

Deserter
Binh Duong
1971

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, SECTION 3.3, NND PROJECT NUMBER NND 937597, BY RB/LSC, DATE 11/23/96

INFORMATION REPORT		
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1. COUNTRY: VS	8. REPORT NUMBER: 6 029 0103 72	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p>CONFIDENTIAL</p> <p>634130</p> </div>
2. SUBJECT: (U) Sighting of US Deserter in TRI TAM District, BINH DUONG Province, RVN.	9. DATE OF REPORT: 27 Mar 72	
3. ISC NUMBER: 723.600	10. NO. OF PAGES: 4	
4. DATE OF INFORMATION: Sep 71	11. REFERENCES: DIRM: 1S3	
5. PLACE AND DATE OF ACQ: NCHC, SAIGON, VS 10 Feb 72	12. ORIGINATOR: US Element, CMIC, USMACV	
6. EVALUATION: SOURCE <u>F</u> INFORMATION <u>6</u>	13. PREPARED BY: PAUL A. MEINTS SP5, USA	
7. SOURCE: Returnee Interrogation	14. APPROVING AUTHORITY: <i>David Pemberton</i> DAVID L. PEMBERTON LTC, USA Dir. US Elm. CMIC	
15. SUMMARY:		(Leave Blank)
<p>(C) This report contains information concerning the sighting of one US deserter in the CAU VAN TAM Area, TRI TAM District, BINH DUONG Province, RVN, to include the circumstances of sighting, description of deserter, and surrender data. THIS IS A BRIGHT LIGHT REPORT, MACV FOR JPRC.</p>		
<p>1. (C) Background Information:</p> <p>a. Name: NGUYEN DUY NGA (NGUYEENX, ZUY NGAL), CMIC C-0011-72</p> <p>b. Rank: PFC</p> <p>c. Position and Unit of Assignment: Soldier; A-8 12.8mm AA Co, Q-16 Regt, SR-1</p> <p>d. DPOB: 1943; DONG SON Village, DONG HUNG District, THAI BINH Province, NVN</p>		
16. DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR:	17. DOWNGRADING DATA:	18. ATTACHMENT DATA:
<p>DTA 1 cy</p> <p>DIRNSA 1 cy</p> <p>SAC 1 cy</p> <p>CINCPAC 1 cy</p> <p>CINCPAC AF 2 cys</p> <p>CINCUSARPAC 2 cys</p> <p>COMUSMACVTHAI 1 cy</p> <p>MACJ212-2 2 cys</p> <p>MACJ213-1 1 cy</p> <p>MACJ23 1 cy</p> <p>MACJ231 10 cys</p>	<p>GROUP 3</p> <p>DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS</p> <p>NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED</p> <p>THIS DOCUMENT IS RELEASABLE TO REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AND FREE WORLD MILITARY ASSISTANCE FORCES</p>	<p>None</p>
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<p>e. Parents' Names: Father, NGUYEN DUY NGHE (NGUYEENX, ZUY NGHEEL), living; Mother, NGUYEN THI XONG (NGUYEENX THIV XONG), living</p> <p>f. Circumstances of Return. On 11 Dec 71, Source's unit participated in an ambush of ARVN transportation elements along Highway No 13 in BINH LONG Province. During that attack, Source was wounded and left by his unit. Source wandered for three days in search of food and medicine until he encountered members of the ARVN 5th Division on 14 Dec 71. Source was taken to their outpost, located in BINH LONG Province (NFI), where he officially rallied on 15 Dec 71.</p> <p>g. Significant Activities. From 1960 to 1967, Source attended the village school in his POB. In Jun 67, Source quit school and began working for the cooperative farm located at his POB. Source was drafted in Jun 70, and received basic training with the 9th Sqd, 3d Plat, 3d Co, 908th Bn, 51st Regt, THAI BINH Province Unit, located at THUAN-VI Village, THU TRI District, THAI BINH Province, NVN. Immediately after completion of basic training in Nov 70, Source began infiltration to RVN with the 908th Bn, which was composed of approximately 600 men. The 908th Bn was known as Infiltration Group 2256. The infiltration group arrived at an unknown location in KRATIE Province, CAMBODIA, at the end Feb 71. There Source was assigned to the 2d Sqd, 2d Plat, A-8 AA Co, Q-16 Regt, SR-1. Upon arrival at the unit, Source was given twenty days of 12.8mm AA weapons training. The primary mission of the A-8 AA Co was to supply anti-aircraft support for infantry units of the Q-16 Regt. The Q-16 Regt was located in the CAU VAN TAM (Wooden Bridge No 8) area (vic XT591571), TRI TAM District, BINH DUONG Province, RVN, from the time of Source's arrival until he rallied.</p> <p>h. Additional References: CMIC PW/Rallier Exploitation Guide; JPRC US PW Photo Album, dtd 1 Jul 71; Map: VIETNAM, AMS Series L7016, Sheet 6130 II, Edition 1, dtd 1967, Scale 1:50,000.</p> <p>2. (C) The Sighting of One US deserter in the CAU VAN TAM Area, TRI TAM District, BINH DUONG Province, RVN.</p> <p>a. Circumstances of Sighting. While Source was at his base camp in early Sep 71, a US deserter was escorted by four NVA soldiers into the camp (vic XT591571). The US deserter was able to converse sparingly in Vietnamese. Shortly after he entered the base camp a crowd formed around the American in order to see him and also to listen to him speak. Source was part of this crowd and listened to the man for approximately fifteen minutes. During this time the US deserter stated that he was 24 years old and a medic in the US Army, with the rank of sergeant. He went on to state that he was a member of the American Communist Party and that he hoped he could go to HANOI in order to study the doctrine and teachings of HO CHI MINH. He claimed that he hated war and</p>		(Leave Blank)
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everything the United States of America represented. To prove his beliefs he stated that he had given away all of his personal belongings that had been made in the United States and was growing a beard to symbolize his dissatisfaction with the Army and what it represented. After approximately 15 minutes of conversing with the people in and around the base camp, the US deserter and his escort left the area. Source did not know where they traveled after leaving his base camp.

