

Larry & Dee Woodson

From: "grandpa vang" [REDACTED]
To: "Larry woodson" [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2009 11:45 AM
Attach: Larry.doc
Subject: the book

Larry,

Just send to you for review and please let me know if some thing need to be change. Talk to you again. *and I quit.* Gen. Vang Pao left to go to the airport. Some time later Prince Sounnaphoumma sent one person to catchup with Gen. Vang Pao to discuss the situation, but it was too late. Gen. Vang Pao had flown out from the airport. On April 11, 1975, Gen. Vang Pao was worried about his people who were fighting side by side with the United States of America, and now the US was leaving, and thus leaving his people without support. Gen. Vang Pao, Col. Geu Vang, and pilot Vang Bee flew to Luang Prabang to meet the King Sisavang Vattana at his residency. Gen. Vang Pao discussed with him the change of the situation and the increasing danger to the people. He gave the King all of the information and asked what the King thought he should do. The King answered, *"I do not need any thing else; I only need my home here and my land here for living."* Then he said nothing. After hearing this, Col. Geu Vang nudged Gen. Vang Pao to stop the conversation. Gen. Vang Pao changed the subject and asked permission to leave. The King's response meant that many Lao's leaders and the king himself did not know the Communist's doctrine well, in May 1975, new demonstration against the rightist leaders in the Capital of Vientiane. Many leaders of the rightist government became the victims of the Communists and died miserably in the prison camp at Vieng Xay, Houa Phan Province and many parts of Laos.

The Communists set many camps to torture those who fought against them. They imprisoned the southern people to northern camps and sent northern people to southern Camps so that the prisoners couldn't escape because they were unfamiliar with new territory. Col. Tom Thammakhanty, one of the Lao officers from the Royal Lao Government, was captured by the Lao Communists and sent to re-education camp in Vieng Xay, Houa Phan Province. In 1979, the Chinese attacked the North Vietnamese, and he was released from the camp. He wrote one book detailing the conditions he lived under and told how the Communists were torturing their prisoners and made them live in poor conditions with malnutrition, lack of sanitation, and lack of treatment. They were under constant verbal threat and heavy labor. Col. Tom Thammakhanty can be reached at 7321 SE 20 Avenue, Portland, OR 97202-6211 for more information. His book is written in Lao. **Loosely translated, the title states, "In order to completely pull out the tree, one must also pull out all the roots. In other words, in order to change the regime, one must eliminate the Monarchy, changing it to the communist doctrine.**

Part 8**The Decision to Leave Military Region II (MR II) and Laos**

On January 27, 1973, an accord was signed between America and North Vietnam. Those presents were Henry Kissinger and William Roger of the United States, Le Duc Tho, Ngyuen Thi Binh, Tran Van Lam, and Ngyuen Dui Trin North Vietnamese Communists. The peace agreement was meaningless because it seemed as if America signed the accord to give North Vietnam control over Indochina, "Laos, Cambodia and South Viet Nam." The North Vietnamese maneuvered to attack throughout Laos, Cambodia, and South Vietnam successfully by taking incremental steps. The United States on the other hand pulled out from Indochina rapidly without a plan and viewed it as a **"loser"**. The United States did not show commitment to the agreement they had signed in Paris. North Vietnam was one of the poorest countries at the time. The population was around thirty millions, approximately fifteen million North Vietnamese Communists, and 15 million South Vietnamese liberal. The United States had 350 million people and was among the wealthiest and most powerful

