

Subj: Re: Missing Hmong and POW/ part I
Date: 98-09-07 15:32:01 EDT
From: Oidlaohand
To: LDWoodson, [REDACTED]
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Do not know the name Moua Sing. Any more means of identification?

Moua Chung:

Moua Chung, code name Tallman, was a Hmong who lead and conducted intelligence operations in the eastern parts of Sam Neua. When I knew of him his base of operations was at Phu Pha Lang, a mountain just south of Sam Neua City. I flew in there several times and as I recall Sam Neua City was visible in the distance. Chung was killed by one of his "own" men, either deliberately or by accident. Chung had had some tense moments with a "rival" at PPL. When Chung's body was flown in to Sam Thong (memory is not as good as it once was, but I think it was late 1966) there was a considerable outcry. One or two Hmong from PPL were nearly beaten to death on the Sam Thong airstrip. Both survived and later were released. The actual killer was never (publicly) revealed as I recall.

Moua Chung's widow, MiSi, was the local secretary at Sam Thong. She later married Larry Martin, who was assigned to Sam Thong as one of the military attache for MR II. They eventually separated and Larry was imprisoned shortly in Vientiane just before the May 1975 takeover of the USAID compound and the closure of everything except the Embassy. As far I understand it they are divorced. Larry, about a year or so ago, was in Bosnia. To actually answer the question about MiSi, I really do not know where is now or if she has remarried.

A recent book, **Code-Name Bright Light**, By George Veith (the Free Press, a Division of Simon & Schuster,

ISBN 0-684-83514-2) has a chapter entitled "The Men in the Caves" which is mostly about Charles Sheldon and David Hrdlicka. Veith indicates that there were Hmong teams in the area reporting US POWs held in caves in Sam Neua, but there apparently was no confirmation that Hrdlicka had actually escaped and had been recaptured and nothing to indicate that Moua Chung was personally involved. Hrdlicka was known to have been alive based on a radio broadcast made by him, among other indicators. Veith acknowledges in footnotes that he had spoken to Carol Hrdlicka while writing his book.

There is a considerable amount of (mis) information in Don Schanke's book **Mister Pop**. Although much of the story around Moua Chung is twisted and embellished, it does portray an accurate description of Pop's relationship to Moua Chung and the high regard that Pop had for him. At the time of writing Schanke's book, Phu Pha Lang was still an active intel location so the location in the book was changed to Lima Site 02 or 06, as I recall, in order to "protect" the location of Phu Pha Lang.

I was familiar with the general situation. Worked out of Sam Thong from September 1965 until February 1970. During that time I handled the refugee program in Sam Neua and north Xieng Khouang with some spill over (1965-66) into Luang Prabang and the southern tip of Phong Saly. Spent 1970-71 in Ban Houie Sai and 1972-May 1975 in Vientiane.

An update or correction to anything above would be appreciated. Regards Ernie