

12-68

W FILE / SUB. U
DATE SUB-CAT.
12/04

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. COUNTRY: VS, RVN MR-3, BIEN HOA Province | 8. REPORT NUMBER: 6 029 0003 71 |
| 2. SUBJECT: (U) Enemy Fortifications, D-2 Bn. SR-4 | 9. DATE OF REPORT: 5 Jan 71 |
| 3. ISC NUMBER: 788.650 787.900 787.000 789.000 | 10. NO. OF PAGES: 9 |
| 4. DATE OF INFORMATION: Sep 68 to Aug 70 | 11. REFERENCES: DIRM: 1N6, 1Q3, 1Q4b, 4D3b SICR: U-UPE-U1785 |
| 5. PLACE AND DATE OF ACQ: CMIC, SAIGON, VS 28 Dec 70 | 12. ORIGINATOR: US Element, CMIC, USMACV |
| 6. EVALUATION: SOURCE <u>F</u> INFORMATION <u>6</u> | 13. PREPARED BY: STEVEN D. HOHENSEE SP5, USA |
| 7. SOURCE: Returnee Interrogation | 14. APPROVING AUTHORITY: <i>[Signature]</i> W. H. BEARDSLEY LTC, USA Dir, US Elm, CMIC |

15. SUMMARY: (Leave Blank)

(C) This report contains information concerning the type of bunker used by the D-2 VC Inf Battalion, LONG THANH District, BIEN HOA Province, RVN. These bunkers were used for living quarters, protection against air and ground attack, and for camouflage. Included is detailed information on the design, material used, construction methods, and camouflage technique.

1. (C) Background Information:

a. Name: TRAN VAN MOT (TRAANL, VEAN MOOTV), aka NGUYEN TIEN NGAN (NGUYEENX, TIEENS NGAAN), CMIC 3258-70

b. Rank: None (VC)

c. Position and Unit of Assignment: Asst Plat Ldr; Recon Plat, D-2 VC Inf Bn, SR-4

d. DPOB: 22 Dec 44; PHU HUU Village, NHON TRACH District, BIEN HOA Province, RVN

HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR ON MICROFILM

e. Parents' Names: Father, TRAN VAN LIA (TRAANL, VEAN LIAS), deceased; Mother, PHAM THI HUONG (FAMV, THIV HUOWNG), deceased

f. Circumstances of Return. On 30 Aug 70, Source and nine other men were assigned the mission to procure rice at PHUOC LAI Village, NHON TRACH District, BIEN HOA Province, RVN. When they arrived near Highway 15, Source told the others that he would move forward to reconnoiter the area. Instead, Source went to LONG PHUOC Village, LONG THANH District, BIEN HOA Province, where GVN elections were being held, and rallied to an ARVN officer.

g. Significant Activities. In Apr 61, Source joined the VC and was assigned to the New Recruit Training School, located in the jungle of NHON TRACH District, BIEN HOA Province, RVN, where he received two months of infantry and political training. Upon completion of the training, Source was assigned to escort NAM HA (NEAM, HAL), a civilian, who contacted personnel connected with the NHON TRACH District, Party Committee. In late 1961, Source was assigned as Asst Sqd Ldr, Trans Plat, Rear Service Staff, MR-1, located near the SONG BE River in War Zone D. In Nov 67, Source was transferred as Asst Sqd Ldr to the Trans Plat, Rear Service Staff, SR-4. On 19 Sep 68, Source was transferred to the Recon Plat, D-2 VC Inf Bn, SR-4. On 21 Aug 70, he was promoted to Asst Plat Ldr of the Recon Platoon. Source rallied to the GVN on 30 Aug 70.

h. Additional References: CMIC PW/Rallier Exploitation Guide; Maps: VIETNAM, AMS Series L7014, Sheets 6330 I, 6430 III, and 6430 IV, Edition 1, dtd 1965, Scale 1:50,000

2. (C) Enemy Fortifications of the D-2 Bn, SR-4. The following is in response to SICR U-UPE-U1785 (Enemy Fortifications):

(1) Design Standards and Specifications:

(a) Construction. All of the bunkers used by Source's unit utilized the same T-shaped design. The main part of the bunker was a rectangular excavation, measuring (1.6m x 3m x 1.6m deep). The walls were constructed vertically to both the floors and the ceiling. The bunker had two entrances, both of which were located at the same end of the bunker, and extended from the sides in opposite directions. Each entrance measured (1m long x .6m wide). Three steps located within each entrance provided access to the bunker from the ground level. The bunker had a Quonset-shaped roof, which measured (.6m deep) at its thickest part, which was located over the center of the bunker. Several wooden posts were located within the bunker; these posts supported the roof and also provided supports from which personnel living in the bunker could string their hammocks. The number of posts determined the number of hammocks that could be strung inside the bunker. A four-man bunker was supported by four posts; a six-man bunker was supported by six posts. Each bunker was equipped with the nylon material needed to erect a rain shelter. For additional information on this shelter, see paragraph 2.(6).

