

FIR-317/09140-75  
18 January 1975

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REPORT CLASS ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
INFO ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
COUNTRY NORTH VIETNAM  
EST SOMETIME FROM OCTOBER 1965 TO FEBRUARY 1966  
SUBJECT DEATH AND CAPTURE OF TWO AMERICANS FROM A U.S. NAVY  
PLANE DOWNED IN YEN HUNG DISTRICT, QUANG BINH  
PROVINCE, NORTH VIETNAM

1. AT ABOUT 0600 HOURS, HANGI TIME, ONE TIME BETWEEN OCTOBER 1965 AND FEBRUARY 1966, ONE U.S. NAVY AD-4J RECONNAISSANCE JET PLANE WAS SHOT DOWN BY NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY (NVA) 14.5MM ANTI-AIRCRAFT (AA) FIRE ON ITS RETURN FROM A RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHT OVER THE POWER PLANT IN DONG BI, QUANG BINH PROVINCE, NORTH VIETNAM. ONE U.S. CREWMAN WAS KILLED AND ANOTHER

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per 058375  
date 21 OCT 1976

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Enclosure (1)

CAPTURED. BOTH WERE U.S. NAVY LIEUTENANT COMMANDERS.

2. THE PLANE HAD BEEN FLYING OVER ROUTE 18 FROM THE GULF OF TONKIN TOWARD THE HONG BY POWER PLANE AT AN ALTITUDE OF ABOUT 2,000 METERS. AFTER CIRCLING OVER THE PLANT FOR ABOUT FIVE MINUTES, IT FLEW BACK OVER ROUTE 18 TOWARDS THE WATER AND WAS HIT BY 14.5MM RA FIRE FROM AN UNIDENTIFIED NVA REGIMENT ON VE THOM MOUNTAIN (KHUAT 13), YEN HUNG DISTRICT. TWO RED PARACHUTES APPEARED, AND THE PLANE BURST INTO FLAME. THERE WAS A LOUD EXPLOSION BEFORE THE PLANE CRASHED ON THE NORTHERN SIDE OF DONG LINH HILL (XJ981196), YEN HUNG DISTRICT.

3. FIFTEEN MINUTES AFTER THE CRASH, SIX MEMBERS OF THE 2ND BATTALION, DEFENSE AREA 1, NORTHEAST MILITARY REGION (NEMR), FOUND THE CORPSE OF ONE OF THE CREWMEN ABOUT 200 METERS WEST OF THE CRASH SITE. THE BODY WAS CAUCASIAN, WEIGHED ABOUT 70 KILOGRAMS AND WAS DRESSED IN A FLIGHT SUIT AND PAIR OF LEATHER BOOTS. WILTIAMEN FROM THE AREA OF DONG LINH WERE DIGGING A GRAVE. (SOURCE COMMENT: XEP STATED THAT THE INHABITANTS OF THE AREA OF KILOMETER 11 NEAR XJ917207 SHOULD BE CONTACTED IN ORDER TO LOCATE PRECISELY THE BURIAL SITE.)

4. ON THE MORNING OF THE SAME DAY, HOANG MINH THU, THE PLATOON LEADER OF THE 2ND COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, DEFENSE AREA 1 NEMR, SAID THAT THE OTHER CREWMEN HAD BEEN CAPTURED BY MILITIAMEN OF THE BRICKMAKING ENTERPRISE OF YEN HUNG DISTRICT ON THE SAME DAY. THE CAPTURED CREWMEN HAD BEEN MOUNTED IN ONE ANG BUDU LANDING IN TREES 10 METERS TALL IN BACK DAN GARDEN (KHUAT 1325) AREA OF KHUAT LAC, YEN HUNG DISTRICT. MEDICS OF THE BRICKMAKING FACTORY BANDAGED HIS WOUND, AND LATER THE SAME DAY SENT HIM BY TRUCK TO HANOI VIA ROUTE 10.

5. (FIELD COMMENT: JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER (JCRC) EVALUATES THIS REPORT AS FOLLOWS: "THIS REPORT POSSIBLY CORRELATES TO THE INCIDENT INVOLVING NAVY LT. COMMANDER GUY D. JOHNSON, MIA, AND NAVY LT. (J.G.) LEN E. NORDAHL, DEAD--BODY NOT RECOVERED, REFERENCE NO.'S 0215-0-01 AND 015-0-02 RESPECTIVELY. AT 0730 ON 20 DECEMBER 1965, A RA-5C AIRCRAFT WITH LT. COMMANDER JOHNSON, PILOT, AND LT. (J.G.) NORDAHL, NAVIGATOR, LAUNCHED FROM THE U.S.S.

\*KITTY HAWK\* IN THE GULF OF TONKIN. THE ASSIGNED MISSION WAS TO PHOTOGRAPH DAMAGE TO THE UONG BY THERMAL POWER PLANT AND THE HIGHWAY NORTH OF HAIPHONG, NORTH VIETNAM. THEY DEPARTED THE COASTAL ENTRY POINT AND THEIR AIRCRAFT ESCORT FOR THE ASSIGNED TARGET AT 0750H AND WERE TO EXIT THE COASTAL ENTRY POINT AND REJOIN THE ESCORT AT 0807H. BECAUSE OF POOR WEATHER IN THE AREA, THE ESCORT REMAINED AT THE COASTAL ENTRY POINT. THE RA-5C AIRCRAFT WAS NOT SIGHTED AGAIN NOR WAS ANY RADIO TRANSMISSION RECEIVED FROM ITS CREW AFTER THE SEPARATION AT THE COASTAL ENTRY POINT. EFFORTS TO CONTACT THE CREW MEMBERS WERE UNSUCCESSFUL. ON 20 DECEMBER 1969, HANOI REPORTED IN A RADIO BROADCAST THAT SIX U.S. AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN IN NORTH VIETNAM AND MANY PILOTS CAPTURED. THREE OF THE AIRCRAFT WERE DOWNED IN QUANG BINH PROVINCE, THE LAST-CROWN POSITION OF LT. COMMANDER JOHNSON AND LT. (J.G.) NORDAHL. THE TIME IS IN ERROR BY ABOUT TWO HOURS ALTHOUGH WITHIN THE INCIDENT PERIOD. THE LIMITED GEOGRAPHIC DATA CONCERNING A CAUCASIAN ORIGIN ABOUT 70 KILOS COULD APPLY TO LT. COMMANDER JOHNSON WHO WAS CAUCASIAN AND WEIGHED APPROXIMATELY 65.8 KILOS. THE COORDINATES AND DETAILS PROVIDED ON THE UNIDENTIFIED NVA REPORT, THE CRASH AND BURIAL SITES AND CAPTURED CREWMAN CLOSELY CORRELATE TO INFORMATION CONTAINED IN BRIGHT LIGHT INTELLIGENCE REPORTS CORRELATED TO THIS INCIDENT."

C. FIELD DISSEM: DEFENSE ATTACHE FOR JCRC REPRESENTATIVE IN SAIGON: SENT TO CINCPAC (FOR CINCPAC AND POLAD ONLY) USSAG AND VIETNAM (FOR JCRC REPRESENTATIVE ONLY).  
REPORT CLASS: ~~SECRET~~

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CLASSIFIED BY RECORDED REPORTING OFFICER. EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION. DATE 11/15/92. EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5B (1) (2). NOT POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE DATE OF AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION.