

COUNTRY NORTH VIETNAM

DOI 8 APRIL 1968

SUBJECT SIGHTING OF A DOWNED U.S. PLANE IN NGHE AN PROVINCE,
NORTH VIETNAM

ACQ

(7 NOVEMBER 1973)

SOURCE

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Content UNCLASSIFIED

per 058375

DATE 10 DEC 1976

1. AT ABOUT 1000 HOURS ON 8 APRIL 1968,

...SAW A U.S. AIRPLANE HIT BY A SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE FROM AN ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY UNIT BASED IN PHUONG TICH VILLAGE, NGHI LOC DISTRICT, NGHE AN PROVINCE, NORTH VIETNAM. THE PLANE WAS FLYING WITH OTHER U.S. AIRPLANES AND THEY WERE BOMBING THE PHUONG TICH BRIDGE (WF651786) ON ROUTE 71, PHUONG TICH VILLAGE. THE PLANE BURST INTO FLAMES AND CRASHED INTO A RICE FIELD NEAR TRUNG HAU VILLAGE (WF657780), NGHI LOC DISTRICT.

2. ABOUT 20 MINUTES LATER, SAW A MAN RIDING A BICYCLE ON ROUTE 1-A AT WF688775 IN NGOC DINH VILLAGE, NGHI LOC DISTRICT. THE MAN WAS COMING FROM THE DIRECTION OF PHUONG TICH VILLAGE OVER ROUTE 71 AND 1-A AND HEADING TOWARD VAN HANH VILLAGE (WF694761), NGHI LOC DISTRICT. HE WAS CARRYING A LEG OF A CAUCASIAN ON THE REAR OF HIS BICYCLE. THE LEG WEIGHED ABOUT 15 KILOGRAMS, APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN BURNED, AND CUT OFF BY SHARP METAL. THE MAN SAID THAT THE PLANE WHICH HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN THAT DAY WHILE BOMBING THE PHUONG TICH BRIDGE, HAD CRASHED IN TRUNG HAU VILLAGE. THE PLANE BROKE INTO PIECES, AND THE MAN WAS ABLE TO FIND ONLY THE LEG OF THE PILOT AMID THE WRECKAGE.

3. (FIELD COMMENT: THE JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER (JCRC) EVALUATED THE REPORT AS FOLLOWS: " THIS REPORT POSSIBLY DESCRIBES THE INCIDENT INVOLVING CDR JOHN P E A C E, USN (JCRC NO. 1407) AND LCDR GORDON P E R I S H O (JCRC NO. 1408). THESE MEN WERE IN AN A6A AIRCRAFT ON A COMBAT MISSION OVER NORTH VIETNAM ON 22 DECEMBER 1967 WHEN THEIR PLANE WAS DOWNED AT WF650675. HEAVY ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE AND SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES WERE DETECTED IN THE AREA. THE AIRCRAFT DISAPPEARED FROM RADAR COVERAGE AND NO EMERGENCY SIGNALS WERE HEARD. BOTH MEN ARE LISTED AS MIA.")

4. FIELD DISSEM: DEFENSE ATTACHE FOR JCRC REPRESENTATIVE IN SAIGON: SENT TO CINCPAC (FOR CINCPAC AND POLAD ONLY) USSAG AND VIENTIANE (FOR JCRC REPRESENTATIVE ONLY).