

MEMORANDUM

copy

TO : DFOD via ABM, SOM/UDN
FROM : OPSP Jeff A. Blanchford FIC/UDN
SUBJECT : Trip Report "Up-Country" 9-10 May 1969

DATE: 15 May 1969

REF. No. FIC-69-017

On 9 May I visited FIC/VTE for the purpose of comparing site data and the latest Order of Battle information. This was accomplished during the morning.

The rest of the day was spent talking with the Air Support customer and the Senior Operations Specialist. It was agreed that FIC/UDN could not really furnish sensitive information to FIC/VTE until the area was put on a restricted basis. The parties concerned were seeking the necessary approval.

Late that afternoon I returned to Udorn.

The next day I went to LS20A and met with the customers for most of the morning. They assigned briefing teams to appraise me of each tactical situation of interest to the company. I was most impressed with this briefing approach, since a few months ago briefings had been presented on an improvised basis.

That afternoon I went to Xieng Khong Ville (L03), a key town in the southern Plannes De Jarres which just been wrested from the North Vietnamese. There were still small brush fire fights taking place and an NVA counter offensive seemed imminent. But the area near the strip was, for the moment, safe.

Friendly soldiers were collecting weapons, machinery, trucks, documents, and other printed matter. Other troops were destroying large caves which hid untold stores of supplies, too much to be transported out of the area by friendlies. Others were finishing the job of devastating the town, the population of which had been approximately 7000.

I talked with local commanders who showed me captured documents and photos of interest. Included was a picture of AAM crewmen De Bruin, Pisdhi, Prasit Promsuwan, Prasit Thani, and Y. C. Toh all of whom had been captured by the Pathet Lao several years ago. The photo was taken in an area North East of Tchepone (L38) in Sept. 1964, by North Vietnamese. It had been found in the house of a North Vietnamese who had fled Xieng Khong Ville.

I later returned to Udorn via LS05 and LS20.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: 12-Aug-2011

As a matter of note I talked with Mr. Pisdhi, who had escaped the PL, on the photo discussed. He had just attempted an escape and had killed two guards. For this he was tortured. He felt that all but Mr. Toh were in a state of health and mind that would allow them to survive even up to now. (Last fall the Bangkok Post carried an article stating that the NVA was considering releasing De Bruin.)

s/Jeff A. Blanchford

Jeff A. Blanchford
OPSP FIC/UDN

Attach: One Photo

cc: STI/VTE
Som/UDN
File

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