

21 December 1972

NORTH VIETNAM
PHOTO INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING NOTES
ON
BRIEFING BOARD NO. DI-8-72-759

1. INSTALLATION: LAO CAI POSSIBLE PW CAMP, N-80

2.

3. COORDINATES : 22 29 58N 103 58 49E

4. This installation is located .5 kilometers from the Chinese border and one kilometer east of Lao Cai City.

5. The compound is approximately 400 x 300 feet, surrounded by a wall with a single entrance centered in the western wall. Two guard towers provide surveillance of the detention areas.

6. The installation is operational with two possible PW quarters and seven support/storage buildings located within the compound walls. In addition, cadre billets and support type buildings are located in the immediate area outside the southern and western walls. The facility is in an isolated location and is surrounded by rice fields and scattered villages. The camp has an approximate capacity for 60 prisoners.

7. Several hearsay reports have stated that a U.S. prisoner of war camp was located in the Lao Cai area. The physical security barriers, the isolated location and the interior containment walls segregating the possible PW quarters indicate this is a maximum security detention compound. Although the facility is currently operational, its occupancy by U.S. PWs cannot be determined.

8. Queries and/or comments on this product should be directed to DIA, Attention: DI-6C.

31 January 1980

2/4
 AM 6
 Called &
 advised
 1) we need
 info on
 143 SS
 we can
 start our
 action
 2) case #2
 sheffield
 14 place, in
 US (never a
 PW).

MEMORANDUM FOR DI-7

SUBJECT: Three PW/MIA CASES

1. SOURCE The former ARVAN officer who became a part of the resistance group. He formerly lived in Vien Chong province now Minh Hi Vinch. In August 1978, he with three other friends saw Americans in the Vinch Hu area that was known then as the "Forest of Darkness." He and his three friends were told not to enter the area because American POWs were kept there and no outsiders were to enter.

Sources: SSC
 SSC
 Telephone: SSD
 Address: SSD

2. Has to do with the dog tag that was allegedly turned over to some Congressman. It had the name of ROBERT C. SWEFELD, B blood Type O, Religion Lutheran.

Source: SSC
 SSD

3. Case 3 source claims to have knowledge of American POWs in the Soviet Union.

Source: SSC
 SSD

ROUTING		DATE		INITIALS	
DI-7	21	11/21/80			
PLANS					

At your convenience but with some degree of urgency, please provide me with a plan of action and milestones as to when these cases can be investigated/debriefed.

Jerry C. Tuttle
 JERRY C. TUTTLE
 Rear Admiral, USN
 Assistant Deputy Director
 for Defense Intelligence

Ann will be sending us additional info on these cases but let's start to work them.

Tel. SD

Jan. 28/80

FEB 4 1980

Dear Mrs Anh:

I wanted to write to you since a long time, but was too busy to get to it.

I was in the Navy of the former ARVN. I left Vietnam on March 23,79, after 8 days on the sea, I landed in Songkla, Thailand on April 1,79 and I came to the U.S.A. on July 25,79

While still in Vietnam, I was lucky not have been sent to faraway reeducation camps, thanks to my friend. I have a friend who has been reeducated in the Soviet Union because he was a Ph. D., when (1) he returned he talked to me about things in the Soviet Union. He mentioned that he has met a number of Americans also prisoners in the Soviet Union. They were doing forced labor, digging, hoeing climbing the mountains etc... in general doing hard labor like other prisoners and having very little to eat. The men were very thin, he s

At that time my friend told me, I did not know that the families of the POWs were looking for information, so I did not ask for names and so on. But I assure you and the League that there is no doubt in my mind that the American prisoners (who did not repatriate) were transferred to the Soviet Union.

I ask that you keep this info confidential. I cannot give you the name of my friend. He is still in Vietnam, now he is working for the Engineer Corps building bridge and roads in Binh Minh, Cuu Long province. He is waiting for a chance to escape or to overthrow the Communist government.

Signed SC

(1) The fact that the man was sent to the Soviet Union because he had a PH.D degree is rather unusual. My guess is that the man may have been educated in the Soviet bloc. Note of translator.

Morgan City January 28, 1980

Dear Mrs. Anh,

It is likely that you are not surprised to receive this letter. In fact, it has been quite some time that I wanted to write to your organization, but I had a little leisure time until today, to write, at the long last, to you (and your organization).

