

FIR - 317/09012-73

9 February 1973

SANITIZED COPY

Content UNCLASSIFIED

per 058315

date 13 OCT 1976

REPORT CLASS ~~CONFIDENTIAL - SECURITY INFORMATION~~

~~INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE~~

COUNTRY NORTH VIETNAM

DOI FEBRUARY 1967

SUBJECT SIGHTING OF DOWNED U.S. JET IN NAM HA PROVINCE,  
NORTH VIETNAM, IN WHICH PILOTS REPORTEDLY KILLED

ACQ

SOURCE

ENCLOSURE #1

SANITIZED COPY

ENCLOSURE (1)

1. AT ABOUT 2100 HOURS ONE DAY BETWEEN 3-6 FEBRUARY 1967, BUI XUAN T I E P SAW A BURNING U.S. JET AIRCRAFT FLYING AT LOW ALTITUDE OVER HIS VILLAGE OF HAI TAN, HAI HAU DISTRICT, NAM HA PROVINCE, NORTH VIETNAM. TIEP BELIEVED THE PLANE HAD BEEN HIT INLAND AND THAT THE PILOT WAS PROBABLY MAKING AN ATTEMPT TO REACH THE SEA. THE AIRCRAFT CONTINUED TO LOSE ALTITUDE AND SPEED AND FINALLY EXPLODED, CRASHING IN HAI LY VILLAGE, ABOUT FOUR KILOMETERS FROM HAI TAN VILLAGE, ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, SEVERAL GROUPS OF JET AIRCRAFT COMING FROM THE EAST FLEW OVER THE AREA IN RELAYS FROM DAWN UNTIL LATE AFTERNOON, APPEARING TO BE SEARCHING FOR THE LOST AIRCRAFT. THEY FLEW AT VERY LOW ALTITUDE AND FRIGHTENED THE PEOPLE OF THE DISTRICT SO BADLY THAT THEY REMAINED AT HOME AND DID NOT GO TO EXAMINE THE CRASH SITE.

2. TIEP WENT TO HAI LY VILLAGE TO CUT GRASS FOUR DAYS LATER AND PEOPLE OF THE AREA TOLD HIM THAT THE JET HAD CRASHED IN A FIELD OF RUSHES NEAR COORDINATES KM549222 ABOUT 530 METERS

FROM THE SEA. TIEP PERSONALLY SAW THE TAIL SECTION OF THE AIRCRAFT WHILE WALKING PAST THE AREA. LOCAL PEOPLE TOLD TIEP THAT TWO PILOTS WERE STILL IN THE AIRCRAFT WHEN IT CRASHED AND THAT THEIR BODIES WERE TORN APART AND SCATTERED ALL AROUND THE CRASH SITE TOGETHER WITH AIRCRAFT DEBRIS. PIECES OF THEIR BODIES INCLUDING THREE LEGS AND A PIECE OF CHEST COVERED WITH THICK BROWN HAIR WERE GATHERED BY LOCAL PEOPLE AND BURIED NEAR THE CRASH SITE.

3. [REDACTED] THE JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER (JCRC) EVALUATED THIS REPORT AS FOLLOWS: "SCREENING OF JCRC RECORDS RESULTED IN THE POSSIBLE CORRELATION OF THE INCIDENT WITH THAT INVOLVING LT. DONALD E. THOMPSON, USN AND LT. ALLAN P. COLLAMORE, USN. LT. THOMPSON AND LT. COLLAMORE WERE ON A FLARE-DROP MISSION WHEN THEY WERE SEPARATED FROM THEIR WING AIRCRAFT. NO CONTACT WAS ESTABLISHED. THE WINGMAN SAW A LARGE EXPLOSION BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN THE AIRCRAFT OF LTS. THOMPSON AND COLLAMORE. THE LOCATION AND TIME FRAME MENTIONED IN THIS REPORT COINCIDE WITH THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT THIS OFFICE. LTS. THOMPSON AND COLLAMORE ARE CARRIED BY THEIR SERVICE AS MISSING IN ACTION.")

THE NAMES OF LTS. THOMPSON AND COLLAMORE DO

NOT APPEAR ON THE LISTS OF POW'S PROVIDED BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND VIET CONG REPRESENTATIVES IN PARIS AS POW'S WHO HAVE DIED. NORTH VIETNAMESE IDENTIFICATION OF THE PILOTS MAY HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE IN THIS INSTANCE.]

4. [REDACTED] FOLLOWING ARE ADDITIONAL BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON BUI XUAN TIEP: HE WAS BORN IN 1953 IN HAI TAN VILLAGE, HAI HAU DISTRICT, NAM HA PROVINCE, NORTH VIETNAM (NVN). HE COMPLETED 7TH FORM (U.S. 9TH GRADE) IN 1970 AND IN MAY 1971 WAS DRAFTED. AFTER FIVE MONTHS BASIC TRAINING IN NHO QUAN DISTRICT, NINH BINH PROVINCE, HE INFILTRATED SOUTH VIETNAM (SVN) WITH THE 624TH BATTALION. IN DECEMBER 1971 HE WAS ASSIGNED TO THE UNIT HE WAS WITH WHEN HE RALLIED. IN EARLY SEPTEMBER 1972 THE 6TH REGIMENT BEGAN TO MOVE TOWARD PHU LOC DISTRICT IN PREPARATION FOR LAUNCHING A NEW CAMPAIGN INTO THE LOWLAND AREAS AND TIEP TOOK THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SLIP AWAY AND RALLY. HE DID NOT BELONG TO THE LAO DONG PARTY.]

5. FIELD DISSEM: EMBASSY USMACV JCRC 7TH AIR FORCE  
USARV NAVFORV 525TH MI GP 7522ND AIF OSI AT SAIGON: SENT  
TO CINCPAC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC [REDACTED]  
REPORT CLASS ~~SECRET~~