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US PW Camp

Thai Binh

66-67

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
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1. COUNTRY: VN, THAI BINH Province	8. REPORT NUMBER: 6 029 0967 71	
2. SUBJECT: (U) US PW Camp in THAI BINH Province, NVN	9. DATE OF REPORT: 22 Nov 71	
3. ISC NUMBER: 723.610 723.600	10. NO. OF PAGES: 10	W32922
4. DATE OF INFORMATION: 30 Dec 66 to 10 Jul 67	11. REFERENCES: DIRM: 603, 1Q16 SICR: D-7CX-49018 BRIGHT LIGHT	
5. PLACE AND DATE OF ACQ: CMIC, SAIGON, VS 23 Sep 71	12. ORIGINATOR: US Element, CMTC, USMACV	
6. EVALUATION: SOURCE <u>F</u> INFORMATION <u>6</u>	13. PREPARED BY: NELS M. SATHER SP5, USA	
7. SOURCE: PW Interrogation	14. APPROVING AUTHORITY: <i>LaVend. Huthofon, Maj.</i> for PAUL G. SPERO LTC, USA Dir, US Elm, CMIC	
15. SUMMARY: (U) This report contains information concerning a US PW camp at (vic HX576635) in THUY ANH District, THAI BINH Province, NVN, to include location, history, camp facilities, camp accessibility, staff, security, weapons and equipment. Also included is information on PW identification, organization, daily schedule, diet, clothing, health, morale, mail, and visitors. THIS IS A BRIGHT LIGHT REPORT MACV FOR JFPC.		(Leave Blank)
1. (C) Background Information: a. Name: DO VAN KIEM (DOCP, VEAN KIEMR), CMIC 0293-71 b. Rank: Sr Sgt c. Position and Unit of Assignment: Messenger; H-4A Commo-liaison Station, 4th Plat, 4th Co, 20th Sig Bn, 44th Front d. DPOB: 24 Dec 41; DONG HOE Hamlet, DONG TIEN Village, PHU DUC District, THAI BINH Province, NVN		
16. DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR: DIA 1 cy DIRNSA 1 cy SAC 1 cy CINCPAC 1 cy CINCPAC AF 2 cys CINCUSARPAC 2 cys COMUSMACVTHAI 1 cy MACJ212-2 2 cys MACJ213-1 1 cy MACJ23 1 cy MACJ231 10 cys CORDS CHD ATTN: WHITE APO 96243 1 cy	17. DOWNGRADING DATA: GROUP 3 DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED THIS DOCUMENT IS RELEASABLE TO PUBLIC OF VIETNAM, AND FREE WORLD MILITARY ASSISTANCE FORCES	18. ATTACHMENT DATA: None
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ORIGINATOR COMUSMACV (CMAC)

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e. Parents' Names: Father, DO VAN KIEM (DOOR, WEAR KISEMR), living;
Mother, PHAM THI THIN (FAMV, THIV THINL), living

f. Circumstances of Capture. On 29 Apr 71, Source was at the base camp of the 4th Co, 26th Sig Bn, 44th Front, located in SONG TRUNG Village (vic BT045403), QUE SON District, QUANG NAM Province, when it was attacked and overrun by unidentified ROK forces. Source was cooking rice at the time and was captured alone, with no weapons or documents in his possession.

g. Significant Activities. Source attended school at his FOB from 1955 to 1958, and from 1961 to 1964 at the PHU DUC District School. From 1965 to 1967, Source attended the Teachers' Training School in THAI BINH City, THAI BINH Province, NVN. In Jul 67, Source was drafted into the NVA and was assigned to the 4th Sqd, 4th Plat, 4th Co, 358th Bn, 4th Regt, MR-III, where he received basic infantry and messenger training from Jul to Oct 67. From Oct to Dec 67, the unit reviewed the training it had received and also received political indoctrination. Source returned to the unit from a 10-day leave to his FOB at the end of Dec 67, and received further political training until Feb 68. On 10 Feb 68, the 358th Bn was designated the 100th Infil Gp, and began infiltration to the RVN with an approximate strength of 480 men. The group traveled through NVN and LAOS, and ended its infiltration in the BUONG River area, THUONG DUC District, QUANG NAM Province, on 28 Apr 68. Source and about 120 men from the group were assigned to the 26th Sig Bn; Source was further assigned to the H-4A Commo-liaison Station, 4th Sqd, 4th Plat, 4th Co. From this time until his DOW, Source had the mission of carrying messages from the H-4A Commo-liaison Station, located at (vic BT0440), to the H-4B Commo-liaison Station, located in DUY XUYEN District, QUANG NAM Province, (exact location unknown). Source also worked in the crop production area of his unit, growing rice, corn, and potatoes for his unit.

