

ROUTINE

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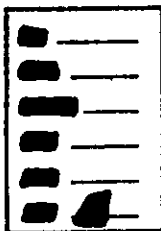
ROUTING

ROUTINE

R 21026Z SEP 92 PSN 604320P15

FM CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

TO CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI



INFO USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3//

DIA WASHDC//POW-MIA/DOF/DOF-3//

SECSTATE WASHDC//CA/OCS/CCS/EAP//

CMC WASHDC//MNP-LO/INT//

CNO WASHDC//OP-092/DN1//

JICPAC HONOLULU HI//O10//

COMNAVMLPER WASHDC//N64DD//

JCS WASHDC//J5 PW-MIA/J3-JOD/CJCS PA-J//

SECDEF WASHDC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA/DDI/C31//

CDRUSACILHI HICKAM AFB HI//TAPC-PED-H//

CIA WASHDC//OEA/SEA/IB/DDO/EA/ICOG//

DIRNSA FT GEO MEADE MD//B51/DCM//P-S//

USCINCPAC LO WASHDC//

NSC WASHDC

DA WASHDC//DAMO-ODO-AOC/DANI-F11//

HQUSAF WASHDC//IN//

USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL//J3//

CDRPERSCOM ALEX VA//TAPC-PED-P//

AFMPC RANDOLPH AFB TX//DPHCA//

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 06 BANGKOK TH 42764

UNCLASSIFIED 0287 SEP 92

DIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE

SUBJ: ~~FIELD INVESTIGATION REPORT OF CASE 0646 (MANGING,~~

~~WITNESSES AND WITNESSES)~~

REF: JTF-FA, DET ONE, BK TH, 190522Z SEP 92.

1. REF IS THE SUMMARY REPORT OF JOINT US/SRV ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN VIETNAM DURING THE 19TH JOINT FIELD ACTIVITY FROM 21 AUG TO 18 SEP 92. PARA 4.A. (4) OF REF PERTAINS TO THE INVESTIGATION OF CASE 0646 WHICH IS REPORTED IN DETAIL HEREIN. THIS REPORT IS BASED ON FIELD ANALYSIS ALONE AND IS NOT INTENDED TO PROVIDE FINAL ANALYTICAL CONCLUSIONS.

2. 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 [REDACTED] (TEAM CHIEF)

CT12 (NAC) [REDACTED] (ASSISTANT TEAM CHIEF)

WOL [REDACTED] (LIVE SIGHTING INVESTIGATOR)

SSG [REDACTED] (ANALYST)

SPC [REDACTED] (LINGUIST/ANALYST)

SSG [REDACTED] (SEARCH AND RECOVERY SPECIALIST) SGT

[REDACTED] (SEARCH AND RECOVERY SPECIALIST)

HMC [REDACTED] (TEAM MEDIC)

SSG [REDACTED] (EOD TECHNICIAN)

THE VIETNAMESE CONTINGENT CONSISTED OF:

TRAN MINH TUAN (TRAN MINH TUANS) (MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TEAM CHIEF)

LU VAN THO (LU VAN THO) (MINISTRY OF DEFENSE)

NGUYEN DINH TRONG (NGUYEN DINH TRONG) (MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS)

NGUYEN VAN MAO (NGUYEN VAN MAO) (MINISTRY OF INTERIOR)

TRINH QUOC KHANH (TRINH QUOC KHANH) (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 (HUYNH MAI) (TEAM CHIEF)

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DLVR: CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI (5) ... ACT

J3 (1) ... INFO FOR USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI (13)

30772/17/176

J5 (2) 00-01-04 (1) MDT (0) J30-M (1) J233 (1) J232 (1) J23 (1) J20 (1)

J03 (1) FPA (1) CDO (2)

RTD: 000-000/COPIES: 001

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ROUTINE

R 211026Z SEP 92 PSN 604394P26

FM CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

TO CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI

INFO USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3// USCINCPAC LO WASHDC//
 DIA WASHDC//POW-MIA/DOF/DOF-3// NSC WASHDC
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 CIA WASHDC//OEA/SEA/IB/DDO/EA/ICOG//
 DIRNSA FT GEO MEADE MD//BS1/DCN//P-S//

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 06 BANGKOK TH 42764

UNCLASSIFIED 0287 SEP 92

DIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE
 SUBJ: FIELD INVESTIGATION REPORT OF CASE 0646 (MANGINO,
 HASENBECK, WINTERS AND NIDDS)

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 (BS6104), 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 NOAF) 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 MACHINE GUN. 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 THI
 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 MACHINE GUN, THREE AR-15 RIFLES, ONE PRC-6 RADIO,
 32 HAND GRENADES, FOUR RUCK SACKS; CONTAINING FOOD AND

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DLVR: CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI (5) ... ACT

J3 (1) ... INFO FOR USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI (13) 30772/17/176E
 J5 (2) 00-01-04 (1) MDT (0) J30-M (1) J233 (1) J232 (1) J23 (1) J20 (1)
 J03 (1) FPA (1) COO (2)

RTD: 000-000/COPIES: 001E

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SECTIONAL MSG

ROUTINE

R 211026Z SEP 92 PSM 604397P29

FM CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

TO CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI

INFO USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3//
 DIA WASHDC//POW-MIA/DOF/DOF-3//
 SECSTATE WASHDC//CA/OCS/CCS/EAP//
 CMC WASHDC//MNP-LO/INT//
 CNO WASHDC//OP-092/DNI//
 JICPAC HONOLULU HI//O1O//
 COMNAVMLPER WASHDC//N64DD//
 JCS WASHDC//J5 PW-MIA/J3-JOD/CJCS PA-J//
 SECDEF WASHDC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA/DDI/C31//
 CDRUSACILHI WICKAN AFB HI//TAPC-PED-H//
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 DIRNSA FT GEO MEADE MD//B51/DCM/P-S//

