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REPORT CLASS: ~~SECRET~~

19 February 1974

COUNTRY: NORTH VIETNAM  
DOT: MID-OCTOBER 1967  
SUBJECT: DEATH OF U.S. F-105 JET AIRCRAFT PILOT IN BAC THAI PROVINCE, NORTH VIETNAM

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SOURCE

1. AT ABOUT 1300 HOURS ONE DAY IN MID-OCTOBER 1967, WHILE WAS TAKING BASIC INFANTRY TRAINING WITH THE 10TH COMPANY, 3RD BATTALION, 246TH REGIMENT, VIET-CON AUTONOMOUS REGION, AT ABOUT M1552062 AT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY (NVA) BAN BAC MOUNTAIN BASE IN VAN LANG VILLAGE, DAI TU DISTRICT, BAC THAI PROVINCE, NORTH VIETNAM (NVN), HE SAW A U.S. F-105 JET AIRCRAFT HIT BY A SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE (SAM) FIRED BY AN UNIDENTIFIED NVA UNIT PROTECTING THE THAI NGUYEN STEEL PLANT (M1556743). THE F-105 HAD MADE A BOMBING RUN OVER THE THAI NGUYEN STEEL PLANT AREA AND WAS FLYING WEST TOWARD TUYEN QUANG PROVINCE AT AN ALTITUDE OF ABOUT THREE KILOMETERS. (SOURCE COMMENT: LIEUTENANT UO A N (LBU), DEPUTY COMMANDER, AND LIEUTENANT LUONG VAN E N G, POLITICAL CADRE, BOTH OF THE 10TH COMPANY, IDENTIFIED THE AIRCRAFT AS AN F-105.)

2. AS SOON AS THE SAM HIT THE F-105, THE AIRCRAFT BURST INTO FLAMES AND EXPLODED INTO PIECES WHICH FELL OVER THE MOUNTAIN AND RICE FIELD AREAS ENCLOSED WITHIN THE COORDINATES M1552985, M1552986, M1552986, AND M1552986 IN VAN LANG VILLAGE.

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per 058315  
date 31 MAR 1977

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ENCLOSURE ( 1 )

OBSERVED THE SAM FIRE INCIDENT AND SAID HE SAW A PARACHUTE COME OUT OF THE F-105. HE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE 10TH COMPANY RAN IMMEDIATELY TO THE AREA WHERE THE PARACHUTE FELL TO SALVAGE FRAGMENTS OF THE AIRCRAFT FOR THEIR PERSONAL USE.

3. AT ABOUT 1400 HOURS THE SAME DAY, PEOPLE FROM VAN LANG VILLAGE WENT OUT TO PICK UP FRAGMENTS FROM THE AIRCRAFT AND FOUND A LEG FROM WHAT THEY BELIEVED WAS THE DEAD PILOT. THEY TOOK IT TO THE VAN LANG VILLAGE COOPERATIVE AND SAW IT THERE. HE DESCRIBED IT AS THE LEFT LEG FROM A POINT ABOUT SEVEN CENTIMETERS ABOVE THE KNEE. A TORN, MUDDY YELLOW-GREEN SOCK WAS STILL ON THE FOOT AND THE BIG TOE HAD BEEN BLOWN OFF THE FOOT. HE ESTIMATED THE LEG WAS ABOUT 54CM LONG, WEIGHED ABOUT 12 KILOS, HAD A LIGHT COMPLEXION LIKE THAT OF A CAUCASIAN, WAS HAIRY, AND THAT THE HAIR WAS AUBURN COLORED.

4. AT ABOUT 1500 HOURS THE SAME DAY, NORTH VIETNAMESE SECURITY POLICE FROM DAI TU DISTRICT TOWN DROVE INTO THE AREA ON ROUTE 13 AND ORDERED THE VAN LANG VILLAGERS TO BURY THE LEG IN THE RICE-FIELD AREA AT ABOUT WJ535971.

5. JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER (JCRC) EVALUATES THIS REPORT AS FOLLOWS:

"A. THIS REPORT POSSIBLY DESCRIBES THE INCIDENT INVOLVING NAVY LTJG RICHARD CHAMP CLARK. HE WAS A CREW MEMBER ON AN F4D ON A STRIKE MISSION DIRECTED AT PHUC YEN AIRFIELD. AT 1527 HOURS ON 24 OCTOBER 1973, A SAM WAS OBSERVED TO IMPACT THE AIRCRAFT PILOTER BY CDR GILLESPIE AT WJ448736. LORP LEWIS WAS CDR GILLESPIE'S WINGMAN. HE CALLED FOR CDR GILLESPIE TO EJECT AFTER HE (LEWIS) OBSERVED THE SAM HIT. LORP LEWIS RECEIVED NO IMMEDIATE RESPONSE, BUT DID OBSERVE FRONT-SEAT EJECTION. ACCORDING TO LORP LEWIS, CDR GILLESPIE'S AIRCRAFT STRUCK THE GROUND WITH NO EJECTIONS OTHER THAN GILLESPIE, WHO WAS ALIVE AND IN HIS CHUTE. CLARK'S NAME WAS NEVER HEARD BY OTHERS IN THE PW SYSTEM.

1256  
"(1) CLARK IS CARRIED BY JCRC AS DEAD, BODY-YET-RECOVERED.

1362  
"(2) LORP LEWIS WAS RELEASED ON 14 MARCH 1973.

"(3) CDR GUILLESPIT WAS RELEASED ON 12 MARCH 1975.

"(4) LTJG SPISHMAN (LCDR LEWIS' CREW MEMBER) WAS  
RELEASED ON 5 AUGUST 1969.

"5. ANOTHER POSSIBLE CORRELATION TO THIS REPORT IS THE  
INCIDENT INVOLVING AIR FORCE CAPT WILLIAM ALLAN LILLING AND AIR  
FORCE MAJOR MORRIS LAROSSE MC DANIEL. THEY WERE ON A MISSION AT  
HJCO7789 ON 4 OCTOBER 1967. THEY WERE LAST SEEN AT THEIR PRE-  
MISSION REFUELING POINT. NO FURTHER RADIO CONTACT WAS MADE.  
BOTH MEN ARE CARRIED AS MISSING-IN-ACTION BY JCRC."

6. FIELD DISSEM: DEFENSE ATTACHE FOR JCRC REPRESENTATIVE  
IN SAIGON: SENT TO CINCPAC (FOR CINCPAC AND POLAD ONLY) USSAS  
AND \ (FOR JCRC REPRESENTATIVE ONLY).