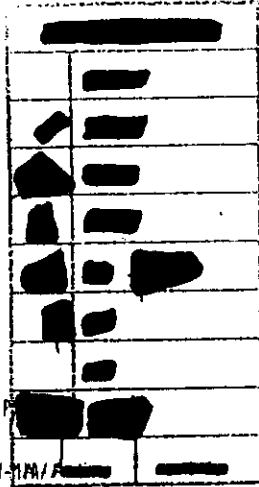


ROUTINE

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ADMINISTRATIVE MESSAGE

ROUTINE

R 080327Z JAN 93 700 PSN 095018P23

FM CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI 11/J3/J2/J

TO CORPERSON ALEXANDRIA VA//TAPC-PED-

INFO SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA//
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3/J30-M// USCINCPAC LO WASHINGTON DC
DIA WASHINGTON DC//PW-MIA// USDAO BANGKOK TH//PW-MIA//
CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH
SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//EAP/VLC/CCS/OCS//
JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//OCJCS/J5/PW-MIA/J3-JOD//
CDRUSACILHI HICKAM AFB HI//TAPC-PED-M//

UNCLAS //NO3460//
SECTION 01 OF 02

DIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE//

MSGID/SYS.RRN/CDR JTF-FA//
AMPW/SUBJ: ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION OBTAINED
FROM THE CENTRAL ARMY MUSEUM IN HANOI CONCERNING REFNO 0646/4

SECTIONAL MSG

RMKS/1. JTF-FA ARCHIVAL RESEARCH TEAM ONE (ART 1) WORKING AT THE CENTRAL ARMED FORCES MUSEUM IN HANOI, RESEARCHES DOCUMENTS, PHOTOGRAPHS, AND ARTIFACTS PROVIDED BY THE MUSEUM STAFF. ALL PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN ARE INVENTORIED AND MAINTAINED BY THE ROLL AND FRAME NUMBER LOGGED DURING THE COLLECTION PROCESS. THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES INITIAL ANALYSIS OF 11 PHOTOGRAPHS CORRELATED TO REFNO 0646. THESE PHOTOGRAPHS ARE IDENTIFIED AS ROLL 63//FRAMES 25 THRU 35.

2. SENIOR COLONEL DAI, DIRECTOR OF THE ARMED FORCES MUSEUM, WITNESSED AND DOCUMENTED IN HIS PERSONAL DIARY, THE AMBUSH OF FOUR AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN VIETNAM IN 1967. SRCOL DAI ALLOWED ART 1 TO PHOTOGRAPH PERTINENT PAGES FROM HIS DIARY. THESE PHOTOGRAPHS (FRAMES 25 THROUGH 35), WRITTEN IN VIETNAMESE, ARE TRANSLATED AS FOLLOWS. (TITLE) QUOTE THE FIGHTING AT THE CHU LAI BELT IN THE ANTI-US WAR UNQUOTE (TEXT) QUOTE I ARRIVED AT A SMALL HAMLET OF THE BELT WITH A POPULATION OF NO MORE THAN 1000 INHABITANTS, WHILE THE NUMBER OF US TROOPS WAS DOUBLE. I HAD HEARD A FEW STORIES ABOUT THE GENIUS AND SKILLS OF THE GUERRILLAS IN THE AREA. THEY FOUGHT THE ENEMY JUST IN FRONT OF THEIR POSTS; THEY MANAGED TO GET INTO ENEMY BLOCKHOUSES TO CAPTURE SMALL ARMS, HAND GRENADES, ETC. HOWEVER, I HAD CONCEIVED THE WORK 'BELT' OR 'PERIPHERY' ONLY IN ITS SIMPLE SENSE, ITS GEOMETRICAL SENSE. IN THE VISIT TO THE BELT, I CAME TO KNOW BETTER, BUT CERTAINLY NOT FULLY, ABOUT IT. TWENTIETH-CENTURY TECHNOLOGY HAS DEVELOPED MANY KINDS OF STEEL NEEDED TO GIVE A BOOST TO MODERN INDUSTRY. BUT ON THING IS CERTAIN: NO ONE CAN FIND THE KIND OF STEEL IN HUMAN

