

(classification)

(dissem controls)

SAI SAID THAT THE TWO PILOTS PARACHUTED FROM THEIR AIRPLANE AFTER IT WAS HIT BY NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY (NVA) GUNNERS, BUT NEITHER PILOT WAS WOUNDED. SAI DID NOT GIVE THE EXACT LOCATION WHERE THE SHOOTING OCCURRED. [REDACTED] COMMENT: ACCORDING TO JOINT PERSONNEL RECOVERY CENTER RECORDS, AN OV10 AIRCRAFT WAS DOWNED IN THE PAKSONG AREA ON 24 DECEMBER 1971 WITH TWO PERSONNEL ON BOARD. ONE WAS LISTED AS FIRST LIEUTENANT T. R. FINN.)

2. SEVERAL DAYS FOLLOWING SAI'S SPEECH A SENIOR SOUTH LAOS PL OFFICER, GENERAL K H A M C H A N H, ARRIVED AT THE POW CAMP AND GAVE A SPEECH ALMOST IDENTICAL TO THAT GIVEN BY SAI. [REDACTED] COMMENT: KHAMCHANH PHOMMASENG HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY REPORTED AS SOUTH LAOS REGION HEADQUARTERS CHIEF OF STAFF AND AS OPERATING IN THE ATTOPEU/SARAVANE AREAS.) IN ADDITION, GENERAL KHAMCHANH ORDERED THE POWS TO BUILD THREE LARGE BUNKERS TO HOUSE TWO AMERICAN AND 35 IRREGULAR PRISONERS WHEN THEY ARRIVED AT THE CAMP, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT GIVE THEIR EXPECTED DATE OF ARRIVAL. ONE BUNKER WAS COMPLETED AND THE TWO REMAINING BUNKERS WERE STILL BEING BUILT WHEN (THE SEVEN LAO POWS) MANAGED TO ESCAPE IN MID-FEBRUARY 1972. THE THREE BUNKERS WERE DIFFERENT IN DESIGN FROM THE OTHER BUNKERS IN THE CAMP AND WERE LOCATED ABOUT 500 METERS SOUTHWEST OF THE LAO POW QUARTERS.

3. APPROXIMATELY TEN DAYS AFTER GENERAL KHAMCHANH'S SPEECH,

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ATTOPEU (XB 9737) AREA DEPUTY PROVINCE CHIEF T A M A K VISITED THE CAMP. IN CASUAL CONVERSATION HE TOLD SEVERAL OF THE POWS THAT FIVE DAYS PRIOR TO HIS LEAVING ATTOPEU TO COME TO THE CAMP HE HAD SEEN TWO AMERICAN PILOTS BROUGHT INTO ATTOPEU BY NVA SOLDIERS. TAMAK STATED HE SAID HELLO IN LAO TO THE AMERICANS WHO DID NOT REPLY BUT CONTINUED TO WALK WITH BOWED HEADS. TAMAK SAID THEY WERE STILL WEARING THEIR UNIFORMS AND RANK INSIGNIA AND DESCRIBED BOTH MEN AS LARGE WITH RED HAIR. TAMAK CAME TO THE CAMP FREQUENTLY TO VISIT HIS WIFE, V I A N G, WHO WAS ONE OF THE NURSES THERE.

4. THE PRISONERS BELIEVE THE CAMP WAS LOCATED WEST OF BAN SAMONG (UNLOCATED), WHICH WAS A NEWLY BUILT PL VILLAGE LOCATED ALONG A STREAM FROM THE VICINITY OF XB 580286 EAST TO THE VICINITY OF XB 610280. THE PRISONERS TRANSPORTED RICE SEVERAL TIMES FROM BAN SAMONG TO THE CAMP WHICH WAS A DAY'S WALK. THEY CROSSED SEVERAL LARGE AND SMALL STREAMS BUT COULD NOT ACCURATELY DETERMINE IN WHICH DIRECTION THEY HAD TRAVELLED OR THE DISTANCE IN KILOMETERS BECAUSE OF THE REPEATED SWITCHBACK TRAILS.

5. [REDACTED] DISSEM, EMBASSY, ARMATT, AIRATT IN VIENTIANE: SENT TO CINCPAC, ARPA, PACAF, PACFLT, 7THAF, 7/13 AF, MACV, [REDACTED]

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CAMP LOG # 263
REPORT LOG # 1255
✓ 1:50,000 Coord: L 9015 6239
✓ 1:250,000 Coord: ND 48 711435/06 2855E
✓ UTM Card:
✓ INFO Card: