Soviet Literature
China Pictorial

Returnee stated that his company had a "Wall" newspaper. Staff members, selected by the Chinese were [REBBEY, Ralph, and FORD, John E.]. They had special living quarters.

Returnee asserted that instructor YONG suggested that he read "Hidden History of Korea" by I.F. STONE, after his release.

(4) Petitions and Recordings

Source stated that the following individuals circulated petitions in camp:

(a) DECRAW, Bobby - also made recordings
(b) CRIGGS, Lou -
(c) BIERIS, (fnu)
(d) THIBESON, Richard - also made recordings
(e) WILSON, (fnu) - also made recordings
(f) FORD, John E. - also made recordings

Source advised that a complete list of POWs who made recordings is printed in the magazine "China Monthly Review" from Shanghai. He believes it was in a 1953 issue of the magazine.

(5) Movies and Photographs

Subject stated that movies were taken about three (3) times, but that the British were the only ones that really cooperated. Still group pictures of athletics, dances, and other events were also taken.

b. Collaboration

(1) Names and Positions of Alleged Collaborators

(a) Subject stated that DECRAW, Bobby, and BIERIS, (fnu) attempted to influence other POWs to follow and accept Communist theories.

(b) Subject asserted that the following POWs performed the duties as indicated:
1 DEGRAW, Bobby - Chairman of Peace Committee, visited camp officials frequently. Elected to Peace Committee by PSM from names selected by Chinese.
2 SMITH, (fnn) - head of food Committee elected by PSM.
3 DAVIDSON, (fnn) - Company librarian, believed to have volunteered for job.
4 LAGGETT, (fnn) - librarian
5 BIEHS, (fnn) - visited camp officials frequently.
6 GRIGGS, (fnn) - visited camp officials frequently.
7 FERGUSON, Thomas Jr. - visited camp officials frequently.
8 FORD, John E. - visited camp officials frequently.
9 GAYLES, Tommy - Subject heard one Chinese say he loved GAYLES like a son. Very friendly with Chinese.
10 DAVIS, Charles - friendly with Chinese, lived at regimental headquarters.
11 ROBERTS, Lloyd D. - repaired radios for Chinese at Regiment; lived at Regiment; listened to U.S. broadcasts when he got the chance.

(2) Prisoners that Apparently Accepted Indoctrination

HIBBIRD stated that the following prisoners seemed to have accepted indoctrination:

(a) DEGRAW, Bobby - seemed sincere. Subject heard DEGRAW say he would like to join the Communist Party; wrote for peace articles for newspapers, made wire recordings appealing for peace and stating PSM were receiving good treatment; wrote peace petitions; regularly attended voluntary study groups; spoke in favor of socialism.

(b) GRIGGS, Lou - afraid; same activities as DEGRAW above (4b)(2)(a).

(c) BIEHS, (fnn) - opportunist; same activities as DEGRAW above (4b)(2)(a).

(d) TENNESSEN, Richard - appeared sincere; same activities as listed above in (4b)(2)(a).

(e) PATE, (fnn) - Same activities as listed above in (4b)(2)(a).

(f) WILSON, Aaron - same activities as listed above in (4b)(2)(a).

(g) WELLS, (fnn) - same activities as listed above in (4b)(2)(a).

(h) FORD, John E. - opportunist; same activities as listed above in (4b)(2)(a).
HIBBERD, Winthrop B., RA 19360997, Corporal

(1) ROBERTS, Lloyd L. - opportunist; same activities as listed above in (4b(2)(a), although he did not write peace petitions.

(2) GAYLES, Tommy - opportunist; same activities as listed above in (4b(2)(a), although he did not write peace petitions.

(3) Prisoners Who Had Activities Distant From Camp

Subject asserted that the following PzW were elected as delegates by PzW to a Conference in PAKTON, for the purpose of presenting complaints of PzW:

(a) SMITH, (fnu)
(b) POTTS, (fnu)

Returnee stated that FORD, John E. once left the Camp and said he went to Camp #3 for study reasons.

(4) Names of Prisoners That Refused Repatriation

Subject believes that the following PzW possibly refused repatriation. If so, it is his opinion that it is based on fear of reprisals because they were leaders in the "Progressive" movement and closely cooperated with the Chinese in the propaganda program:

(a) DECRAY, Bobby - US Army,
(b) TEPSON, Richard - US Army, home in Minnesota
(c) GRIGGS, Louis - US Army
(d) PATTE, (fnu) - US Army
(e) WILSON, Aaron - US Army
(f) BIEHS, (fnu) - US Army

(5) Activities of Soviet Personnel

Subject stated that during his march to Camp he saw Caucasians operating Anti-Aircraft guns and believes they were Russians. He also saw people passing through the Camp, whom he believes were Russians.

(6) RECOMMENDATIONS

a. The Chairman of the JIPB stated that Subject is apparently a potential security risk.

b. The Counterintelligence Representative believes Subject to be a potential security risk; that Subject absorbed some of the Communist ideology; and that other sources (listed only as #263, #53, #277, and #311) indicated that Subject was an informer, a "progressive", and cooperated and was friendly with the Chinese.
c. OSI and ONI Representatives believe that Subject is a potential Security risk.

d. The Psychiatric Diagnosis by K. GREENE, USAF, MC, revealed that Subject apparently made a realistic adjustment to prison life; appeared to be well-motivated and His escape attempt quite resourceful; His memory was good, judgment good and has a degree of insight.

DISTRIBUTION:
5 - G-2, DEPTAR
1 - G-2, AFPE
1 - G-2, ea CONUS Army (5)
1 - G-2, MDW
1 - G-2, USARPAC
1 - G-2, USARCARIB
4 - File