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[REDACTED]

COUNTRY CAMBODIA

DOI JUNE - AUGUST 1970

SUBJECT DEATH OF A U.S. PRISONER OF WAR AT THE VIET CONG K-71B
 HOSPITAL, 220TH REAR SERVICES GROUP, NIMOT DISTRICT,
 KOMPONG CHAM PROVINCE, CAMBODIA

ACD

SOURCE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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 CRASH / GRAVE
 Encl 1 (S-47,601/004)

1. [REDACTED] OF THE K-71B HOSPITAL, ALSO KNOWN AS THE VIET CONG (VC) K-21 HOSPITAL, A-5 MEDICAL SECTION, 220TH REAR SERVICES GROUP, SOUTH VIETNAM LIBERATION ARMY (SVNLA), IN KOK HAMLET, MIMOT DISTRICT, KOMPONG CHAM PROVINCE, CAMBODIA, SAID THAT AN AMERICAN PRISONER OF WAR (POW) DIED AT THE K-71B HOSPITAL ON ABOUT 26 AUGUST 1970. THE FOLLOWING DAY, MEMBERS OF THE HOSPITAL STAFF WRAPPED THE CORPSE IN NYLON SHEET AND LINEN CLOTH AND BURIED THE POW IN A GRAVE (APPROXIMATELY 2 METERS BY 1 METER BY 40 CENTIMETERS) LOCATED AT ABOUT XU224142, 200 METERS WEST OF THE KRABAS STREAM, KOK HAMLET.

2. THE POW DIED FROM A SERIOUS WOUND IN HIS LEFT THIGH, WHICH HE HAD RECEIVED WHEN HIS UH 1-A HELICOPTER CRASHED IN THE CHOAM KRAVIEN AREA (XU460010), KRAVIEN VILLAGE, MIMOT DISTRICT, ON ABOUT 12 JUNE 1970. MEMBERS OF THE UNIT WHICH CAPTURED THE POW TOLD [REDACTED] THAT THE POW'S HELICOPTER HAD BEEN ON A RECONNAISSANCE MISSION OVER THE KRAVIEN VILLAGE AREA AT ABOUT 1200 HOURS, WHEN IT WAS HIT BY 37MM ARTILLERY FIRE FROM THE 2-26 COMPANY OF THE SVNLA 75TH ARTILLERY GROUP THAT WAS BASED IN KRAVIEN VILLAGE.

2. [REDACTED]

THE PLANE CRASHED AT ABOUT 1215 HOURS. FOUR OF THE MEN IN THE PLANE, TWO AMERICAN AND TWO VIETNAMESE, HAD REMAINED INSIDE THE PLANE AND DIED AT THE CRASH SITE. THE POW HAD BAILED OUT AND LANDED IN A LARGE TREE. ABOUT AN HOUR LATER HE WAS FOUND WOUNDED APPROXIMATELY 300 METERS FROM THE CRASH SITE. THE CAPTURING UNIT BURIED THE FOUR DEAD AIRMEN IN A HOLE NEAR THE CRASH SITE. THEY ALSO REMOVED THE POW'S CLOTHING AND DOCUMENTS, GAVE HIM FIRST AID, AND CARRIED HIM TO THE HOSPITAL ON THE FOLLOWING DAY.

3. [REDACTED] HAD THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON THE POW, WHICH HE HAD OBTAINED WHILE [REDACTED] IN THE HOSPITAL, AND FROM THE POW'S MEDICAL DESCRIPTION SHEETS. THE POW WAS A MAJOR IN THE U.S. AIR FORCE. HE WAS BORN IN ABOUT 1947, WAS A CAUCASIAN ABOUT 1.70 METERS TALL AND WEIGHED ABOUT 60 KILOGRAMS. HE HAD BLOND HAIR AND BROWN EYES. HE SMOKED AND SAID "THANK YOU" IN VIETNAMESE WHEN HE RECEIVED FOOD OR CIGARETTES. [REDACTED] SAID THE POW'S LEFT THIGH HAD BEEN COMPLETELY BROKEN BY A VIOLENT TEARING OF THE FLESH. THE HOSPITAL DID NOT HAVE THE NECESSARY MEDICATION TO PROPERLY TREAT HIS WOUND, AND THE POW DIED FROM AN INFECTION OF HIS WOUND AND FROM EXHAUSTION. THE POW HAD BEEN KEPT IN A SEPARATE THATCHED STRUCTURE AND BEEN ASSIGNED TWO GUARDS.

TO TAKE CARE OF HIM. HE DID NOT COOPERATE WITH THE VC WHO INTERROGATED HIM. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED] WAS SHOWN VOLUMES I AND II OF "PRISONERS OF WAR AND MISSING IN ACTION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA", BUT WAS UNABLE TO MAKE AN IDENTIFICATION.)

4. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER (JCRC) EVALUATES THIS REPORT AS FOLLOWS:

"A. THIS REPORT POSSIBLY DESCRIBES THE INCIDENT INVOLVING ARMY W1 MICHAEL BANARD VARNADO, THE PILOT OF A UH1H HELICOPTER ON A RESUPPLY MISSION ON 2 MAY 1970. THE HELICOPTER WAS DOWNED AT GRID XU357010. THERE WERE SEVEN PEOPLE ON THIS FLIGHT, FOUR WERE PASSENGERS BELONGING TO THE 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION. THE SEVEN PEOPLE WERE:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| 1) ARMY W2 MICHAEL BANARD VARNADO | - DIED |
| 2) ARMY CAPT ROBERT M. YOUNG | - DIED |
| 3) ARMY CAPT DALE WAYNE RICHARDSON | - MIA |
| 4) ARMY E4 BUNYAN DURANT PRICE | - CAPTURED |
| 5) ARMY E4 FREDERICK W. CROWSON | - RELEASED |
| 6) ARMY W1 DANIEL F. MASLOWSKI | - RELEASED |
| 7) ARMY E4 RODNEY L. GRIFFIN | - MIA |

"B. CROWSON STATED DURING HIS DEBRIEFING THAT VARNADO WAS

[REDACTED]

SERIOUSLY WOUNDED IN THE RIGHT SIDE AND LEFT LEG. CROWSON LAST SAW VARNADO ALIVE AND BEING MOVED TO A HOSPITAL FOR TREATMENT OF HIS WOUNDS. ANOTHER RELEASEE WHO ALSO SAW VARNADO, AT THIS TIME, RATED VARNADO'S CHANCE OF SURVIVAL SO SMALL THAT DURING HIS DEBRIEFING HE REPORTED THAT HE CONSIDERED VARNADO, AT THAT TIME, TO BE DECEASED.

"C. VARNADO WAS BORN IN 1948. WAS A CAUCASIAN, AND WAS 1.90 METERS TALL. HE WEIGHED 88 KG WHEN CAPTURED, BUT APPROXIMATELY 67 KG PRIOR TO THE TIME HE DIED.

"D. THE DRV/PRG LIST OF THOSE WHO DIED IN CAPTIVITY INDICATES THAT VARNADO DIED IN CAPTIVITY ON 21 SEPTEMBER 1970."

5. FIELD DISSEM: DEFENSE ATTACHE FOR JCRC REPRESENTATIVE IN SAIGON: SENT TO CINCPAC (FOR CINCPAC AND POLAD ONLY) USSAG AND

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]