



Faces of Winter

Chill Factor Dips to Frigid Zones On Flightline of Air Force Bases

Aircraft know no seasons, but the people who service them do -- and, at this time of year, they wear the 'faces of winter.'

Rosy cheeks, rough almost leathery skin, deep set and watery eyes are the marks of aircraft ground crews who spend hours in frigid temperatures.

To the refuelers, the loadmasters, to the aircraft mechanics, and generator, starter, and compressor operators, winter means extended periods of exposure to the wintry blasts, in the

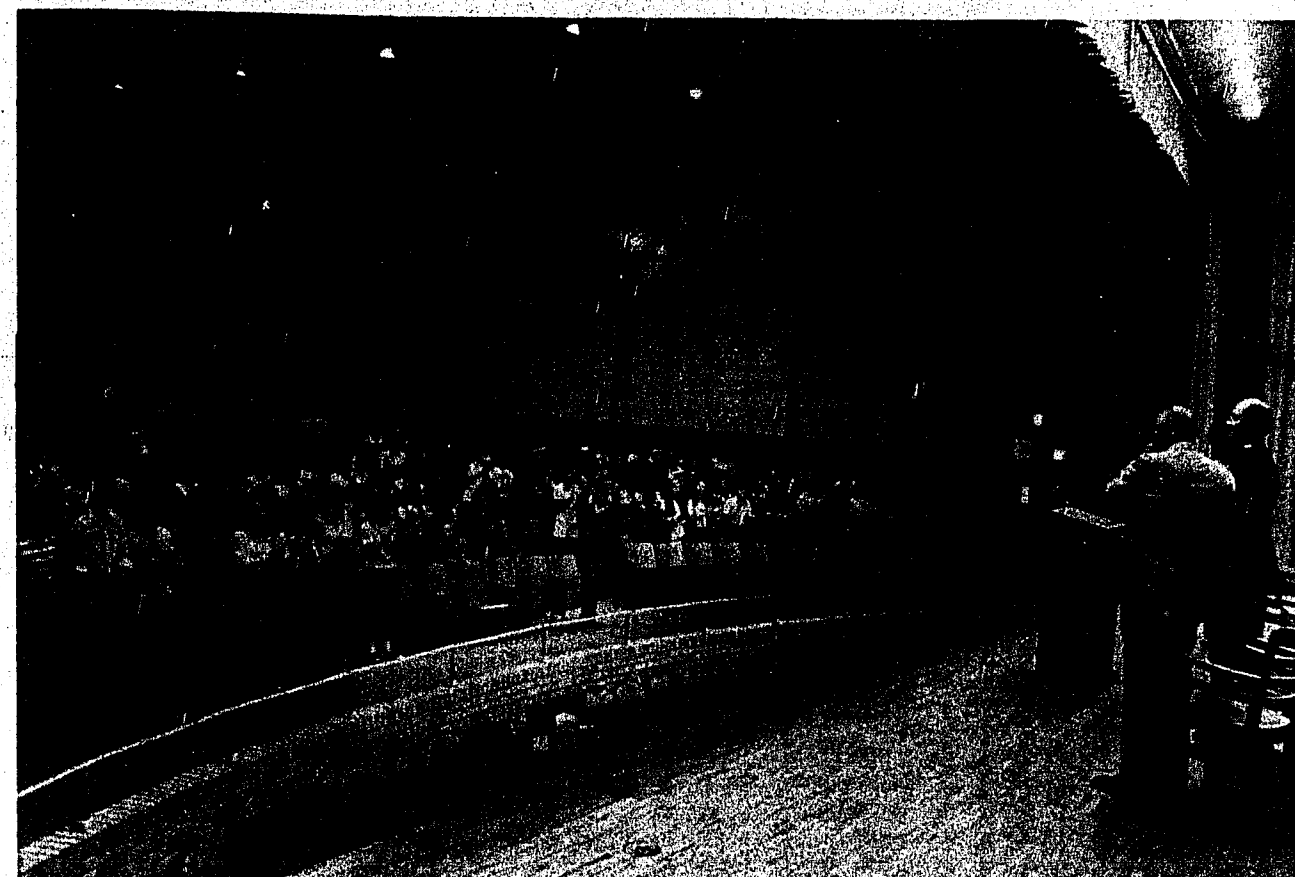
sleet and snow on the runways and taxiways where the chill factor at times dips to minus 90.