h. Additional References. CMIC PW/Rallier Exploitation Guide; US PW Photo Album, 525th MI Gp Hq, dtd 10 Nov 68; PW/MIA/CPT Biographic File, MACV/IDHS, dtd 16 Jul 71; Maps: VIETNAM, AMS Series 1607, Sheet 6640, Edition 2, dtd 1968, Scale 1:100,000; VIETNAM, AMS Series 17014, Sheet 6349 IV, Edition 1, dtd 1965, Scale 1:50,000

2. (C) US PW Camp in THAI BINH Province, NVN. The following information is based on SICR D-7CX-49018 (Prisoner of War Intelligence):

a. Circumstances of Sighting: Source attended a teachers training school in THUY ANH District, THAI BINH Province, NVN, from 1964 until 1968, when it was converted into a US PW camp. The school was moved to a neighboring village, and Source continued to attend it. LT LUU, camp commander, was a close friend of Source since childhood, and they often discussed camp life together. Through LUU, Source met THUAN, the camp's medical technician. From Jan until Jul 67 when he was drafted, Source passed the PW camp twice a day on a bicycle and often gave a ride to LUU, who lived in Source's village. Source, along with a few other students at the teacher's training school, were frequently invited to the camp on Sundays to play volleyball and ping-pong with the US PW.

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f. Staff (hearsay information):

(1) Personnel. The camp cadre consisted of 10 men, including the commanding officer, one medical technician, and eight guards, all of whom held the rank of senior sergeant. Many of the cadre had homes in the local area and were allowed to spend the night away from the camp. Most of the camp cadre spoke English to varying degrees.

(2) Personalities. Source knew the following personalities:

CO: LT LOU (LUWU); age 35, 1.65m, 65kg, light complexion

(Interrogator's Note: Source and LOU went through school together and were close friends.)

Medical Technician: ASP LE VAN THUAN (LEE, VEAN THUAANV); age 23, 1.56m, 55kg, dark complexion

g. Security:

(1) Camp Security (hearsay information). Security for the camp was provided by the eight senior sergeants. Guard duty hours were from 2400 hours to 0430 hours. The guards were armed with AK-47s and were rotated every hour. The camp gate was not guarded during the day or early evening. Source was unaware of any internal security measures. The PW rooms were not locked at night. In the event of an air attack, the PW were directed to return to their respective rooms and enter their fox holes. In the case of ground attacks, all PW were to be evacuated to an unknown location. Source was unaware of any warning procedures or any warning devices in the camp.

(2) Local Defense. Source was able to locate several gun emplacements on the map, as follows:

(a) One AA company was located on the western bank of the DIEM HO River (vic HX567624 to vic HX574645) with numerous 12.7 and 12.8mm guns (Interrogator's note: Source thought the unit was company size after observing only one blue flag which symbolized a company size unit.)

(b) Numerous 100mm mortars and 120mm field guns spaced 200 to 300 meters apart, were located along the coast (vic HX627637 to vic HX669615)

(c) Six unidentified missiles (1.2m high x 1.5m in diameter) placed on trucks. Foreign advisors (Caucasian; NFI) were observed with the missiles. The missiles were located at (vic HX632628) for seven to 15 days, after which they were moved to an unknown location for a few days and then returned to the first location. (Interrogator's Note: Source was within 400 to 500 meters of the missile site.)

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h. Weapons and Equipment (hearsay information). The PW camp had nine AK-47s, and one K-59 which belonged to the camp CO. Besides one telephone located in the CO's office, the camp had no communications equipment. The PW camp used a truck to bring food supplies to the camp daily, but it was not kept overnight.

i. US PW. Source was told that the PW camp had 60 PW. Source did not know of the new additions or deletions to this number from 30 Dec 66 until the time he was drafted in Jul 67.