Let me first introduce myself: Seaman _____ of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam, recently escaped from the Communist captivity on March 23, 1979. After having drifted for 8 days on the high-seas, I touched land on April 1st, 1979 and settled at the Songkhla Camp in Thailand. Subsequently, I was relocated on July 25, 1979.

While still in Vietnam, I was fortunate enough not to be sent to a remote re-education camp like my other friends. One of those, a Ph.D. graduate, was dispatched to the Soviet Union for re-education. After his release from captivity and return to his home town, he told us about his time in captivity: while in the Soviet Union, he saw there quite a number of American prisoners. Those Americans were assigned to such work as digging, shoveling, ploughing, mountain climbing, etc..., in general, very hard labor, while having very little food to sustain themselves. Surely you know how they are in the Communist bloc. Anyway, most of the Americans presented swollen, drooping or sagging faces. At the time, I did not know about the current program of location and search for the MIA's, and therefore did not bother then to ask for names or other particulars of those prisoners. But I can show you (and your organization) that the remaining American prisoners leftover from the war have been transferred to the Soviet Union.

Dear Mrs. Anh, please understand and accept that I must keep my friend's name secret for safety reasons. Indeed, to earn a living while waiting for an opening in the future for himself, or to overthrow the Communists, my friend had hired himself as a "coolie" with the Bridge Department, at Route 1 Binh Minh, of Mekong Province, after his return from captivity.

All the above is the true report as told to me by my friend.

With all my wishes for success in your work, and for the families in search for their loved ones to be soon reunited with them.

Yours sincerely,

My current address is:

Signed: SOURCE

SD

Phone: SD

MFR

8 Feb 84

Subj: SC

There is a very strong probability that the individual this individual saw was the infamous Tony Hai. At the same time it is also possible that there is ~~another~~ Caucasian running around as a cyclo driver who was not Tony Hai but was rather a US military deserter and was synonymous with the individual reported by SSC (see her CC file) when she arrived in Bangkok on 22 Aug 75. In fact, her description matches more this source than other reports which correlate to Tony Hai. They may be all the same individual but I think it is worthwhile trying to run this one down to the bitter end if at all possible.

I~~me~~ asked Vicky D. today to check with the USAF to see if we can id Mrs. SSC retired USAF colonel husband who NAME seems to recall she had divorced some time in the past. - Expect a response in several weeks according to Vicky D.

Expect to call Sgt Triplett (48623) today at DSR to see if they can pull Mrs. SSC records to include those for her son if they can be located at all.

Lets see what happend.

Wick T.

0857



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR FORCE OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS DISTRICT 4 (AFOSI)
ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, MARYLAND 20331

11 AUG 1981

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: AFOSI Dist 4/IVOA (SA MARKS, 981-3635)

SUBJECT: HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM, Alleged Sighting of a Possible American Deserter
(yr Memo dated 17 Jun 81)

TO: Defense Intelligence Agency: POW/MIA
The Pentagon, VA

1. On 21 Jul 81, SC SD
, was interviewed by SA MARK S. HANNEMAN with the assistance of SD
DATA, who acted as interpreter. SC confirmed that she did in fact see NAME
a Caucasian male in Ho Chi Minh City during Jul 75 who claimed to be an American
deserter. SC was shown the attached photograph to reference and advised that
she could not say for sure if that was the individual she had seen as it had
been so long a period of time since the sighting and "all Americans look alike"
Upon further questioning SC stated the individual she saw did not have a beard
or long hair.

2. If we can be of assistance in the future please do not hesitate to call.

FOR THE COMMANDER

Gerald M. Ward
GERALD M. WARD, Lt Col, USAF
Chief, Criminal Investigations Division

Atch
Photograph of HAI

REFUGEE REPORT & EVALUATION

SOURCE DATA: SC

REFUGEE REPORT INTERVIEW NR & DATE: RP80-041, 3 Nov 80

ANALYST: MSgt. Duane D. Curtis

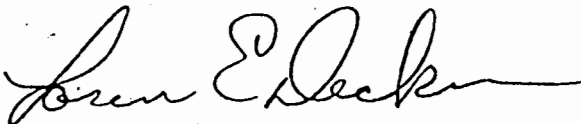
CROSS-REFERENCE(S):

CATEGORY DATA: Live Sighting/1st Hand Account

1. FINDINGS: Review of data supplied by the source reveals no correlation to data in JCRC files.

2. CORRELATE DATA: None.

3. BACKGROUND/COMMENTS: There are two individuals who might correlate to the "Caucasian American" allegedly observed by the refugee but, without further amplifying data, a correlation to either individual is not made. The two are Tran Huu Hai (Aka Tony Hai) and Peter Ivre. Both have been reported by other refugees to have worked as pedicab drivers after the Communist takeover. However, neither Hai or Ivre was a U.S. Deserter.



