

NLF LIBERATED AREA OF BINH DINH PROVINCE

Mid-1969

[Lt. Tran Khen and Tran Ba Manh, 47, Binh Dinh Province elementary school teacher, Phu My district, An Lac hamlet (My Thang village)]

~~Source~~ Government Services of MY THANG Vil, PHU MY Dist, BINH DINH Prov, ~~Source~~

~~Source~~ Education in AN LAC Ham. AN LAC Ham (vic BR996825) was in a ~~VC~~ ^{LIBERATED} controlled area, and, consequently, the school system was subject to VC control. At the time source returned, the ARVN 13d Intergroup was in MY THANG Vil, and source could not confirm whether or not the schools were now under VC or ARVN control.

(1) Elementary School:

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(a) ~~Students~~. The hamlet elementary school contained ~~37~~ 40 students in the first grade, and 37 ~~students~~ in the second grade. Ages of the first grade students ranged from seven to ten years, ~~and ages of~~ the second grade students ~~ranged~~ from eight to ten years. Upon graduation, students were sent to the village school, which taught third and fourth grades. Ages of the third grade students ranged from 10 to 15 years, ~~and ages of~~ the fourth grade students ~~ranged~~ from 15 to 17 years.

(b) ~~Classes~~. First grade classes were conducted ~~for two hours~~ a day from 1000 to 1200 hours, six days a week. Second grade classes were conducted ~~for three hours a day~~, from 1000 to 1300 hours, also six days a week.

(c) ~~Tuition and Supplies~~. Students in grades one and two were required to pay from 500 grams to one kilogram of rice a month to the teacher. ~~The actual amount depended on the wealth of the students' families.~~ The teacher ~~used~~ the rice ~~and money~~ to purchase supplies for the students. Supplies were obtained in the village, ~~but source did not know where, or from whom they were purchased.~~ Books came from the Education Section, PHU MY DISTRICT. ~~Source knew of no supplementary income received by the teachers.~~

(d) ~~Curriculum~~. Students in grade one studied reading and writing. Students in grade two studied reading, writing, and mathematics. Books were not readily available, so the teachers lectured extensively.

(e) Teachers. In order to teach either of the two grades, a teacher had to have a fourth or fifth grade education. Prospective teachers were sent from the individual hamlets to the Education Section, PHU MY DIST. for one and one half months of instruction on the proper methods of teaching. Source could provide no further information on this type of training, or, on possible additional training given at the District Education Section. Teachers were usually males from 20 to 22 years of age. Source indicated there was a shortage of teachers, because few personnel had the required education and ability to teach.

(f) Miscellaneous. The school was a permanently constructed building, approx 300m to 400m from the students' homes. When classes were completed for the day, the students returned to their homes. The students were not required to join any organizations aiding the VC cause.

(2) AN LAC Ham Elementary School Teachers:

NGUYEN THANH CAU (NGUYEENX, THANH CAU), taught 1st grade, 22 years old, 1.65 meters tall, weighed 40kgs, dark complexion, one-inch scar below right ear

NGUYEN THANG (NGUYEENX, THEANG), taught 2d grade, 24 years old, 1.65 meters tall, weighed 40kgs, light complexion

(3) School Advisors. Source was an advisor to the teachers in the AN LAC Ham School for approx six months. He received no training for this position. The only qualification to become an advisor was a fourth grade education. Every ten days, the advisor visited the classes to observe the teaching methods and the students' comprehension of the material presented. Particular emphasis was placed on whether the teachers came late to class,

beat the children, and/or tended to be nervous and angry while conducting classes. If the teacher was guilty of any of these infractions, the advisor had a conference with him to make suggestions for improving his performance. If the teacher did not make the proper corrections, he was sent to the Education Section, MY THANG Vil, for a conference with the headmaster. If the teacher did not improve his methods after this conference, the advisor made a suggestion to the Education Section, PHU MY Dist, for a further review of training. The advisor was required to send monthly reports to the Education Section, MY THANG Vil. These reports concerned class attendance; student comprehension of material taught; and teacher attendance, methods, presentation, and relationship with the students. All advisors were directly responsible to the Education Section, PHU MY Dist. Source never had any conflicts with the teachers in the school. Both of the teachers carried out their functions adequately, and only minor suggestions were occasionally made for improvement in teaching methods.