(1) Photo Identification. The following PW was identified from the US PW photo album:

Name	JPOC No.	Status
DAVES, GARY LAURENCE	315	Captured

(Interrogator's Note: DAVES was captured in Feb 68.)

(2) PW Organization and Duties (hearsay information). The 60 PW were divided into six groups, each with 10 men. Each cell leader wore a red arm band. Each morning, the cell leader had to check his group's rooms for cleanliness and orderliness and they also had to make periodic checks of the perimeter to insure that no villagers or animals had entered the camp. At meal times, each cell leader checked his group's names against a roster. Discipline was administered by the six group leaders, although Source had never heard of any discipline problems. Everyday, each group was assigned various camp duties, such as cleaning latrines and burning trash. Six PW were permanent cooks.

(3) Schedule (hearsay information). The PW adhered to the following schedule Monday through Sunday:

0430	Wake-up
0430 to 0500	Personal Hygiene
0500 to 0530	Physical Training
0530 to 0600	Breakfast
0600 to 0630	Camp Cleaning
0630 to 1100	Individual Activities
1100 to 1400	Lunch and Rest
1400 to 1700	Individual Activities
1700 to 1730	Supper
1730 to 2300	Individual Activities
2300	Lights Out

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During the cold season, the PW woke up one half-hour later. On Sunday mornings, the PW were allowed to visit neighboring villages in groups of 10 to 20 men accompanied by two armed guards. They were permitted to visit THUY HUONG, THUY HA, and THUY DUONG villages, and THAI BINH City. Before they departed from the camp, each PW was given 5\$PWV to spend on food. (Interrogator's Note: Source saw PW buying fruit.) Source maintains that he regularly visited the PW camp on Sundays to play games with the PW.

(4) Diet. On various occasions, Source observed bread, canned pork, canned fruit, milk, sugar, cigarettes, coffee, beer, and other beverages being brought into the PW camp. Each PW was allowed a daily ration of 2\$PWV per day for food. Food was bought daily at the THAI BINH City cooperative.

(5) Clothing and Equipment Issue. Source observed that the PW wore green pajamas. Officers wore pajamas with four pockets, while PW wore pajamas with two pockets. Each PW was issued the following items:

- Two pair of pajamas
- Two sets of underwear
- One warm jacket
- One toothbrush every six months
- One tube of toothpaste every month
- One piece of soap every month
- One blanket
- One pillow
- One mosquito net
- One straw mat
- One face towel
- One pair of shoes (poor quality)
- One pair of sandals
- One hat
- Socks

Most of those items could be changed when worn out. PW could wash their clothing as often as they liked.