2. SUBJECT: (U) Enemy Fortifications,
D-2 Bn. SR-4

9. DATE OF REPORT: 5 Jan 71

3. ISC NUMBER: 788.650 787.900
787.000 789.000

10. NO. OF PAGES: 9

11. REFERENCES: DIRM: 1N6, 1Q3, 1Q4b, 4D3b
SICR: U-UPE-U1785

4. DATE OF INFORMATION: Sep 68 to Aug 70

12. ORIGINATOR: US Element, CMIC, USMACV

5. PLACE AND DATE OF ACQ: CMIC, SAIGON, VS
28 Dec 70

13. PREPARED BY: STEVEN D. HOHENSEE
SP5, USA

6. EVALUATION: SOURCE F INFORMATION 6

14. APPROVING AUTHORITY:

7. SOURCE: Returnee Interrogation

[Signature]
W. H. BEARDSLEY
LTC, USA
Dir, US Elm, CMIC

15. SUMMARY:

(Leave Blank)

(C) This report contains information concerning the type of bunker used by the D-2 VC Inf Battalion, LONG THANH District, BIEN HOA Province, RVN. These bunkers were used for living quarters, protection against air and ground attack, and for camouflage. Included is detailed information on the design, material used, construction methods, and camouflage technique.

1. (C) Background Information:

a. Name: TRAN VAN MOT (TRAANL, VEAN MOOTV), aka NGUYEN TIEN NGAN (NGUYEENX, TIEENS NGAAN), CMIC 3258-70

b. Rank: None (VC)

c. Position and Unit of Assignment: Asst Plat Ldr; Recon Plat, D-2 VC Inf Bn, SR-4

d. DPOB: 22 Dec 44; PHU HUU Village, NHON TRACH District, BIEN HOA Province, RVN

16. DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR:

17. DOWNGRADING DATA:

18. ATTACHMENT DATA:

DIA 1 cy
DIRNSA 1 cy
SAC 1 cy
CINCPAC 1 cy
CINCPAC AF 2 cys
CINCUSARPAC 2 cys
COMUSMACTHAI 1 cy
MACJ212-2 2 cys
MACJ213-1 1 cy
MACJ23 1 cy
MACJ23 1 cy

GROUP 3
DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS
NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED
THIS DOCUMENT IS RELEASABLE TO
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AND FREE
WORLD MILITARY ASSISTANCE
FORCES

None

06.15

16 0003 71

6. 000

(b) Location. Several factors influenced the selection of the location of the bunker. There had to be several trees located within a (6m x 4m) area. The soil had to be cohesive and easy to excavate; soil that was rocky or very wet was unsuitable. There had to be adequate flora in the area in order to be able to effectively camouflage the bunker.

(2) Material Used in Construction:

(a) Tools. The reconnaissance platoon, of which Source was assistant platoon leader, had one pick and one treesaw. These two tools were used in the construction of the bunker. The pick was manufactured in the US (Source had seen the letters "USA" stamped on the metal part of the tool), had a wooden handle, and a metal head. The tree-saw had two wooden handles, one on either end of a metal blade.

(b) Materials Used in the Construction of the Bunker. The walls and the floor of the bunker were made of earth. The roof was composed of earth, leaves, small branches, and wooden logs. The rain canopy consisted of a large square of nylon; vines were used to fasten the canopy to the nearby trees. Local vegetation was used for camouflage, which usually included grass, trees, leaves, and other plants growing in the area.

(3) Construction and Excavation Methods:

(a) First Step. After selecting the location of the bunker, the vegetation growing in the area that was to be excavated was removed. Small trees, bushes, and other small plants such as grass, were pulled out of the soil by hand and put to the side of the work area for later use as camouflage.

(b) Second Step. The excavation of the bunker and procurement of the wooden supports were performed simultaneously:

1 Excavation. The excavation was begun after the camouflage material had been removed from the work area. The area to be occupied by the bunker was then hollowed out. There was no special procedure for performing the excavation; the method of digging was selected by the personnel performing the excavation. Earth was excavated by means of a pick. The point of the pick was used to chip pieces of earth loose; the flat end of the pick was used to shovel the loose earth out of the hole. Loose earth was placed to the side of the work area.

