

REF NO: 004G
 DATE OF INCIDENT:
 STATUS AT HOME:
 GROUND LOSS IN:

T: 21 APRIL 1967
 COMING: ALL MIA
 SOUTH VIETNAM

Private First Class Paul A. Hasenbeck, U.S. Army
 Specialist Four Thomas A. Mangino, U.S. Army
 Private First Class Daniel R. Nidds, U.S. Army
 U.S. Army

8 Sep 1993

JUL-20-1994 12:18PM FROM

TO

12165629025 P.06

SUMMARY/WARTIME REPORTING	INCIDENT		INVESTIGATION RESULTS		CONCLUSION	
	EVIDENCE SURVIVED INCIDENT	EVIDENCE CAPTURED IN PRISON SYSTEM	JOINT OR UNILATERAL INVESTIGATION	REMAINS RETURNED	LIKELIHOOD OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDED FUTURE ACTION
<p>SUMMARY:</p> <p>FOUR SOLDIERS WERE RETURNED FROM PATROL ON THE SECOND OF TWO SAMPAH ON THE RIVER NEXT TO THUONG HUA HAMLET, BINH GIANG VILLAGE, QUANG NINH PROVINCE.</p> <p>THE FIRST SAMPAH RETURNED TO BASE, AND THE SECOND WAS LAST SEEN 200 METERS DOWN. PERSONNEL IN THE SECOND SAMPAH WERE LAST SEEN IN CONVERSATION WITH A LOCAL RESIDENT, ALSO IN A SAMPAH.</p> <p>15 MINUTES LATER, 20-30 ROUNDS OF SMALL ARMS FIRE WERE HEARD FROM THUONG HUA.</p> <p>AN EXTENSIVE AREA SEARCH, INCLUDING THE RIVER BOTTOMS, REVEALED NO TRACE OF ANY OF THE FOUR MEN ON THE SECOND SAMPAH. THE WATER SEARCH WAS APPARENTLY BASED ON FALSE INFORMATION FROM LOCAL VC. (SEE INVESTIGATION RESULTS.)</p>	<p>POSSIBLE.</p> <p>POSSIBLE CAPTURE.</p> <p>A SPATE OF AGENT REPORTS INDICATED CAPTURE. VERACITY OF THESE REPORTS IS UNCERTAIN.</p> <p>WARTIME SOURCE SELECTED PHOTO OF PFC NIDDS AS "POSSIBLY" ONE OF DOZENS OF U.S. POWS SEEN IN MILITARY REGION (NAM) THEN HUE; PFC NIDDS MISSING IN CR.</p> <p>ANOTHER WARTIME SOURCE SELECTED PFC NIDDS' PHOTO, APPARENTLY AT RANDOM. REPORT HAS DUBIOUS INTELLIGENCE VALUE.</p> <p>OTHER SOURCES REPORTED U.S. GRAVES IN THE AREA AT THE TIME; RELIABILITY OF THESE REPORTS IS ALSO TENUOUS.</p>	<p>ITERATION 13, AUGUST 1992. TWO FIRSTHAND WITNESSES ALLOTTED THE FOUR MEN WERE AMBUSHED, KILLED, AND BURIED AFTER LEAVING THEIR SAMPAH AT BINH DOCK (FORMER BINH GIANG VILLAGE). FORMER VILLAGE CHIEF DESCRIBED INCIDENT AS REPORTED TO HIM. ANOTHER VILLAGER CLAIMED HE HELPED MOVE BODIES TO BURIAL. WITNESSES SAID BODIES BURIED THREE TIMES, AVOIDING DISCOVERY BY U.S. SEARCH. FINAL GRAVESITE NOW UNDER ONE FOOT OF WATER.</p> <p>KERRY COOEL, DECEMBER 1992. WARTIME DIARY OF COL PHAM DUC DAL, FORMER PAVN ENEMY PROSELYTING CADRE IN QUANG NAI, VIEWED AND TRANSLATED. ENTRY ON THIS CASE BASED ON DAL'S DISCUSSIONS, FEW DAYS AFTER INCIDENT, WITH LOCALS DIRECTLY INVOLVED. DETAILS CONSISTENT WITH JOINT INVESTIGATION WITNESSES. BODIES BURIED THREE TIMES TO AVOID DETECTION. ENTRY DESCRIBES FALSE INFORMATION FROM LOCAL WOMAN TO U.S. SEARCHERS, WHICH APPARENTLY LED TO THE EXTENSIVE, FRUITLESS UNDERWATER SEARCH. APRIL 1983 INTERVIEW OF COL DAN CONFIRMED HE DID NOT SEE EVENTS, CONTRARY TO NEWS ACCOUNTS OF KERRY COOEL, BUT GOT DETAILS FROM LOCALS, CONSISTENT WITH DIARY.</p> <p>ARCHIVAL RESEARCH, 1993. SEVERAL ITEMS OF IDENTIFICATION MEDIA AND OTHER PERSONAL DOCUMENTS OF ALL FOUR MEN FOUND AT NIKS MUSEUM. HISTORICAL SUMMARY WITH NIDDS' MEDIA INDICATED "GUERRILLAS AND PEOPLE KILLED INVA... IN BINH SON DISTRICT..."</p> <p>ARCHIVAL RESEARCH TEAM RETIREMENT, MAY 1993. THREE ADDITIONAL WITNESSES, ALL OF WHOM HAD PERSONALLY SEEN THE FOUR BODIES AND HAD HELPED BURY THEM IN THE THIRD AND FINAL GRAVESITE, A SANDBAR IN A TRIBUTARY TO TRA BONG RIVER. INDICATED SITE NOW UNDER TWO METERS OF WATER DUE TO BROKEN DAM UPSTREAM. LOCATION NORMALLY CONSISTENT WITH THAT GIVEN BY EARLIER WITNESSES. ALL HAD GENERAL KNOWLEDGE OF PRECEDING EVENTS, CONSISTENT WITH EARLIER WITNESSES, AND TWO HAD PARTICIPATED IN EARLIER (SECOND) BURIAL.</p>	<p>NO REMAINS RECOVERED.</p>	<p>CERTAIN.</p> <p>COL DAN'S DIARY AND PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION MEDIA FOUND IN BINH ARCHIVES REINFORCE EXPECTATION THAT, WHETHER KILLED OR CAPTURED, STANDARD PROCEDURES WERE FOLLOWED, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE FORWARDING OF BOTH ARTIFACTS AND REPORT OF INCIDENT, INCLUDING DISPOSITION OF THE DEAD.</p>	<p>ANALYSIS: WITNESS INFORMATION, REINFORCED BY CONTEMPORARY DIARY, CLEARLY ESTABLISHES THESE MEN WERE KILLED AND BURIED BY GUERRILLAS. LAST WARTIME BURIAL SITE CREDIBLY BUT IMPRECISELY KNOWN, NOT UNDERWATER. POSSIBILITY REMAINS RECOVERED BY SRV IS HIGH IF ATTEMPT WAS MADE BEFORE AREA WAS FLOODED BY BROKEN DAM. EXCAVATION OF SITE LIKELY PROBLEMATIC.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: CDM AND JTF-FA ASSESS FEASIBILITY OF SITE EXCAVATION TO DETERMINE WHETHER REMAINS ARE STILL THERE.</p> <p>ASSESSMENT</p> <p>FOUR MEN KILLED; SITE EXCAVATION DIFFICULT; REMAINS POSSIBLY RECOVERED BY SRV.</p>	