Louis Berlanti and son, Fred Berlanti: Extrajudicial Assassination, August 16, 1963, over Lake Okeechobee, Florida. Louis was a contractor and real estate developer from Harrison, New York, who had suffered sizable real estate losses from property confiscations by the Castro government and had pledged half a million dollars to unseat it. He and his son Fred, a resident of St. Petersburg Beach, Florida, were members of the “United Organizations for the Liberation of Cuba.” They were flying in a private airplane that exploded over Lake Okeechobee, Florida, killing them both, reportedly sabotaged by Cuban intelligence.

Francis Brown, Age 68: Extrajudicial assassination, April 27, 1978, Guantánamo hospital. Former World War II U.S. veteran who was working as a diver at the U.S. Guantanamo Naval Base and lived outside the base with a Cuban wife and daughter when the Castro regime rose to power. He was alerted by a co-worker who had been designated to kill him by the Cuban regime in order to blame the U.S. government and provoke a confrontation. He resigned from his job at the base to avoid being used as a pawn, but remained in Cuba trying to get his family out. He was falsely accused of kidnapping his own daughter and imprisoned. After his release, he was under constant surveillance and controlled by the secret police. On the eve of a visit by an African-American delegation from the U.S., he developed high blood pressure and went to the hospital emergency room. Under the control of State Security agents, he was given an injection that almost immediately caused him to foam at the mouth and die. His daughter believes he was killed to avoid a public relations’ problem.


Earl Glenn Cobell, Age 36: Extrajudicial assassination (war crime), November 5, 1970, Hoa Lo prison, North Vietnam. U.S. Air Force lieutenant colonel, Vietnam P.O.W. from Pontiac, Michigan. He had been taken prisoner in 1967 when his Air Force jet was shot down over North Vietnam. Transferred to Hoa Lo Prison (“The Zoo”), he was subjected to “The Cuban Program,” an experimental domination technique with a particularly vicious regime of physical and psychological torture led by Cuban state security agents and tested on 18 U.S. POWs held at Hoa Lo during 1967 and 1968. After weeks of vicious beatings, unrelenting psychological torture, electroshocks, and solitary confinement, Cobell’s physical and mental condition deteriorated progressively until he went into a coma and died in his cell. Survived by a wife and two children, Cobell’s remains were returned to the U.S. in March 1974. The head of the Cuban torture team was identified by POWs as Fernando Vecino Alegret, who later became Cuba’s Minister of Higher Education.
Benito E. Cortés Maldonado, Age 39: Executed by firing squad, January 12, 1959, Santiago de Cuba. Policeman and pilot. U.S. citizen born in Puerto Rico, resident of Santiago de Cuba. Executed by firing squad without due process together with 70 members of the armed forces, police, and Batista supporters. The men were lined up in pairs in front of ditches and shot all through the night. The mass graves were then filled by a bulldozer; some men were buried alive. Cortés left a widow and five children. His family insists he had not committed any crimes.

Carlos Alberto Costa, Age 29: Extrajudicial assassination, February 24, 1996, international airspace over Florida Straits. Human Resources Administrator at the Miami International Airport and private pilot resident of Miami, Florida. Was piloting an unarmed civilian plane shot down by Cuban MIG jet fighters while on a humanitarian search and rescue mission of rafters for the non-profit organization “Brothers to the Rescue.”

Andrew DeGraux Villafañ, Age 19: Forced disappearance, presumed killed, September 13, 1962. U.S. citizen born in Cuba, resident of Trinidad, Las Villas province, son of a U.S. F.B.I. agent residing in Cuba, and student of auto mechanics. An anti-Castro rebel, he was wounded in combat and taken for medical care to a Trinidad hospital, where he was denied water and subjected to psychological torture. Transferred to a hospital in Cienfuegos, he came out of an operation, but that same night the family was told he died and had been buried at a cemetery in Cienfuegos. It was, however, rumored that he had been executed. DeGraux had been organizer of a student strike in Las Villas.

Mario de la Peña, Age 24: Extrajudicial assassination, February 24, 1996, international airspace over the Straits of Florida. Student of Aeronautics, pilot and flight instructor, resident of Miami, Florida. Was piloting an unarmed civilian plane shot down by Cuban MIG jet fighters while on a humanitarian search and rescue mission of rafters for the non-profit organization “Brothers to the Rescue.”

Matthew Edward Duke, Age: 43: Extrajudicial assassination, May 14, 1960, near Mariel, in Pinar del Río province. Resident of Palm Beach, Florida. Was piloting an airplane that was shot down by the Cuban Air Force when he flew to Cuba to pick up fugitive Batista army and police officers. Upon landing, he was ambushed and shot to death by Cuban army soldiers. His body was turned over to the U.S. Embassy in Havana.

