

COUNTRY NORTH VIETNAM
DOI JUNE 1968
SUBJECT U.S. CASUALTIES IN SON LA PROVINCE, NORTH VIETNAM
ACU VIETNAM, SAIGON (11 JULY 1974)

1. AT ABOUT 1500 HOURS ONE DAY IN MID-JUNE 1968, AN
UNIDENTIFIED U.S. AIRCRAFT FLYING AT AN ALTITUDE OF ABOUT

SANITIZED COPY

400 METERS ABOVE THE AREA OF SUOI RUT TOWN, MOC CHAU DISTRICT, SON LA PROVINCE, NORTH VIETNAM (NVN), WAS HIT BY FOUR ROCKETS FROM TWO NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY MIG-17 JET AIRCRAFT APPROACHING FROM THE DIRECTION OF HANOI. WHEN THE ROCKETS HIT THE AIRCRAFT, DARK SMOKE APPEARED, THERE WAS A LOUD EXPLOSION AND THE AIRCRAFT CRASHED IN FOUR PARTS AT VH998943 ON ROUTE 6, PHU MAD VILLAGE, MOC CHAU DISTRICT, SON LA PROVINCE. A MEMBER OF THE CREW BAILED OUT OF THE AIRCRAFT USING A RED PARACHUTE AND LANDED IN A FORESTED AREA OF BAN NOI VILLAGE, MOC CHAU DISTRICT.

2. AT ABOUT 1200 HOURS OF THE SAME DAY, FOUR MEMBERS OF THE PHU SAN VILLAGE MILITIA, MOC CHAU DISTRICT, CARRIED TO THE CRASH SITE A WOUNDED CREW MEMBER WHO DIED LATER THE SAME DAY. BEFORE HIS DEATH, THE CREW MEMBER TOLD A NVN NEWSMAN THAT HE WAS THE PILOT OF THE DOWNED AIRCRAFT. TWO OF THE MILITIA MEMBERS SAID THAT THEY HAD CAPTURED HIM IN A FORESTED AREA OF BAN NOI VILLAGE NEAR A RED PARACHUTE ABOUT ONE HOUR EARLIER. THE WOUNDED AMERICAN WHO DIED WAS CAUCASIAN, ABOUT 35 YEARS OLD AND ABOUT 1.70 METERS TALL. HE WEIGHED ABOUT 100 KILOGRAMS AND HAD BLOND HAIR AND A DARK MUSTACHE.

HE WORE A UNIFORM, BLACK BOOTS, A GOLD CHAIN WITH A GOLD CROSS, A GOLD RING ON HIS LEFT HAND AND A GOLD BRACELET ON HIS LEFT WRIST.

3. AT ABOUT 1700 HOURS OF THE SAME DAY, THE DEAD BODIES OF FIVE OTHER CREW MEMBERS WERE ALSO OBSERVED AT THE CRASH SITE. FIVE VILLAGERS FROM PHUC SAN VILLAGE, MOC CHAU DISTRICT, SAID THAT THEY HAD FOUND THESE CASUALTIES AND THE WRECKAGE WHEN THEY ARRIVED AT THE CRASH SITE 15 MINUTES AFTER THE CRASH. ONE OF THE DECEASED WAS ABOUT 40 YEARS OLD, 1.70 METERS TALL, WEIGHED ABOUT 80 KILOGRAMS, HAD BLOND HAIR AND WAS WEARING A HELMET AND GREEN UNIFORM. ANOTHER WAS ABOUT 40 YEARS OLD, 1.60 METERS TALL, WEIGHED ABOUT 90 KILOGRAMS, HAD BLOND HAIR AND A DARK MUSTACHE. HE WORE A HELMET, UNIFORM AND A GOLD CHAIN WITH A GOLD CROSS. ANOTHER OF THE DEAD CREW MEMBERS WAS ABOUT 35 YEARS OLD AND 1.60 METERS TALL, HE WEIGHED ABOUT 100 KILOGRAMS, HAD BLOND HAIR AND WORE A KHAKI CAP, GREEN UNIFORM, A GOLD CHAIN WITH A GOLD CROSS, A GOLD RING ON HIS LEFT HAND AND A GOLD BRACELET ON HIS LEFT WRIST. THE OTHER TWO BODIES WERE CAUCASIAN BUT BADLY CHARRED. (SOURCE SAID THAT MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL

PUBLIC SECURITY UNIT REMOVED THE GOLD JEWELRY FROM THE BODIES.)

4. A FEW HOURS LATER ON THE SAME DAY, ABOUT 15 MEMBERS OF THE PHUC SAN VILLAGE MILITIA UNIT PLACED THE SIX DEAD CREW MEMBERS IN SIX COFFINS, PUT THE COFFINS IN A SOVIET GAZ-51 TRUCK AND BURIED THEM IN SIX SEPARATE GRAVES IN AN AREA ABOUT TEN METERS LONG AND THREE METERS WIDE AT WH041931 BETWEEN ROUTE 6 AND THE SUOI RUT STREAM IN BAN SAN VILLAGE, MOC CHAU DISTRICT. EACH GRAVE HAD A MOUND AND WAS MARKED BY A STONE BEARING ENGLISH WORDS. (SOURCE SAID THAT IN DECEMBER 1973 WHEN HE TRAVELED FROM PHU MAO VILLAGE TO PHUC SAN VILLAGE ALONG ROUTE 6 AND THE SUOI RUT STREAM, HE AGAIN SAW THE SIX GRAVES.) (SOURCE REVIEWED VOLUMES I AND II OF PRISONERS OF WAR AND MISSING IN ACTION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA BUT WAS UNABLE TO MAKE ANY IDENTIFICATION.