

TRUE COPY

AGENT REPORT

1. Name of Subject or Title of Incident

PURPORTED AMERICAN PRISONERS HELD
BY HOSTILE FOREIGN ELEMENTS

Date Submitted

19 April 1965

3. Control Symbol or File Number

ZA015603

4. Report of Findings

On 12 and 13 April 1965, Source, a white male in Nam Hoa District, Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam (RVN) whose reliability is unknown (F), furnished the following information considered possibly true (3), concerning U.S. personnel held by the Viet Cong (VC):

On 9 April 1965, Source and four other Vietnamese Nationals were engaged in wood-cutting near Hill 379 and the Him Trach River (YC710930), south of Ta Loi Village, Nam Hoa District, Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam (RVN). Source, who felt ill, remained behind on a trail as the other woodcutters worked throughout the general area. At approximately 0930 hours, five Vietnamese VC and two Montagnard VC escorted two caucasian prisoners past Source along the trail. Approximately 50 meters from Source, the VC and the prisoners stopped at a shelter, consisting of a grass roof constructed atop four poles, approximately 15 by 15 feet. In past months, Source has observed numerous VC on this trail and it was common practice for them to utilize this shelter as a meeting place. Source went to the shelter and conversed with the VC. He asked them where they had captured the "French" prisoners. The VC told him they were not "French" but Americans, and that originally they had seven American prisoners, but five had escaped near A Loi Village (YC380995), Nam Hoa District. They stated it was assumed that the five escapees fled up the river banks of the Roa Nai toward the outlet at Co Bi Village, Dong Tra District, Thua Thien Province. The VC gave no indication as to description of these five persons, the circumstances of their original capture, the date or circumstances of their escape, or any information concerning efforts to recapture them. Throughout Source's conversation with the VC, the two Americans were seated on the ground approximately 20 to 25 feet from Source. Their arms were tied behind their backs at the elbow with ropes. Both wore black peasant pajamas and black rubber sandals, with no hats. All the VC except one were dressed in black peasant pajamas and wore woven rattan hats covered with a brown cloth material. The one dressed differently wore a brown khaki uniform with a woven rattan hat covered with a black cloth material. He spoke with a North Vietnamese dialect and also spoke English to the Americans. The VC were armed with two Thompson sub-machine guns and five rifles with attached bayonets. The Americans appeared to be despondent but in sound health with no visible signs of injuries or wounds. They spoke only once to ask for water. The VC in the brown uniform sent Source to a nearby spring to obtain water, which he gave to the Americans. The VC stated they could not risk cooking food at this location for fear of being seen from the air. Source was told by the English speaking VC that the prisoners would be taken to the mountains where they would receive good care. He also stated that once they had reached the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) they would be treated well. He further commented that the Americans killed all VC prisoners but that the VC took good care of all American prisoners. At approximately 1100 hours, the VC and their two prisoners departed the area on foot, heading south down the river bank in the direction of Dong Ray Village, Hill 1182 (YC730897), Nam Hoa District. As soon as the VC were clear of the area, Source departed the area by junk and made his

5. Typed Name and Organization of Special Agent

Signature of Special Agent

KENNETH F. TAYLOR, 704th IN. Det (G)

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way to Nam Hoa District Headquarters, arriving there at approximately 1800 hours, 9 April 1965, where he reported this information to the District Security Personnel. Source described the two Americans as follows:

a. Name:	Unknown
Age:	Unable to determine
Sex:	Male
Race:	Caucasian
Height:	Approximately six feet
Weight:	Approximately [illegible] pounds
Hair:	Long, reddish-brown in color
Facial Features:	Long slim face with square jaw. Full beard, approximately one inch in length, exact color unknown as it was covered with dust.
Eyes:	Large eyes, exact color unknown but light in color, with long full dark brown eyebrows.
Remarks:	Wore a silver colored bracelet, appeared right on arm, and existing of silver link with a [illegible] silver object
b. Name:	Unknown
Age:	Unable to determine, but appeared older than the other American
Sex:	Male
Race:	Caucasian
Height:	Approximately six feet, five inches
Weight:	Approximately 180 pounds. Very fat
Hair:	Short, reddish-brown in color
Facial Features:	Round full face, with approximately one quarter inch mustache, exact color unknown as it was covered with dust.
Eyes:	Large eyes (larger than the other American), exact color unknown, but light in color, with medium length light brown eyebrows

AGENT'S NOTES: Source could not make a positive identification of the two Americans from photographs of American detainees. Based on the description given by Source the U.S. detainees were possibly identifiable with NAME Captain, USAF, DATA and NAME, Sergeant First Class (E7), US Army, DATA both missing since 31 December 1964 on the same aerial flight [illegible]

NAME

FEC. USMC, DATA

5. Typed Name and Organization of Special Agent

KENNETH F. TAYLOR, 104th INTC Det (CI)

6. Signature of Special Agent