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By MC NARA Date 8/1

DEPART

INTELLIGENCE INFOR

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1. COUNTRY: VN, NGHE AN Province	8. REPORT NUMBER: 6 029 1103 70
2. SUBJECT: (U) PW Sighting in NGHE AN Province, NVN	9. DATE OF REPORT: 26 Oct 70
3. ISC NUMBER: 723.610 723.600	10. NO. OF PAGES: 7 <i>W27527</i>
4. DATE OF INFORMATION: May 65 to Jun 65	11. REFERENCES: DIRM: 1Q16, 6G1 SICR: D-7GX-49018 BRIGHT LIGHT
5. PLACE AND DATE OF ACQ: CMIC, SAIGON, VS 23 Oct 70	12. ORIGINATOR: US Element, CMIC, USMACV
6. EVALUATION: SOURCE <u>F</u> INFORMATION <u>6</u>	13. PREPARED BY: GEORGE C. WHITEHEAD SP4, USA
7. SOURCE: PW Interrogation	14. APPROVING AUTHORITY: <i>W.H. Beardisley</i> W. H. BEARDISLEY LTC, USA Dir, US Elm, CMIC

15. SUMMARY: (C) This report is in response to SICR D-7GX-49018 (Prisoner of War Intelligence). Contained is information concerning seven prisoners observed in a detention area located in TAN KY District, NGHE AN Province, NVN, during May and Jun 65. Also included is information data on the prisoners; the camp; security; the policy of the NVA toward PWs; the attitude of the civilian population toward PWs; and the schedule, accommodation, and health of the prisoners in this area. THIS IS A BRIGHT LIGHT REPORT. MACV FOR JPRC.

1. (C) Background Information:

a. Name: TRUONG VAN NIEN (TRUOWNG, VEAN NIEEN), CMIC 3127-70.

b. Rank: LTJG

c. Position and Unit of Assignment: Staff Assistant; Military Staff, 8th Bn, 38th Inf. Regt.

d. DPOB: 14 Oct 37; HONG SON Hamlet, TAN HOP Village, TAN KY District, NGHE AN Province, NVN

16. DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR:	17. DOWNGRADING DATA:	18. ATTACHMENT DATA:
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e. Parents' Names: Father, TRUONG VAN KA (TRUWONG, VEAN KA), living; Mother, NGUYEN THI QUAN (NGUYEENX, THIV QANR), living

f. Circumstances of Capture. In mid-Feb 70, the 8th Bn moved into the lowland area of western QUANG NAM Province (exact loc unk), leaving Source and six other men behind at the base camp. At 051230 Apr 70, Source was surprised by a reconnaissance team of D Co, 1st Recon Bn, USMC, and was taken prisoner.

g. Significant Activities. In Apr 59, Source was drafted and was assigned to the 76th Public Security Post, located in NGHE AN Province, NVN. He remained with this unit until he was discharged from the service in Apr 62. In Apr 65, he was recalled into the NVA and was assigned to the 1st Sqd, 1st Plat, 2d Co, 9th Bn, 90th Regt (aka 3d Regt), 324th Div. He received one and one-half months of basic infantry training and, upon completion, was promoted to corporal. In Jun 65, the 90th Regt began infiltration training and a review of infantry training. In Jan 66, the entire 324th Div arrived in QUANG BINH Province, NVN. In Mar 66, the 90th Regt began infiltration, arriving in the CU DINH Area of QUANG BINH Province on 26 Jun 66. In Oct or Nov 67, Source contracted malaria and was detained at the rear base camp of the regiment until Feb 68. At that time, Source and 30 other ill men were led by commo-liaison personnel to the 9th Bn, which was located in western THUA THIEN Province, RVN. Upon arrival at the 9th Bn, Source was informed that he had been promoted to aspirant and was assigned as platoon leader of the 1st Plat, 1st Co, 8th Bn. In Jun 69, Source was promoted to lieutenant and was assigned as executive officer of the 1st Co, 8th Bn. He remained in this position for one month and was transferred to the Military Staff of the 8th Bn, where he remained until his capture.