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nations in the world. One has to ask why the American military pulled out of Indochina without any good planning. The Americans left behind their allies for the North Vietnamese Communists to persecute in inhumane ways. Many millions of South Vietnamese died, more than two million Cambodians died, and more than half a million Laotians died. On February 9, 1973, Henry Kissinger came to Vientiane, Laos to tell the rightists government, who sided with the U.S. to surrender completely to the North Vietnamese Communists. General Vang Pao realized that those who collaborated with the Americans would eventually be persecuted by the Communists down to the last man. He then planned accordingly: Gen. Vang Pao first considered staying and fighting to the last man, but he quickly realized that this was not a good plan. The Lao Communists and the North Vietnamese Communists did not like the Hmong and would join forces to gether to eliminate all of the Hmong, especially since they assisted the French then the Americans in the war between 1945 to 1954 and 1960 to 1975 to fight against the North Vietnamese Communists, causing them many losses in Laos. His second plan was to occupy Saya Boury, in Laos, in there would be easy access to Thailand. Unfortunately, it was clear that the population in Saya Boury, Luang Prabang, Luang Nam tha, and Houei Say (MRI region) consisted of more than sixty percent who were in favor of the Communist regime. Gen. Vang Pao decided not to go there. His third plan was to flee to Thailand to wait and see if there would be an opportunity to return to Laos. Unfortunately, the Thai Government would not give the Hmong the freedom to live and work on their land. His Fourth plan, Gen. Vang Pao asked Jerry Daniels, the CIA liaison in Military Rgion II, to invite the U.S. Ambassador to Long Tieng to discuss the safety of the Hmong. The United States Ambassador arrived in Long Tieng on May 10, 1975, around 10 a.m. At the meeting Gen. Vang Pao explained that the Hmong had fought with the United States during the Vietnam War and when the U.S. abruptly pulled out, they made the situation dangerous for everyone that they left behind. He asked Gen. Vang Pao, "*How many of your people do you think the Communists will kill if they stay here?*"

Gen. Vang Pao shook his head and replied, "*3,500 people.*" The United States Ambassador said, "*Okay, no problem. I will bring the Charlie Green Helicopter to pick up your people, and be prepared.*" That day, Gen. Vang Pao ordered his soldiers to set up the lights along the Long Tieng airstrip to prepare so the helicopters would know where to land during the night. Gen. Vang Pao sent Col. Geu Vang (the author of this book) to Udon, Thailand to lead the helicopters to Long Tieng. By the time he arrived in Udon, the Americans decided to send Civilian C130 and C46 airplanes instead of military helicopters. Geu Vang was instructed by the Americans to stay in Udon. He never saw Long Tieng again.

About Jerry Daniel

Jerry Daniels was a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Officer who worked alongside General Vang Pao since 1968. His nickname among the Hmong was "Hog." He helped the Hmong during the Vietnam War from 1968 to 1972 by asking the United States to give weapons and help fund various military activities. In time of peace during 1973 to 1975, Jerry Daniels helped the Hmong with many farming projects by developing chicken and pig farms in Nam Yone, Nam Goua, Nam Mo, and Muong Cha. He also helped develop agricultural farming in Nampha, Pha Khao (LS14), Muong Cha LS113. During 1975 to 1982, Jerry Daniels helped the Hmong escape to Namphong, Nongkhai, Thabo, Vinai Camp Thailand. He was also the one who mostly provided food for the Hmong. From 1976 to 1982, he was instrumental in helping the Hmong to immigrate to the United States.

On April 28, 1982, Jerry Daniels died at his home in Bangkok, Thailand. He had been dead for three days before his body was found. His body was shipped back to the United States and was buried in Montana. His death remains a mystery among the Hmong and many Americans who knew him. When the casket was brought back, it was not open for viewing. Since people did not see his body, they questioned if he really was dead. Many thought that he might be sent to another mission while others believed that he did not want to return to the United States and may still be hiding in Thailand. In 1982, the American Government officially announced that Jerry Daniels was dead and was buried in Montana. Jerry Daniels was someone whom many Hmong knew, respected, and will miss forever.