LOREN E. DECKER
LT, USN
Executive Officer

DISPOSITION: JCRC Liaison Office, Bangkok
JCRC A&S Files
OSD/ISA, PW-MIA Affairs

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

FOLLOW-UP:

0857

CIRPROFILE

PAGE 0073

MSGNO

11 (PCMX)

05/08/86 *09:03:24.4.1*

ZCZC 14:02:21Z (PC) -RUEALGX.

RITTSYUW RUEKJCS6105 1281221-

ZNY

R 081221Z MAY 86
FM JCS WASHINGTON DC

INFO RUEACHS/CHS-GRID/OCJCS

RUEADWW/NSC WASHINGTON DC

RUEADWD/OCSA WASHINGTON DC

RUEAATA/CNO WASHINGTON DC

RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC

RUEAATA/ANMCC FT RITCHIE MD

RUEALGX/SAFE

R 071757Z MAY 86

FM CDR JCRC BARBERS PT HI

TO RUMTBK/JCRC LIAISON BANGKOK TH

INFO RUHQHQA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J36//

RUEKJCS/DIA WASHINGTON <><>DC//VO-PW//<><>

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA//

RUEKJCS/JCS WASHINGTON DC//J5//

BT

EZ1:

SUBJ: EVALUATION OF RPT 185-021

A. JCRC LIAISON BANGKOK TH 261055Z APR 85 (NOTAL)

1. *Source* SOURCE OF REF A (185-021), PROVIDED LIMITED

HEARSAY INFORMATION CONCERNING AMERICAN PRISONERS HELD IN BEN GIA

CAMP DPTNO TO APRIL 1975.

2. WHILE JCRC IS AWARE OF U.S. PERSONNEL BEING HELD CAPTIVE

IN THE BEN GIA AREA, NO CORRELATION TO ANY SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS CAN

BE MADE

THIS IS A DETERMINED ANALYTICAL POSITION AND NOT A FINAL

*Source
SD*

CABLE, HONG KONG TO WASHINGTON,

1. BIO-DATA REPORTED IN REF, A, CLAIMED KNOWLEDGE OF VARIOUS TYPES OF INFORMATION. HIS ALLEGATIONS ON 50 AMERICANS BEING HELD IN LAOS, ON OPIUM PLANTING AT VINH AND AT SON LA WERE REPORTED AS MENTIONED IN REFS B, A AND C RESPECTIVELY.

2. OTHER INFORMATION WAS NOT YET REPORTED BECAUSE MUCH DISCREPANCY AND VAGUENESS WERE NOTED, AND WAS NOT STRAIGHTFORWARD DURING THE DEBRIEFING. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ SUSPECTED HE PRACTICED FABRICATION AND/OR EXAGGERATION. HIS DEBRIEFING WAS TEMPORARILY STOPPED TO CHECK HIS CREDIBILITY WITH OTHER REFUGEES. SOME OF THE LATTER ALLEGED *Source* ATTEMPT-OF DECEPTION AS FOLLOWS: *Source* USED HIS YOUNGER BROTHER'S IDENTITY TO BE ACCEPTED AS A FORMER SVN SOLDIER. CLAIM TO THE VIETNAMESE VETERANS' ASSOCIATION WAS INCOHERENT. REPORTED INFORMATION HE OBTAINED FROM OTHER REFUGEES AS HIS OWN; AND, WAS A CHEATER IN VIETNAM AND IN THE REFUGEE CAMP. * THE DEBRIEF

