

SUB UNIT ONE
1st Air and Naval Gunfire Liaison Company
Fleet Marine Force
APO San Francisco 96309

1/JHC/tjt
5830 -
7 Apr 1972

From: Officer in Charge
To: Major Edward J. DYER, JR. DATA '0802/0840 USMC

Subj: Investigation to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the Missing in Action status of Corporal James F. WORTH 213 56 21 83/2531 USMC, on 1 April 1972 at Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam

Ref: (a) JAG Manual
(b) MARCORCASPROCMAN, par 7004

1. You are hereby appointed to conduct an informal investigation, in accordance with chapter VI of reference (a), as soon hereafter as practicable, for the purpose of inquiring into all the circumstances connected with the subject matter.

2. You will conduct a thorough investigation into all the circumstances attending this missing in action status and report your findings of fact, opinions and recommendations based on the facts derived from the investigation.

3. Your completed report of investigation will be submitted to this Headquarters (Unit Adj) not later than 16 April 1972. The report will be submitted in letter form (see page A-6-b (1) and (2) of reference (a)), in an original and four copies, complete with all enclosures thereto. Further, you are directed not to release this investigation or any part thereof, to anyone, outside of the Naval Service.

D Wayne Gray
D'WAYNE GRAY

Copy to:
CMC (DNA)

ENCLOSURE (1) 51

SUB UNIT ONE
1st Air and Naval Gunfire Liaison Company
Fleet Marine Force
APO San Francisco 96309

EJD/tjt
5830
16 Apr 1972

From: Major Edward J. DYER, Jr. DATA '0802 USMC
To: Officer in Charge, Sub Unit One, 1st ANGLICO, FMF, APO San Francisco 96309

Subj: Investigation to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the Missing in Action status of Corporal James F. WORTH DATA 2531 USMC, on 1 April 1972 at Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam.

Ref: (a) JAG Manual
(b) MARCORCASPROCMAN, par 7004

- Encl: (1) OIC, Sub Unit One, 1st ANGLICO, FMF, written appointing order of 7 Apr 1972.
(2) Statement of fact obtained from Sergeant James L. NEWTON DATA /0849 USMC
(3) Statement of fact obtained from Lance Corporal Daryle L. GROUNDS DATA /2531 USMC
(4) Statement of fact obtained from Lance Corporal Kent A. BEOUGHIER DATA /0849 USMC
(5) Statement of fact obtained from First Lieutenant Joel B. EISENSTEIN DATA /0802 USMC
(6) Statement of fact obtained from First Lieutenant Robert SHERIDAN DATA U. S. Army
(7) Statement of fact obtained from Warrant Officer Benny M. NIELSEN DATA U. S. Army
(8) Statement of fact obtained from Sergeant James W. LOHE DATA U. S. Army
(9) Statement of fact obtained from First Lieutenant John M. THOENS DATA /0302/0805 USMC
(10) Statement of fact obtained from Chief Warrant Officer John H. COLE Jr. DATA 3/0130 USMC
(11) OIC, Sub Unit One, 1st ANGLICO, FMF message 020856Z Apr 1972
(12) Diagram of scene of 1 April 1972 emergency extraction
(13) Photograph of scene of 1 April 1972 emergency extraction

EJD/tjt
16 Apr 1972

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b) an investigation to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the missing in action status of Corporal James F. WORTH USMC has been completed. The difficulties encountered in conducting this investigation are significant:

a. The position where Corporal WORTH was last seen is 12,000 meters behind enemy lines at this time (A-2 outpost, Gio Linh, Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam.)

b. First Lieutenant David C. BRUGGEMAN USMC who was last seen with Corporal WORTH was killed in action at the time of Corporal WORTH's disappearance.

c. The ARVN unit which occupied A-2 was completely decimated. Only one survivor has been identified and questioned about Corporal WORTH.

d. Overflights of the vicinity where Corporal WORTH was last seen, have been severely hampered by bad weather, intense anti-aircraft fire and SAM-2 firings.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. That on 1 April 1972 a ground spot element of the Spot Team 1-2, Sub Unit One, 1st ANGLO, FMF was located at the A-2 outpost, Gio Linh, Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam (YD 215742) and consisted of:

First Lieutenant David C. BRUGGEMAN	DATA	/0802 USMC
Sergeant James L. NORTON	DATA	/0849 USMC
Corporal James F. WORTH	DATA	2531 USMC
Lance Corporal Kent A. BEOUGHER	DATA	/0849 USMC
Lance Corporal Daryle L. GROUNDS	DATA	/2531 USMC

