

4. MATERIAL EVIDENCE: NONE

5. SURVEY RESULTS: THE ALLEGED LOCATION OF THE GRAVE SITE (BS631968) IS 25 METERS FROM THE RIVERBANK IN ONE FOOT OF WATER. APPROXIMATELY 600 METERS EAST OF THE GRAVE SITE IS AN EARTHEN DAM THAT APPEARS PARTIALLY DESTROYED.

6. RECOMMENDED FUTURE ACTIONS: NONE

7. PERTINENT LOCATION OR DATA CHANGES: THE LOCATION OF THE GRAVE SITE IS BS631968.

8. AREAS OR CASE FILE INFORMATION NOT INVESTIGATED: NONE

9. ANALYST COMMENTS:

A. THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE WITNESSES CORRELATES WELL WITH THE KNOWN FACTS MAINTAINED IN JTF-FA FILES. THE WITNESSES PROVIDED AN ACCURATE LAST KNOWN LOCATION, TIME FRAME, TIME OF DAY AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS.

B. ONE OF THE MAJOR DISCREPANCIES IS THAT U.S. FORCES OBSERVED A LOCAL RESIDENT IN A SAMPAN TALKING WITH THE FOUR AMERICANS AT THEIR LAST KNOWN LOCATION. THE WITNESSES DID NOT PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING A LOCAL IN A SAMPAN CONVERSING WITH THE AMERICANS. THE INITIAL CONVERSATIONS WITH THE AMERICANS WERE BY A FEMALE FROM THE SHORE. THE OTHER MAJOR DISCREPANCY IS THAT THE PRIMARY WITNESS, A MR. BONG, DESCRIBED ONE OF THE AMERICAN SOLDIERS AS BEING A BLACK MALE. ALL FOUR OF THE INDIVIDUALS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS CASE WERE CAUCASIANS. THE VNOSMP TEAM LEADER BECAME VISIBLY UPSET BY THIS INFORMATION AND EXTENSIVELY QUESTIONED THE WITNESS TO INSURE THAT HE SAID ONE OF THE AMERICANS WAS BLACK. THE WITNESS MAINTAINED HIS STORY.

C. THE TEAM INTERVIEWED FOUR WITNESSES WITH THREE PROVIDING THEIR INFORMATION IN A STRAIGHTFORWARD MANNER. THE LAST WITNESS INTERVIEWED APPEARED NERVOUS AND HAD A HARD TIME CONCENTRATING ON THE QUESTIONS. NONE OF THE WITNESSES APPEARED TO MAKE ANY ATTEMPT TO MISLEAD THE TEAM.

D. IN JUNE 1991, WHILE CONDUCTING RESEARCH AT THE CENTRAL MUSEUM IN HANOI, MEMBERS OF DETACHMENT TWO, JTF-FA, MET WITH A SENIOR COLONEL QUAN WHO PROVIDED THEM WITH A PIECE OF PAPER CONTAINING THE FOLLOWING DATA: DAVID M WINTERS, NUMBER 825370, 196TH BDE, KILLED BY GUERRILLAS IN THUONG HOA HAMLET, BINH DONG VILLAGE, 21 APRIL 1967. THIS INFORMATION BY ITSELF IS INCONCLUSIVE AS THE VIETNAMESE HAVE TOTAL ACCESS TO JTF-FA FILES AND COULD HAVE EASILY MANUFACTURED SUCH A PIECE OF PAPER. NONE OF THE WITNESSES INTERVIEWED REMEMBER ANYONE TAKING DOCUMENTS OR IDENTIFICATION MEDIA FROM THE FOUR AMERICANS AND NONE OF THE WITNESSES COULD PROVIDE A UNIT DESIGNATION OF THE AMERICAN BATTALION OPERATING IN THE AREA.

E. NOBODY INTERVIEWED COULD PROVIDE INFORMATION PERTAINING TO U.S. POWs TEACHING ENGLISH TO COMMUNIST FORCES CADRE. THIS STORY APPEARED TO BE POPULAR DURING THE WAR AND WAS REPORTED FROM NUMEROUS PROVINCES.

