

CASE 1748: FIRST LIEUTENANT DANNY D. ENTRICAN

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS:

- ON 18 MAY 1971, SHORTLY AFTER DAWN, FIRST LIEUTENANT DANNY D. ENTRICAN, WAS THE LEADER OF A COMBINED U.S. AND VIETNAMESE PATROL UNDER ATTACK BY AN UNKNOWN SIZE HOSTILE FORCE IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES YD036214, APPROXIMATELY 43 KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF QUANG TRI AND TWO KILOMETERS EAST OF THE LAOS-VIETNAM BORDER. AS THE TEAM ATTEMPTED TO FLEE ENEMY FIRE, LIEUTENANT ENTRICAN BECAME SEPARATED FROM THE REST OF HIS TEAM. SURVIVING TEAM MEMBERS LATER REPORTED THAT THEY HAD LAST SEEN HIM WOUNDED BUT ALIVE AND ATTEMPTING TO EVADE THE HOSTILE FORCE. LATER IN THE DAY, A RECOVERY TEAM WAS INSERTED TO RECOVER THE DEAD AND WOUNDED, BUT THEY DID NOT LOCATE LIEUTENANT ENTRICAN. EXTENSIVE AIR AND GROUND SEARCHES WERE NEGATIVE.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS FOR CASE 1748:

- IN APRIL 1973, A U.S. ARMY RETURNEE FURNISHED LIMITED INFORMATION CONCERNING ENTRICAN. THE RETURNEE FURNISHED ENTRICAN'S LAST NAME, RANK, AND SERVICE. THE RETURNEE HAD OBTAINED HEARSAY INFORMATION THAT A RADIO INTERCEPTION STATED THAT ENTRICAN HAD BEEN CAPTURED AND HIS CAPTORS REQUESTED INSTRUCTIONS. THEIR INSTRUCTIONS WERE TO SEND ENTRICAN NORTH TO HANOI.
- SUBSEQUENT REPORTING INDICATES THAT LIEUTENANT ENTRICAN MAY HAVE BEEN CAPTURED BY ELEMENTS OF THE 591ST ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY REGIMENT.
- IN JUNE 1973, A SOURCE SAID THAT HE HAD OBSERVED AN AMERICAN FIRST LIEUTENANT MOVING NORTH ALONG THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL AND THAT THE PRISONER OF WAR HAD BEEN CAPTURED AT A RADIO STATION AT DONG CHI (LOCATION UNKNOWN), QUANG TRI PROVINCE, IN MAY 1971. THE OFFICER APPEARED TO BE IN NORMAL HEALTH, CONSIDERING THE CIRCUMSTANCES. HIS CAPTORS HAD REMOVED HIS BOOTS, CAUSING SORE FEET. THE SOURCE PROVIDED NO DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION ON THE PRISONER OF WAR.

- AFTER THE INCIDENT, ONE VIETNAMESE COMMANDO IN ENTRICAN'S PATROL REPORTED THAT AFTER ENCOUNTERING AN ENEMY FORCE ON THE MORNING OF 18 MAY 1971, ENTRICAN GAVE THE TEAM AN ORDER TO RUN (AWAY FROM ENEMY FIRE). AS ENTRICAN AND SOME OF HIS TEAM MEMBERS WERE RUNNING DOWNHILL, ENTRICAN WAS WOUNDED IN THE BACK. THE VIETNAMESE TEAM MEMBER SAID HE ATTEMPTED TO AID ENTRICAN, BUT THE LIEUTENANT TOLD THE TEAM MEMBER TO MOVE OUT. THE TEAM MEMBER CONTINUED RUNNING DOWNHILL, JOINED UP WITH ANOTHER VIETNAMESE TEAM MEMBER, AND EVACUATED THE AREA VIA HELICOPTER ABOUT A HALF HOUR LATER.
- AFTER THE INCIDENT, A SECOND VIETNAMESE COMMANDO IN ENTRICAN'S PATROL REPORTED THAT ON THE MORNING OF 18 MAY 1971, THE PATROL ENCOUNTERED A NUMBER OF ENEMY ON A TRAIL. ENTRICAN'S TEAM HAD MOVED INTO THE BUSHES FOR COVER, BUT THE ENEMY FORCES LOCATED THE TEAM. WHEN THE COMMANDO HEARD ENEMY ORDERS FOR A SQUAD TO GO THROUGH THE TEAM'S AREA AND CAPTURE TEAM MEMBERS ALIVE, HE ROLLED DOWN THE HILL TO ESCAPE. BEFORE ROLLING DOWN THE HILL, THE COMMANDO HEARD ENTRICAN YELL AND SCREAM, POSSIBLY A FRIGHTENED YELL. THEN THE ENEMY FORCE STARTED TO SHOOT. THE LAST TIME THE COMMANDO SAW ENTRICAN HE WAS NOT HURT OR WOUNDED, BUT HE DID NOT LOOK BACK AFTER HE STARTED ROLLING DOWNHILL. HE JOINED UP WITH ANOTHER VIETNAMESE TEAM MEMBER AND WAITED UNTIL HE WAS EVACUATED VIA HELICOPTER.
- A U.S. MEMBER OF A RECOVERY TEAM, INSERTED INTO THE AREA WHERE ENTRICAN WAS LAST SEEN ON 18 MAY 1971, TO RECOVER THE WOUNDED AND DEAD MEMBERS OF ENTRICAN'S TEAM SAID THAT THE TEAM LOCATED FOUR BODIES: ONE UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE'S ARMY OF VIETNAM SOLDIER, ONE CHINESE MEMBER OF ENTRICAN'S TEAM, AND TWO U.S. TEAM MEMBERS. THE RECOVERY TEAM LOCATED A LARGE AMOUNT OF EQUIPMENT BELONGING TO THESE TEAM MEMBERS. A THOROUGH SEARCH AND SWEEP OF THE AREA RESULTED IN NO TRACE OF ENTRICAN OR HIS EQUIPMENT.
- ON 18 MAY, THE RECOVERY TEAM SAW NO SIGNS OF ENTRICAN. ON 19, 20, AND 21 MAY, EXTENSIVE AIR SEARCH EFFORTS CENTERED AROUND ENTRICAN'S LAST KNOWN POSITION AND EXTENDED IN ALL DIRECTIONS OUT TO THE MAXIMUM DISTANCE POSSIBLE FOR ENTRICAN TO TRAVEL, RESULTED IN NEGATIVE CONTACT.
- LT ENTRICAN SPOKE LITTEL OR NO VIETNAMESE.

AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH:

- SEEK OUT DOCUMENTATION FROM PEOPLE'S ARMY OF VIETNAM UNITS IN THE AREA AT THE TIME OF THIS INCIDENT.
- SEEK OUT EYEWITNESSES OF THE CAPTURE AND SUBSEQUENT FATE OF ENTRICAN.