2 Procurement of Wooden Supports for the Construction of the Bunker. The work of obtaining the logs to be used as structural supports was begun at the same time as the excavation of the bunker. The logs were obtained from trees in the surrounding forest area, within close range of the work site. The trees that were selected were of a similar size and shape to the wooden support desired. A saw was used to cut these trees down, and also to trim them, if necessary. After all of the logs had been cut, they were carried back to the bunker area.

(c) Third Step. After the excavation of the bunker area and the procurement of wooden supports were completed, the logs were set in place. The first logs to be set in place were the four upright posts, located in the corners of the bunker. These posts were pounded approximately 5cm into the ground; the pick or another log was used as a hammer. The horizontal log was then placed across the center of the bunker. The last supports to be set in place were the 16 logs that formed the ceiling of the bunker. These logs were laid beside each other in a lengthwise direction from one end of the bunker to the other. At this time, a small earth ridge was formed around each of the bunker entrances in order to prevent water from flowing into the bunker.

(d) Fourth Step. After all of the wooden supports had been properly placed, the larger holes and cavities between the 16 ceiling support logs were filled. Grass, leaves, and small branches were used to fill all of the openings that were large enough to allow clumps of earth to fall through into the bunker.

(e) Fifth Step. At this time, the support logs on the top of the bunker were covered with the earth that had been excavated from the bunker cavity. The earth was packed down, by tamping it with logs and by walking on it and then shaped into a smooth mound.

(f) Sixth Step. After covering the logs with earth, the bunker was camouflaged. All of the vegetation that had been saved was replanted on the top of the bunker and around the two entrances. This was done so that the vegetation blended in with the surrounding flora. The procedure for transplanting the uprooted bushes and small trees was to scoop out a hole large enough to contain the roots of the plant, place the plant in the hole, and then replace the earth around the roots and the stem of the plant. Grass, bushes, and small trees were transplanted in clumps in the same manner.

(g) Seventh Step. After the construction of the bunker had been completed, extraneous material was removed from inside the bunker area and from the outside area around the bunker. This material included excessive vegetation, rocks, loose earth, and pieces of wood. Personnel moved their personal belongings into the bunker and strung their hammocks at this time. Debris was taken to an area approximately eight meters from the bunker area, and dumped at the base of a tree. The foliage of the tree made the debris hard to detect from the air.

(4) Disposition of Soil from Bunker Construction. All of the soil that was displaced during the bunker construction was replaced on the roof after its completion. For further information on the disposal of debris, see paragraph (3)(g), above.

(5) Camouflage Material Used and Camouflage Technique:

(a) Material Used for Camouflage. Camouflage material for the bunker was selected from the vegetation growing in the bunker area, prior to starting construction. This material

consisted of grass, bushes, small trees, and other plants that could effectively help to conceal the bunker. Large trees, stones, and dead vegetation were not used for camouflage. Small trees were used primarily for the camouflaging of the two bunker entrances. Each entrance was usually camouflaged by several small trees; each of these trees was usually from one to two meters high.

(b) Camouflage Technique. A primary consideration in camouflaging the bunker was that the vegetation used for camouflage had to be in good condition. If the vegetation used for camouflage was badly damaged, the bunker was detectable from the air; also, the vegetation would die. Dead vegetation could not be used as camouflage material. Therefore, all vegetation that was to be used for camouflage material had to be removed from the soil carefully, so as not to damage the plant. If necessary, water was poured on the ground to make the soil soft; this facilitated the work of removing plants for use as camouflage material. Plants were pulled from the ground by hand, with the roots left intact. If the roots were not severely damaged, the plant had a much better chance of living after being transplanted. All severely damaged vegetation was discarded. After the bunker was completed, vegetation that had been saved for use as camouflage was transplanted on the top of the bunker, near the two entrances, and in any other area near the bunker where camouflage was necessary. Small trees were transplanted before bushes; bushes were transplanted before grass and other small plants. The object of the camouflage was to blend the newly constructed bunker in with the surrounding area.

(6) Drainage. There was no drainage system located inside the bunker. However, the elevated ridge of earth bordering the two entrances prevented water from entering these entrances. The piece of nylon that could be suspended over the top of the bunker prevented rain from falling onto the roof and seeping through into the bunker.

(7) Ventilation System. There was no special apparatus for providing the bunker with ventilation. The two entrances permitted an adequate air flow through the bunker.

(8) Geology and Soil Composition. The soil in the bunker area was composed of small particles of tan-colored earth. The soil was cohesive, but dry, except immediately after a heavy rainfall. Source did not think the soil was very fertile, because vegetation in the bunker area was sparse. The soil was not rocky.