When the aircraft of the Military Airlift Command -- the C-141 Starliners and the C-5 Galaxies -- are on the ground, they demand the services of a wide variety of technicians, and they demand, regardless of the weather -- 20 below zero or 100 in the shade.

That's what keeps the big birds in the air and, at this time of year, that's what creates the 'faces of winter.'



U.S. Air Force Photos
By MSgt Yuen-Gi Yee
and Sgt William Talley



Col. Collins, Right, Receives Standing Ovation From Senior High Student Body After 7½ Years, Captured Flier Found Only God Had Not Changed

PHIA--post-Hanoi adjustment--is a lingering malady, far less severe than Hanoi confinement. But both Hanoi and PHA are treatable by massive doses of God's love. That was the message woven through the account James Quincy Collins gave at Mooreville Senior High School Friday afternoon of his seven and a half years as a prisoner of the North Vietnamese, and of his impressions of the America he came home to in January of this year.

Collins spoke during a 1:15 p.m. assembly of the Senior High School student body. His hour-long appearance was arranged by Jack Duffy of Mooreville, an old friend of the Air Force colonel who grew up in Concord.

The F-105 jet fighter pilot told what gave him the strength to bear the tortures and to keep the will to survive during the long years.

"Two things--my religion and my wife and family--gave me that strength to survive," Collins said as he leaned heavily on the podium.

"I needed something besides a Sunday School God and God was there with me," he said. "He gave me the strength I needed."

Shortly after being freed and turned over to American military personnel, Collins told of news that he received that nearly shattered him.

"There was word my wife and I would not be together again," Collins said. "At that moment my whole world crumbled, but then I realized I still had God. Back in prison I had realized that when released, I would be a free man and anything else beyond that would be gravy. I lost it."

Collins, a 1949 graduate of Concord High School, concluded his talk with a charge for the sophomores, junior, and seniors.

"If you want some advice from 'old baldy,'" Collins said as the student broke a long silence with laughter, "you should find out what is important in your life. Stay away from dope. Have enough courage to punch somebody in the mouth if you are offered dope. Be prepared to take the reins of the future."

The POW's only contact with the outside world were new prisoners, the colonel explained.

"The new prisoners would tell us everything about anything that they could remember," Collins said, "we found out about the first man on the moon about eight months after it happened," he added.

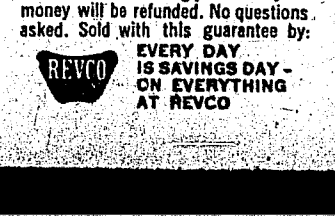
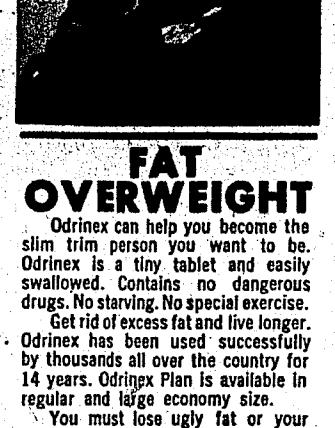
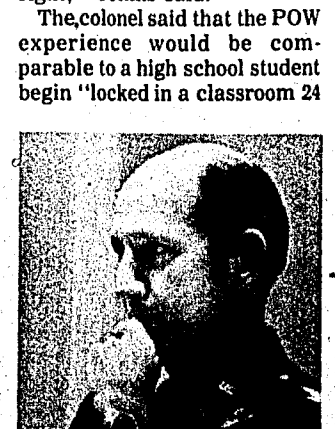
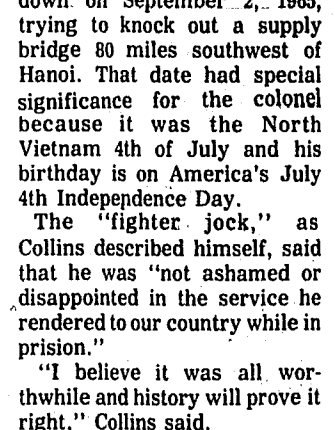
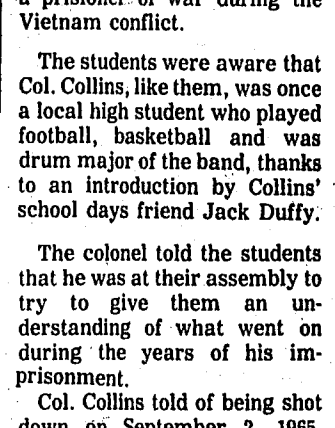
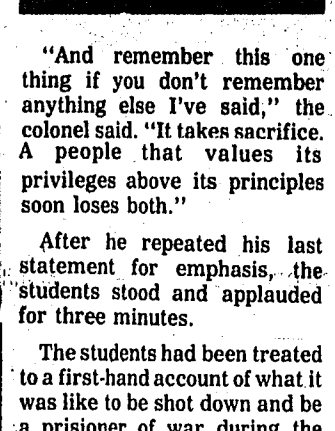
Col. Collins told of being in Hanoi when the B-52's started bombing Hanoi last December.