3. HAS TRIED TO PASS THE INFORMATION TO OTHER OFFICERS OF THE CONSULATE WHICH CONFLICTS WITH INFORMATION HE GAVE STATION. RECENTLY HE WROTE TO THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF POW/MIA FAMILIES, 1608 K STREET, NW, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006, AND LE THI ((ANH)), *DATA* COMMENT: ANH WAS AN ANTI-WAR ACTIVIST, U.S. CONGRESS EMPLOYEE, AND NOW A RESISTANCE MEMBER), CLAIMING POSSESSION OF MUCH INFORMATION ON AMERICAN MIA'S ALIVE AND DEAD, AND BLAMING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY FOR PREVENTING HIM TO HELP RESCUE THE POW'S OR RECOVER THE MIA'S REMAINS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BY HOLDING BACK HIS RESETTLEMENT TO THE USA. CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN TRAINED FOR SPECIAL OPERATIONS IN UTAPAO, THAILAND, IN MID-1967. Debrief

CABLE, WASHINGTON TO HONG KONG

1. HQS RECORDS DID NOT REVEAL ANY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION

ON

which was anti-SRV. There were FULRO resistance in the highlands who took care of the central highlands. There were additional resistance elements inside the PRC who operated along the PRC/SRV border. Those in the PRC were led by the following:

- (HOAN)
- HOANG VAN HUAN, former head of the SRV Communist Party Secretariat and Central Party Committee member.
- TRUONG NHU TAN^G, former Minister of Justice under the PRG.
- GENERAL CHU HUY MAN, former Deputy Commander, PAVN, later arrested by the SRV in 1981 on the PRC/SRV border reportedly with the assistance of his chauffeur.

f. Mr. _____ claimed he was knowledgeable in the following areas:

- POW camp at Hon Gai activated in 1972 to take U.S. PWs from 2 camps in Son La forced to move due to U.S. strategic bombing. This camp reportedly still contained U.S. PWs brought from Laos and Cambodia.
- SRV purchase of over 50 sets of remains recovered in South Vietnam by villagers and currently stored outside Hue City.
- Location of aircraft crashsites located by resistance forces during movement/target reconnaissance.
- SRV/USSR chemical factory for production of CW materials.
- PAVN units/deployment at all targets surveyed in central Vietnam to include ~~land~~_{naval}, ground, and air force units.
- Organization and activities of resistance forces in Central Vietnam.
- SRV narcotics production/shipment to Cuba.

6. After returning Mrs. Anh at _____ to Mrs. Anh's half-way house in _____
_____ asked/told privately he really wanted to talk about the opium smuggling from Vietnam to Cuba. I advised him there were many subjects I would like to discuss with him later without Mrs. Anh being present. He agreed to this although it was rather pro-forma. I had earlier discussed with Mrs. Anh my need to spend several days with _____ probably at the Pentagon, after 16 July 1984.

7. Mrs. Anh attempted to directly control my access to _____ whenever the subject was broached of DIA access to _____. It was obvious _____ was being controlled by Mrs. Anh, who has been taking him around Washington and elsewhere. He seems controlled by her more from the standpoint of ignorance than a co-conspirator.

Assigned to the Recon Co., RVN Ranger Command, General Reserve Force, 1st CTZ.

Underwent 3 months airborne training at Cam Ranh. Course discontinued. Made 3 jumps.

During 1970 went on two heliborne insertions into Laos. First time was cross-border as part of a 3 man team for one week to locate and track elements of the PAVN F111 Division then infiltrating from NVN into the Quang Tri Province area. Second time was to locate and track the PAVN 66th AAA Regiment equipped with 37MM guns infiltrating in the DMZ. During the second operation his team located PAVN engineers engaged in road work in support of the movement of the 66th Regiment. The PAVN unit was reportedly later attacked by elements of the RVNAF 2nd Airborne Brigade.

After these two operations was reassigned back to the 37th Ranger Battalion under the 12th Ranger Group (Lien Doan 12) and the 37th BN continued as general reserves for Mr. I. served as ~~DATA~~ until the fall of Da Nang in March 1975 as a company first sergeant then battalion.