(9) Utilities:

(a) Water. There were two streams near Source's unit. Both of these streams were used as a source of water for the D-2 Battalion. Personnel did not always boil this water before drinking. The water in these two streams was clear, and did not contain debris of other pollutants that had to be filtered before drinking.

(b) Electricity. There was no electric power available at the D-2 Bn. The reconnaissance platoon had several flashlights.

These flashlights and the flashlight batteries were purchased by the Rear Service Section of the D-2 Battalion at BINH SON Village.

(c) Sewage Disposal. Source's unit produced very little garbage that had to be disposed of or removed. Some refuse was produced by the operations of cooking and eating; this refuse was dumped at the base of a nearby tree. All cooking and eating was done in an area outside the bunker, usually located at a distance of approximately one or two meters from the bunker.

(10) Location. The D-2 Battalion and its subordinate units, including source's platoon, were located approximately seven kilometers southeast of BINH SON Village, LONG THANH District, BIEN HOA Province, (vic YS239898). The D-2 Battalion area was approximately (70m) square. BINH SON Village was located (vic YS211937). The D-2 Battalion was located between two streams; these were the SUOI RAU Stream (vic-YS2289), and the SUOI CA Stream (vic YS239898). The reconnaissance platoon was located approximately 200 meters south of the SUOI RAU Stream. The subordinate units of the D-2 Battalion that were located in the (70m) square area mentioned above were: Bn Hq, Rear Service Section, Signal Platoon, Reconnaissance Platoon, and Companies C1, C2, and C3.

(11) Purpose. A bunker was constructed for several reasons:

(a) In Order to Provide Protection from Air Attack. A bunker could not protect personnel within against a direct hit from a bomb, but could stop or deflect shrapnel or debris from exploding bombs.

(b) In Order to Provide Living Quarters for Personnel. A bunker provided living quarters for four to six personnel; in addition a bunker provided protection from the sun and the rain.

(c) In Order to Provide Camouflage. A bunker provided camouflage for personnel and personal effects against enemy detection. Source considered the primary function of the bunker to be living quarters for personnel. The second most important function was protection from air attack.

(12) Estimated Size of Occupying Unit. Each bunker was capable of holding from four to six personnel. See paragraph (3) for additional information on the capacity of the individual bunker. Source's platoon was subordinate to the D-2 Battalion, which was comprised of approximately 160 men. Source did not know how many bunkers these personnel occupied.

(13) Type of Material Cached in Bunkers. Each person kept approximately one liter of rice, his weapon (AK-47), and personal effects within the bunker (NFI).

(14) Estimated Age. All of the bunkers in the D-2 Battalion area were approximately two years old. Source believed that if not attacked or damaged, a bunker would last approximately four years. The bunkers belonging to the reconnaissance platoon were all constructed in Sep 68.

(15) How Defended. Source did not know of any prearranged defensive plan for use during an air or ground attack, on the part of either his platoon or his battalion. If his unit had been attacked by air, Source would have entered the nearest available bunker. If attacked by ground forces, Source would have run in the opposite direction. Source did not know of any weapons which could have been used in an active defense other than the individual weapons of personnel, which were AK-47s. Source did not know of any booby traps in the battalion area.