(Enclosures 2,3,4)

2. That on 1 April 1972 the physical layout of A-2 outpost was as shown in the attached diagram and photograph (Enclosures 12,13)

3. That on 1 April 1972 the other friendly forces at the A-2 outpost were elements of the 3d Bn 57th Regt 3d ARVN Division. No other Americans were present. (Enclosure 2,5)

4. That by 1 April 1972 the A-2 outpost was under heavy attack by fire and by ground, and that the ARVN defenders were beginning to abandon the fight. (Enclosures 2,3,4)

5. That around 1200H, First Lieutenant Joel B. EISENSTEIN USMC, officer in charge of the Naval Gunfire Liaison/Spot Team 1-2 at Quang Tri Combat Base, radioed the ground spot element that they would be extracted by helicopter from the A-2 outpost. (Enclosure 2,3,4)

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6. That in anticipation of the extraction the ground spot element destroyed all their communications equipment with the exception of a single FRC-77 which Corporal WORTH carried. (Enclosures 2,3,4)

7. That Corporal WORTH had his weapon, flack jacket, helmet, web gear, two canteens and was uninjured prior to the time of the extraction. (Enclosure 2,3)

8. That around 1230H after calling in covering fire from USS STRAUSS (DDG 16) and USS BUCHANAN (DDG 14) the five Marines moved from their observation post to positions near the helicopter landing zone. Lt BRUGGEMAN and Cpl WORTH went to one bunker (#1 on the diagram) while Sgt NORTON, LCpl BEOUGHER and LCpl GROUNDS went to another (#2). (Enclosures 2,3,4,12,13)

9. That around 1245H Lt BRUGGEMAN and Cpl WORTH moved from their bunker, crossed the landing zone so that the helicopter could be boarded from both sides. They took cover in a revetment made of 40mm ammunition cans. (#3 on the diagram) (Enclosures 2,3,4,12,13)

10. That around 1250H LCpl GROUNDS shouted across the landing zone to Lt BRUGGEMAN and Cpl WORTH asking for information on the extraction helicopter. This was the last time Cpl WORTH was seen by a surviving team member. (Enclosure 3)

11. That around 1250H an intense volume of mortar and artillery fire hit the A-2 outpost (Enclosures 2,3,4,5,6)

12. That around 1255H the U. S. Army rescue helicopter (UH-1) piloted by First Lieutenant Robert SHERIDAN, USA and WO-1 Benny M. NIELSEN, USA approached the A-2 outpost from the east. Lt EISENSTEIN was aboard. (Enclosures 5,6,7,12)

13. That the helicopter lost radio contact with the Marines at the A-2 outpost approximately during the period of the mortar and artillery attack. (Enclosure 6)

14. That as the attack subsided briefly, LCpl GROUNDS saw that Lt BRUGGEMAN had been hit and was laying face down. (Enclosures 2,3,)

15. That the three Marines from the east bunker (#2 on the diagram) rushed to Lt BRUGGEMAN's assistance at which time the helicopter landed, but none of these Marines nor the helicopter crew saw Corporal WORTH. (Encl 2,3,4,5,6,7,8)

16. That there was no blood other than Lt BRUGGEMAN's near the small revetment. (Enclosure 4)

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17. That Lt EISENSTEIN and Sgt NEWTON made a hasty search of the bunkers near by the spot Cpl WORTH was last seen, and shouted for him repeatedly, but no sign of him was seen except for his rifle. (Enclosures 2,3,4,5,12,13)

18. That the intensity of fire was such that the helicopter had to begin to lift off as soon as Lt BRUGGEMAN was placed aboard. Four wounded ARVN soldiers, Lt EISENSTEIN, Sgt NEWTON, LQpl BEOUGHIER and LCpl GROUNDS also were aboard. The total time the helicopter was on the ground was about two minutes (Enclosures 2,3,4,5,6,7,8)

19. That no one aboard the helicopter made any further contact with Cpl WORTH as they returned to Quang Tri Combat Base. (Enclosures 5,7)

20. That First Lieutenant John M. THOENS USMC while at the Quang Tri Combat Base did recognize a radio transmission by Cpl WORTH later the same day (1615) but was unable to return the call since Lt THOENS position was under heavy artillery attack. Cpl WORTH mentioned Dong Ha in his transmission. An hour later, Lt THOENS was unable to raise Cpl WORTH. (Enclosure 9)