10. SEARCH AND RECOVERY SPECIALIST COMMENTS: DO NOT RECOMMEND THIS GRAVE SITE FOR A RECOVERY OPERATION.

11. TEAM CHIEF COMMENTS:

A. THE TIME FRAME, LOCATION AND CIRCUMSTANCES REPORTED BY THE WITNESSES ARE GENERALLY CONSISTENT WITH INFORMATION IN U.S. FILES. THE WITNESSES WERE SINCERE AND COOPERATIVE IN PROVIDING INFORMATION TO THE JOINT TEAM.

B. DO NOT RECOMMEND THIS GRAVE SITE LOCATION FOR A RECOVERY OPERATION.

C. RECOMMEND THE STATUS OF THE FOUR AMERICAN SOLDIERS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS CASE BE CATEGORIZED: DEAD; BODIES NON-RECOVERABLE.

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION: ON 24 AND 28 AUGUST 1992, A JOINT TEAM TRAVELED TO BINH DONG VILLAGE, BINH SON DISTRICT, QUANG NGAI PROVINCE, AND INTERVIEWED FOUR WITNESSES ASSOCIATED WITH THE CASE 0646. TWO WITNESSES PROVIDED DETAILED INFORMATION LEADING UP TO AND INCLUDING THE AMBUSH, KILLING OF THE FOUR AMERICAN SOLDIERS AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT BURIAL. ONE WITNESS WAS THE VILLAGE CHIEF AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT AND PROVIDED HEARSAY INFORMATION AS IT WAS REPORTED TO HIM. ONE WITNESS PROVIDED INFORMATION REGARDING HIS OBSERVING THE DEAD BODIES AND ASSISTING IN MOVING THEM TO A BURIAL SITE. THE BODIES WERE BURIED IN THREE DIFFERENT LOCATIONS WITH THE LAST LOCATION BEING VICINITY BS631968. PRESENTLY THIS LOCATION IS UNDER A FOOT OF WATER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SONG TRA RIVER. DO NOT RECOMMEND THIS GRAVE SITE LOCATION FOR A RECOVERY ATTEMPT.

3. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION:

- A. ON 21 AUGUST 1992, THE AMERICAN MEMBERS OF JOINT INVESTIGATION ELEMENT 3 (IE3) ARRIVED IN QUANG NGAI CITY, QUANG NGAI PROVINCE TO BEGIN THE 19TH SERIES OF JOINT FIELD ACTIVITIES.

THE U.S. CONTINGENT CONSISTED OF:

CW3 JAMES M. WEBB (TEAM CHIEF)
CTI2(NAC) GREGORY B. WATERS (ASSISTANT TEAM CHIEF)
WO1 WILLIAM COUTURE (LIVE SIGHTING INVESTIGATOR)
SSG MATTHEW KROES (ANALYST)
SPC CHUCK Q. DOAN (LINGUIST/ANALYST)
SSG SCOTT CARPENTER (SEARCH AND RECOVERY SPECIALIST) SGT ANDREW GARATE (SEARCH AND RECOVERY SPECIALIST)
HMC HAROLD PARKER (TEAM MEDIC)
SSG RONNIE BROWN (EOD TECHNICIAN)

THE VIETNAMESE CONTINGENT CONSISTED OF:

TRAN MINH TUAN (TRANF MINH TUAANS) (MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TEAM CHIEF)
LU VAN THO (LWU VAWN THOJ) (MINISTRY OF DEFENSE)
NGUYEN DINH TRONG (NGUYEENX DINHF TRONGJ) (MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS)
NGUYEN VAN MAO (NGUYEENX VAWN MAO) (MINISTRY OF INTERIOR)
TRINH QUOC KHANH (TRINHJ QUOOC KHANHS) (MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS)

- B. ON 22 AUGUST 92, THE JOINT INVESTIGATION TEAM MET WITH MEMBERS OF THE QUANG NGAI PROVINCE TASK TEAM.