On 23 March 1975 the 37th Battalion was at Tam Ky and forced to withdraw in the face of attacking PAVN. They withdrew to the Non Nuoc area at Da Nang where they joined a group withdrawn from Hue City including the Border Defense Rangers (new term for the former special forces after 1973), elements of the RVNAF 3rd Infantry Division and RVNAF marines. They were overrun on 27 March 1975 by PAVN armor including T-54, PT-76 and BTR-85. Thousands of RVNAF captives were moved in early April 1975 at Ai Tu and spent one year in a reeducation camp built there. It was a tremendous complex of sub-camps. was in Area 6, containing approximately 400 enlisted personnel. After capture claimed he was ~~Source Data~~ a former mechanic and RVNAF PFC recently drafted into the RVNAF and assigned to the 37th Ranger Battalion. He was released to return home in March 1976.

there seems to be a small fort, with a moat around and a fence made of pointed tree trunks, two rather large thatched houses with wooden walls; in the middle there is an outbuilding facing a narrow yard. Four big persons, whose faces could not be seen were heading from the outbuilding to the thatched house, accompanied by two small persons.

April 22, 1982

We left Thao La valley at 7 o' clock in the morning, headed towards the opposite direction, southeast, to return to the Vietnamese border, came back to Ho Chi Minh trail; at 9:15 on the sloping road, we saw 3 persons at the bottom of the mountain climbing up, the two persons ahead were big and dark skinned, carrying bags on their backs, the third person was small, short, carrying a gun. The Lao interpreter told us these were American prisoners doing their every day labor. The guide forced us to take another direction to go down the mountain before stepping into the forests in front of us and I borrowed the map of the team head to quickly jot down the details $(7 + 9 + 14) - (14 + 12 + 14) \times (2 + 4 + 19 + 7) (14 + 15) \times (20 + 4 + 8 + 3) - (7 + 18^2) (9^2) + (2 + 9 + 21)$. We wanted to follow the route according to the compass and in the next few days, the Lao cadre was our guide. The atmosphere here was quite peaceful.

April 26, 1982

We dismounted our tent and headed north along the upstream part of the river. We walked for two days, then saw a sparse forest of reborn trees (forest of budding Samon) with reborn Samon trees about 3 meters high. There is a village of Lao people here by the name of Thao La. The sparse forest is about two kilometers long, mixed with hills of bare rocks (the white kind of rock called Thach Anh). On the map, this area lies next to Dien Bien Phu, Vietnam, about 60 kilometers from the Vietnamese border towards Northeast. After this reborn forest there is a range of old forests. We had to climb through a steep mountain, pass through a small valley, behind which is the Thao La village. According to the Lao interpreter, this is a village of a Lao minority people who specializes in clearing up land for cultivation, planting strawberries, sericulture and weaving. There is here a prisoner camp confining American soldiers who committed crimes in Laos during the war before 1975; this camp has just been set up, confining about 50 Americans. We are told we could not come down there because of strict orders.

$(16 + 18^2) + (14 + 15 + 18 + 1 + 8) 20^\circ$ North.

$(5 + 1 + 8 + 3) \times (14 + 15 + 18 + 1 + 8) 104^\circ$ East.

$(23 + 4 + 1 + 7) - (21 + 19 + 9) 41$ Luang Brabang (E).

$(21 + 19 + 21 + 3) (23 + 4 + 1 + 8) (20 + 4 + 1 + 8) 34$ miles of Vietnamese border.

L1172-04

horrendous of all times. Since then, the free world seems to have been cut-off from those lands and kept in total ignorance about what is going on over there; there were no accurate information available on the real situation inside the Communist regime. The same uncertainty reigns on the fate of those of the Americans listed as Missing in Action during the Indochina war: the few sketchy informations supplied to you by Indochinese escapes who have reached freedom, have also failed to satisfy your expectations, since the details, as by those refugees provided, lacked precision in terms of geographical locations as well as site descriptions. In stating the above, our intention is not to puff up the quality of the informations we will offer you, but only to enable you to grab a thorough knowledge of so many problems.

Accordingly, I am enclosing herewith for your information a set of details on an American Prisoners of War camp, located in the North West part of Laos. We have seen the camp with our own eyes on the occasion of a special expedition of our Vietnamese Resistance Forces coordinating with the Royal Laotian Resistance Forces to obtain supplies, procurement, in mid-April of 1982.

The camp had then a prisoner population of about 50 Americans housed in 2 rows of barracks built in sturdy wood. Guard of the camp was secured by a Laotian Border Police Platoon garrisoned at the Ban (village) of Thao-La. The Ban itself was located at the bottom of a narrow valley, with a overhead of mountains thickly covered with Amou three forests, at about 90 kilometers West West North of the Laotian border with Vietnam.

