

36. HARRIS

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-SALVADOR
DIA

John L. ...

COUNTRY CAMBODIA

DOI MID-APRIL 1971

SUBJECT SIGHTING OF A DEAD U.S. PILOT IN SNUOL DISTRICT, KRATIE PROVINCE, CAMBODIA

ACO

SOURCE

1. AT ABOUT 0900 HOURS ONE DAY IN MID-APRIL 1971,

[REDACTED] SAW A U.S. UH1A HELICOPTER CRASH IN FLAMES NEAR XU553447 IN SNUOL DISTRICT, KRATIE PROVINCE, CAMBODIA. LATER THE SAME DAY, PERSONNEL OF THE VIET CONG (VC) 5TH DIVISION WHO WERE STATIONED IN THE AREA TOLD [REDACTED] THAT THE PILOT GOT OUT OF THE HELICOPTER AND TRIED TO EVADE CAPTURE BUT WAS CAUGHT IN A NEARBY STREAM. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CRASH [REDACTED] SAW A U.S. OV10 FLYING OVER THE CRASH SITE AND SOMEONE IN THE OV10 WAS SPEAKING IN ENGLISH OVER A LOUDSPEAKER.

[REDACTED] A FRIEND OF [REDACTED] SAID THAT THE OV10 WAS TRYING TO HELP THE DOWNED PILOT. PERSONNEL FROM THE 5TH DIVISION SAID THAT THE DOWNED UH1A HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN CARRYING ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC (ARVN) TROOPS INTO SNUOL DISTRICT FOR AN OPERATION AGAINST THE 5TH DIVISION. THEY SAID THAT ALL OTHER PERSONNEL ABOARD THE UH1A WERE KILLED IN THE CRASH.

2. THE SAME PERSONNEL OF THE 5TH DIVISION SAID THAT A U.S. "COBRA" HELICOPTER WAS SHOT DOWN ON THE SAME DAY NEAR THE UH1A HELICOPTER. TWO DAYS LATER [REDACTED] WENT TO SEE THE WRECKAGE OF BOTH AIRCRAFT. THE WRECKAGE OF THE "COBRA" WAS LOCATED NEAR XU545442. HE ALSO FOUND THE BODY OF WHAT HE BELIEVED TO BE THE PILOT OF THE "COBRA" AT ABOUT XU548442. [REDACTED] SAID THE MAN APPEARED

[REDACTED]

TO HAVE BEEN DEAD FOR TWO DAYS. HE WAS A CAUCASIAN, ABOUT 30 YEARS OLD, ABOUT 1.75 METERS TALL AND WEIGHED ABOUT 70 KILOS. HE HAD A THIN BUILD, A LONG FACE, AND BLONDISH HAIR. HE WAS DRESSED IN A KHAKI UNIFORM, HAD A PISTOL HOLSTER AND A GOLD WEDDING RING.

[REDACTED] SAID THAT OTHER PERSONNEL IN THE AREA HAD ALSO GONE TO LOOK AT IT BUT NO ATTEMPT HAD BEEN MADE TO BURY THE BODY SINCE AN OPERATION WAS TAKING PLACE AT THE TIME AND NO ONE HAD TIME TO DO SO.

[REDACTED] DID NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BODY.

3. [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: FOLLOWING IS AN EVALUATION OF THE REPORT BY THE JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER (JCRC):

A UH1H HELICOPTER CRASHED AT XU488458 ON 17 MARCH 1971. THE CO-PILOT CW1 JAMES H. HESTAND, USA (JCRC NR. 1911) WAS CAPTURED AT THE CRASH SITE AND RETURNED TO U.S. CONTROL ON 12 FEB 73. HESTAND REPORTED THAT HE SAW THE PILOT AND ONE CREWMAN EVADING IN THE VICINITY OF THE CRASH SITE. SINCE NEITHER WAS REPORTED IN THE POW CAMP SYSTEM, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT BOTH WERE KILLED. HESTAND REPORTED THAT A SECOND CREWMAN WAS KILLED ON 17 MARCH 71; HIS BODY WAS

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

FOUND IN THE VICINITY OF CRASH SITE BUT WAS NOT REMOVED. AN AH-1G COBRA GUNSHIP WAS HIT BY SMALL ARMS FIRE AND CRASHED AT XU408458. THE INDIVIDUAL REPORTED IS IDENTIFIED AS 1LT LAWRENCE E. LILLY, USA (JCRC NR, 5541), WHO WAS CO-PILOT. THE PILOT WAS RECOVERED BUT INTENSE GROUND FIRE FORCED THE RESCUE AIRCRAFT TO LEAVE LILLY ON GROUND. A VIETNAMESE ARMY (ARVN) GROUND RESCUE TEAM REPORTED THAT LILLY WAS KILLED 50-100 METERS FROM THE WRECKAGE. THE ARVN TEAM WAS ELIMINATED WHILE ATTEMPTING TO SECURE THE SITE. ALTHOUGH THE REPORT PLACES BOTH CRASHES IN THE VICINITY OF XU5544, BOTH CRASHES OCCURRED AT SAME COORDINATE LISTED ABOVE.)

5. [REDACTED] DISSEMI 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]