21. That the only ARVN soldier identified to date who was at the A-2 outpost after the helicopter extraction did not see Cpl WORTH. (Enclosure 5)

22. That the A-2 outpost was nearly surrounded at the time of the extraction. (Enclosure 6)

23. That another immediate attempt at extracting Cpl WORTH was not made since his whereabouts was unknown, and the A-2 outpost had fallen (Enclosure 5)

24. That the terrain between the A-2 outpost and Dong Ha is generally open rice paddies with several villages along QL-1. Some small hills are found west of QL-1, and sand dunes appear near the ocean. (Enclosure 13)

25. That COMUSMACV was notified of Cpl WORTH's missing in action status and that the USMACV Joint Personnel Recovery Center has been alerted. (Enclosures 10,11)

26. That information concerning Cpl WORTH's missing status and possible whereabouts was disseminated to the advisors and aircraft in the Quang Tri area. (Enclosure 5)

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OPINIONS

1. That Cpl WORTH was dazed by the artillery and mortar attack while in the small revetment near Lt BRUGGEMAN.
2. That Cpl WORTH while in a daze made it to cover in a bunker during the attack.
3. That any additional time spent searching the bunkers for Cpl WORTH would have put the surviving Marines and helicopter crew in severe jeopardy from hostile fire and from being overloaded by the ARVN soldiers.
4. That upon regaining his senses, Cpl WORTH sought to escape and evade toward Dong Ha, 12,000 meters to the south along QL-1.
5. That the North Vietnamese Army offensive overtook Cpl WORTH, and that he was captured after making the one radio call at 1615, 1 April 1972.
6. That the extraction of the ground spot element from the A-2 outpost was an exceptionally valorous act on the part of all involved.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Cpl WORTH be listed in a missing in action status.
2. That a copy of this investigation be provided the Joint Personnel Recovery Center, USMACV.
3. That a continued effort be made to contact survivors of the 3d Bn, 57th Regt, 3d ARVN Division.

E. J. H. J.
E. J. H. J., Jr.
Major, U.S. Marine Corps

1/EJD/mjp
5830
19 Apr 1972

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on Maj DYER's Report of Investigation EJD/
tjt 5830 of 16Apr72

From: Officer in Charge, Sub Unit One, First ANGLICO, FMF,
APO San Francisco 96309
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code DNA)
Via: (1) Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Camp
Butler, FPO Seattle 98773
(2) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
FPO San Francisco 96610

Subj: Investigation to inquire into the circumstances sur-
rounding the Missing in Action status of Corporal
James F. WORTH 213 56 21 83/2531 USMC, on 1 April
1972 at Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam

1. Readdressed and forwarded in accordance with references
(a) and (b).

2. I concur in the finding of this investigation that Cor-
poral WORTH continue to be listed as missing in action.
I have taken action on the recommendation that the Joint
Personnel Recovery Center, U. S. Military Assistance Command,
Vietnam be provided a copy of the investigation and also that
efforts be continued to contact those members of the 3rd Bat-
talion, 57th Regiment, 3rd ARVN Division who were present at
the time of Corporal WORTH's disappearance.

D Wayne Gray
D'WAYNE GRAY

Advance copy to: CMC(DNA)

58/DCH/cez
5830
87-B-72

MAY 05 1972

SECOND ENDORSEMENT on Maj DYER's Report of Investigation EJD/tjt, 5830 of
16 Apr 1972

From: Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code AI)
Via: Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, FPO San Francisco
96610

Subj: Investigation to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the
Missing in Action status of Corporal James F. WORTH, 213 56 21 83,
U. S. Marine Corps, on 1 April 1972 at Quang Tri Province, Republic
of Vietnam

1. Forwarded in accordance with references (a) and (b).

J. A. Mallery
J. A. MALLERY
By direction

Copy to:
CO, 1st ANGLICO
OIC, Sub Unit #1, 1st ANGLICO

7A/kls
5830
15 MAY 1972

THIRD ENDORSEMENT on Maj DYER's Report of Investigation EJD/tjt, 5830 of
16 Apr 1972

From: Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code **DN**)

Subj: Investigation to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the
Missing in Action status of Corporal James F. WORTH 213 56 21 83
U. S. Marine Corps, on 1 April 1972 at Quang Tri Province, Republic
of Vietnam

