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COUNTRY : NORTH VIETNAM (NVN)

SUBJECT : VINH Exhibition of Photographs and Wreckage of US Aircraft

DATE OF REPORT : 11/7/67

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OF ACQUISITION : SAIGON, Vietnam

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SOURCE:

SUMMARY

One day in October 1964, Source's unit marched from their camp in NGHI PHONG Village to VINH, NGHE AN Province, NVN, and spent one hour looking at photographs and displays of American aircraft which had been shot down in the vicinity of VINH during the first attack on HANOI on 5 August 1964 during daylight hours. They saw a layout of a Pilot's uniform and a photograph of a tall uninjured negro prisoner standing dressed in light-colored pajamas surrounded by smiling well-armed NVN soldiers.

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Approved for Release Date September 1993

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1. Source visited VINH, NGHE AN Province, three times. Each visit lasted approximately one hour. The first visit was in 1963, the second in October 1964 and the third in December 1964. The first and third visits were merely walks through the city.
2. In October 1964, Source's unit of 80 men was stationed in NGHI PHONG Village, NGHI LOC District, NGHE AN Province, NVN, where they lived in the people's houses. One day in October, the entire unit made a three-hour march to VINH to see a display of American aircraft which had been shot down. They were also promised a look at captured American pilots.
3. Source's unit and many other units marched right into VINH and to the center of the city where the exhibition was held. The units entered the exhibition grounds one at a time. When all the military personnel had seen the exhibition, the local populace was permitted to enter. The military did not have to pay an entrance fee; however, each civilian had to purchase a \$.10 (NVN) piaster ticket. Source did not know how the proceeds were used.
4. Once inside the exhibition grounds, the men entered a room immediately to the left of the entrance. There a young girl attendant proceeded to describe a display which consisted of photographs of flying aircraft, plane wreckage burning on the ground and militia shooting at aircraft with the weapons used in the defense of VINH. The attendant said that rifles and machine guns were used as well as 12.7 millimeter and 105 millimeter cannons. There was also a picture of a tall uninjured negro prisoner standing dressed in light-colored pajamas surrounded by smiling well-armed NVN soldiers.
5. The unit moved to a second room where a girl attendant stood beside a layout of a pilot's uniform which was in good condition. The uniform was a one piece dark grey affair with a zipper in the upper front. The shoes, gloves and helmet were black.
6. In the third room there was another girl attendant who described several photographs showing descending crippled enemy aircraft, some with smoke trails and some with opened parachutes along with the aircraft.
7. After the soldiers had viewed the displays in each of these three rooms, they walked on to an exhibit displayed in an open-three walked pavilion. They had an unobstructed view of the exhibit by just standing in front of the open area. Several attendants in civilian clothes were standing among the displays ready to answer questions. No foreigners were observed anywhere in the exhibition area. There were 11 or 12 wrecked aircraft in this exhibition area. The wrecks were not lined up but were arranged with the debris and wreckage of each plane placed approximately where it belonged in relation to the original aircraft. There were two types of planes which resembled each other except in size. The larger plane was about 15 meters long with a wingspan of around 12 meters; Source could not recall the size of the smaller plane but did say the wings were swept back. Each aircraft had two propellers, each approximately three meters long, which were placed on the floor in front of its wreckage. The North Vietnamese guides said that these aircraft had all been shot down in the VINH vicinity during the first attack on HANOI on 5 August 1964 during daylight hours. The attendants named the types of gun but Source could not remember. All the plane wreckage was a silver color. Source did not see any vehicles in the immediate vicinity which could have been used for transporting the wreckage nor did he know how the display wreckage^{were} carried. Throughout the one-hour long procession past the three rooms and the display room, no one asked questions. They learned only from what they observed

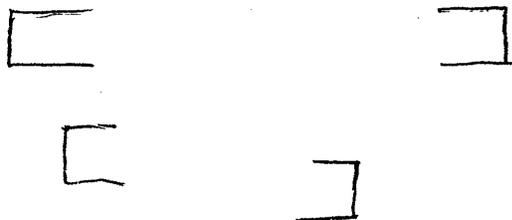
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and from what they were told by the attendants, all of whom were North Vietnamese. Although Source saw no plane markings, he believed they were American aircraft because the cadre had said they were.

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8. Immediately after examining the aircraft wreckage, the men were told to move on out of the exhibition area so other units could enter. The cadres said that several of the pilots had been captured but that they had been taken to a camp near HANOI. They added that these foreigners were being well fed and treated so they could be used eventually in prisoner exchange. Source never saw or heard anything more about these prisoners. The display remained in VINH for a period of one to two weeks.



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