h. Additional References: CMIC PW/Rallier Exploitation Guide, Annex L; Map: VIETNAM, AMS Series L7014, Sheet 6047 II, Edition 1, dtd 1965, Scale 1:50,000

2. (C) PW Sighting in NGHE AN Province, NVN. The following is in response to SICR D-7CX-49018 (Prisoner of War Intelligence):

a. Places of Confinement:

(1) Location and Description of PW Camps:

(a) Location. Source acted as a perimeter guard during the months of May and Jun 65 at a prisoner detention area in the vicinity of (WG310152), NGHIA DUNG Village, TAN KY District, NGHE AN Province. The detention area was not a compound; because of the danger of Allied air strikes, the prisoners were not confined to a small area but were dispersed when possible. The detention area was located approximately 100 meters west of the CON river and approximately 3800 meters west of Highway No 15.

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(b) Description. The prisoners were housed in civilian houses in NGHIA DUNG Village. (See sketch on page 7 a) The seven prisoners were quartered in two adjacent houses constructed of concrete, as were most of the houses in the village. The soil in the area was sandy, and the terrain was lowland with rice paddies. The camp was not constructed primarily for detention purposes; the houses were among those of the civilian population of the village. Source had no information regarding the length of time that the houses had been used for the detainment of prisoners. At the time Source was in the area, seven prisoners were being held; Source had heard that two were Korean and that the rest were American. The prisoners were not assigned to work details, but were often allowed to exercise outdoors, under the supervision of three guards.

(2) Camp Accessibility. Allied aircraft often flew over the area. Source recognized the planes as the F4H Phantom II, A1E Skyraider, and the F-105 Thunderchief; these planes flew at great altitude and were always sighted flying east. The guard unit had an air-raid siren that was used to warn of air attack; Source had no information on the detection system used by the NVA in this area. Normally the siren preceded the attack by five or ten minutes. The main ground approach to this area was Highway No 15, which runs through the village from north to south. However, there were many trails from both the east and west that were used by the local populace. Source had no knowledge of other units in the area. Source's unit was equipped with 12.8mm HMGs (manufacture and number unk), one B-40 ATGL per squad, and three B-41 ATGLs per company. Source's regiment was in the area for basic training purposes prior to infiltration to the RVN; the perimeter guards for this area were selected from the trainees of the 90th Regt (aka 3d Regt), 324th Div. The prevailing winds in the area are from the east. The unit that actually guarded the prisoners was a company (designation and subordination unk) that was billeted in the village. The mission of these guards was to protect the prisoners; if a prisoner was killed during an air raid, the guard was held responsible. During an air raid, they were to take the prisoners to safety in the surrounding countryside.

(3) Camp Security. Source was unfamiliar with the security measures taken in the detention area; his mission was to secure the road which ran through the village. There were three guards assigned to the prisoners at all times. He did not know how they were armed, the length of their shifts, or the means of communication among the guards and between them and higher headquarters. Source saw no shackles or chains. He often saw the prisoners playing ball in a nearby field; they did not have shackles or chains at these times.

(4) Camp Staff. Source thought that the guard element for the prisoners was composed of one company (designation and subordination unk). Source had no knowledge of the biographies

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or organization of the camp staff. Their attitude toward the prisoners was tolerant and protective, as they were held responsible for the welfare of the prisoners. The only punishment that was allowed was the assignment of extra political indoctrination for any prisoner who was intractable. The camp staff slept in civilian houses near the houses in which the prisoners were kept. Source had no knowledge of their movements. No Allied leaflets were seen. Source had no knowledge of their radio listening habits.

b. US and Allied PWs:

(1) Description: Source had very little information regarding the prisoners. He had heard from men in his unit that two of the prisoners were Korean and that the others were Americans. Source had also heard that some of the prisoners were civilian doctors who had been captured in QUANG TRI Province, RVN (date and location unk), while on their way to a hospital. Source thought that the other prisoners were fliers. He did not know how many were doctors, how many were fliers, or how many were civilians. Source only saw the prisoners at a distance of approximately 300 meters and was unable to give a physical description.

