

Planning: N. M. S. R. J. S. J. - W. J. A.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

COUNTRY NORTH VIETNAM

DOI JULY 1967

SUBJECT SIGHTING OF A U.S. PRISONER OF WAR IN LE XA VILLAGE,
NAM SACH DISTRICT, HAI HUNG PROVINCE, NORTH VIETNAM

2100-
10622

ACC VIETNAM, SAIGON (13 JULY 1973) FIELD NO. [REDACTED]

SOURCE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Approved for Release
1990

MAY 1990

[REDACTED]

1. AT ABOUT 1100 HOURS ABOUT 20 JULY 1967, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SAW A U.S. F-105 JET HIT BY 37MM ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY FIRE FROM A UNIT BASED IN NAM SACH DISTRICT, HAI HUNG PROVINCE, NORTH VIETNAM. THE JET HAD BEEN IN A GROUP OF ABOUT 30 AIRCRAFT THAT BOMBED AND STRAFED FUEL STORAGE SITES AT XJ222187, XJ391214 AND XJ449193 IN THE NAM SACH AND CHI LINH AREAS AND BRIDGES AT XJ447195 AND XJ413160 IN THE LAI VU AND PHU LUONG AREAS, ALL IN NAM SACH DISTRICT. THE PILOT BAILED OUT OF THE JET USING A RED PARACHUTE AND LANDED IN THE LE XA VILLAGE AREA (XJ418285), NAM SACH DISTRICT. THE JET CRASHED INTO A WATER-FILLED RICEFIELD IN DINH DUONG VILLAGE (XJ295242), GIA LUONG DISTRICT, HA BAC PROVINCE, NORTH VIETNAM.

2. ABOUT 0700 HOURS THE FOLLOWING DAY, [REDACTED] SAW A U.S. PRISONER OF WAR (POW) SITTING IN THE REAR SEAT OF A JEEP BEING DRIVEN DOWN QUOC TUAN STREET (XJ413269), ROUTE 55, LE XA VILLAGE. THE JEEP WAS HEADED TOWARD HAI DUONG CITY, HAI DUONG PROVINCE. [REDACTED] THOUGHT THE POW WAS THE PILOT HE HAD SEEN BAILING OUT THE PREVIOUS DAY. THE POW WAS GUARDED BY A

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

MILITIAMAN AND A PUBLIC SECURITY MAN OF GIA LUONG DISTRICT, AND THE JEEP WAS BEING DRIVEN BY A PUBLIC SECURITY MAN.

3. [REDACTED] OBSERVED THE POW FOR ONLY ABOUT A MINUTE AS THE JEEP DROVE PAST. THE POW WAS A CAUCASIAN, APPEARED TO BE ABOUT 40 YEARS OLD, WITH A FAIR COMPLEXION AND WAVY BLOND HAIR. LATER THE SAME DAY, THREE MEMBERS OF THE LE XA VILLAGE SELF-DEFENSE MILITIA UNIT SAID THEY CAPTURED THE POW AT 0500 HOURS THAT MORNING IN A RICEFIELD WHERE THE POW WAS ATTEMPTING TO HIDE. THEY ALSO SAID THAT THE POW HAD BEEN SERIOUSLY BITTEN BY LEECHES IN THE RICEFIELD. (FIELD COMMENT: [REDACTED] WAS SHOWN VOLUMES I AND II OF PRISONERS OF WAR AND MISSING IN ACTION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA BUT WAS UNABLE TO MAKE ANY IDENTIFICATION.)

4. (FIELD COMMENT: THE JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER (JCRC) EVALUATED THE REPORT AS FOLLOWS: THE REPORT PROBABLY DESCRIBES THE DOWNING OF CAPT. HUGH M. FANNING, USMC, (JCRC NR. 422) AND CAPT. STEPHEN J. KNOTT, USMC (JCRC 454). THEIR A6A AIRCRAFT WAS HIT BY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY FIRE ON 31 OCTOBER 1967 NEAR XJ445181. BOTH ARE LISTED AS MISSING IN ACTION. TWO INDEPENDENT SOURCE REPORTS CORRELATE TO THE DOWNING, WITH ONE REPORT IDENTIFYING FANNING AND THE SECOND IDENTIFYING



KNOTT. IN BOTH INSTANCES, NEITHER SOURCE MADE REFERENCE TO THE PRESENCE OF THE SECOND PILOT. JCRC RECORDS INDICATE THAT THE SOURCE OF THIS REPORT MOST LIKELY SAW CAPT. FANNING.)

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