During the war time from 1955 to 1972 and after war from 1972 to 1975, the United States sent

many US citizens to help the people of Laos as military advisors, technical services advisors, Central Intelligence advisors, AIDS advisors, economics advisors and IVS (International Volunteer Services). Larry D. Woodson was one of the IVS who spoke good Laotian and was a good friend with the Laotian leaders is now in Kansas. He wrote:

I arrived in Laos in August of 1964. My initial assignment was to work as a volunteer teacher with International Volunteer Services at the regional teacher training school in Luang Prabang. I

Photo#64 Helicopter HT34 loaded material to rebuild the school which was burned down by Communist Attack at Long Tieng when the school was rebuild children had place to study. The photo on top of the Student were from left to right for the men. Col. Vang Youa, Mua Dang, Pahom Sundara, Dr. Louat, Mr. Graham Hunter Australian and Mr Larry Woodson US. IVS. Unknown for the girls but they were people in LS 37 Muong Phoune near Vang Vieng.

assisted the Director, Tiao Chantavady, with school supplies, campus maintenance, agricultural programs, and summer programs. I played tennis, coached some basket ball, and taught English.

In 1966, International Voluntary Services invited me to serve as an Assistan Chief of Party and work with International Volunteer Services to assist volunteers working at the regional teacher training schools in the various provinces in Laos. I also worked with English Teachers that were assigned to French Lycees and to the German Technical School in Vientiane. My tour was extended to 1969, an additional year to a two year assignment.

In 1969, I was promoted as an Associate Chief of Party for International Volunteer Services and assigned to the Sisavong Vong University at Dong Dok just outside Vientiane. IVS provided teachers to the English Section along with British, Australian, and other countries.

In 1971, I was contracted to work for USAID/EDU as a Refugee Education Advisor. For three years, I was assigned to the Royal Lao Minister of Education in the Primary Education Section. I was to travel to refugee areas and villages and determine the primary education needs. This included getting the needs of the refugee villages in terms of teachers, students, school supplies, temporary building needs, blackboards, desks, benches, etc. The refugee locations were across the country from the North to the South. At one time, it was estimated that we had some 19,000 children in refugee classrooms and the teachers needed to teach the classes. I assisted with the construction of some 4,000 classrooms.

In 1974, I was contracted with the US Embassy to assist with agricultural programs in MR II. I traveled to Long Chieng and assisted with livestock programs that included swine, water buffalos, and cattle requested by General Vang Pao for the Hmong in the area. Yang Yee was assigned to assist with the purchase of animals and transport them to MR II. While in the area, I also assisted with the transportation of swine to LS-32, North of the Plain of Jarres. I also assisted with the proposed swine project in Long Tieng.

The agricultural program was to allow former farmers to raise animals to support their families reduce their needs for assistance.

Due to the change in the political climate, I was evacuated from Long Tieng on Friday and further evacuated from Laos the following Friday. I believe the Pathet Lao took over Long Tieng on Wednesday and the American Compound a few days later.

The author of this book would like to thank to Mr. Woodson to send this short detail about his role during the Vietnam War, not many people saw the need of the Laotian people during the critical time, but Mr Woodson Who speak good Laotian sacrificed his time, and risked his life to help many laotions in need. God bless him and on behalf of the people in military region II we appreciated his love and care.

It took three and half days from May 11-14, 1975, to transport all of General Vang Pao's people to Namphong Camp in the Province Khone Ken, Thailand. Once the planes stopped picking up, many Hmong searched for ways to leave (MR II) for Thailand. Some went by car, and many more walked. The Hmong and Lao from (MR II) fled to Thabo, Nong Khai, and Nam Phong Camp. The Hmong and Lao from (MRI) Luang Prabang, Sayaboury, Luang Namtha fled to Nane, Changvat Leoui, Changvat Phayao. The border of Thailand was flooded with Hmong and Lao fleeing from their

country. In November 1975, Namphong Camp started to close its doors to refugees.

On June 2, 1975, Thailand pressured Gen. Vang Pao to leave Thailand. He left for France then to the USA. In 1976, the refugee Camp Namphong was closed and the refugees transferred to Vinai Camp. At Vinai Camp Hmong and Lao refugees were brought together from Thabo, Nong khai, and Nam Phong Camp. In February 1976, the United States began to permit visas to those who had worked for USAID and CIA. Next, the churches in the United States gave visas to The Christian families from