WILL, EXCEPT THAT OF THOSE LIVING ON THE ANTI-US BELT. THE STORY RELATED BELOW IS ONLY ONE OF THE THOUSANDS OF OTHERS WHICH HAD TAKEN PLACE EVERY DAY, EVERY HOUR SINCE US TROOPS OCCUPIED CHU LAI. ON 21 APRIL 1967, AT ABOUT 4 P.M. US TROOPS WHO HAD LEFT THEIR POST FOR THUONG HOA HAMLET IN SEARCH OF VCS EARLY IN THE AFTERNOON, RETURNED EMPTY-HANDED TO THEIR BLOCKHOUSES. A SHORT WHILE LATER, 4 OTHER G. IS WERE SEEN COMING OUT. AS THEY WATCHED THEM, THE VILLAGERS THOUGHT: 'THESE FOUR SOLDIERS ARE LATE BECAUSE THEY HAVE STAYED ON TO STEAL THINGS.' TO THEIR SURPRISE, MRS LAN AND A FEW OTHERS SAW THE 4 G. IS MAKING FOR SMALL BOAT AT THE RIVERSIDE. AS THEY RAN TO THE BANK, THE FOUR G. IS BECKONED TO THE BOAT OWNER AND HER DAUGHTER TO LET THEM BOARD THE BOAT AND TAKE THEM BACK TO THEIR POST. THE BOAT OWNER AND HER DAUGHTER NOTICED AN EXPRESSION OF ANXIETY ON THEIR FACES AS THE G. IS ENTREATED THEM TO HELP THEM AND PROMISED TO OFFER THEM SOME MONEY IN RETURN. MRS LAN PROMPTLY DECIDED THAT THESE MUST BE NEW COMERS. SHE TOLD THE BOAT OWNER NOT TO TRANSPORT THEM, AND TOLD OFF SOMEONE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE GUERRILLAS. FOR HER PART, SHE CARRIED HER TWO BUCKETS OF WATER AND RAN TO THE PAGODA TO MAKE SURE WHETHER THE US TROOPS WERE STILL THERE. SURE ENOUGH, ALL OF THEM OFFICERS AND MEN HAD COME. SHE GLADLY WENT BACK TO SEE THE GUERRILLAS AND LED A GROUP OF GUERPILLAS TO THE BANK OF THE RIVER. THEY HAD ONLY AN EASY JOB TO DO: PULLING THE TRIGGERS AND SENDING THE FOUR G. IS TO THE OTHER WORLD. THEIR DEATH WAS LIGHTER THAN THE CARDS THEY WORE ON THEIR CHESTS 'LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE NO 196'. THE GUERRILLAS AND PEOPLE RAPIDLY CAPTURED THE TROPHIES. THEY SAID TO ONE ANOTHER, 'WHY, THEY BELONG TO THE LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, BUT THEY ARE ARMED WITH HEAVY-MACHINE GUN, NEARLY 2000 CARTRIDGES, AND DOZENS OF HAND GRENADES... ONLY ONE THING WAS LIGHT: THE SMALL CURL OF WOMAN'S HAIR - PERHAPS HIS SWEET HEART'S - IN THE POCKET OF ONE G. IS NAMED DANIEL. AS SHE LOOKED AT THE HAIR, LITTLE NGOC SAID THESE WORDS THAT I THOUGHT HAD SOME SIGNIFICANCE: 'WHY ON EARTH DIDN'T HE STAY AT HOME WITH HIS DARLING, INSTEAD OF COMING HERE TO PILLAGE AND RECEIVE A SHAMEFUL DEATH?'. IT WAS NIGHTFALL. THE US SENT AN HU1A HELICOPTER HOVERING OVER THE HAMLET. THOUGH THEIR LOUDSPEAKER THEY ASKED THE PEOPLE TO SNOW THE 4 STRAYED US SOLDIERS THE WAY BACK TO THEIR POS. BAC, A 14 YEAR OLD GIRL SAID: 'AT THAT TIME WE HAD NOT ENOUGH TIME TO BURY THE LAST OF THEM. SO I HAD TO SIT ON HIS BODY AND TRIED TO SUBMERGE IT, BUT IT WOULD NOT SINK. MEANWHILE THE HELICOPTER WAS FLYING VERY LOW. I WAS AFRAID THAT THOSE ON BOARD COULD SEE IT...'. THE US OFFICERS IN THE POST MUST BE VERY WORRIED. AT TEN P.M. THEY SENT