Coordinates for the Camp are as follows:

Latitude : 20 degrees North
Longitude: 104 degrees West
Height : 41 above the Luang-Phrabang plane (Northern Laos), 62 kilometers off the Laotian border with Vietnam.

As for details and the reasons as well as the circumstances in which we were given to learn about the existence of that Camp, we will provide you with such data in our next letter, if you wish to know them.

In addition to the above information, we are in a position to supply you with many other data, such as sites of aircraft wrecks, grave sites for your relatives (killed in the Vietnam war), etc. Such burial sites are scattered all along the interminable Truong-Son Cordillera of steep mountains, where we have been passing through in the course of our marches. Some of the remains of the American pilots killed in action over North Vietnam, have been assembled and mounted into skeletons to serve as training tools for their medical students doing their internship at their hospitals.

In truth, it would be the most consistent if we could meet you in person directly and hand over our data to yourself after we are resettled in your country. Unfortunately, given the extremely restricted conditions set forth by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Services in their examination and processing of the refugee claims (despite our established condition of form

22 JUL 1987

RCE DATA:

UCR REPORT INTERVIEW NR & DATE: HK83-091, 6 Dec 83

LYST: *ANALYST*

SS REFERENCE (S): None

OTHER DATA: Live sighting/first-second hand accounts.

FINDINGS: Review of data supplied by the source reveals no correlation to data in JCRC files.

RELATE DATA: None

BACKGROUND/COMMENTS: In source's letter to the NLF, he wrote that he personally observed fifty U.S. PWs being held in Laos in April 1982. In the JCRC-LNB report, source's information on the fifty U.S. PWs is third hand. Furthermore, during an interview with SD [redacted], source reported hearsay information concerning the sighting of a total of six alleged U.S. PWs while in the JCRC-LNB report, source reported hearsay information on four U.S. PWs, two Asians and two blacks.



B. HARVEY
 , USA
 Commander

DISPOSITION: JCRC LIAISON OFFICE, BANGKOK
 JCRC A&S FILES
 OSD/ISA, PW-MIA AFFAIRS
 DIA, DC-2
 JCRC REFNO FILE:

*Debby Long
Reel 462*

BACKGROUND NOTES ON SON TAY

(Briefing Boards and Vugraphs #10 and #11)

OCT 69: This installation was initially identified as a possible PW camp from information contained in an Information Report. Source, a captured North Vietnamese soldier, reported seeing a camp for "U.S. Pilots" in the vicinity of Son Tay in September 1967. Search of Jul 69 METHOD revealed this installation at the precise location given by the source. The source, however, reported the camp enclosed by a barbed wire fence at the time of his observation in Sep 67, and METHOD shows the compound enclosed by a wall. * Sep 67 METHOD revealed that at that time there was no wall around the compound. Subsequently, the installation was DT as a possible PW camp.

DEC 69: METHOD reveals the compound wall was extended to accommodate two newly constructed buildings and an additional guard tower erected on the northwest corner.

APR 70:

METHOD

*avail
also all
to
Vietnam*

312 011 A

16th ~~24~~ 24

e Date

373-84-00094

Box 14

70/dec # 21

Release Date

DEC 8 1993

Det of Cong
Microfilm
(O) 92/300
Reel NO. 462

HIB & Company
Ref 461

Date: 18 August 1970

NORTH VIETNAM
BRIEFING NOTES
ON
BRIEFING BOARD NO. 8-70-1

1. INSTALLATION: BA VI Possible PW Camp, N-13
- 2.
3. LOCATION : 21-06-05N 105-25-05E
4. This installation is located on the north side of Route #213, 3.8 NM northeast of the peak of Mt. BA VI and 24.5 NM west-northwest of Hanoi. The Xom Ap Lo PW Camp, N-51 (BE 0616-01631), is located 5.3 NM to the northwest and the Son Tay PW Camp, N-69 (BE 0616-04929) is located 5.3 NM to the northeast.
5. Area "A", the possible PW compound, occupies an area approximately . The compound is reportedly surrounded by a barbed-wire fence, however, low precludes confirmation. Area "B", to the south of the compound and , is a possible messing facility believed to be associated with the PW compound. Area "C", on the south side of Route 213, is a possible Veterinary/Dairy Farm.
6. is an oblique view of the facility taken on 19 July 1970, 24 days after the briefing board . The general appearance of the buildings and grounds and the change in position of the three vehicles (annotation 15) in the . indicate this installation is currently active.
7. This installation agrees most favorably in location and description with a U.S. PW compound reportedly observed during the period February 1966 to March 1968. Source of the report stated that the installation was the "MOZEN" (MO CHEN) coffee plantation until 1958 when it was converted to a detention facility for captured French mercenaries. In 1962, the French mercenaries were allegedly repatriated and/or released to work on North Vietnamese farms. In mid-1965, the installation was reportedly activated as a PW camp for captured U.S. pilots. Other sources have reported the observation of a U.S. PW camp