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(6) Health (hearsay information). The overall physical condition of the PW was good. The medical technician was only able to treat minor ailments in the examination room, but should a PW become seriously ill, he was immediately evacuated to THAI BINH City Hospital (exact location unknown). Medicine was brought from the Public Security Agency in HANOI approximately once a month. Source knew of no deaths among the PW. (7) Morale (hearsay information). Source did not know the state of PW morale. Source believed no one escaped or tried to escape, because they would not get far among the Vietnamese. Source had no knowledge of discipline problems and stated that relations between the PW and cadre were good. j. Mail. Runners on bicycles delivered mail to the PW camp every day at 1700 hours. Source did not know if PW could receive or send mail. k. Visitors (hearsay information). The PW camp was visited by Chinese journalists and the Red Cross representatives of an unknown country. (U) COMMENTS: Source was tested and scored Low (12) on the Cross Cultural IQ Test. Source initially attempted to falsify the dates of information, but later admitted this attempt and gave the correct dates of information. His reason was that specific instructions had been given by his cadre which allowed him to provide correct information as long as the dates were false. The information and dates as provided are correct according to Source. With the exception of the above, Source was cooperative throughout the interrogation. This report partially satisfies the requirements of SICR D-7CX-49018.		(Leave Blank)
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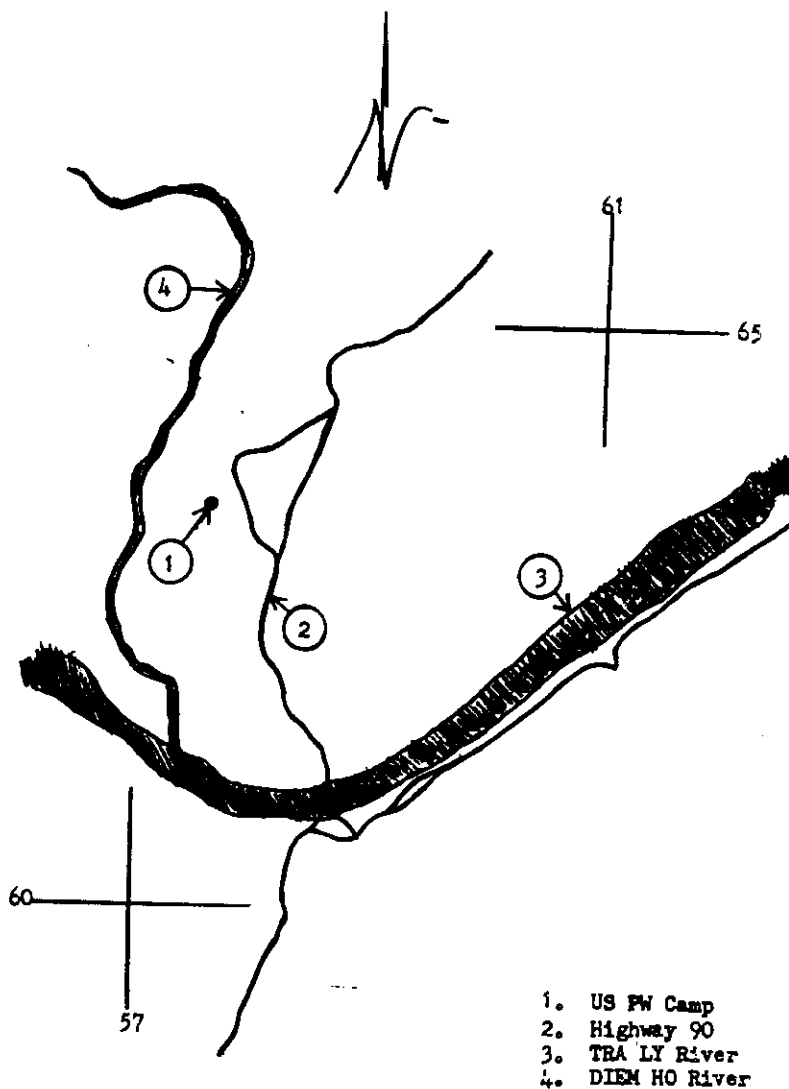
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Overlay of the location of a US PW Camp, as provided by Captive,
DO VAN KIEM, CMIC 0293-71. (DOI: Jul 67)

Map: VIETNAM, AMS Series L7014, Sheet 6349 IV, Edition 1, dtd 1965,
Scale 1:50,000

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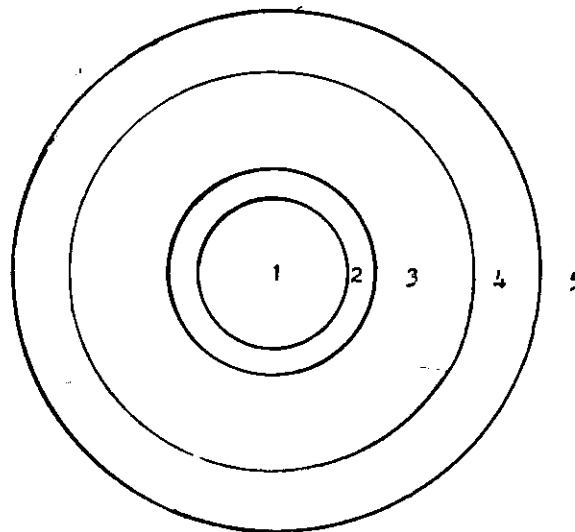
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Sketch of a fox hole at the US PW Camp, as provided by Captive, DO
VAN KIEM, CMIC 0293-71 (DOI: Jul 67).

