

Project # 118-72

Handwritten notes

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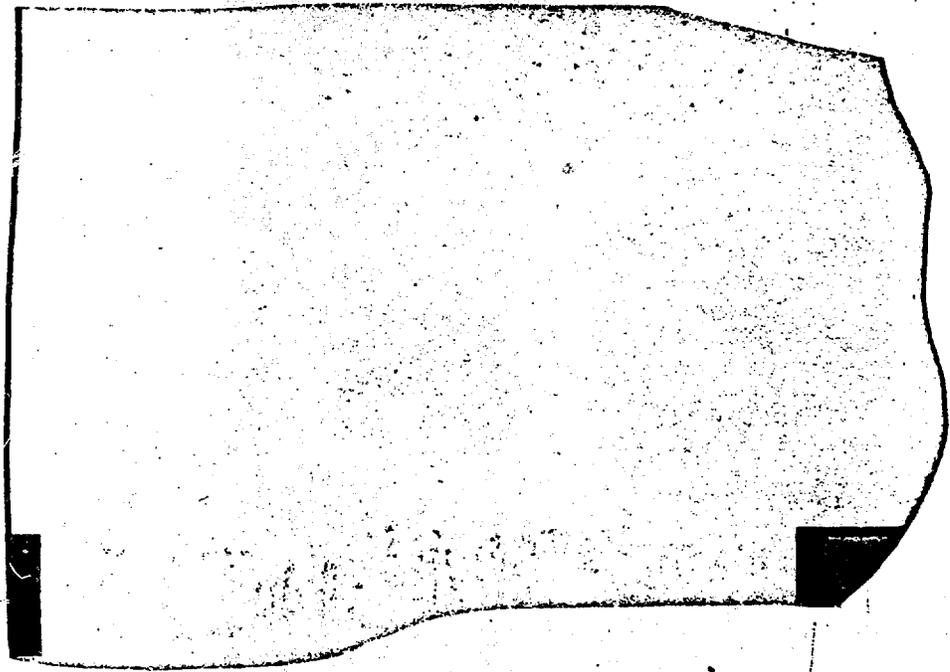
COUNTRY North Vietnam

DOI July 1968

SUBJECT Death of an American Pilot beaten by North Vietnamese, Militiamen attributed to suicide.

ACQ

SOURCE



Approved for Release
 Date 1 MAY 1976

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1. At about 1100 hours on an unknown date early in June 1968 [redacted] this is a lunar calendar date. [redacted] did not know the Gregorian calendar date but assumed it would have been July 1968). [redacted] observed the pilot of a burning US jet aircraft bail out and land in Hang Do Hamlet rice field (NJ707552) of Ba Hien Village, Binh Xuyen District, Vinh Phu Province, North Vietnam (NVA). [redacted] went to the field to see the pilot and when he reached the area he observed that the pilot had been captured, had been stripped down to his shorts and had his hands tied. Militiamen and Villagers of Ba Hien Village area [redacted] was unable to locate on the map but it was near the crash site) were beating him with sticks and handle end of machetes as they led him toward the Ba Hien Village Administrative Office ([redacted] left the area before the Prisoner of war was taken into the Office and did not see him again.). [redacted] Map reference: AMS L7014, sheet 6151-IV, 1:50,000.)

2. On the same day following the observation [redacted] talked about the capture of the pilot to people of Ba Hien Village and they said there was rumor that the pilot had committed suicide by poisoning himself while being driven to Binh Xuyen District town. Still later, on another day, [redacted] talked to ^{an} unidentified Ba Hien Ba Hien villagers and this villager said that a cadre friend of the Binh Xuyen District Militia unit had told him that the Doctor of the Vinh Phu Province Public Health Service had conducted an autopsy and confirmed that the pilot had committed suicide by taking poison. Two weeks after the capture [redacted] read a Combat Achievement list that was published by the Binh Xuyen District Militia in which it was reported that the dead pilot had been flying an F.105 aircraft out of Thailand, that he had been a Captain, and a native of California [redacted]: further details were not provided.

3. The pilot was a caucasian, was about 1.8 meter tall, weighed 75 or 80 kilograms, had short curly yellow hair, and blue eyes. His body was covered with bruises from the beating he received but he otherwise appeared to be unscathed and healthy. [redacted] observed that he used a [redacted] and red parachute.

4.