in this general vicinity during the period January 1966 to January 1969. Although it is believed that this installation may have been a U.S. PW camp during that period, its current status and occupancy cannot be verified.

373-84-0093 Box 15

70/dec # ~~18~~ 19

Release Date

OCT. 8 1993

Sub of Cong
Reel 461

Date: 23 February 1967

NORTH VIETNAM
BRIEFING NOTES
ON
BRIEFING BOARD NO. 3-67-7

INSTALLATION: Ap Lo Possible PW Detention Installation N-51

LOCATION : 21 09 07N 105 20 28E

GENERAL : The installation is located approximately 7 statute miles south of the junction of the RED and BLACK Rivers; 2.75 statute miles southwest of the dam located at 21 10N 105 23E and .5 statute miles north of the AP LO Village.

The installation consists of two walled compounds and what appears to be a group of support-type buildings. The most northerly compound is about ^{DATA} with a guard tower at the northwest and southeast corners and a guard shack outside the southwest corner. The entrance is centered in the west wall. Outside of the compound, and built into the southeast corner of the wall, there is a small, walled area, which contains a building, ^{DATA}. Inside the compound there are 2 walls which connect to the east and west outer walls and divide the compound into 3 areas. Each area contains 3 buildings. Unconnected, blast-type walls separate one building from another.

The other walled compound, just southwest of the above, is about ^{DATA}. It has a guard tower at the northwest and southeast corners and one entrance centered in the east wall. A segregated area, ^{DATA}, located in the northeast corner of this compound contains one building about ^{DATA}. The rest of the compound is open and contains 4 buildings, 2 ^{DATA}.

Seven buildings which appear to be support-type, are located 75 to 100 yards south of the most northerly compound and east of the smaller walled compound. A trench system surrounds all of this area except one building which appears to be a mess hall.

DATA

Date: 24 January 1968

NORTH VIETNAM
BRIEFING NOTES
ON
BRIEFING BOARD NO. 1-68-23

1. INSTALLATION: Xom Ap Lo Ammunition Storage and PW Camp, N-51
2. *Damn*
3. LOCATION : 21 09 08N 105 20 31E
4. This briefing board updates and supplements previously issued Briefing Board No. 3-67-7.
5. This installation is confirmed as a detention area holding U.S. PWs.
6. *METHOD* 11
November 1965 and 29 August 1967, reveals previously unconnected blast-type walls running north/south through Area "A" have now been connected to the east/west walls thereby completely isolating each building in the compound.

Date: 23 March 1970

NORTH VIETNAM
BRIEFING NOTES
ON
BRIEFING BOARD NO. 3-70-3

1. INSTALLATION: Xom Ap Lo PW Camp, N-51
2. *0AM*
3. LOCATION : 21 09 08N 105 20 31E
4. This briefing board updates and supplements previously issued Briefing Boards, (BB) No. 3-67-7 and 1-68-23.
5. In January 1967, this installation was initially identified as a possible PW camp from fragmentary information that a detention facility for captured U.S. personnel was located approximately 65 kilometers west of Hanoi. At that time, this installation was being maintained in the Basic Encyclopedia (BE) as an inactive ammunition storage facility. With the confirmation of this installation as a PW camp for U.S. PWs, in April 1967, the facility was reactivated in the BE as Xom Ap Lo Ammunition Storage and PW Camp, N-51
METHOD resulted in the conclusion that the facility was no longer used for ammunition storage and that category was deleted from the BE and the name of the installation was changed, as shown in paragraph 1, above.
6. The installation was confirmed as an operational PW camp in 1965. Later reports indicated that it may have been abandoned in early 1967. Recent information indicates the camp was reactivated in late 1968. Photography tends to substantiate these reported changes in the status of this facility:
 - a. Highly reliable reports received in early 1967 confirmed this facility was being utilized as an active U.S. PW camp as early as the fall of 1965. *METHOD* of November 1965 (BB No. 3-67-7) reveals the installation operational with trails and grounds around the buildings cleared of vegetation.
 - b. In mid-1967, it was reported that all U.S. PWs at Xom Ap Lo allegedly were moved into Hanoi. In addition, the U.S. PWs released in August 1969 reported rumors that an unidentified