THE PROVINCE TASK TEAM CONSISTED OF:

HUYNH MAI (HUYNHF MAI) (TEAM CHIEF)
LE VAN VIET (LEE VAWN VIEETJ) (INVESTIGATOR)
LE VAN ZUNG (LEE VAWN ZUNGX) (INVESTIGATOR)
PHAM VAN CHAU (PHAMJ VAWN CHAAU) (INVESTIGATOR)
NGUYEN NHAN (NGUYEENX NHAAN) (INVESTIGATOR)

DURING THIS MEETING THE VIETNAMESE SIDE EXPLAINED ITS PREPARATIONS FOR THIS ITERATION AND OFFERED A TENTATIVE WORK SCHEDULE.

C. ON 24 AUGUST 1992, THE JOINT TEAM TRAVELED TO BINH DONG (BINHF DOONG) VILLAGE (BS6101), BINH SON (BINHF SOWN) DISTRICT, QUANG NGAI PROVINCE TO INITIATE THE INVESTIGATION OF CASE 0646. THE FIRST WITNESS INTERVIEWED WAS MR. NGUYEN THE BONG (NGUYEENX THEES BOONGF) A 47 YOA, FISHERMAN, WHO PRESENTLY RESIDES AT THUONG HOA (THWONGJ HOAF) HAMLET, BINH DONG VILLAGE, QUANG NGAI PROVINCE. MR. BONG PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

(1). MR. BONG JOINED THE BINH DONG VILLAGE GUERRILLA UNIT IN 1964. AT THE

TIME OF THIS INCIDENT MR. BONG WAS A VILLAGE GUERRILLA. IN 1969 MR. BONG ASSUMED THE POSITION AS THE BINH DONG VILLAGE GUERRILLA CHIEF AND MAINTAINED THIS POSITION UNTIL 1975. THE BINH DONG VILLAGE GUERRILLA UNIT WAS COMPOSED OF APPROXIMATELY 40 PERSONNEL AND WERE ARMED WITH AN ASSORTMENT OF WEAPONS, TO INCLUDE; AK-47'S, M-1 RIFLES, CARBINES, AND A MACHINEGUN. THE VILLAGE UNIT DID NOT POSSESS ANY COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT. THE GUERRILLAS REPORTED IN WRITING DIRECTLY TO THE BINH SON DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS VIA A COMMO LIAISON PERSON NAMED MR. MAU (DECEASED).

(2). ON THE 15TH AND 16TH OF APRIL (LUNAR MONTH), 1967, AN AMERICAN BATTALION ARRIVED AT BINH DONG VILLAGE TO CONDUCT SWEEP OPERATIONS IN THE AREA. ON THE SECOND DAY THE AMERICAN FORCES BEGAN TO WITHDRAW FROM THE AREA. AT 1600 HOURS, ON THE SECOND DAY, SEVERAL VILLAGERS REPORTED TO MR. BONG THAT FOUR AMERICAN SOLDIERS WERE IN THE AREA AND APPEARED TO BE LOST. THE FOUR AMERICAN SOLDIERS WERE INQUIRING OF LOCAL RESIDENTS FOR DIRECTIONS TO THEIR BATTALION AREA. MR. BONG ORDERED TWO TEENAGERS, A MISS NGUYEN THI HONG (NGUYEENX THIJ HOONGJ) AND A MR. VU DINH DUNG (VUX DINHF HONG) (BOTH DECEASED), WHO WERE TWO VILLAGE GUERRILLAS, TO APPROACH THE FOUR AMERICANS AND GUIDE THEM TO A PRE-DETERMINED AREA TO BE AMBUSHED. MR. BONG, MR. NGUYEN HOANG (NGUYEENX HOANGF) AND MR. NGUYEN NGOC (NGUYEENX NGOCJ) (BOTH DECEASED) WERE TO CONDUCT THE AMBUSH. IT WAS REPORTED TO MR. BONG THAT THE AMERICANS HAD ATTEMPTED TO BORROW A LOCAL RESIDENT'S BOAT BUT SHE HAD REFUSED.