(2) Clothing: The prisoners were seen wearing white VC pajamas with rubber sandals. They wore no insignia or headgear.

(3) Condition: The prisoners appeared to be in good physical condition when seen by Source. Source knew nothing of their personal backgrounds. There were no prisoners separated from the others. Source had not heard of deaths of prisoners.

(4) Capture Data: Source knew nothing of the circumstances of the prisoners' capture. However, he was instructed in the procedures for handling prisoners during his basic training. Prisoners were to be searched, and any weapons found were to be removed. The boot laces of the prisoners were to be removed, so that the prisoners could not run away. Source knew nothing of the disposition of the captured weapons. Prisoners were not to be harassed after they were captured, because they had no means of defense. The prisoners were to be allowed to keep rings, watches, and their clothing. Sick or wounded prisoners were to be given medical treatment, and seriously wounded PWs were to be evacuated to a hospital. At least one medic was to remain with the prisoners.

(5) Movement of PWs to Detention Camp. Source had no knowledge of the means by which the prisoners he saw were transported, but he was taught that the prisoners were to be brought back with the capturing unit or to be sent to a higher echelon with a guard. The prisoners would travel by foot, with their hands tied and with the shoelaces removed from their boots. Source did not know of the policy toward exhibiting prisoners, but he did know that they were photographed. Source was not sure what type of pictures were taken.

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(6) In Camp. All prisoners retained their civilian clothing. Each was issued two pairs of white VC pajamas and two pairs of underwear per year and were issued two cakes of soap, one tube of toothpaste, and one toothbrush every three months. Each prisoners was granted 5 piasters NVN a month for the purchase of tobacco. If the prisoners had their own money, they were allowed to change it and to use it to buy items that they wanted. The purchases were made by the guards. The prisoners were housed in two separate houses, but all ate in one. All of the prisoners remained together, except at night, when they were split into two groups to sleep; there was not enough room in one house to quarter them all. The accommodations were equivalent to those of the local populace. The daily schedule of the prisoners was approximately as follows:

0630	Reveille
0630 to 0645	Personal hygiene
0645 to 0700	Breakfast
0700 to 1130	Free time (sports, crafts)
1130 to 1200	Supper
1200 to 1330	Rest
1330 to 1700	Free time
1700 to 1730	Dinner
1730 to 1900	Free time
1900	Taps

The prisoners were supervised by three guards at all times. The local populace was extremely hostile to the captives, and the guards had the mission of protecting the prisoners as well as that of preventing their escape. The food ration for each prisoner was 2.5 piasters NVN per day. The food was purchased and prepared by members of the company that guarded the prisoners.

(7) Interrogation of Pws. Source had no knowledge of interrogation methods or procedures.

(8) Prisoner Mail Privileges. The prisoners were not allowed to receive mail, nor were they allowed to send mail.

(9) Indoctrination. Attempts are made to indoctrinate the prisoners with Communism. Source had no knowledge of the schedule or content of these sessions; however, Source knew that extra indoctrination was given to those prisoners who did not cooperate with their captors.

(10) Medical Care and Health. One medic and a medical technician were available to the prisoners in this area.

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Further facilities were available at a nearby hospital (exact loc and designation unk). Source had no knowledge of diseases among the prisoners. The diet of the prisoners was similar to that of the local populace, because food was bought in the market; it was mostly rice and vegetables and only occasionally included meat. However, the ration for the prisoners was 2.5 piasters NVN a day, while it was only 0.7 piasters NVN a day for the soldiers in Source's unit.

(C) COMMENTS: Source was cooperative and was willing to help; however, he was hindered by his inability to remember details of his observations in 1965. Source was tested and scored low (7) on the Cross-Cultural IQ Test. This report partially fulfills the requirements of SIGR D-7CX-49018. Collection action continues.