USCINCPAC LO WASHDC//
 NSC WASHDC
 DA WASHDC//DAMO-ODO-AOC/DAMI-F11//
 HQUSAF WASHDC//IN//
 USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL//J3//
 CDRPERSCOM ALEX VA//TAPC-PED-P//
 AFMPC RANDOLPH AFB TX//DPMCA//

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 06 BANGKOK TH 42764

UNCLASSIFIED 0287 SEP 92

DIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE
 SUBJ: FIELD INVESTIGATION REPORT OF CASE 0646 (MANGINO,
 HASENBECK, WINTERS AND KIDDS)
 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. CHUEN
 (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 (056104). 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 (BINH 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. PHAM DINH
 BA (PHAM DINH BAS), A 58 YOA, RETIREE, WHO PRESENTLY
 RESIDES IN NAM BINH (NAM BINH) HAMLET, BINH NGUYEN
 (BINH NGUYEN) 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 THI PHWONGJ), AKA: NGUYEN THI BICH
 LIEN (NGUYEENX THI BICH LIEN), A 45 YOA, WHO IS
 EMPLOYED AT THE QUANG NGAI CITY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY
 (COONG TY COONG TRINH DOO THI). MRS. PHUONG PRESENTLY
 RESIDES AT GROUP 1, NGUYEN NGHIEU (NGUYEENX NGHIEU)
 WARD, QUANG NGAI CITY, QUANG NGAI PROVINCE. SHE
 PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

(1). FOR APPROXIMATELY THREE DAYS IN MARCH (LUNAR
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SECTIONAL MSG

DLVR: CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI (5) ... ACT

J3 (1) ... INFO FOR USCINCPAC HONOLULU H (13)

J5 (2) 00-01-04 (1) MDT (0) J30-M (1) J233 (1) J232 (1) J23 (1) J20 (1)
 J03 (1) FPA (1) CDO (2)

RTD: 000-000/COPIES

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TO CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI

INFO USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3//
 DIA WASHDC//POW-MIA/DOF/DOF-3//
 SECSTATE WASHDC//CA/OCS/CCS/EAP//
 CMC WASHDC//MNP-LO/INT//
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 COMNAVHILPER WASHDC//N64DD//
 JCS WASHDC//J5 PW-MIA/J3-JOD/CJCS PA-J//
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 CDUSACILHI HICKAM AFB HI//TAPC-PED-N//
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 AFMPC RANDOLPH AFB TX//DPMCA//

UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 06 BANGKOK TH 42764

UNCLASSIFIED 0287 SEP 92

DIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE
 SUBJ: FIELD INVESTIGATION REPORT OF CASE 0646 (MANGINO,
 HASENBECK, WINTERS AND NIDDS)
 CALENDARI), 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 (BSG294). 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
 (QUYEEN) (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), 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 (LEU HIEEUX), 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

BT

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30772/17/1760

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J03 (1) FPA (1) CDO (2)

RTD: 000-000/COPIES: 0018

604331/265
CSM: AUA101746

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211026Z SEP 92
CJTFFA DET ONE

SECTIONAL MSG

ROUTINE

R 211026Z SEP 92 PSN 604488P30

FM CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH

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 DIRNSA FT GEO MEADE MD//B51/DCN//P-S//

UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 06 BANGKOK TH 42764

UNCLASSIFIED 0287 SEP 92

DIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE
 SUBJ: FIELD INVESTIGATION REPORT OF CASE 0646 MANGINO,
 HASENBECK, WINTERS AND NIDDS)

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 SAMPANS DOWN
 THE RIVER TO AN ISOLATED SPOT KNOWN AS THE BINH PHUOC
 (BINH PHUOC) 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 HAS 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
 (NGUYENX THI LIEUX), 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.

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

BT

DLVR: CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI (5)...ACT

J3 (1)...INFO FOR USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI (13)

30772/17/1

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J03 (1) FPA (1) COO (2)

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TO CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI

INFO USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3// USCINCPAC LO WASHDC//
 DIA WASHDC//POW-MIA/DOF/DOF-3// NSC WASHDC
 SECSTATE WASHDC//CA/OCS/CCS/EAP// DA WASHDC//DAMO-ODO-AOC/DAMI-F11//
 CMC WASHDC//MHP-LO/INT// HOUAF WASHDC//IN//
 CNO WASHDC//OP-092/DNI// USCINCSOC MAGDILL AFB FL//J3//
 JICPAC HONOLULU HI//O10// CDRPERSCOM ALEX VA//TAPC-PED-P//
 COMNAVHILPER WASHDC//NG4DD// AFMPC RANDOLPH AFB TX//DPNCA//
 JCS WASHDC//J5 PW-MIA/J3-JOD/CJCS PA-J//
 SECDEF WASHDC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA/DD1/C31//
 CDRUSACILHI NICKAM AFB HI//TAPC-PED-H//
 CIA WASHDC//OEA/SEA/IB/DDO/EA/ICOG//
 DIRNSA FT GEO MEADE MD//B51/DCN//P-S//

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DIA PASS TO DOD POW-MIA CENTRAL DOCUMENTATION OFFICE
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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.

B1

DLVR: CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI (5) ... ACT

J3 (1) ... INFO FOR USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI (13)

30772/17/1760

J5 (2) 00-01-04 (1) MDT (8) J30-M (1) J233 (1) J232 (1) J23 (1) J20 (1)

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