b. US Deserter:

(1) Identification.

(a) Source provided the following descriptive information concerning the US deserter:

- 1 Height: 1.85m
- 2 Weight: 80 to 85kg
- 3 Color of Hair and Eyes: Blond; unknown
- 4 Race: Caucasian
- 5 Complexion: Ruddy
- 6 Hair: Two to three inches long; thick, straight
- 7 Nose: Big and long
- 8 Scars: None visible
- 9 Tattoos: None visible
- 10 Birthmarks: None visible
- 11 Build: Big, neither muscular nor flabby
- 12 Age: 24
- 13 Glasses Worn: None
- 14 Rings/Watches: None
- 15 Mustache/Beard: both mustache and full beard; length of the beard was approximately three quarters of an inch.

(2) Clothing. The US deserter wore civilian clothing consisting of a yellow shirt and brown trousers. He carried his sandals with him and did not have a hat. The clothing appeared to be old.

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<p>(3) Branch of Service. Source stated that the US deserter told the crowd that he was a medic in the Army. At the time of his desertion he held the rank of sergeant.</p> <p>(4) Physical Condition. The deserter was in excellent health and showed no signs of having been wounded or mistreated in any manner.</p> <p>e. Capture Data. Source was told by one of the armed escorts that the man had gone out into the field with field pack looking for VC or NVA troops. The US deserter surrendered to the BEN CAT District Local Forces. The BEN CAT District Local Forces then transferred him to the 7th Bn, Z-16 Regt. Source could provide no date of surrender for the US deserter. One of the four NVA escorts carried the deserter's field pack. The US deserter was not restrained in any manner during the time that Source observed him. Source could provide no information as to the destination of the US deserter, except to say that he felt the US deserter would be sent to HANOI. Source was shown the MACV/JPRC Photo Album but was unable to identify the deserter.</p> <p>(U) COMMENTS: Source was of average intelligence and cooperated fully throughout the interrogation. The use of control questions revealed no attempt at deception.</p>		(Leave Blank)
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