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J3 (1) ... INFO FOR USCINCPAC HONOLULU H (13) 30772717/1760
J30-M (1) J5 (2) 00-01-04 (1) MD1 (0) J233 (1) J232 (1) J23 (1) J20 (1)
J03 (1) FPA (1) COO (2)

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CSN: HQAA00037 013/20:152 CDR JTF-FA HON

MORE TROOPS TO THE HAMLET AND FORCED THE VILLAGERS TO GATHER TOGETHER. AT FIRST, USING THE COMMONLY KNOWN US-TYPE DEMAGOGIC METHOD, ONE OF THEM SAID AS HE WAVED A PACKAGE OF BANK-NOTES IN HIS HAND: '10,000 PIASTERS FOR EVERY AMERICAN FOUND'. THE INTERPRETER UTTERED HIS LAMENTS: ' I BET YOU, DEAR COMPATRIOTS, TO PITY ME AND LEND ME A HELPING HAND. PLEASE, SAY WHAT YOU KNOW AND GET THE MONEY. IT'S A BIG SUM. HOW LONG WILL YOU HAVE TO WORK TO GET SUCH A SUM? THINK FOR A WHILE, THEN MAKE UP YOUR MIND... NOW, WHY DON'T YOU SAY ANYTHING. I'M SURE YOU MUST KNOW WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE 4 AMERICAN SOLDIERS. YOU CAN'T HIDE IT. I EMPATHIZE WITH YOU, WHILE YOU DON'T RECIPROCATATE MY FEELINGS.' THE INTERPRETER AND HIS AMERICAN BOSSES KEPT ON COMPLAINING, REPEATING THE SAME OLD STORY... JUST LIKE A PACK OF DOGS, LARGE AND SMALL, THEY VIED WITH ONE ANOTHER TO BARK IN THE QUIET NIGHT. NOW THAT THEY WERE TIRED OF ADVERTIZING THEIR GOODS, THE STEEL-PLATED 'COPPER VASE' HAD PEELED OFF. THE US PAINT OF 'DEMOCRACY', 'CIVILIZATION' HAD GONE, THE MOST CRUEL MONSTER OF THE 20TH CENTURY REVEALED HIS TRUE COLORS. THE US TROOPS JUMPED INTO THE CROWD, SEIZED 10 OF OUR PEOPLE, BLINDFOLDED THEM AND TOOK THEM AWAY. GUN SHOTS WERE HEARD FROM THE FAR AWAY FIELDS. THEN THEY RETURNED TO FORCE OUR COMPATRIOTS TO OBSERVE ONE MINUTE OF SILENCE FOR THE DEAD. THE SAME THING HAPPENED AGAIN AND AGAIN FOR THREE TIMES. THE LAST TIME THEY ARRESTED UP TO 25 PEOPLE. THE REST OF THE CROWD, WHO COUNTED ABOUT SEVERAL HUNDRED, REMAINED INDIFFERENT, ASTONISHINGLY CALM. NOT A SINGLE CRY WAS UTTERED, EVEN THEIR BREATHING REMAINED STABLE. A QUIET ATMOSPHERE PREVAILED, FULL OF PRIDE, TYPICAL OF THE GENUINE VIETNAMESE IN FACE OF THREATS OF IMPRISONMENT, KILLING BY THE BARBAROUS ENEMY. ALL OF A SUDDEN A LAUGHTER RANG OUT: 'MRS. N., WE ARE MOTHERS OF SEVERAL SONS AND DAUGHTERS. SO IF WE HAD TO DIE, WE WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO REGRET, IS THAT RIGHT?' SAID A

As R. Jones

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ADMINISTRATIVE MESSAGE

ROUTINE

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FM CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI//J2//

TO CDRPERSCOM ALEXANDRIA VA//TAPC-PED-P//

INFO SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA//
 USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3/J38-M// USCINCPAC LO WASHINGTON DC
 DIA WASHINGTON DC//PW-MIA// USDAO BANGKOK TH//PW-MIA//
 CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH
 SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//EAP/VLC/CCS/OCS//
 JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//OCJCS/J5/PW-MIA/J3-JOD//
 CDRUSACILHI HICKAM AFB HI//TAPC-PED-H//