"It was like being inside a fire bomb," the former prisoner said, "but we were happy. We knew it was the only thing that would get us out. The bombing lasted 10 days."

In response to students' questions Col. Collins said that "yes, the things that have been printed about torture are true. When they want something they have ways of getting it."

Collins discussed the bombing of the North, saying that "U. S. targets were railroad yards. It was unfortunate that they made people live there," he said. Errors accounted for the bombed hospitals.

The colonel said that he was not allowed to write a letter until 1969 and that he received only eight letters in seven and one half years, even though many more were written to him.



EMPHASIS SHIFTS FROM STILLS TO FIREARMS

Special ATF Agent Describes Passing Of Era

"It's the passing of an era," so says Bob Martin, special agent for the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms division of the U. S. Treasury Department. Martin has been with the federal government since 1949, when he joined what was known then as the Alcohol Tax Unit. Martin was a student at Catawba College in Salisbury; and after passing an exam, was awarded the position of an agent. Since then the department has gone through several name changes.

The name changes came as the department involved from a division of the Internal Revenue Service to its own entity and function. The purposes and aims of the department have also changed with the times.

"In the early years we spent 90 percent of our time in the woods or chasing illegal still operators," said Martin. "Now we spend most of our time involved with firearms and in the cities."

Martin credits the changing times with the passing of an era. He says the moonshiner runners who used to dart out of Wilkes County and other areas in the early morning hours, and high speed chases through winding roads, are now a thing of the past.

"It seems now that the 18 through 25-year-olds have more money and are buying bonded whiskey or are not involved with liquor but drugs. We have also caught the young people are not involved with liquor stills as they used to be. Now it seems the only ones left making liquor are the old heads."

Work Changing Looking backward, Martin says, in the heyday of federal liquor operations, the 1950s, there were 13 federal agents covering Wilkes County, and in one month they peaked at making 50 raids at stills. "Now we have three men for six counties, and we spend more of our time involved with weapon violations, or control, than we do for liquor violations," said the veteran agent.

As the country has moved to sophistication and development, so has the work of the agents. "Back in those days, the '50s, those persons we were involved with were men for six counties, and we spend more of our time involved with weapon violations, or control, than we do for liquor violations," said the veteran agent.

"Years ago," said the agent, "there were acres and acres of wilderness in this area; now it has become developed and there just is no more wilderness like they used to have in the old days. They have also decided not to fight each other, but to work cooperatively," he said.

Martin pointed out while there used to be many small stills serving a community, now "Mafia or syndicate" money is being used to create large distilleries that serve large areas. The officer said operators have found it more profitable to buy ready-packaged liquor from a large operation and to distribute, rather than produce and sell.

Expensive Operation The officer supports his feeling that today's liquor traffic is large operation and is backed by large underworld organizations by pointing to the high cost of underground operations which are seemingly more profitable than small stills. One of the most elaborate stills found in Martin's district was found several years ago only a little more than a mile from the Statesville city limits. The cost of that elaborate underground unit was placed at over \$100,000.

"That kind of money has got to come from big money men who finance such an operation and then never see the operation but only get the profits. It's a very difficult to connect them with the operation," said Martin.

Martin said convictions of being involved with a distillery are more difficult now. He said agents must actually see someone involved in making liquor before they can charge the person with operating a distillery. This contrasts sharply from previous times when just being at a still site was sufficient evidence for a conviction.

