

R E P O R T
UNILATERAL INVESTIGATION OF CASE 0691

Implementing the directive of the Director of the Vietnamese Agency for Seeking Missing Persons from 13 to 16 November 1991, the investigation team consisting of:

- Nguyen Tri Chu: Team Chief
- Cao Quoc Khanh: MIA Specialist
- Bach Van Thanh: Hoa Binh Military Headquarters
- Ha Van Tap: Chief Helicopter Pilot
- Ha Xuan Hai: Helicopter Co-pilot

Carried out the unilateral investigation of case 0691.

A.) The team went to Kim Boi District, Hoa Binh Province and worked with Mr. Bui Van Bang, Assistant District Chairman, Bui Quang Si, Assistant to the Office of the District People's Committee, and after that the district designated Mr. Bui Van Loi, District Public Security Service, and Mr. Bui The Loan, Kim Boi District Military Headquarters Cadre to participate in the investigation with the team.

B.) On 13 November 1991 the team met Mr. Van, who was the Kim Boi District PSS and retired in 1977 (not the District Chief of the PSS as the record that the American side provided stated). Mr. Van stated that from 1965 - 1968 he was designated the regular district PSS for the Thuong Tien Village area. Around May of 1967 he witnessed two American pilots parachute into Thuong Tien Village. One pilot was captured alive and the other pilot was shot when he fired at the People's Forces of Vietnam who had surrounded him for capture. According to Mr. Van, they buried the pilot immediately on the spot but Mr. Van did not go to the burial spot, therefore he did not know the exact burial location. He only knew it was on Dong Danh Mountain.

On 14 November 1991 the team went to Thuong Tien Village to work with the following individuals:

- Dinh Quang Hop: Village Chairman
- Dinh Cong Thap: Assistant Village Chairman
- Dinh Van Thanh: Village Chief

and informed them of the objective of the investigation team and suggested the People's Village Committee help the team in any way they could.

The group received permission from the village to interview Mr. Bui Van An, the person who directly participated in the burial of the pilot - according to Mr. An's opinion and after reinspection of interviews during past investigations (1987 unilateral and the 1990 bilateral investigation) together with the opinion pointed out before now, there is no new information. However, on 15 November 1991 the village committee designated Mr. Dinh Quang Hop, Dinh Van Thanh, Bui Van An to go up the mountain together with the team to determine the exact burial spot of the pilot.

From the head office of the Thuong Tien Village People's

Committee, the team crossed one stream, went over one mountain approximately 700 meters high with a slope of 60 degrees and continued over a smaller hill, followed a stream gill and then climbed up to the burial spot taking about 6 hours. Mr. An along with the other men in the village, district and province that participated in the previous investigations determined the exact burial spot of the pilot.

After determining and marking the pilot's burial spot, the group along with Mr. Tap and Mr. Hai found a helicopter landing zone - because of the conditions of the tall mountain and the thick forest the determining of a helicopter landing spot was very difficult, but finally the team found a helicopter landing spot. From the landing spot to the burial location it is about 30 minutes of uphill climbing.

Comments:

Throughout the investigation to the end at the burial spot, the opinion of the witnesses, especially Mr. Bui Van An, the person who participated in the burial of the pilot, and the team, was that: due to the wartime conditions the pilot's body was buried deep in the forest with many ferocious beasts, near a stream, with a high slope and torrential rains. It is probable that the burial site was washed away, therefore it is not likely that there is anything left. However, if the American side wants to continue the investigation and excavation of Case 0691 we should create the conditions for the American side to implement this plan.

Hoa Binh , 17 November 1991

Team Chief

(signature)

Nguyen Tri Chu