PW camp, about 40 miles west of Hanoi, was closed in February 1967. Although not confirmed, the unidentified PW camp they referred to may have been Xom Ap Lo. Photography of August 1967 (BB No. 1-68-23) reveals a substantial decrease in activity at Xom Ap Lo with trails and grounds around buildings overgrown with vegetation.

c. In late 1969, reliable sources reported U.S. PWs were being detained in an unidentified camp in the vicinity of Xom Ap Lo. ~~map~~ of 1969, used for this briefing board, reveals the installation again operational with trails and grounds cleared of vegetation and new construction evident since August 1967.

7. (S) In view of the above, this installation is now being carried as a currently active camp for U.S. PWs.

8. (S) Description:

General: The installation covers an ~~map~~ ^{DATA} in the western part of Ha Tay Province. Xom Ap Lo, 0.5 NM to the south, is the nearest identifiable village and Son Tay, the administrative center for Ha Tay Province, is 9.5 NM due east. Prominent landmarks in the vicinity of the camp are Mt. Ba Vi (alt. 4,300 ft.) 6.0 NM to the south, the Black River, 2.5 NM to the west and a large, unidentified dam, 2.0 NM to the east. The camp consists of two walled compounds and a number of support facilities; the information listed below is keyed to the annotations on the briefing board:

a. Area "A": This area contains a walled compound, about ~~map~~ with a guard tower at its southeast and northwest corners. Inner walls divide the compound into 9 squares giving it the appearance of a "tick-tack-toe" board. Each square contains a single building. Outside the southeast corner of the compound, there is a small walled area containing a single building. A small thatched roof building surrounded by a fence is just off the center of the east wall.

b. Area "B": This walled compound is about ~~map~~ ^{DATA} with a guard tower at its southeast and northwest corners. Inside the compound, two areas have been segregated by inner walls - one, in the northeast corner, and the second, along the north wall, each contains one building.

c. Area "C": This area contains support and quarters-type buildings which apparently are used by the camp cadre. Additional evidence of increased activity at this facility is the new construction noted since 29 August 1967 (BB No. 1-68-23):

(1) Buildings annotated "1" were first noted on
METHU of 20 October 1968 (Mission GS S69).

(2) Buildings annotated "2" were first noted on
METHU of 27 January 1969 (Mission GS S103).

(3) Buildings annotated "3" and the dam "4" were first
noted or METHU used for this briefing board.

Date: 7 February 1972

NORTH VIETNAM
BRIEFING NOTES
ON
BRIEFING BOARD NO. 8-71-857

1. INSTALLATION: XOM AP LO PW Camp, N-51
2. DATA
3. LOCATION : 21 09 08N 105 20 31E
4. This briefing board updates and supplements previously issued Briefing Boards No. 3-70-3, 1-68-23, and 3-67-7.
5. In January 1967, this installation was initially identified as a possible PW camp from ^{MC740} information that a detention facility for captured U.S. personnel was located approximately 65 kilometers from HANOI. Highly reliable reports received in 1967 confirmed that this installation was being utilized as an active U.S. PW Camp as early as the fall of 1965.
6. The installation appears to have reacted to the SON TAY SAR effort of 21 Nov 70. A few days after the SON TAY SAR effort, ^{MC740} revealed newly constructed perimeter defenses, i.e., fighting trenches and Automatic Weapons positions, around Xom Ap Lo, while no such construction was noted around other military facilities. It is reasoned that HANOI was taking steps to thwart other possible SAR efforts to rescue U.S. PWs.
7. The eight fence-enclosed areas located around the small pond in the southern part of the installation have been constructed since September 1970. This and the construction in progress in Area B, in addition to the trails and grounds around the buildings which are cleared of vegetation reveal that the installation is still operational.