



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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13 June 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Lt. General Donald V. Bennett, USA
Director
Defense Intelligence Agency

SUBJECT : Sighting of a U.S. POW in Quang Binh
Province, North Vietnam.

We are forwarding the attached report through this channel because it may involve a change of status for an MIA. The report has been given limited dissemination in the field and no Washington distribution other than that listed below; however, there are no inherent restrictions on the report and further dissemination may be at the discretion of the service concerned.

Attachment

CS 317/09062/72 |

cc: Admiral Epes
Admiral Rectanus
Admiral Whitmire
Admiral Murphy
Colonel Iles
Colonel Allen
Colonel Quillian ✓
Captain Harris
Mr. Negroponte
Mr. Sieverts

Content UNCLASSIFIED

REF ID: A58375

DATE: 5 MAY 1977

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13 June 1972

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Sighting of U.S. Prisoner of War, Quang Binh Province,
North Vietnam

1. At about 1800 hours on 10 April 1972, four women were observed carrying an American on a stretcher in the vicinity of XD978834 in Vinh Linh District, Quang Binh Province, North Vietnam, apparently in the direction of an ambulance parked nearby. According to the women, the American was a U.S. pilot who had bailed out of his aircraft and was captured in the jungle west of Vinh Linh District on the morning of 9 April. One of the women said he was a captain, and that he had been wounded by shrapnel from the artillery shell which hit his aircraft, but it was only a flesh wound which would heal in two or three weeks.

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She said he had been given first aid treatment immediately after his capture. Observed from a distance of about one meter, the pilot was wearing a gray flight suit and appeared to be about 70 inches tall, 27 or 28 years old, with brown curly hair and a dark complexion. His weight could not be estimated, but the women complained that he was heavy to carry. No rank or insignia was visible.

2. | Comment: When shown pictures provided by the Joint Personnel Recovery Center (JPRC) of pilots missing in action in early April 1972, | stated that the prisoner most resembled First Lieutenant Bruce C. Walker, SSN 238-80-2405, but the prisoner's complexion was darker. According to JPRC, however, | was captured before Walker was missing in action. The closest correlation with | information is Captain Larry F. Potts, who is listed as missing in action on 7 April at XD195655.)

3. From 2 to 10 April, the 102nd Regiment of the 308th North Vietnamese Army (NVA) Division was camped near the Nui Thi Ve high point (XD936881) in Quang Binh Province for rest before continuing its infiltration into South Vietnam. On 10 April, the Regiment broke camp and traveled by truck to XD978839 along Route 193, where a new road was being constructed west-southwest, through a plantation, and then south parallel to Route 193. An ambulance was parked at XD978839, where the troops left the trucks to travel by foot, apparently waiting for the women to bring the U.S. prisoner.

4. |