(3). MR. BONG CHOSE AN AREA OF THE ROAD JUST NORTH OF THE THUONG HOA HAMLET (BS6104) AND ADJACENT TO THE SONG TRA RIVER FOR THE AMBUSH SITE. THE GUERRILLA FORCE ASSUMED CONCEALED POSITIONS BEHIND LARGE BOULDERS. WHEN THE FOUR AMERICANS WERE IN VISUAL RANGE MR. BONG MADE A SIGNAL AND THE TWO TEENAGERS MOVED AWAY FROM THEM. THE AMERICANS WERE WALKING IN A STRAIGHT LINE FORMATION WITH ONE BLACK SOLDIER FIVE METERS IN THE FRONT AND THE REST TWO METERS APART.

(4). MR. BONG FIRED HIS CARBINE KILLING THE LEAD AMERICAN SOLDIER. THIS WAS THE SIGNAL FOR THE OTHER TWO GUERRILLAS TO LOB TWO GRENADES AT THE THREE REMAINING SOLDIERS. IN THIS INITIAL ASSAULT ALL THE AMERICANS WERE EITHER KILLED OR WOUNDED. THE GUERRILLAS THEN SHOT AND KILLED THE WOUNDED SOLDIERS. THE GUERRILLAS COLLECTED THE FOLLOWING FROM THE DEAD AMERICAN SOLDIERS: ONE A6 MACHINEGUN, THREE AR-15 RIFLES, ONE PRC-6 RADIO, 32 HAND GRENADES, FOUR RUCK SACKS; CONTAINING FOOD AND MEDICINE, AND THREE WATCHES. THE AMBUSH OCCURRED AT 1615 HOURS AND BY 1625 THE GUERRILLAS HAD DEPARTED THE AREA.

(5). MR. BONG DESCRIBED THE FOUR AMERICANS AS ONE BEING BLACK AND THREE CAUCASIANS. THE BLACK SOLDIER WAS THE TALLEST AT APPROXIMATELY 1.7 METERS. THEY WERE WEARING OLIVE GREEN UNIFORMS AND HELMETS. A WRITTEN REPORT OF THE AMBUSH WAS DELIVERED TO A MR. CHIEN (CHIEENS) (DECEASED), WHO WAS THE DISTRICT FORCE LEADER THROUGH THE COMMO LIAISON CHANNEL.

(6). MR. BONG HEARD THAT THE FOUR BODIES WERE BURIED LATER BY SEVERAL LOCAL VILLAGERS AND GUERRILLAS BY PUSHING THEM INTO THE MUD BY THE RIVER BANK UNTIL THEY WERE CONCEALED (BS6104). MR. BONG HEARD THAT A MR. BA (BA) AND A MISS PHUONG (PHWONGJ) ARE THE ONLY TWO INDIVIDUALS STILL ALIVE FROM THIS BURIAL DETAIL.

(7). MR. BONG HEARD THAT THREE DAYS AFTER THIS BURIAL THE FOUR BODIES FLOATED OUT OF THE MUD AND HAD TO BE REBURIED. THE BODIES WERE TRANSPORTED VIA SAMPAN ACROSS THE RIVER TO THE BINH DUONG (BINHF ZWONG) VILLAGE AREA. SEVERAL DAYS LATER A SMALL CHILD ACCIDENTALLY DUG AT THIS LOCATION AND DISCOVERED THE BODIES. AT THIS TIME THE BODIES WERE TRANSPORTED VIA SAMPAN DOWN THE RIVER TO AN AREA KNOWN AS DONG DOP (DOONGF ZOOPJ) AND REBURIED ALONG THE RIVER BANK. MR. BONG HAS NEVER VISITED THE BURIAL SITES AND HAS NOT HEARD OF ANYONE RECOVERING THE REMAINS OR ARTIFACTS.

