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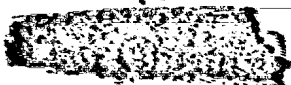
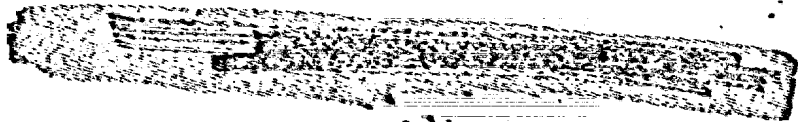
COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

R.S. ELLIS

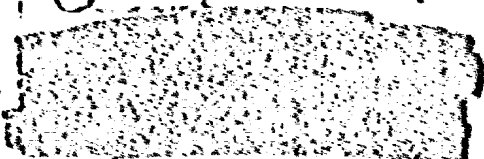
DOI JULY 1969

SUBJECT LOCATION OF THE GRAVE OF A U.S. SOLDIER IN TRI TAM DISTRICT, BINH DUONG PROVINCE, SOUTH VIETNAM

ACQ SOURCE



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*Ellis*

[REDACTED]

1. IN JULY 1969, [REDACTED] WAS ASSIGNED TO A VIET CONG (VC) BURIAL DETAIL, WHICH BURIED THE BODY OF A U.S. SOLDIER IN A MARKED GRAVE NEAR AN OXCART TRAIL IN THE AREA OF THE VAN TAM STREAM (XT566592) NEAR THE MICHELIN RUBBER PLANTATION, TRI TAM DISTRICT, BINH DUONG PROVINCE, SOUTH VIETNAM. H-A, AN ASSISTANT SQUAD LEADER, VC RECONNAISSANCE PLATOON, 9TH BATTALION, Q-16 INFANTRY REGIMENT, MILITARY SUBREGION-1 (SR-1), TOLD [REDACTED] THAT THE U.S. SOLDIER HAD BEEN KILLED THE PREVIOUS DAY IN AN ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN HAI'S 30-MAN RECONNAISSANCE PLATOON AND A U.S. COMPANY IN A DENSE FOREST AREA ABOUT 200 METERS FROM THE 9TH BATTALION REAR BASE AREA IN THE VAN TAM STREAM AREA NEAR THE MICHELIN RUBBER PLANTATION, TRI TAM DISTRICT.

2. THE U.S. COMPANY HAD MOVED INTO THE AREA BY HELICOPTER, THE ENGAGEMENT STARTED AT ABOUT 0900 HOURS, AND A FEW HOURS LATER HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS AND SKYRAIDERS CAME IN TO SUPPORT THE U.S. FORCES. THE ENGAGEMENT ENDED IN THE LATE AFTERNOON OF THE SAME DAY WHEN THE VC FORCES WITHDREW. THE U.S. FORCES HAD BEEN UNABLE TO RECOVER THEIR CASUALTIES, AND THE NEXT DAY TANKS AND MORE TROOPS HAD BEEN SENT IN TO REINFORCE THE U.S. COMPANY. MANY TREES WERE CUT DOWN ALONG THE ROADS BY WHICH THE TANKS ADVANCED, AND THE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

AMERICANS RECOVERED ALL THEIR CASUALTIES, EXCEPT FOR THE BODY [REDACTED] LATER BURIED. THE U.S. FORCES HAD THEN WITHDRAWN, AND [REDACTED] BURIAL DETAIL RETURNED TO THE AREA THE SAME AFTERNOON. THE SOLDIER'S BODY HAD NOT BEEN RECOVERED BECAUSE HA HAD HIDDEN IT IN A TRENCH. HA TOLD [REDACTED] THAT HE HAD FOUND U.S. \$25 AND A WRISTWATCH WITH A WHITE FACE AND A STAINLESS STEEL BAND ON THE BODY OF THE SOLDIER. WHEN [REDACTED] BURIAL DETAIL RETURNED TO THE AREA, THEY FOUND ONE MACHINE GUN, THREE M-16 AUTOMATIC RIFLES AND ONE HITACHI TWO-BAND RADIO.

3. [REDACTED] SAID THAT THE BODY OF THE U.S. SOLDIER HE BURIED WAS THAT OF A CAUCASIAN, BORN ABOUT 1945, WHO WEIGHED ABOUT 70 KILOS, HAD BLOND HAIR AND WORE A CAMOUFLAGE UNIFORM. HE HAD BEEN WOUNDED IN THE STOMACH BY SMALL ARMS FIRE. [REDACTED] DID NOT KNOW HIS RANK. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED] APPEARED TO BE UNWILLING TO GUIDE JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER (JCRC) PERSONNEL TO THE AREA BECAUSE HE WAS AFRAID OF POSSIBLE VC REPRISAL. BUT HE SAID HE WOULD GO THERE IF GIVEN FULL PROTECTION. [REDACTED] WAS SHOWN VOLUMES I AND II OF "PRISONERS OF WAR AND MISSING IN ACTION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA", BUT WAS UNABLE TO IDENTIFY THE U.S. SOLDIER HE HAD BURIED.)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

4. [REDACTED] COMMENT: JCRC COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS ON THIS REPORT:

"THE LACK OF MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION PRECLUDES CORRELATION OF THIS REPORT TO ANY INCIDENT CONTAINED IN JCRC RECORDS."

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

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]