

MACV
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W	FILE	POW
	DATE	SUB-CAT.
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1. COUNTRY: VS, RVN MR-4, DINH TUONG Province	8. REPORT NUMBER: 6 029 0717 71
2. SUBJECT: (U) Sighting of Seven US PW	9. DATE OF REPORT: 14 Jul 71
3. ISC NUMBER: 723.600	10. NO. OF PAGES: 4
4. DATE OF INFORMATION: 13 Feb 68	11. REFERENCES: DIRM: 6G1, 6G3 BRIGHT LIGHT
5. PLACE AND DATE OF ACQ: CMIC, SAIGON, VS 28 Jun 71	12. ORIGINATOR: US Element, CMIC, USMACV
6. EVALUATION: SOURCE <u>F</u> INFORMATION <u>6</u>	13. PREPARED BY: STEVE M. KALININE SP6, USA
7. SOURCE: Returnee Interrogation	14. APPROVING AUTHORITY: <i>Paul G. Spero</i> PAUL G. SPERO LTC, USA Dir, US Elm, CMIC

15. SUMMARY: (Leave Blank)

(C) This report contains limited information concerning the sighting of seven US PW in DINH TUONG Province, RVN, to include physical condition and treatment. THIS IS A BRIGHT REPORT. MACV FOR JPRC.

LIGHT

1. (C) Background Information:

a. Name: LE HOANG THIEN (LEE, HOANG THIEENV), aka LE QUANG NAM (LEE, QANG NEAM), DIEP KIEM THANH (DIEEPV, KIEEMS THANH), NAM THANH (NEAM, THANH), CMIC 0246-71

b. Rank: None (VC)

c. Position and Unit of Assignment: Chief; Combat Training Section, AN BIEN (VC) District Unit, KIEN GIANG Province, RVN

d. DPOB: 13 Feb 25; LONG BINH Village, LONG MY District, CHUONG THIEN Province, RVN

e. Parents' Names: Father, LE BA NGUYET (LEE, BAS NGUYEETV), deceased; Mother, NGUYEN THI BA (NGUYEENX, THIV BA), living

f. Circumstances of Return. Source had worked for the VC for 22 years and had not been treated well. He had talked to some people in his district who had rallied previously and had learned from them that much of the propoganda published by the Allies concerning the CHIEU HOI Program was true. On 23 Mar 70, Source sent his wife to his POB and rallied to the ARVN post in DONG THAI Village, KIEN AN District, KIEN GIANG Province, RVN.

g. Significant Activities:

(1) DOB to Mar 56. From 1942 to 1947, Source received five years of formal education at the LONG BINH Village School at LONG BINH Villags, LONG MY District, CHUONG THIEN Province, RVN. On 19 Aug 48, Source joined the VIET MINH and was assigned to the 2d Sqd, 3d Plat, 1st Co, 307th NAM BO (Main Force) Bn, NAM BO Region, located on the ONG DOC River, AN XUYEN Province, where the battalion had the mission of conducting operations in the NAM BO Region. In 1952, he was promoted to squad leader, and in 1954, to aseistant platoon leader. In Nov 54, the 307th Bn, consisting of about 1300 personnel, began a two-phase movement to NVN via Polish transportation ships. One-half of the battalion made the trip in Nov 54. The second half left on 17 Feb 55. Both groups departed from the ONG DOC River Port and arrived at SAM SON Port, THANH HOA Province, NVN. In Jul 55, Source was assigned to the 19th Engr Co, 570th Regt, 330th Div, located in HAU LOC District, THANH HOA Province, NVN. From Jul 55 to Mar 56, he received basic military training and participated in bridge and road construction.

(2) Mar 56 to Nov 62. In Mar 56, Source was sent to the SON TAY District Officer School, located at (vic WJ6211), HA TAY Province, NVN, where he received six months of sapper/engineer training. From Sep 56 to Mar 58, he worked in the 19th Engr Co, 330th Div, which was constructing roads along the NVN/LAOS border. In Mar 58, Source returned to the SON TAY School to complete his training. In Nov 60, Source was sent to the B Mission Department, subordinate to the 338th Div, located in XUAN MAI Village, HA TAY Province, NVN. The special mission of the department was to train cadre in every area of military leadership, with emphasis on the subject of underwater demolition. The 640 graduates of this program were sent to the RVN to train other cadre. On 23 Feb 62, upon the completion of his training, Source was promoted to senior lieutenant. The class, known as the 49th Sapper/Engr Group, was redesignated the 49th HAI YEN Group and began infiltration in Mar 62. The group arrived in TAY NINH Province, RVN, on 27 Oct 62.

(3) Nov 62 to Mar 69. In Nov 62, Source and 28 others from the group were assigned as cadre for a newly-formed Cadre Training School, MR-2, located in VINH THANH Village, TUYEN BINH District, KIEN TUONG Province, RVN. From Nov 62 to Feb 63, the cadre built the school's

base camp and training area. In Feb 63, the school was redesignated the 332X Naval Sapper/Engr School, subordinate to the Sapper/Engr Section, MR-2. In Apr 63, the school graduated its first class, designated the 332X Engr Co, Sapper/Engr Sec, MR-2, and at this time, the school was redesignated the 609X Naval Sapper/Engr School. From Apr 63 to Dec 67, the school trained and graduated seven classes, the last of which was a special underwater demolition team (NFI). In Feb 68, the school was disbanded, and its cadre, along with cadre from other units in MR-2 which had been trained at the school, formed the 609X Combat Engr Co, Sapper/Engr Sec, MR-2. Source was the executive officer of this company until 23 Apr 68, when he was wounded during operations near the CU Canal, CHO GAO District, DINH TUONG Province. He received medical treatment at the 2d Med Bn, MR-2, located at HAU MY Village, CHO GAO District, until Jun 68, after which he was sent to DONG THAI Village, KIEN AN District, KIEN GIANG Province, for further recuperation at the KIEN AN District Unit.

(4) Mar 69 to DOR. In Mar 69, Source was assigned as the commanding officer of the C-2 Co, T-70 Tng Bn, MR-3, in KIEN AN District. In Apr 69, he was reassigned to the 609X Co, located in CHO GAO District, DINH TUONG Province, but due to Allied operations in that area, he was forced to return to the KIEN AN District Unit to await further orders. In Jun 69, Source became assistant chief of the AN BIEN (VC) District Unit and chief of the combat training section of the unit. He held this position from Jun 69 to Mar 71. In addition to training the personnel of the KIEN AN District Unit, Source also instructed the personnel of the following village units in KIEN AN District on a rotating basis: DONG THAI (vic VR973851), DONG HUNG (vic VR960635) to (vic VR970638), DONG THANH (vic VR940707), DONG HOA (vic VR954702), DONG YEN (vic WR150773), and VAN KHANH (vic VR863617). (Interrogator's Note: The grid coordinates listed are the sites where the training sessions for each of the village units took place. The KIEN AN District Unit had its base camp in the jungle area of DONG THAI Village (vic VR955815) and had a one-man contact station at (vic VR952816) but received its training with the DONG YEN Village Unit because it conducted most of its operations in that area.) Source rallied on 23 Mar 71, by contacting the ARVN officials at the DONG THAI Village ARVN post.

h. Additional References: CMIC PW/Rallier Exploitation Guide; Map: VIETNAM, AMS Series L7014, Sheet 6250 III, Edition I, dtd 1965, Scale 1:50,000

2. (C) Sighting of Seven US PW in DINH TUONG Province, RVN: 4R 948 600

a. Location. The PW were sighted at CO NHIP Hamlet (vic XS118678), HAU MY Village, CAI BE District, DINH TUONG Province, RVN.

b. Mission at the Time of Sighting. On 13 Feb 68, Source was returning to the 609th Sapper Training School, located in MY DA Hamlet, CAI BE District, DINH TUONG Province, RVN, from HAU MY Village, CAI BE District, DINH TUONG Province, RVN, where his mission was to bury scuba diving gear, one weapon, and ammunition. He did not know the

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purpose of this mission and could not provide any additional information concerning this mission.

c. Circumstances of Sighting. On 13 Feb 68, at approximately 1500 hours, while returning to the 609th Sapper Training School, Source stopped at CO NHIP Hamlet to look at a group of seven US PW detained by an unidentified VC unit, which consisted of one cadre armed with a pistol and four guards armed with AK-47s. Source noticed that some PW were standing and some were sitting under coconut trees. They were not segregated and not restricted from speaking to each other. He noticed that all seven PW were Caucasians.

d. Conversation Between Source and the Guards. During his five-minute stop, Source talked to the guards and learned that the PW were from the 9th US Inf Div and had been captured 15 minutes prior to the sighting. The guards also stated that the PW were to be taken to MR-2 Hq PW Camp, in the BATHU area, CAMBODIA.

e. Physical Condition of US PW. As Source was standing at a distance of approximately four meters from the US PW, he noticed that two were wounded. One PW had a head wound covered by a bandage around his forehead. This PW was standing and talking with his companions. The other wounded PW had a wound on his right hand. The wound was covered with a bandage, and his arm was in a sling. This PW was sitting under a coconut tree and talking with his companions. All seven PW appeared very tired.

f. Clothing. All seven PW wore jungle fatigues. Source also noticed that rank insignias, patches, name tapes, US Army tapes, and boots were removed from all seven US PW.

g. Reaction of Local Nationals. The residents of CO NHIP Hamlet were observing the group of PW from a distance of approximately seven to eight meters. They did not demonstrate any aggressiveness toward the US PW; the residents were standing and laughing. At this time, Source observed two children giving coconut fruits to the US PW.

(C) COMMENTS: Source was cooperative and answered all control questions accurately. Source's alias, LE QUANG NAM (LEE, QANG NEAM), has been utilized as his identity in all VC functions for the past 20 years.

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