Robert Otis Fuller, Age 25. Executed by firing squad, October 16, 1960, San Juan Hill shooting practice field, Santiago de Cuba. Former U.S. Marine officer, veteran of the Korean War resident of Coral Gables, Florida executed with fellow Americans Anthony Zarba and Allen Thompson. They had landed on October 1960 in Oriente province to help the anti-Castro insurgency, but was soon captured and sentenced to death by a Revolutionary Tribunal in a summary trial lasting only 20 minutes that sentenced ten men to death. The appeal lasted 20 minutes and the execution was carried out that same day. Fuller’s blood (and probably that of the other men) was drained immediately before the execution, as Cuba was selling blood in the world market. The U.S. government filed a diplomatic note of protest that was rejected by the Castro government. Cuban writer Norberto Fuentes recounts witnessing a 1987 meeting at which Fidel and Raúl Castro gloated about having had the Americans executed. On February 2003, Fuller’s widow and daughter won a default judgment against the Cuban government in a Florida Court.

Angus K. McNair, Age 25: Executed by firing squad, April 19, 1961, Kilo 5 ½ Prison, Luis Lazo, Pinar del Río province. Radiotelegraph operator for an anti-Castro rebel group from Coral Gables, Florida. He landed in Pinar del Río province on March 21st 1961 to start an anti-Castro guerrilla group and was captured and executed together with U.S. citizen Howard Anderson and seven Cubans. The U.S. forwarded a stiff protest to the Cuban government declaring the executions violated “the elementary standards of justice practiced by the civilized nations of the world.”

William Alexander Morgan, Age 34: Executed by firing squad, December 3,1961, La Cabaña Fortress, Havana. U.S. Army veteran, former paratrooper and commander in Castro’s Rebel Army, resident of Havana, Cuba, executed for participating in an anti-Castro conspiracy supplying arms to the Escambray guerrillas. He had been betrayed by a police informer and was sentenced to death in a sham trial. Just days after his death, Morgan’s 23-year old Cuban wife was arrested and remained imprisoned until 1973. She fled Cuba for the U.S. in 1980 with her two daughters during the Mariel boatlift.

William Horace Patten, Age 34: Executed by firing squad, September 23, 1961, Shooting practice field, city of Camaguey. Ticketing agent at Camaguey Airport, and general aviation pilot for agricultural aerial-spraying applications. He landed in Cuba to start a guerrilla movement, was captured, and executed.
Fellow Americans Robert Fuller and Anthony Zarba were also executed. The appeal lasted only 20 minutes. The execution was carried out that same day. The Cuban government claimed he committed suicide by hanging. In 2008, a Florida jury ruled against the Cuban government and awarded del Pino's family $253 million, although Cuban government funds were not available in the U.S. to collect on the award.

In addition to the above, the following cases of reported U.S. citizens are not fully “documented” and pending confirmation:

**Junior Cruz** – Reportedly executed by firing squad, 1971.

**Enrique Cicard** – Reportedly a U.S. citizen at birth, his death was officially a suicide, but possible extrajudicial killing, 1979.


**II. 5 U.S. citizens killed in terrorist attacks sponsored or supported by Cuba**

Dan Mitrione: Extrajudicial assassination, August 8, 1970, Montevideo, Uruguay. C.I.A. officer working at the U.S. Embassy in Montevideo kidnapped by Tupamaro commandos under the direction of Cuban security agents Miguel Hevia Cosculluela and Cuban Interior Ministry Colonel Antonio de la Guardia. Mitrione was assassinated after his interrogation and torture, his body found in the trunk of a stolen car two days after the U.S. government (Nixon administration) refused to negotiate his release.

**Anthony Zarba, Age 27: Executed by firing squad, October 13, 1960, Santiago de Cuba.** Resident of Somerville, Massachusetts who landed in Oriente province with two fellow Americans to help the anti-Castro guerrilla movement. Was captured and sentenced to death by a Revolutionary Tribunal in a summary trial lasting only 15 minutes, the execution was carried out immediately. Fellow Americans Robert Fuller and Allen Dale Thompson were also executed. The U.S. filed a diplomatic note of protest that was rejected by the Cuban government. Writer Norberto Fuentes recounts a 1987 meeting at which Fidel and Raúl Castro gloated about executing the Americans.