(8). AT 1800 HOURS, THE SAME DAY OF THE AMBUSH, AN AMERICAN FORCE ARRIVED IN THE AREA TO SEARCH FOR THE FOUR MISSING SOLDIERS. AFTER SEVERAL HOURS AND NEGATIVE RESULTS THEY DEPARTED THE AREA.

(9). MR. BONG COULD PROVIDE NO INFORMATION CONCERNING U.S. POWS OR POW CAMPS. HE HAD NEVER HEARD OF U.S. PRISONERS TEACHING ENGLISH TO LIBERATION FORCES PERSONNEL. MR. BONG SAID THIS AMBUSH WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT HE ENCOUNTERED THE AR-15 RIFLE. MR. BONG SAID THE 21ST REGIMENT HEADQUARTERS SOMETIMES ARRIVED IN THE AREA TO BASE. THE BINH DONG VILLAGE HAD A TUNNEL COMPLEX DURING THE WAR BUT PRESENTLY IT IS CAVED IN AND NOT USED.

D. THE NEXT WITNESS INTERVIEWED WAS MR. PHAN DINH BA (PHAN DINHF BAS), A 58 YOA, RETIREE, WHO PRESENTLY RESIDES IN NAM BINH (NAM BINHF) HAMLET, BINH NGUYEN (BINHF NGUYEEN) VILLAGE, BINH SON DISTRICT, QUANG NGAI PROVINCE. MR. BA PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

(1). DURING THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT MR. BA WAS THE VILLAGE PARTY CHIEF AND RECEIVED A REPORT CONCERNING THE DEATH OF FOUR AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN THE THUONG HOA HAMLET AREA. HE HEARD THE BODIES WERE BURIED IN THE DONG MINH AREA.

(2). A FEW YEARS PAST, IN SEARCH OF PROFIT, MR. BA ATTEMPTED TO TRACE THE LOCATION OF THE BURIAL SITE, BUT TO NO AVAIL.

E. THE THIRD WITNESS INTERVIEWED WAS MRS. NGUYEN THI PHUONG (NGUYEENX THIJ PHWONGJ), AKA; NGUYEN THI BICH LIEN (NGUYEENX THIJ BICHS LIEEN), A 45 YOA, WHO IS EMPLOYED AT THE QUANG NGAI CITY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (COONG TY COONG TRINH DOO THIJ). MRS. PHUONG PRESENTLY RESIDES AT GROUP 1, NGUYEN NGHIEM (NGUYEENX NGHIEEM) WARD, QUANG NGAI CITY, QUANG NGAI PROVINCE. SHE PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

(1). FOR APPROXIMATELY THREE DAYS IN MARCH (LUNAR CALENDAR), 1967, AN AMERICAN FORCE WAS CONDUCTING SWEEP OPERATIONS IN THE BINH DONG VILLAGE AREA. THIS AMERICAN FORCE DID NOT ENCOUNTER ANY GUERRILLA FORCES DURING ITS INITIAL ACTIONS BUT DURING THE AFTERNOON OF THE THIRD DAY SHE OBSERVED FOUR AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN A SAMPAN THAT WAS LEAKING BADLY. AT THIS TIME SHE WAS ON THE PORCH OF HER HOUSE ADJACENT TO THE SONG TRA RIVER (BS6294). THE SAMPAN THE AMERICANS WERE IN WAS ONE METER WIDE AND SIX METERS LONG. SHE DID NOT OBSERVE ANY OTHER AMERICAN FORCES IN THE AREA. THE SAMPAN WAS APPROXIMATELY 100 METERS UPSTREAM FROM HER HOUSE. SHE SIGNALLED FOR THE AMERICANS TO COME ASHORE. THE AMERICANS DECIDED TO BEACH THE SAMPAN. THE SAMPAN BELONGED TO A MRS. QUYEN (QUYEENF) (DECEASED).