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b. Taxation. The VC were responsible for the assessment and collection of taxes in source's hamlet and village. Source did not know whether the people were compelled to pay other taxes, since the area was now under GVN control.

(1) Tax assessment. For purposes of tax assessment in the village, all hamlets were divided into subhamlets. Source did not know the criteria by which these divisions were made. The Finance and Economy Section, MY THANG Vil, gave each subhamlet a specific yearly quota of crops or piasters to be paid as taxes. Each family was assessed a certain amount to fill the quota for each subhamlet. Assessment was made on the bases of the amount of property, number of people, number of people working, and number of productive children in the family. Taxes were payable in either crops and/or piasters, and at any time during the year, provided each family's quota was achieved. A meeting was held each February with the village Finance and Economy Section cadre, and all villagers were to attend. The taxes assessed for each family were discussed before the entire group. If everybody agreed that the taxes for a particular family were too harsh, they were reduced to the satisfaction of the people.

(2) Tax Collection. The Chief of the Finance and Economy Section, MY THANG Vil, was responsible for the tax collection effort. Cadre from this section served as tax collectors. Taxes were usually collected three times a year, but this was not enforced provided the taxes were paid by the end of the year. If the people did not pay their taxes, they were summoned to the District Finance and Economy Section for a conference. Source did not know the punishments for failure to pay, as everybody in his hamlet, to his knowledge, met their obligations. When taxes were to be collected, cadre from the Village Finance and Economy Section went through each subhamlet announcing the time and place for collection. The areas were changed each time, for security reasons. Taxes were usually collected between 1900 and 2000 hours. No security was furnished the cadre during these collection periods.

11 c. Law Enforcement. Law enforcement in the hamlet was maintained by the Hamlet Liberation Section. Security was the responsibility of one person from this section. There had been no serious law violations, to source's knowledge, in the hamlet. If such actions as stealing or killing occurred, personnel were taken to the Village Liberation Revolutionary Committee for subsequent action. Source did not know what punishments were given out for the violations. Public reprimands were only given out for minor violations

at hamlet level. If individuals continued to err, they were sent to the Village Liberation Revolutionary Committee for further political indoctrination.

d. Civil Health. There were no GVN medical facilities within MY THANG Vil. The VC had one medic per village to treat minor wounds and diseases. The VC had no medical facilities at district and province level. **Medics in the villages were paid in crops and/or piasters by the villagers.** At hamlet level, money was volunteered and placed in a fund for purchasing medicines for the hamlet residents. Medicines were usually purchased from GVN sources in the villages.

e. Reorganization in Apr 69. In Apr 69, the Village Cell Control Section in MY THANG Vil was replaced by a Village People's Revolutionary Council and Village Liberation Revolutionary Committee. Other villages in PHU MY Dist underwent similar reorganization at this time (hearsay). Source knew of the basic reorganization, but could provide limited information on specifics with regard to subordinate sections, missions, personalities, and number of personnel per section.

B. Div 4
(1) Village Cell Control Section. Prior to Apr 69, the government control in the village was maintained by the Village Cell Control Section. This governing body was appointed by the District Liberation Revolutionary Committee, and directly subordinate to this committee. (For an organizational chart of this committee prior to Apr 69, see page 9.) The Hamlet Cell Control Section was subordinate to the Village Cell Control Section. The Hamlet Cell Control Section consisted of two personnel, a leader and an assistant leader. Both were appointed by the District Liberation Revolutionary Committee (DLRC). At the time of source's return, the leader and assistant leader had been taken to the DLRC, because of a shortage of cadre. Source did not know any other function of the Hamlet Cell Control Section other than to maintain order and to oversee the activities of the hamlet.