**Rafael del Pino Siero, Age 50: Extrajudicial assassination, August 22, 1977, punishment cell, Combinado del Este prison, Havana.** U.S. citizen by naturalization who had served in the U.S. Armed Forces and Florida resident. He had been a personal friend of Fidel Castro from their university days. In 1959 he flew a plane to Cuba to pick-up defecting Cuban military officers. Captured, he was sentenced to 30 years in prison, where he was assassinated years later. The Cuban government claimed he committed suicide by hanging. In 2008, a Florida jury ruled against the Cuban government and awarded del Pino’s family $253 million, although Cuban government funds were not available in the U.S. to collect on the award.

**Thomas Willard Ray, Age 30: Extrajudicial assassination, April 19, 1961, Cuban airspace over the Bay of Pigs.** Air Force Captain, pilot with the Alabama National Guard resident of Birmingham, Alabama. He was shot down near the Australia Sugar Mill in Cuba while piloting a plane on a C.I.A. covert mission in support of the 2506 Brigade during the Bay of Pigs invasion. Having survived the crash wounded, he received a shot at close range to the right temple. For 18 years, the Cuban government kept his frozen body at a morgue in Havana as a war trophy, exhibiting and routinely desecrated it. His daughter Janet led a campaign to recover his remains and, after receiving over 200 letters from her, Fidel Castro decided to release them. He was buried December 1979 in Birmingham, Alabama, with military honors. Prior to his burial, an autopsy was performed that determined the cause of death. In November 2004, Ray’s daughter won a multimillion-dollar lawsuit against the Cuban government in a Florida court.

**Allen Dale Thompson, Age 36: Executed by firing squad, October 16, 1960, Santiago de Cuba.** He landed in Oriente province with two fellow Americans to help the anti-Castro guerrilla movement. Was captured and sentenced to death by a Revolutionary Tribunal. The summary trial, during which ten men were sentenced to death, lasted only 20 minutes. The appeal took 20 minutes and the execution was carried out that same day. Fellow Americans Robert Fuller and Anthony Zarba were also executed. The U.S. filed a diplomatic note of protest that was rejected by the Castro government. Writer Norberto Fuentes recounts a 1987 meeting at which Fidel and Raúl Castro gloated about executing the Americans.

**Gustavo Villoldo Argilagos: Politically-induced suicide, February 16, 1959, Cuba.** Villoldo was a prominent businessman with numerous holdings and properties. When the Castro brothers took power January 1, 1959, the Villoldo family was targeted as “lackeys of the United States and Yankee imperialists.” Cuban agents abducted Villoldo from his home and subjected him to hours of torture and interrogations, beatings, food deprivation, and repeated threats that he would be executed. Soon after his release, Ché Guevara paid him a visit to force him to choose either death by firing squad or the execution of his son. He took his own life in a sleeping pill overdose rather than giving Guevara and Castro the satisfaction of killing him. In 2009, his family filed a lawsuit in Florida against the Cuban government for wrongful death and intentional infliction of emotional distress, obtaining a final judgment of $2.8 billion.

on charges of conspiracy against the powers of the state. His young wife, unaware he was to be executed, unexpectedly learned of his death on Cuban radio.
Frank Thomas Connor, Age 33, banker, Harold Sherburne, Age 66, banker, Alejandro Berger, Age 28, banker, and James Gezork, Age 32, business executive: Terrorist bombing attack, January 24, 1975, New York City. The four men were having lunch, separately with clients or colleagues, in the historic restaurant Fraunces Tavern of Lower Manhattan when a bomb exploded. The Cuba-sponsored Puerto Rican nationalist terrorist group FALN (Frente Armado de Liberación Nacional) took credit for the bombing, but the perpetrators were not captured. In 1978, FALN bombmaker Guillermo, William, Morales accidentally set off a pipe bomb he was building, suffering injuries. Although no firm evidence could be found to link him to the Fraunces Tavern attack, he was sentenced to 89 years of prison for possession of explosives. He escaped the following year from Bellevue Hospital's prison ward, fled to Mexico, and then to Cuba, where he is still believed to enjoy safe haven from U.S. justice. Connor left a wife and two sons, ages 11 and 9. From 1974-83 FALN was responsible for 72 bombings, 40 incendiary attacks, and 8 attempted bombings in several U.S. cities. Their financial crimes included a $7 million armored car robbery in Hartford, Connecticut, whose leader, Victor Gerena, escaped to Cuba with the cash, aided by Cuban intelligence, and is still believed to live there.