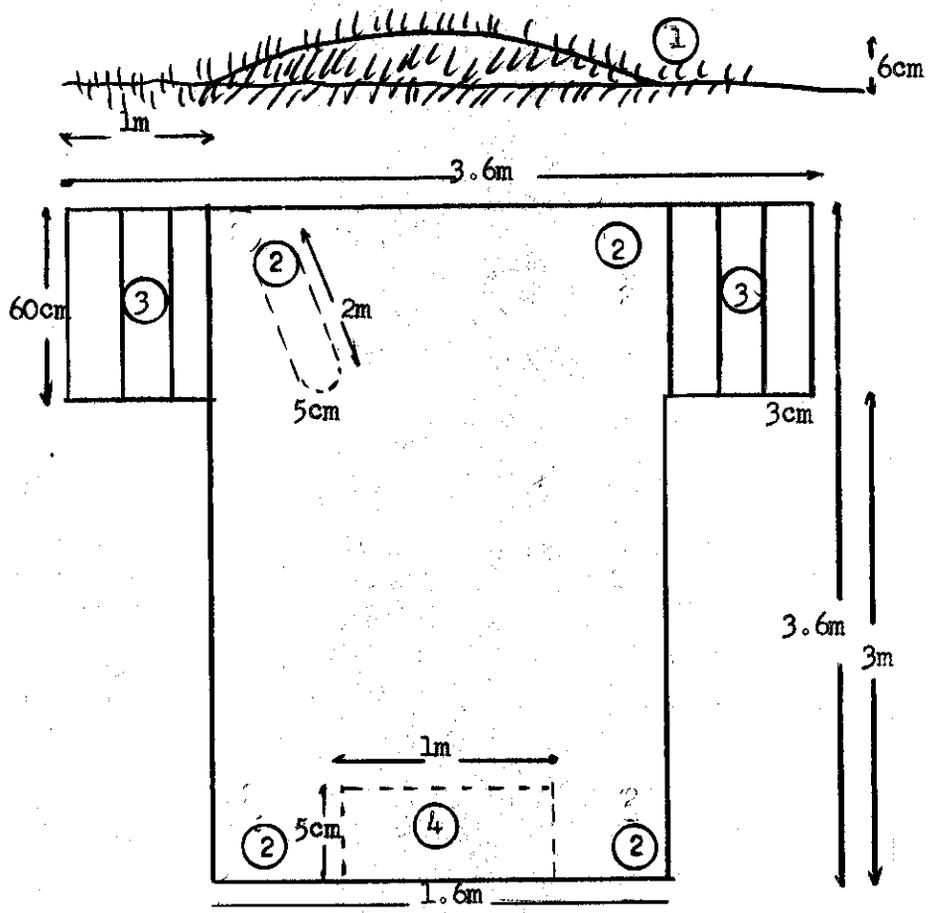
(16) Normal Work Force and Time Used for Construction:

(a) Work Force. The normal work force for the construction of one bunker consisted of the personnel who would be living in the bunker after its completion. This consisted of from four to six personnel. During the initial construction, the work force was divided into two equal groups, one which worked in the bunker area, and one which was responsible for the cutting of the necessary wooden supports. Each group usually consisted of two or three men. The group of men that worked in the bunker area worked in shifts during the excavation; one man worked at a time, since there was only one effective digging tool available. The group of men that was responsible for the cutting of the wooden supports all worked together at the same time. After the initial phases of construction were completed, all personnel worked together.

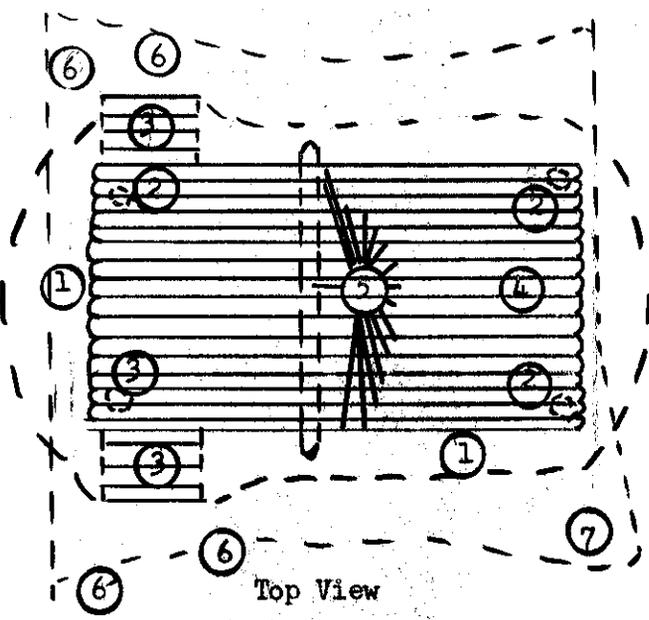
(b) Time taken for Construction. The construction of a bunker took approximately one working day. Source estimated this construction time to be about eight hours. The cutting of trees and excavation took approximately four hours. The remaining four hours were devoted to the completion of the bunker. Personnel normally moved into a bunker the same day that construction began.

(c) COMMENTS: Source was very uncooperative, and thought that the interrogation was too lengthy. Source seemed to be of high intelligence, but was uneducated. Many of the bunkers in the D-2 Bn were destroyed when Source led a THAI battalion to that area after he had rallied in late Sep 70. This report partially satisfies the requirements of SICR U-UPE-UL785. Collection action continues.

Sketch of bunker used by the D-2 Bn, as provided by returnee,
NGUYEN VAN MOT, CMIC 3256 (DOI: Sep 70) (Not to Scale)



Schematic View



Top View

Legend:

1. Camouflage covering the bunker roof
2. Upright support posts
3. Steps
4. Area for personal effects
5. Logs forming the bunker ceiling
6. Small trees used for camouflaging the bunker entrances
7. Nylon rain canopy