1. Forwarded.

R.E. Porter
R. E. PORTER
By direction

PERSONAL DATA SHEET

1. PERSONAL DATA:

a. NAME WORTH, James Frederick
b. RANK Cpl
c. SER NO/MOS/SSN 2651759/2531/ DATA
d. BRANCH OF SERVICE USMC
e. ORGANIZATION SU#1, 1st ANGLICO, FMF, APO SFRA 96309
f. DATE OF BIRTH UNKNOWN
g. PLACE OF BIRTH UNKNOWN
h. HOME OF RECORD 1704 Quarter Ave, Washington, D.C. 20027
i. PEBD 17 December 1969

2. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

a. HEIGHT UNKNOWN
b. WEIGHT UNKNOWN
c. BUILD UNKNOWN
d. HAIR Blond
e. EYES Brown,
f. COMPLEXION Fair
g. RACE Caucasian

3. DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

a. SPEECH UNKNOWN
b. MANNERISMS UNKNOWN
c. SCARS/IDENTIFYING MARKS UNKNOWN
d. OTHERS UNKNOWN

4. MIA/CAPTURED See Attached investigation

a. DATE
b. LOCATION
c. CIRCUMSTANCES

ENCLOSURE (1)

REPORTED WOUNDS.

a. AREA OF DETENTION

5. OTHER PERTINENT DATA:

a. SECURITY CLEARANCE Final Secret

b. GENERAL PHYSICAL CONDITION Good

c. LINGUISTIC CAPABILITY

d. RELIGION UNKNOWN

e. PAGE 11/12 ENTRIES UNKNOWN

f. OTHER PERSONAL DATA

6. SAMPLE SIGNATURE: None Available

7. PHOTOGRAPHS:

8. REFERENCES:

STATEMENT OF SGT JAMES L. NEWTON DATA 0849 USMC CONCERNING THE
MISSING STATUS OF CPL JAMES F. WORTH DATA '2531 USMC

14 April 1972

On or around 1200H, 1 April 1972, NGF Liaison/Spot Tm 1-2 received word from Lt EISENSTEIN there was to be an extraction of all NGF personnel located at FSB A-2 in Quang Tri, RVN. Our team had the only Americans present on the base. Preparations were made post haste in order to comply with this, as the situation was becoming very serious.

Lt BRUGGEMAN had requested that I prepare all comsec equipment and material for immediate destruction when given word by Lt EISENSTEIN. Cpl WORTH and myself gathered the material together to destroy while the other two men, LCpl BEOUGHNER and LCpl GROUNDS were making preparations on other items. Lt BRUGGEMAN, meanwhile, was registering our two NGFS ships into areas that were to be suppressed as the helicopter was to come in and pick us and what gear we retrieved up.

Approximately 1235H all NGF members moved from the tower to a couple of bunkers that were located close to the helicopter LZ at A-2. Lt BRUGGEMAN and Cpl WORTH moved into one bunker, while the other two men and myself were in the bunker directly adjacent to Lt BRUGGEMAN and Cpl WORTH. We remained in these bunkers for about 20 or 25 minutes at which time Lt BRUGGEMAN and Cpl WORTH moved from their bunker into an area which was built up with 40mm projectile cases that had no sand-bagging or other measures of protective coverage. Their purpose in this area was to try and visually spot the helicopter and see if it was on the way in to extract us.

At this time we noted several of the Vietnamese troops, an even dozen or more running around in a confused state of mind and muttering that VC were coming and they were evacuating A-2. Several Vietnamese officers were locking and loading weapons on the Vietnamese troops in a futile attempt to try and establish some order among them. About 1310H A-2 started receiving incoming of heavy intensity thought to be artillery due to the accuracy noted. This incoming lasted for several minutes and had everyone pinned down and helpless. When the incoming let up slightly, LCpl GROUNDS peered out at the area mentioned previously where Lt BRUGGEMAN and Cpl WORTH were. We noticed that Lt BRUGGEMAN appeared to have been hit by shrapnel and was lying unconscious on the ground. All three of us then left our bunker to go down and assist Lt. BRUGGEMAN and Cpl WORTH. Upon arriving at the area, it was noted that Cpl WORTH was not in the immediate area and did not answer to repeated calls of his name. LCpl BEOUGHNER and LCpl GROUNDS began to pick up Lt BRUGGEMAN and take him to the helicopter which was just preparing to touchdown on the LZ. In the meantime, I ran down to the bottom of the hill calling at the top of my lungs trying to get a response from Cpl WORTH, but to no avail. I then ran back to the helicopter which was just getting ready to lift off again.