(2). AFTER CONVERSATIONS WITH THE LOCAL RESIDENTS THE AMERICANS DECIDED TO WALK TO THEIR BASE CAMP AREA. MRS. PHUONG AND THREE OTHER WOMEN ACCOMPANIED THE AMERICANS ALONG THE HAMLET ROAD. THE OTHER WOMEN WERE A MRS. TINH (TINH F), MISS PHUONG (PHWONG) AND A MISS XI (XIR) (ALL DECEASED). MRS. PHUONG AND THESE OTHER WOMEN WERE LEGAL GUERRILLAS AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT. THEY ONLY ACCOMPANIED THE AMERICAN SOLDIERS A SHORT DISTANCE BEFORE TURNING BACK TO THEIR HOMES. THE AMERICANS WERE VERY POLITE TO THEM CALLING THEM "BABYSONS", "YOU NO VC" AND GIVING THEM PORTIONS OF THEIR C-RATIONS.

(3). THE AMERICAN SOLDIERS WALKED IN A STRAIGHT LINE FORMATION ABOUT FIVE METERS APART. THE AMERICANS WERE HEAVILY ARMED WITH AR-15 RIFLES, AMMUNITION BANDOLEERS, RUCK SACKS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT. THEY WERE WALKING IN A RELAXED MANNER WITH THEIR RIFLES SLUNG OVER THEIR SHOULDERS AND THE BARRELS POINTING DOWNWARD.

(4). BEFORE MRS. PHUONG COULD RETURN TO HER HOUSE SHE HEARD GUNFIRE FROM THE DIRECTION SHE LEFT THE AMERICANS FROM. THIS OCCURRED AT 1800 HOURS. MRS. PHUONG DID NOT INTEND TO LEAD THE AMERICAN SOLDIERS INTO AN AMBUSH SITE.

(5). MRS. PHUONG AND SEVERAL VILLAGERS RAN BACK UP THE ROAD TO THE AMBUSH SITE AND OBSERVED THAT ALL FOUR OF THE AMERICAN SOLDIERS WERE DEAD. MR. NGUYEN VANG (NGUYEENX VANGF), THEN THE VILLAGE CHIEF, ORDERED THE VILLAGERS TO BURY THE BODIES. BECAUSE THE AMERICANS WERE SO NEAR THE AMERICAN BASE CAMP IT WAS DECIDED TO BURY THE BODIES AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. FOR THIS REASON THE VILLAGERS BELIEVED THEY DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO DIG GRAVES BEFORE THE AMERICAN FORCES ARRIVED TO SEARCH FOR THE FOUR SOLDIERS. THE VILLAGERS FEARED THAT IF THE AMERICAN FORCES DISCOVERED THE BODIES REPRISALS WOULD BE CONDUCTED AGAINST THE VILLAGERS. THE BODIES WERE CARRIED 30 METERS TO THE RIVER AND PLACED IN THREE METERS DEEP WATER AND COVERED WITH 50 KILOGRAMS OF ROCKS EACH. MRS. PHUONG AND ABOUT TEN OTHER VILLAGERS PARTICIPATED IN THIS HASTY BURIAL. ONE OF THE VILLAGERS, A MISS LIEU (LIEEUX), CLEANED UP THE AMBUSH SITE TO CONCEAL THE BLOOD AND OTHER SIGNS OF A FIGHT. THE VILLAGE GUERRILLAS SEIZED THE WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT FROM THE AMERICAN SOLDIERS BUT SHE DID NOT OBSERVE ANYONE TAKE DOCUMENTS OR DOG TAGS. THAT SAME NIGHT AN AMERICAN FORCE ARRIVED IN THE AREA SEARCHING FOR THE MISSING FOUR SOLDIERS. THEY DEPARTED WITHOUT DISCOVERING THE LOCATION OF THE HASTY WATER GRAVE.

