

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
Company A, 23rd Supply and Transport Battalion  
Americal Division  
APO San Francisco 96374

29 August 1970

Subject: Search and recovery operation Kham Duc

1. Remains to be searched for:

OP1 - 4 MIA's - 1 KIA - 1 BTB KIA  
OP2 - 6 MIA's - 3 KIA - 1 BTB KIA  
OH42 Wreckage - 1 KIA  
Old aid station- 1 KIA  
C-130 Crash site - 5 BTB KIA

2. Search and Recovery Operations

A. Search and Recovery Operations

On 18 July 1970 a search and recovery mission was conducted by SGT Malachowski and SP/4 Kennedy, with the following results: OP-1 remains recovered with ID media (see enclosure 10; and what could be a partial remains in addition. No positive identification has been released as of yet by the U.S. Army Mortuary TAN SON NHUT, pending further possible recoveries.

B. Search and recovery II

On 17 August 1970 after consulting personnel at U.S. Army Mortuary TAN SON NHUT and studying all available material as to KIA'S and MIA's in the Kham Duc area, another search and recovery mission led by 1st Lt. Ronald M. Lyles was conducted at Kham Duc. The following are the results: The personnel on OP1 who originally found the first remains were questioned and drew a sketch of what they found while clearing the old bunkers. The remains believed to be of an American, with ID media recovered 18 July 1970 was found inside an old concrete bunker. Also found were 3 small skeletal remains wearing HOCHI MIN sandals and surrounded with NVA weapons and material (x4,5, and 6 enclosure 2). These remains were found in the same bunker. Since they were from all indications NVA the men clearing a bunker position tossed these bones over the hillside and into a trench. The skulls kept as souvenirs by personnel who carried them back to Hill 29. We have recovered 2 of the 3 skulls and are still attempting to recover the third. As many as possible of the bones thrown out of the bunker were recovered by G.R. personnel. Questioning revealed that while clearing the concrete bunker to the east an ID TAG with the name Long was uncovered (x2 enclosure 2). This tag was sent into 2 Bn. 1st . Inf. Headquarters by the personnel who found it. We can not locate this ID tag at the present time. G.R. personnel checked out the area where the ID tag was found and found nothing to indicate the presence of a remains. On 18 August a remains was recovered where a new bunker position had been started (x-1 enclosure 2). No ID media was found.

KHAM DUC WITHDRAWAL

1. (C) Kham Duc SF Camp was abandoned at 1630H on 112 May 1968 under pressure of a heavy attack by the 1st Regt, 2d NVA Division. The camp's forward operating base at Ngoc Tavak had been abandoned at 1330H on 10 May when attacked by an estimated reinforced battalion of the 1st Regt. A reinforced battalion of the 196th had been inserted on 10-11 May into Kham Duc to assist.

2. (C) Friendly forces involved.

a. VN:

	<u>VNSF</u>	<u>CSF</u>	<u>CRP</u>	<u>CA/PO Sqds</u>	<u>MSF</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Prior to 10 May	12	228	38	65		343
Reinforcement	11				173	184
Total	23	228	38	65	173	527

b. US:

	<u>USSF</u>	<u>USMC</u>	<u>A/1 - 70th Engr</u>	<u>2-1st Inf</u>	<u>A/1-46th Inf</u>	<u>A/3-82d Arty</u>	<u>Total</u>
Prior to 10 May	11	33	125				169
Reinforcement	29			575	108	57	769
Total	40	33	125	575	108	57	938

3. (C) Personnel losses 10-12 May:

	<u>US ARMY</u>	<u>USMC</u>	<u>VNSF/CIDG</u>	<u>Villagers</u>	<u>Enemy</u>
KIA	12	12			345
WIA	112 (5 SF)	21	29		
MIA	26 (3 SF)		64		
Total (150->) 250		33	93		345
Unaccounted for			508*	107*	

\*Includes undetermined number of Vietnamese (up to 150) aboard a C-130 which crashed and burned immediately after take-off from Kham Duc.

3. (C) Equipment losses 10-12 May:

<u>C-130</u>	<u>O-2A</u>	<u>A-1H</u>	<u>CH-46</u>	<u>CH-47</u>	<u>UH-1C</u>	<u>105mm How</u>
2	1	1	2	2	2	7

SIGNIFICANT EQUIPMENT LOSSES  
ATTACK ON KHAM DUC SF CAMP AND  
NGOK TAVAK FORWARD OPERATING BASE

The significant equipment listed below was lost or destroyed in the KHAM DUC - NGOK TAVAK during the period 10-12 May 1968. The loss or destruction of rations and ammunition was not reported:

10 aircraft	15 trucks
2 C-130	2 bulldozers
1 O-2A	2 front loaders
1 A-1H	1 roadgrader
2 CH-46	1 fork lift
2 CH-47	1 cement mixer
2 UH-1C	40 telephones
7 105mm howitzers	28 radios
1 gun direction computer, M18	675 protective masks
15 81mm mortars	475 protective body armor
4 106 recoilless rifles	

Inclosure 3

**CASUALTIES**  
**ATTACK ON KHAM DUC SF CAMP AND**  
**NGOK TAVAK FORWARD OPERATIN BASE**

During the period 10-12 May 1968 fthe follwoing casualties were incurred in the KHAM DUC - NGOK TAVAK area:

	<u>US ARMY</u>	<u>USMC</u>	<u>VNSF/CIDG</u>	<u>Villagers</u>	<u>Enemy</u>
KIA	12	12			345
WIA	112 (5 SF)	21	29		
MIA	26 (3 SF)		64		
Total	150	33	93		345
Unaccounted for			508*	107*	

\*Includes undetermined number of Vietnamese (up to 150) aboard a C-130 which crashed and burned immediately after take-off from Kham Duc.

Inclosure 4

TROOP LISTS  
ATTACK ON KHAM DUC SF CAMP AND  
NGOK TAVAK FORWARD OPERATIN BASE

1. On 10 May 1968 the follwoing units were at the NGOK TAVAK Forward Operatin Base:
  - a. 1 - Mobile Strike Force Company.
  - b. 2 - Sections (105mm howitzers), Battery D, 2d Battalion, 13th Marines
  - c. --- US Special Forces and Australian Training Team Advisors.
  - d. 1 - Mobile Strike Force Company (-) (60 men reinforced during the morning).
2. During the period 10-12 May 1968 the following units were at the KHAM DUC Special Forces Camp:
  - a. 2 - Camp Strike Force Companies (+).
  - b. --- US and Vietnamese Special Forces advisors.
  - c. Company A, 1st Battalion, 70th Engineers.
  - d. 2d Battalion, 1st Infantry (Americical Division).
  - e. Company A, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry (Americical Division).
  - f. Battery A (-), 3d Battalion, 82d Artillery (Americical Division).

Attached is a map showing positions on the base at Kham Duc.