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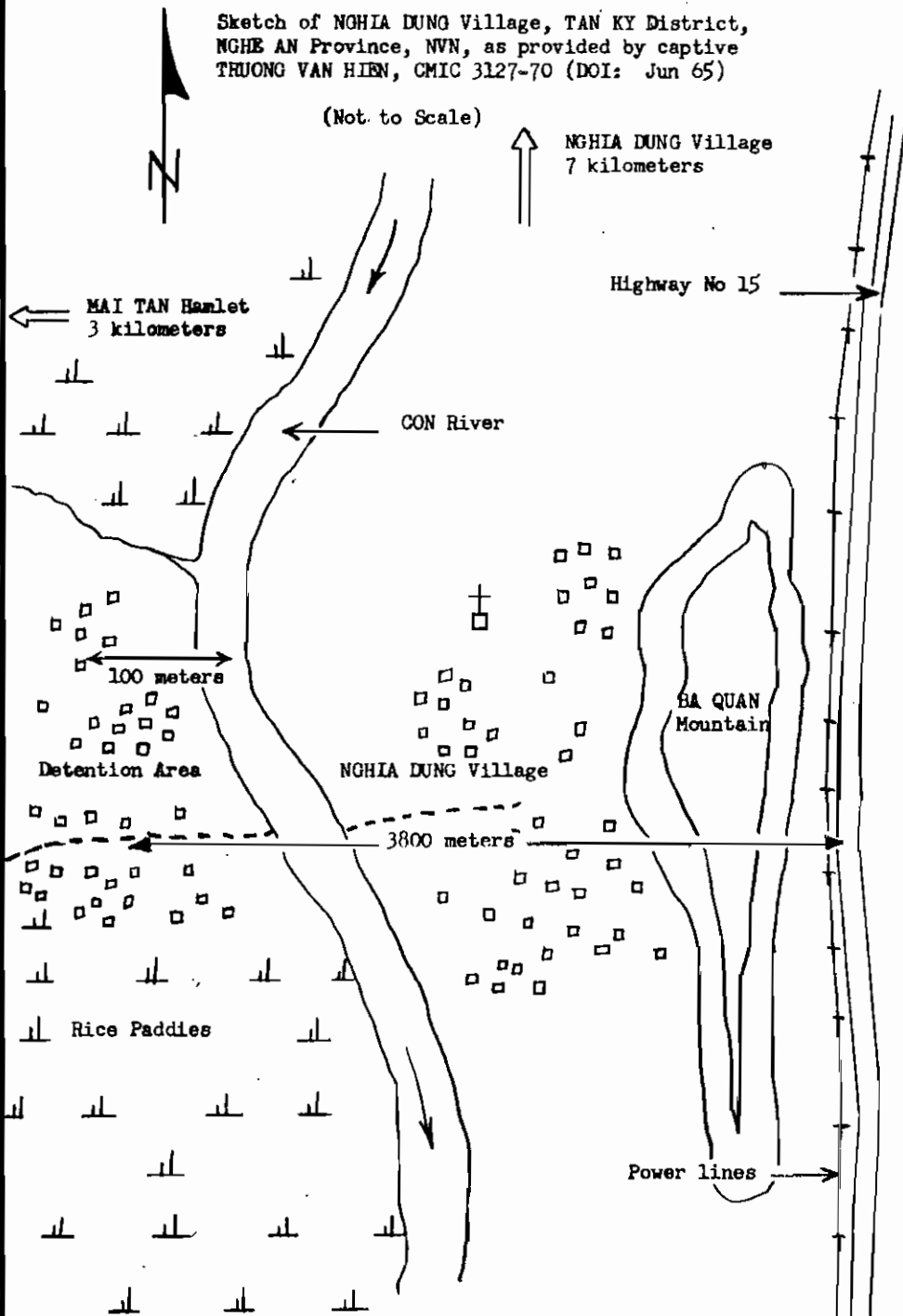
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Sketch of NGHIA DUNG Village, TAN KY District,
NGHE AN Province, NVN, as provided by captive
TRUONG VAN HIEN, CMIC 3127-70 (DOI: Jun 65)

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