UNCLAS //N03460//
FINAL SECTION OF 02

DIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE//

MSGID/SYS.RRM/CDR JTF-FA//

RMKS/
 WOMAN TO ANOTHER. 'AS FOR MY HUSBAND, HE IS STRONG ENOUGH TO GET ANOTHER WIFE. JUST GIVE ME A CHEW OF BETEL. AS SHE WAS HOLDING THE BETEL CHEW SHE WENT ON, 'I AM ONLY JOKING, FOR I KNOW FULL WELL THAT THERE IS NO GROUND FOR THE AMERICANS TO KILL OUR FELLOW-COUNTRY-MEN. THEY ONLY SHOOT IN THE AIR. IT'S DAMN USE THREATENING US. THEN THE INTERPRETER WALKED IN, AND IN A PAINFUL VOICE, HE SAID, 'NOW, YOU CAN SEE THE RESULT OF YOUR REFUSAL TO LISTEN TO MY ADVICE: SO MANY OF YOUR COMPATRIOTS HAVE BEEN SHOT DEAD. IF ANY OF YOU KNOW SOMETHING, JUST TELL US ABOUT IT'. CLEARING HER VOICE, MRS HAO SAID, 'MR. CORPORAL, ALLOW ME TO SPEAK. SHE INTENTIONALLY DRAWLED OUT THE WORD 'CORPORAL' WHICH MADE THE PEOPLE BURST INTO A LAUGHTER. THE INTERPRETER CUT IN, 'YOU DON'T NEED TO ADDRESS ME AS CORPORAL, JUST TELL US WHAT YOU KNOW, FOR YOU HAVE KEPT US WAITING FOR QUITE A LONG TIME...' 'HOW CAN I SPEAK QUICKLY WHEN I'M SO SLEEPY?' THE WOMAN SAID. THE INTERPRETER HAD TO TONE DOWN HIS VOICE, 'ALL RIGHT, SPEAK IT OUT AND DON'T LET THE AMERICANS WAIT...'. 'WELL, I THINK I HAVE TO START FROM THE BEGINNING SO THAT YOU CAN MAKE HEAD OR TAIL OF EVERYTHING. WELL, ON MY WAY HOME FROM BINH SA MARKET IN THE AFTERNOON I SAW A BOAT WITH 4 AMERICANS IN IT. TWO OF THEM, ONE WAS STOUT AND THE OTHER WAS THIN, TOOK TURNS TO SCOOP WATER OUT OF THE BOAT. THE OTHER TWO, WHOSE FACES I COULD NOT SEE, WERE ROWING THE TWO ROUND THINGS. THE BOAT ITSELF WAS FULL OF WATER, ALMOST UP TO THE SURFACE OF THE RIVER. AND THERE WAS A STRONG SMELL AT THAT. AND THE BOAT WAS ROCKING TERRIBLY'. THE INTERPRETER ASKED FLABBERGASTED, 'WHERE WAS IT?' 'MR. CORPORAL, NEAR THE SAND DUNE NEAR THE BINH SA ISLET, WHERE THERE IS A SAND PILE, DON'T YOU KNOW?'. THE INTERPRETER TRANSLATED THE

