

RAND
112 1 1968
W17410
WASH. OFFICE

1.3(a)(4)

COUNTRY : NORTH VIETNAM (NVN)
SUBJECT : Captured U.S. Airman in BO TRACH District, QUANG BINH Province, NVN
DATE OF INFO : December 1966
DATE AND PLACE : 19 December 1967 (R-U)
OF ACQUISITION : SAIGON, Vietnam

DATE OF REPORT : 22/12/67

NO. OF PAGES : 3

REF: []

1.3(a)(4)

SOURCE: []

1.3(a)(4)

S U M M A R Y

Source saw two captive American pilots in a village in BO TRACH District, QUANG BINH Province in mid-December 1966. They were housed in a thatched hut and were guarded by two Vietnamese soldiers. One of these soldiers spoke fluent English and Source thought that he was a political cadre sent from HANOI to interrogate the prisoners. When Source saw the Americans they had been in the villages for about one month. They were well treated and seemed to be in good health. Neither of them seemed to be injured. Most American prisoners were kept in a prison camp somewhere in SON TAY Province. The camp was reputed to contain between 500 to 700 American prisoners. Americans captured near HANOI or from THANH HOA Province north were usually sent to SON TAY prison camp within two to three days after being captured. Prisoners who were captured from NGHE AN Province south were usually detained in their area of capture, interrogated

DISTRIBUTION:
US MACV
US EMBASSY (GSA)



ATTACHMENTS:

None

1.3(a)(4)

Approved for Release
Date September 1993

NOTICE: THIS MATERIAL CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE LAWS, TITLE 18 U.S.C. SECTIONS 793 AND 794. THE TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF WHICH IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW.

JAN 28 1968

94502

NND 927661-217

and exploited and then sent to the prison camp. Occasionally there were kept in a village for several months. The people hated American aviators because of the damage they brought to NVN, destroying their homes and property. If a pilot tried to escape capture when he was shot down, he would probably be killed by the people.

1. While at a village in BO TRACH District, QUANG BINH Province, NVN, in mid-December 1966, on a food gathering mission for his unit, Source saw two American pilots under guard in a village hut. They were dressed in native Vietnamese clothing and sandals which appeared to be too small for them. Their clothing and equipment had been confiscated by the Vietnamese authorities. The first American pilot was a captain who was shot down about four kilometers from the village in his F-105. He was about 28 years old, weighed about 200 pounds and was about 6'2" tall. He had light brown hair, balding at the crown and thinning at the sides. His nose was long and straight, had a high wide forehead, a wide face with a small mouth with thick lips. His eyes were small and set far apart. He had a cleft chin. Source did not know where the second pilot was shot down, his rank or what his name was. Both pilots had been in the village about one month when Source saw them. The second pilot was about 6' tall, about 200 pounds in weight. He was heavily built with wide shoulders. He had thick dark brown hair, a wide face, high wide forehead, a long sharp nose, normal eyes and bushy eyebrows. Source did not know how old he was.
2. Source asked the guards' permission to look at the prisoners and because he was a Party member and a cadre, the guard led him inside the hut where the two Americans were sitting on the ground smoking cigarettes and eating bananas. They appeared to be in good spirits and stood up and shook hands with him when they saw him. They were in good health and the guards said that they were fed about three to four times the normal food ration. They seemed to be uninjured were given cooked rice, dried fish and salted meat. In addition they were given an orange a day between them or two bananas daily. They were issued one blanket each, a mosquito net and a pallet. They were allowed to talk to one another because one of the guards spoke fluent English. Source opined that the English speaking guard was probably sent down from HANOI to interrogate the Americans and that he was a middle-aged political cadre. The Americans were let out of the thatched hut once a day for a half an hour for exercise. The guards had built a fence around the hut to keep the people away from them. They were exercised daily at the same time and the people gathered to watch the prisoners. One of the guards told Source that the Americans were well-disposed toward the people and would try to communicate with them. The guards did not try to stop this, seeing that neither American could speak Vietnamese, although the English speaking guard was teaching them.
3. Most American prisoners were kept in a prison camp in SON TAY Province, near HANOI. Source did not know where the camp was in SON TAY Province but a friend of his who was stationed in that area at one time said the prison camp held between 500 to 700 prisoners, all American. American prisoners were usually transported to this camp at night by car during a lull in the bombing. American pilots shot down near HANOI or north of THANH HOA would be sent to SON TAY Prison camp after being detained in the area where they were captured for two to three days. Pilots who were captured from NGHE AN Province south were detained in the area of capture, sometimes for several months, before being sent to SON TAY. In that case they would be interrogated in the village where they were being detained, then sent to the prison camp when the roads were clear.



J.3(a)(4)

Page 3

4. Source stated that the villagers in NVN hated American pilots because of the damage they had done to their homes and property. If American pilots tried to escape capture after being shot down over NVN the people most likely would pursue and kill them on the spot. If on the other hand, the pilots did not try to avoid capture they would be well treated by the people. The militia had specific instructions concerning the treatment of captured pilots. They were to treat them well and with respect. They were to protect them from the people whenever possible and to feed them three to four times the amount of food the average Vietnamese ate.



J.3(a)(4)

3