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(Not to Scale)



1. Hole (0.8m dia.), straw cover (20cm thick)
2. Tin
3. Dirt (40cm thick)
4. Rubber (20cm thick)
5. Dirt

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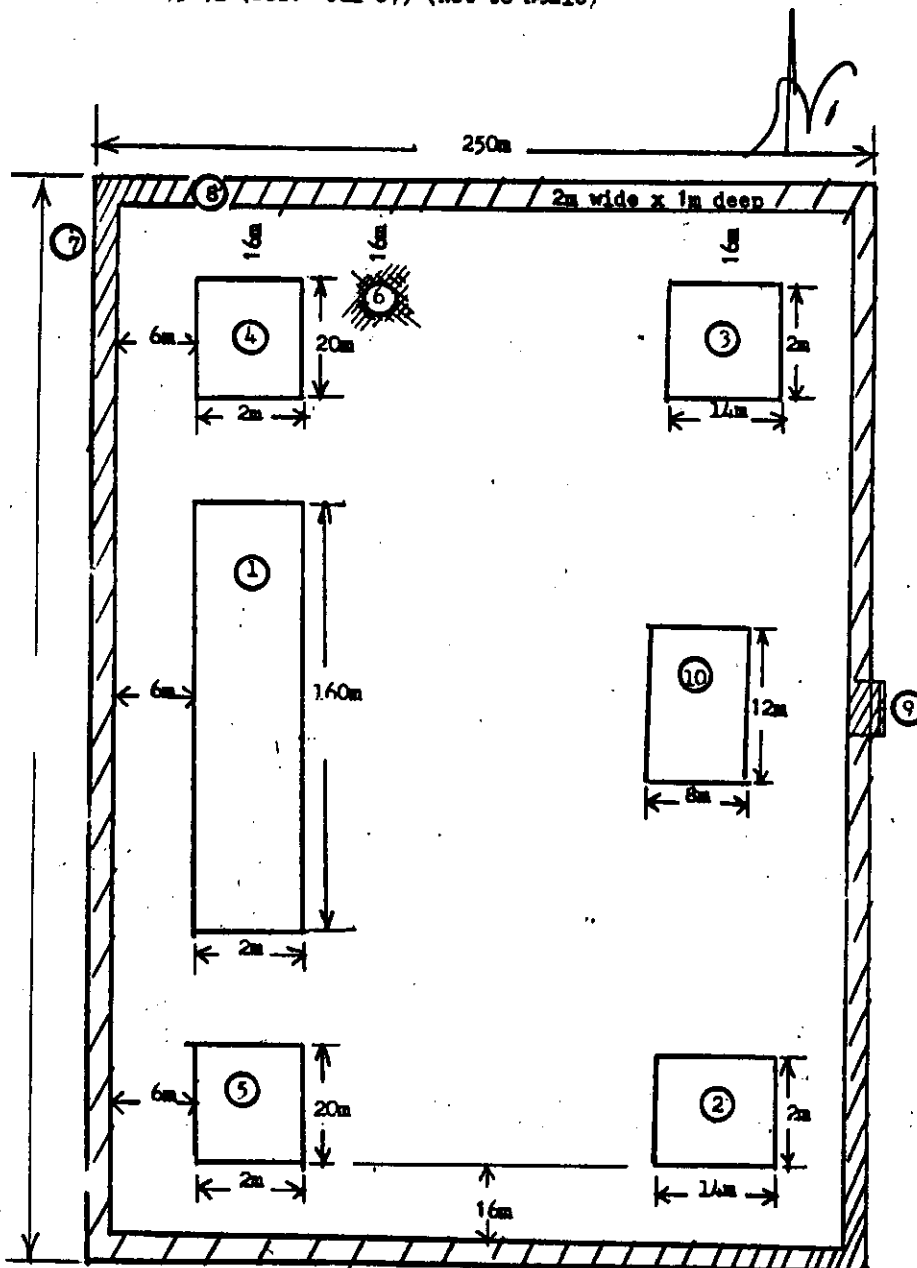
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Sketch of the US PW camp as provided by Captive, DO VAN KIEM.
CMIC 293-71 (DOI: Jul 67) (Not to Scale)

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- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Living Quarters | 6. Water Tower |
| 2. Mess Hall | 7. Bamboo Fence |
| 3. Kitchen | 8. Trench |
| 4. Shower Building | 9. Gate |
| 5. latrine | 10. Volleyball Court |

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