III. 13 U.S. citizens killed or missing in operations to monitor/counter the Castro regime

Rudolph Anderson Jr., Age 35: Shot down during a surveillance mission, October 27, 1962, Bay of Nipe, Oriente Province, Cuba. U.S. Air Force Major, U-2 pilot assigned to the 40-28 Strategic Weather Reconnaissance Flight Program at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas. Shot down by a missile while flying a U-2 spy plane over Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He had taken the first photos of Soviet missile silos in Cuba. Then Soviet Premier Nikita Krushchev wrote that Fidel Castro had ordered Soviet antiaircraft officers stationed in Cuba to shoot down the plane and they had complied without authorization from Moscow. His body is still in exhibition in a refrigerated vault at a Museum of the Revolution. Anderson was survived by a wife and three children.

Leo Francis Baker, Age 34. Killed in combat, April 19, 1961, Cuban airspace over Bay of Pigs, Las Villas province. Resident of Birmingham, Alabama, flight navigator with the Alabama National Guard whose plane, piloted by Capt. Thomas Ray, was shot down during the Bay of Pigs invasion.

Robert Ellis Frost: Killed in combat, February 18, 1960, España Sugar Mill, Perico, Matanzas province. Pilot killed in combat when his small plane was shot down by anti-aircraft fire when bombarding a sugar mill in Matanzas province in an anti-Castro operation.

Wade Carrol Gray: Killed in combat, April 19, 1961, Cuban airspace. Flight Navigator with the Alabama National Guard resident of Birmingham, Alabama shot down during an air support mission for the 2506 Brigade during the Bay of Pigs invasion.

Paul (Pat) Hughes, Age 37, pilot, and Jay Hunter, co-pilot, killed accidentally, October 31, 1960 in Flores, Guatemala. They had taken off from Ft. Pierce, Florida and having not returned, the flight had been officially listed as disappeared. It was later determined that it had been shot down by error by the Guatemalan military when it approached the Flores airport unexpectedly, unable to communicate with the tower. The plane was low on fuel after being hit by Cuban fire after bombing, or attempting to bomb, Cuban sites with three homemade bombs. The bombing operation on Halloween day was named "Operation Trick or Treat," and was in reprisal for the firing squad execution by the Castro regime of three U.S. citizens in Santiago de Cuba a few days earlier (Robert Fuller, Tony Zarba and Allen Thompson for an aborted invasion of Cuba). Hughes, a former navy pilot, was a soldier of fortune, he and Hunter had both been previously active in revolutionary activities with the Castro Rebel Army and later the Castro Armed Forces.
Eugene Koch, Age 22: Killed in combat, April 17, 1961, Bay of Pigs, Las Villas province. Former engineering student at University of Villanueva, Havana. Paratrooper, member of the 2506 Brigade, killed in combat during the Bay of Pigs invasion.

William D. Pawley: Suicide, January 7, 1977, Miami, Florida. Businessman and C.I.A. agent resident of Miami, Florida, who committed suicide after U.S. Navy ships accidentally machine-gunned the infiltration boat *Flying Tiger II*, killing the entire infiltration team. He was in charge of this mission, designed to smuggle Soviet defectors out of Cuba.

Mike Rafferty: Accidental death, December 11, 1966, Florida Straits. Pilot resident of Florida, USA. His B-25 aircraft crashed into the ocean after bombing a refinery in Matanzas Bay in support of the Cuban anti-Castro resistance.

Alexander I. Rorke, Jr., Age 37: Missing in action, September 24, 1963, Cuban airspace. Freelance writer resident of New York city who disappeared with two others (including the pilot, Geoffrey Sullivan) in or en route to Cuba during a CIA sponsored flight to deliver supplies to the anti-Castro resistance movement in the Escambray mountains of Cuba. Their Beechcraft bi-motor airplane had taken off from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, refueling in Cozumel, Mexico, en route to Cuba. Credible sources later reported that the plane had been shot down over Cuban territory and that at least the pilot, Sullivan, had been tortured and imprisoned for over a decade before being executed. In August 2009 his daughter won a lawsuit against the Cuban government in Maine and was awarded US$21 million (which she has not been able to collect).

Riley W. Shamburger Jr.: Killed in combat, April 1961, Cuban airspace over Bay of Pigs. Air Force Major with the Alabama National Guard resident of Birmingham, Alabama. Shot down while piloting a plane in support of the 2506 Brigade during the Bay of Pigs invasion.


Ksawery Wyrozemski, Age 51: Killed accidentally, February 12, 1967, Albertville, Congo. Resident of Fort Walton Beach, Florida, CIA officer chief of air operations part of a covert program to stop a Communist takeover of the Congo by Simba guerrillas supported by the USSR and Cuba. He died in a car accident when a Congolese Army truck hit his jeep. He left behind a wife and one son.

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