H2560  HANOI HILTON  (USA, 1987)

Credits: director/writer, Lionel Chetwyn.
Cast: Michael Moriarty, Jeffrey Jones, Paul Le Mat, Stephen Davies.
Summary: War melodrama set in North Vietnam from 1964-1973. A view of life for American POWs in the Hoa Lo Prison in Hanoi, better known as the ‘Hanoi Hilton.’ Cmdr. Patrick Williamson (Moriarty) is shot down and captured by the North Vietnamese in 1964, becoming the first ‘guest’ at the Hilton. For failure to divulge more than his name, rank and serial number he is held in solitary confinement for more than a year. After Col. Cameron Cathcart (Pressman) is captured, he reimposes military discipline on the previously disorganized prisoners. The North Vietnamese respond by torturing many prisoners to break their spirit, but the mistreatment has the opposite effect. Many are tortured to the breaking point and read phony confessions, but indicate they are under duress by their inarticulate delivery. As the war nears an end, treatment improves. When release comes in 1973, the gleeful men are repatriated.

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[Reprinted in Film review annual 1988]
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[Reprinted in Film review annual 1988]
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Donald, Ralph R. “Hanoi Hilton” Vietnam war feature filmography (1992 draft) [GB] (p. 186-7) and Vietnam war films [GB] (Entry 260)
[Reprinted in Film review annual 1988]
[Reprinted in Film review annual 1988]
Gibson, James William. Warrior dreams: paramilitary culture in post-Vietnam America [GB] (p. 29)


Hillstrom, Kevin and Hillstrom, Laurie Collier. The Vietnam experience : a concise encyclopedia of American literature, songs, and films [GB] (p. 146-51)

Hillstrom, Laurie Collier (see under Hillstrom, Kevin)

Holzl, Gebhard and Peipp, Matthias. Fahr zur Holle, Charlie! [GB] (p. 136+, 275-6)


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Kehr, Dave. “‘Hanoi Hilton’ houses too many pat answers” Chicago tribune (Jun 7, 1987), Tempo, p. 9.


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Muse, Eben J. The land of Nam : the Vietnam war in American film [GB] (p. 195-6, 200, 249)


Peipp, Matthias (see under Holzl, Gebhard)


Quart, Leonard (see under Auster, Al)


[Reprinted in Film review annual 1988]


Szamuey, George. “Hollywood goes to Vietnam” [GB]


Wilmington, Michael. “‘Hanoi: Cardboard heroes, villains” Los Angeles times (Mar 27, 1987), Calendar, p. 8.

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