The officer remembers vividly one moonshiner they caught working a still in Davidson County. It was back in the '60s, and as Martin and others moved in to arrest the operator, the moonshiner fired a single barreled shotgun at Martin. The blast caught the officer in his right hand, knocking his gun out of his hand and his index finger was shot away.

"He ran up to me, took my gun away and tried to shoot me in the head while I was on the ground. Luckily, the blast from the shotgun had disabled the weapon and it would not fire."

"If he had shot one second earlier, the blast would have caught me in the chest instead of my hand. As it was, I had blood all over my chest and the fellow thought he had killed me. He ran away, and as he did so, he left my gun with a fellow operating a tractor, saying he would save the gun for me."

Martin in describing a "contract" runner of that era. They are the "Thunder Road" type who used to haul liquor by the case from point to point and get paid by the amount they carried.

"With many of them, it was a game they played with us. They wanted a chase and in those days a chase at 2 a.m. or so was just between them and us. There wasn't the traffic on the road that there is now. Today it's just not possible for that way of life. There are interstate and too many people on the road."

The officer recalls one moonshiner "who used to come out and taunt us to chase him." There were many times he got away, but there were many times when we caught up with him. He was one of the best drivers we ever chased."

Martin says that youngsters who build cars to run fast are just like the old moonshiners. They drive during the day so as to be able to get away with the large volume of traffic.

Martin recalls that when they were involved with the large flow of liquor from Wilkes County, one agent had a Ford with a Cadillac engine. "That thing could really go. It was about the only car we had that could keep up with the really fast cars, although back in those days we used to have people who worked on the engines of our regular cars. Now we drive cars with regular engines." And

with air conditioning, of course. Stills Hidden Now The changes have also affected the officers involved. "We used to walk many miles a day 'prospecting' for stills. Now, most of the stills have moved indoors away from the woods and streams and hidden away like that, they are very difficult to find, unless there is an informant or we receive reliable information."

"Sometimes we may work two or three months now on a liquor operation due to the size and involvement of the operation. Most of the time, however, we are involved in firearms operations."

The officer explained that ATF agents spend a large percentage of their time licensing dealers who sell firearms or explosives and enforcing Title II of the Safe Streets Act, which involves agents' assisting local law enforcement officials in firearms or explosive cases.

It was pointed out that new regulations provide that anyone purchasing a long gun, such as a rifle, must now be 18 years old, and 21 years old to purchase a handgun. All purchases of explosives must be by someone 21 years old, with the stipulation that the buyer must complete a form for each purchase. Persons or companies who sell firearms or explosives are now closely regulated by the ATF. Detailed accounts of all transactions must be kept by dealers.

Weapons Regulated Also, it is now illegal for a convicted felon to own or carry any weapon unless he has been granted permission to do so by the Secretary of the Treasury or his delegate. The assassinations of several national political figures have also been responsible for such regulations; as all imported weapons must be serialized; handguns must have at least a three-inch barrel and be intended for sporting use, and mail order sale of all military types of weapons is prohibited.

Additionally, persons cannot purchase guns out-of-state unless that state borders a person's home state and then there is a waiting period for certification. For example, a person from North Carolina who wished to purchase a gun in Spartanburg, S. C., must wait a form which is sent to that person's home county, where either the sheriff or city police must approve the purchase, and that form would then be returned to Spartanburg. Naturally, the time and effort have been reduced to a minimum those who would make the effort to purchase guns out-of-state.

The new gun regulations be-

came effective in 1968 when certain other military types of weapons became illegal to possess unless the person had the weapon previous to 1968 and the gun was registered. There was a grace period before the new law went into effect, in which a person in possession of such a weapon could register the weapon and maintain it in his possession.

Martin said at least 90 guns were registered in this district, including several machine guns, with most of the weapons being war trophies.

Not only are the officers busy with alcohol violations and abuse of explosives and guns, but the fires are busy working with local police and instructing police throughout the country.

Martin's specialty is in instructing police in the gun control act, dealing with informers, raid planning, and search and seizure procedures. In these efforts, Martin has traveled as extensively as Los Angeles, Calif.; Minneapolis, Minn.; Buffalo, N. Y.; and Virginia Beach, Va.

The ATF headquarters for this area is Charlotte, and along with Martin, agents Bruce Bassett and John Spaldell, are responsible for Ireddell, Davis, Davidson, Rowan, Cabarrus, Stanly, Montgomery and Randolph counties.

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