STORY TO HIS AMERICAN BOSS. THE LATTER WAS NOT FULLY HAPPY WITH THE ACCOUNT. HE ORDERED THE INTERPRETER TO GO ON WITH THE QUESTIONING. 'Q: IS THE PLACE NEAR HERE?' (A) 'IT'S RATHER FAR, BUT IF YOU GO BY WAY OF BINH NGHIA IT WILL BE NEARER.' 'Q: IS IT DEEP OR SHALLOW?' (A) 'THAT I DON'T KNOW, BUT THE WATER IS VERY BLUE.' 'Q: WHAT ELSE DID YOU SEE LATER ON?' (A) 'NOTHING ELSE. FOR I HAD TO HURRY HOME, LEST MY CHILDREN WERE WORRIED ABOUT MY COMING HOME LATE. WHAT'S THE USE OF WATCHING THE AMERICANS BOATING?'. THE AMERICANS AND THE INTERPRETER TALKED FOR A WHILE, IN UNDERTONES. THEY SEEMED TO BE HAPPY WITH THE INFORMATION. SO THEY LEFT THE HAMLET AT 2 A.M. THE NEXT DAY, ON THE PORTION OF THE TRA BONG RIVER A SEARCH TOOK PLACE. THE 'DIVING SEARCH OPERATION' WAS REALLY A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES; IT INVOLVED A CONVOY OF US ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS. IT WAS UNSUCCESSFUL, HOWEVER, EXCEPT THAT IT MADE A LAUGHING-STOCK OF THE AMERICANS IN THE EYES OF THE LOCAL POPULATION. MOREOVER, DURING THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THE AMERICANS CONTINUED THEIR SEARCH IN THE BUSHES AND CAVES - TO NO AVAIL. MANY US SOLDIERS BECAME EASY GAME FOR THE GUERRILLAS IN THE BARGAIN. SOME OF THEM EVEN PICKED UP HANDFULS OF EARTH TO SMELL, STRONGLY CONVINCED OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THEIR BIG NOSES. FOR THEIR PART, THE PEOPLE ALLOWED THEM TO DO EVERYTHING TO THEIR HEART'S CONTENT: GETTING INTO THE BUSHES, WALKING INTO THE COURTYARDS, CARRYING SHOULDER OR SIDE ARMS. PROVIDED THEY DID NOT DID UP THE GRAVES OF THEIR DECEASED RELATIVES. OTHERWISE, THE PEOPLE WOULD START AN OBSTINATE AND FIERCE STRUGGLE UNTIL FINAL VICTORY. AFTER A WEEK THE AMERICANS, OLD AND YOUNG, DECIDED TO GIVE UP THE SEARCH. HAVING HEARD THE STORY ABOUT 'EARTH SMELLING' BY THE AMERICANS, I JOKINGLY ASKED THAM, 'WELL, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE AMERICANS BROUGHT HERE THOUSANDS OF MORE SENSITIVE NOSES?'. 'EVEN JOHNSON HIMSELF WOULD FAIL TO TRACE THE BODIES OF THE DEAD G. IS' SAID THAM WITH A CANDID SMILE. THEN HE CONTINUED, 'BUT IT WAS ACTUALLY A HARD JOB. HAVING BURIED THEM AND DUG THEM UP THREE TIMES, I STILL FEEL THE "AURA" OF SMELL FROM THEIR CLOTHES. HOW STRONGLY THOSE DAMNED G. IS SMELL, HOW PUNGENT, HOW FETID'. AND AS IF HE WAS AFRAID I FAILED TO UNDERSTAND, HE ADDED 'EVEN THE LIVING AMERICANS ARE SO. AS SOON AS THEY ARRIVED AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE VILLAGE WE COULD SMELL THEIR OPPRESSIVE ODOR UNQUOTE.

3. THE DIARY CORRELATES WITH REFNOs 0646-B-01 THROUGH 0646-B-04 USING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:
 - A. SRCOL DAI'S ACCOUNT AGREES WITH THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS AS DESCRIBED IN DOCUMENTS MAINTAINED IN FILES. THE INCIDENT DATE (21 APRIL 1967) AND LOCATION (THUONG HOA HAMLET) CORRELATES WELL

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 J03 (1) EPA (1) CDO (2)
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SECTIONAL

TO THE KNOWN FACTS OF REFNO 0646. THE DIARY ALSO ACCURATELY IDENTIFIES THE FOUR SOLDIERS WEARING (CARDS) OR PATCHES ON THEIR CHESTS WHICH READ (LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE NO 196). ALL UNACCOUNTED FOR INDIVIDUALS ASSOCIATED WITH REFNO 0646 WERE ASSIGNED TO THE 196 LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE. SRCOL DAI IDENTIFIED ONE G.I. NAMED (DANIEL). THIS CORRELATES TO THE FIRST NAME OF PFC DANIEL R. NIDDS (REFNO 0646-0-04). FINALLY, SRCOL DAI ACCURATELY NOTED A HELICOPTER WITH A LOUDSPEAKER FLEW OVER THE HAMLET ON THE NIGHT OF THE INCIDENT.

4. FOR CORPERSCOM/TAPC-PED-P: THIS INFORMATION MAY BE RELEASED TO THE NOX OF PFC PAUL A. HASENBECK (REFNO 0646-0-01), SP4 THOMAS A. MANGINO (0646-0-02), PFC DAVID M. WINTERS (0646-0-03), AND PFC DANIEL R. NIDDS (0646-0-04) UPON REMOVAL OF ALL U.S. PERSONNEL NAMES THROUGHOUT. COPIES OF PHOTOGRAPHS FOR RELEASE TO THE NOX WILL BE FORWARDED UPON COMPLETION OF DUPLICATION.

5. EVAL - [REDACTED]

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