(2) Village People's Revolutionary Council. The populace in the hamlets of the village were dissatisfied with the Village and Hamlet Cell Control Sections, because the leaders were not elected by the people. In addition, a "revolution of progress" had prevailed in the village, due to an increase in population and crop production. Sufficient control was not being exercised over the people in the village. The District Liberation Revolutionary Committee Cadre were responsible for the reorganization. The cadre worked closely with the Village Cell Control Section in explaining to the people the proposed new organization, purpose, and voting procedure. The Village People's Revolutionary Council (VPRC) consisted of 19 men, who were elected by the people of the village in a free election. Each hamlet submitted the name of one candidate for the election which was to be held in the village. The nominee had to prove he was a leader and not sympathetic to the ARVN. Prior leadership experience was a consideration. In addition, one man, representing the people, and one man representing the VC Government in the hamlet, oversaw the election for the candidate selected from that particular hamlet. The Village People's Revolutionary Council received directives from the District Liberation Revolutionary Committee. These were discussed with the other members of the council and passed on to the Village Liberation Revolutionary Committee (VLRC), which was also set up at this time. The mission of the VPRC was to recruit personnel into the VC ranks, to **proselytize** civilians to join VC organizations, and to encourage people to increase crop production. In addition, the VPRC was to supervise the government services furnished the people of the Village.

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(3) Village Liberation Revolutionary Committee. The Village

Liberation Revolutionary Committee (VLRC) was appointed by the Village People's Revolutionary Council. The VLRC was subordinate to the VPRC, and administered the directives of the VPRC. The VLRC helped the people who were poor in the village, helped in the collection of taxes, and was directly responsible for drafting men into the VC ranks. Meetings were held once a year with the young men in the village for the purpose of convincing them of the value of the VC cause, and of the duty to voluntarily join the VC Forces.

(a) Village Finance and Economy Section. The Village Finance and Economy Section was subordinate to the VLRC, but received guidance from the District Finance and Economy Section. The mission of this section was to assess and collect taxes in the village.

(b) Forward Supply Section. The Forward Supply Section was also subordinate to the VLRC. Source did not know whether a Forward Supply Section existed at district/province levels. The section was responsible for obtaining supplies for guerrilla forces operating in the village.

(4) Village Education Section. The Village Education Section was also organized in Apr 69. (For an organizational chart, see page 8.) This section was responsible to the District Education Section, and coordinated the education program with the village teachers and advisors. The MY THANG Vil Education Section consisted of one headmaster, NANH (NANH). Briefings were held every three months with the VLRC. Source did not know whether these briefings were in effect at district or province levels. Source had no information as to the nature of these briefings. The VLRC only furnished advice. Education programs and policies were disseminated from the Prov, Dist, and Vil Education Sections. All teachers and advisors received their guidance from the District Education Section.

(5) Hamlet Liberation Section. The VLRC appointed four people to the Hamlet Liberation Section. All appointments were subject to the approval of the DLRC. Requirements to become a member of this section were three years education, average intelligence, and loyalty to the VC cause. The Hamlet Liberation Section consisted of a chief, deputy chief, security guard, and an unk number of information service cadre. The security guard was responsible for settling minor disputes and providing security for the hamlet. The information service cadre were responsible for the dissemination of propaganda concerning the VC victories and the duty of the people to help the VC cause. Generally, the section was concerned with overseeing the hamlet affairs and with solving any minor problems that occurred.

(6) Personalities known to source:

Chief of the Vil Finance and Economy Section, MY THANG Vil:
CUNG (CUNGS); 36 years old, 1.60 meters tall, weighed 40kgs, dark complexion

Chief of Village People's Revolutionary Council, MY THANG Vil:
TRUONG HUONG (TRUOWNG, HUOWNGS)

Chairman of Village Liberation Revolutionary Committee, SON
(SOWN), (KIA, exact date unk)

Headmaster, Village Education Section, MY THANG Vil: NANH
(NANH), (KIA, Jul 69)