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RAND
JUL 13 1967
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WASH. OFFICE

COUNTRY : NORTH VIETNAM (NVN)

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SUBJECT : Captured US Pilots

DATE OF REPORT: 3/6/67

DATE OF INFO : May - August 1965

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SAIGON, Vietnam

REF: []

SOURCE: []

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S U M M A R Y

Source heard about the capture of a US pilot near CHAT TU (approximate coordinates KH 008290), NVN, in May 1965. Source saw one of three pilots, whose planes had been hit at HA TRUNG Agricultural Site, NVN, in August 1965. Source actually saw only the pilot who had landed near QUI HUONG Village. None of the four captured pilots was blindfolded or tethered. They had been transported to an unknown destination.

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ATTACHMENTS:

None

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MAP REFERENCES:

AMS Series L701, Sheet 6171/I, Scale 1/50,000, Edition 1

AMS Series L701, Sheet 6171/II, Scale 1/50,000, Edition 1

AMS Series L701, Sheet 6171/III, Scale 1/50,000, Edition 1

1. During the following period while Source was with Regiment 42, Division 350, he heard about and witnessed the capture of a number of US pilots. In March 1965, Source accompanied Regiment 42 to a station at THACH THANH District, THANH HOA Province. In May 1965 he was sent to attend the Sergeant Course at YEN THANG Village, YEN MO District, NINH BINH Province, until August 1965. After he was graduated, Source returned to THACH THANH District.
2. During the May 1965 bombing at the DO Bridge, one plane was hit and set aflame. The pilot parachuted and dropped on a ricefield near CHA TU (approximate coordinates XH 008290). Source and his comrades ran to the place where the pilot had dropped, but he had been captured and kept in a vehicle of the antiaircraft (AA) unit by the militia force. Later the vehicle transported the pilot away. (No other data available).
3. After three planes were hit at HA TRUNG Agricultural Site, in August 1965, the three pilots bailed out and landed at the following locations: the first pilot landed on a ricefield near QUI HUONG (approximate coordinates XH 845217); the second pilot landed on a ricefield near the AA battle-ground (approximate coordinates XH 835204); the third pilot landed northwest of THACH LAM Hill (approximate coordinates XH 861198).
4. Source saw only the pilot who landed near the QUI HUONG Village. He was clean shaven, husky and about 1.70 meters tall. Source heard that this pilot was a First Lieutenant, name unknown. When Source saw the pilot he had already been bandaged. Source was told that the pilot's left leg was broken. The pilot was dressed in a NVA khaki uniform. Source found that the pilot became afraid when too many people, militia and troops surrounded him. Source heard that as soon as the pilot had landed, the people approached him with the intention of beating him with sticks. However, the troops intervened in time. Consequently the pilot had not been beaten yet.
5. Regarding the other two pilots, Source heard they were Second Lieutenants and were not wounded. Later, three pilots were transported away in a jeep. Source did not know the destination of the jeep. None of the four captured pilots were blindfolded or tethered.

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