(6). BECAUSE SHE RESIDED NEAR THE HASTILY CONSTRUCTED GRAVE SITE AND FISHED IN THAT AREA MRS. PHUONG FREQUENTLY OBSERVED THE AREA. ON THE THIRD DAY AFTER THE AMBUSH OF THE FOUR AMERICANS SHE SAW THAT ONE OF THE LEGS OF ONE OF THE AMERICANS HAD BEGUN TO FLOAT UP AND WAS VISIBLE. SHE BELIEVED THIS WAS BECAUSE SOME OF THE ROCKS HAD FALLEN OFF THE BODY UNDERWATER. SHE WAS SCARED THAT OTHER BODY PARTS WOULD ALSO MATERIALIZE SO SHE CONTACTED THE VILLAGE CHIEF, MR. VANG, WHO ARRIVED AT NIGHT WITH 12 TO 13 PEOPLE. THE FOUR AMERICAN BODIES WERE TRANSPORTED VIA THREE SAMPAHS DOWN THE RIVER TO AN ISOLATED SPOT KNOWN AS THE BINH PHUOC (BINHF PHWOC) AREA (BS631968). AT THIS LOCATION THEY CONSTRUCTED A GRAVE ABOUT ONE METER DEEP AND PLACED ALL THE BODIES IN IT SIDE BY SIDE. THIS GRAVE WAS IN A SANDY AREA ON THE EDGE OF THE RIVER. THIS AREA IS APPROXIMATELY 600 METERS FROM AN EARTHEN DAM (BS635970). OVER THE YEARS THE DAM HAS BEEN PARTIALLY DESTROYED AND THE RIVER HAS GROWN IN WIDTH. THE AREA OF THE GRAVE SITE IS PRESENTLY UNDERWATER.

(7). MRS. PHUONG HAD HEARD THAT A MISS NGUYEN THI HONG (A TEENAGER MENTIONED BY THE FIRST WITNESS) PARTICIPATED IN THE AMBUSH OF THE FOUR AMERICANS.

E. ON 28 AUGUST 1992, THE LAST WITNESS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS CASE WAS INTERVIEWED. A MRS. NGUYEN THI LIEU (NGUYEENX THIJ LIEEUX), 40 YOA, FARMER, WHO PRESENTLY RESIDES IN THUONG HOA HAMLET, BINH DONG VILLAGE, BINH SON DISTRICT, QUANG NGAI PROVINCE. MRS. LIEU PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

(1). AT 1800 HOURS ON AN UNRECALLED DAY, IN APRIL (LUNAR CALENDAR), 1967, MRS. LIEU WAS AT HER RESIDENCE WHEN SHE HEARD GUNFIRE IN THE AREA. ALONG WITH SEVERAL VILLAGERS SHE RAN ABOUT ONE KILOMETER TO AN AREA BY THE HAMLET ROAD AND OBSERVED FOUR DEAD AMERICAN SOLDIERS. THE FOUR SOLDIERS WERE VERY LARGE AND WEARING OLIVE GREEN UNIFORMS. THEY ALSO WERE COVERED IN MUD AND SHE COULD NOT TELL IF THEY WERE WHITE OR BLACK. MRS. LIEU DID NOT SEE ANYONE TAKE ANY EQUIPMENT OR DOCUMENTS FROM THE BODIES.

(2). ABOUT 10 VILLAGERS AND GUERRILLAS CARRIED THE FOUR BODIES APPROXIMATELY ONE HALF A KILOMETER DISTANCE FROM THE AMBUSH SITE AND BURIED THEM IN SHALLOW WATER, WEIGHTED DOWN WITH ROCKS. SHE DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTUAL BURIAL BUT DID NOTICE THREE OTHER WOMEN PARTICIPATING, INCLUDING THE THIRD WITNESS, A MRS. PHUONG.

(3). MRS. LIEU LATER HEARD THAT THE BODIES HAD BECOME VISIBLE AND WERE MOVED AND REBURIED IN A DIFFERENT LOCATION (NFI).

(4). ABOUT 2 TO 3 DAYS LATER AMERICAN FORCES ARRIVED IN THE AREA SEARCHING FOR THE MISSING SOLDIERS.