

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

INFORMATION REPORT

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5. PLACE AND DATE OF ACO: CMIC, SAIGON	12. ORIGINATOR: COMUSMACV (CMIC)	
6. EVALUATION: SOURCE <u>C</u> INFORMATION <u>2</u>	13. PREPARED BY: <i>Santiago Acosta</i> SANTIAGO ACOSTA, LTC, USA Dir, US Elm, CMIC	
7. SOURCE: Captive BUI A (BUIL, AS), CMIC No 2326	14. APPROVING AUTHORITY: <i>For Charles H. Davidson</i> PHILLIP B. DAVIDSON, JR. Major General, USA Assistant Chief of Staff, J2	

15. SUMMARY: (C) The information contained in this report was obtained by R.W. WALSH, SSGT, USAF. This report contains information concerning a PW camp and a US PW in HANOI City, as provided by captive BUI A, civilian, reporter for the NHAN DAN newspaper in HANOI. Source was captured on 3 Aug 68.

1. (C) Background Information:

- a. Name: BUI A (BUIL, AS)
- b. Rank: Civilian
- c. Unit of Assignment and Duties: Reporter for NHAN DAN Newspaper, HANOI City, North Vietnam.
- d. DPOB: 1 Mar 24, KE MON Ham, PHONG THANH Vil, HUONG DIEN Dist, THUA THIEN Prov, RVN.

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1 SEP 62

REPLACES DA FORM 1048, 1 AUG 60,
OPNAV FORM 3820 (Rev 10-61),
AF FORM 112, JUL 61, WHICH MAY BE
USED UNTIL 1 JAN 63

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Authority
By 11 NARA Date 4/24/89

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e. Circumstances of Capture: On 3 Aug 68 in PHU LUNG Ham, PHONG CHU VIL, PHONG DIEN Dist, THUA THIEN Prov, RVN, source was captured by a unit of the 101st Airborne Division as he was running from them.

f. Significant Activities: Source received 15 years education the last three years at the Correspondents and Journalists School in HANOI, graduating early in 1962. In 1947, he worked as a reporter for the KE MON Ham, reporting progress of workers on farms and rice productions. From 1948 to 1952, he was working for the PHONG THANH Dist, reporting on working conditions and cooperative farm productions. In the latter part of 1952, he was captured by the French and sent to PHU QUOC Island to a PW camp. He stayed there until 1954 when he was released by the French and sent to North Vietnam where he received political training for two months in THANH HOA Prov, NVN. In Aug 59, he went to Red China for a month to learn developing and printing of photographs. On 14 Mar 68, he left NVN with seven other journalists and traveled by car all the way to THUA THIEN Prov (sic), arriving in early April 1968.

g. Additional References. Map: VIETNAM, AMS Series L7014, Sheet 6151 II, Edition I, Dtd 1965, Scale 1:50,000; Map: HANOI City, compiled in 1966 from HANOI City Map, AMS Series L903, Dtd 1952, Scale 1:10,000 up dated by aerial photography in 1964.

2. (C) PW Camp in HANOI.

a. In Aug 64, source and a reporter friend of his that worked for the NHAN DAN newspaper in HANOI, went to interview a pilot that was shot down in the BELLE D'HALONG area in the Gulf of Tonkin. The pilot was in a PW camp north of the City, (vic WJ8829709). Before the French came to VIET-NAM, this building was a Chinese school, and after the Americans started bombing North Vietnam, it was used as a PW camp. Source and his companion had to get permission from the General Staff to visit this area.

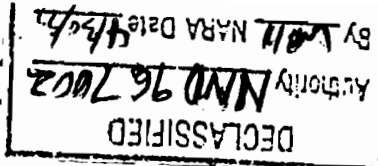
b. The building was two stories high and approx 45 m long and eight m wide. The entrance to this building was on YEN PHU Street. To the rear of the building was a schoolyard with trees and grass. There were no other buildings in this compound. Around the school was a wall approx two m high, with concertina wire on top. There were two guards at the entrance of the compound carrying AK weapons. As source and his companion entered the building, they saw only one guard carrying a CKC weapon patrolling the compound. As they were walking to the interrogation room, source saw Americans playing volleyball and soccer. (Interrogator's Comment: At this point, source was asked how many Americans were in the compound, and source estimated 250 Americans. As far as source knew, all the PWs were Americans). The guards were NVA personnel. One guard stayed outside the interrogation room while source and his companion, with an interpreter, interviewed the PW. Source did not know how many guards there were at night, and remarked that he was not particularly interested in the security of the camp. The interrogation room had a long table with approx six chains. A trench approx three meters deep and one meter wide zigzagged around the building. There were no towers around this compound, nor were there airfields or helicopter landing zones in the area. There were no dogs used for security measures by the guards or the camp personnel. The camp personnel, not including the guards, were both North and South Vietnamese (recruees). They lived in an area across the street from the PW compound near the power plant.

c. Source never saw these PWs chained, nor did he see any isolation cells in the compound. He heard of no disciplinary measures in the camp, and all the PWs seemed to be enjoying themselves under the circumstances.

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The PWs that source saw were wearing black pajamas and black MI MINH sandals. They were not wearing any shirts or hats. Source never heard of anyone dying in the camp, and did not know what would happen to the body should a PW die. As far as source knew, no force was ever used on the PWs, nor were they ever threatened with anything. Some of the PWs were sweeping the compound, cutting grass and cleaning out the rooms. The Americans ran a roster of duties, and everyone, including the officers, pulled them. Source did not know who maintained this roster or the frequency of the details. Source believed that the PWs were interrogated before they came to this camp. Source knew nothing of the food that was served, but none of the PWs looked undernourished. Source could not comment on the hygiene facilities.

d. If the PWs wanted to visit HANOI, they had to go in a group. At one time, they were given permission to visit HANOI with an armed guard. They were loaded on a truck and taken to NGUYEN THAI Blvd, and walked along the street with the guard behind them. Along the way, they met people who would shake their fists and yell, "Down with American Imperialism". After this incident, the HANOI Government would not allow any more groups to go into town. When source infiltrated to RVN, this PW camp was in the same place.

3. (C) Interview of PW in HANOI City PW Camp.

a. The prisoner that was interviewed was an American pilot by the name of ALVAREZ. He was believed to be a member of the 7th Fleet. He was reported to be a captain, approx 27 to 28 years old. He wore no watches or rings. He was clean shaven with no sideburns nor mustache. He wore no glasses, nor did he have any tatoos or scars. Source took a picture of the PW, and his companion who was interviewing him with the aid of an interpreter, wrote a story on him.

b. The PW seemed happy and willing to talk, and he said that he was treated well. He said that he had made friends with the camp personnel. He had not received any mail since he'd been there, which was a little less than a month, but he had written two letters back home. The PW would write the letter and give it to the guard in an unsealed envelope.

4. (C) Interrogator's Comment. All through the interrogation source was very cooperative and volunteered much important information. He was very intelligent and seemed to enjoy talking. In my opinion, he was telling the truth.

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