In regard to the above, Cpl WORTH, had on his person, 1 cartridge belt w/suspender straps, 2 canteens, 1 M-16 rifle w/full bandoleer of magazines, and was in good shape physically.

This is a true and accurate account of my last visual contact with Cpl WORTH before the extraction at A-2.

James L. Newton
JAMES L. NEWTON
Sergeant, U. S. Marine Corps

Subject: The French Experience in Recovering POWs, Obtaining Accounting for MIAs and Recovering Remains

On 7 April 1976, the House Select Committee on MIAs heard the testimony of Ms. Anita Lauve on the subject of the French experience with POWs/MIAs following their war in Indochina. Ms. Lauve is a consultant to the Committee. She submitted a prepared statement which included the following points. After the 1954 cease fire, the French contended the North Vietnamese had withheld 9,500 POWs. The North Vietnamese denied it but released 380 alleged defectors and 450 Foreign Legionnaires within the next two years. The Legionnaires were not French, but East Europeans and were repatriated to European countries under Communist control. Several hundred additional prisoners made up of North Africans, Spaniards, Italians, and other Europeans were released during the 1960's and early 1970's and there are some indications that they had not remained in North Vietnam voluntarily. The only French nationals returned after the initial agreed release were 40 who returned to France in 1962 with their Vietnamese families. All were tried for desertion. The issue of any remaining POWs has appeared closed to both the North Vietnamese and the French since the early 1970's. With respect to deceased personnel, the issue is still not resolved. The Vietnamese have dealt with the French regarding return of remains for 20 years and have shown themselves to be motivated by political and financial considerations, not humanitarian concern. They have treated the return of remains issue as a long-term source of income. The French have chosen quiet diplomacy and have not detailed these costs. Between 1958 and 1966, no remains were shipped from Hanoi to France, but several shipments between 1966 and 1973 brought the 18-year total to about 1,500. Throughout the 1966 to 1973 period, the French had political representation in Hanoi. The location of most of the French remains was well known to the French as their presence in North Vietnam during the conflict allowed them to bury most of their own dead in their own cemeteries.

Responding to questions from Mr. Ottinger, Ms. Lauve stated she was uncertain whether normalization of relations provided faster progress for the French. She believes their experience demonstrates that money is a primary consideration to the Vietnamese and that this causes them to go slowly with no desire to ever complete the return of remains process.

Responding to questions from Mr. Harkin, Ms. Lauve stated that the United States might speed up its recovery of remains by not seeming too eager; while steps such as removal of trade

Subject: The French Experience in Recovering POWs, Obtaining Accounting for MIAs and Recovering Remains

embargos might get things started, the Vietnamese will require more as they go along. They consider the matter a financial reservoir.

Ms. Lauve advised Mr. Gilman that she does not believe the French will ever obtain a full accounting for remains. They established normal relations only after diplomatic bargaining and substantial expenditure of money.

Chairman Montgomery asked Ms. Lauve's opinion of the Vietnamese attitude towards the French and Americans. She replied that the Vietnamese had sufficient cultural ties with France that they have a love-hate attitude; they may not view us the same way and may also think we are more vulnerable than the French because of the visibility of anti-war protests during our presence in Southeast Asia. The Chairman asked whether she believed there could still be live American POWs and she said no, because they would see this as a threat to their ability to capitalize on return of remains. She suggested that if they were asked for return of deserters, it might provide them a face-saving basis for releasing anyone still captive. The Chairman responded this would be unlikely to work out as they had already been clearly asked for any Americans in their custody. Mr. Montgomery commented that it should be clear by now that the Vietnamese will get no financial aid from Congress and that if they would provide information it would speed things up. Ms. Lauve responded that it may be difficult to convince them of this.

Mr. Gilman asked whether the French employed any third country in obtaining an accounting for MIAs. Ms. Lauve responded that they had employed the International Red Cross and stated that if the United States were to seek the assistance of a third country, it would have to be one which was doing something for Vietnam and she could not think of a good candidate.

As an example of the financial value of the remains recovery process to the North Vietnamese, Ms. Lauve stated that the North Vietnamese exacted an agreement from the French to pay for the upkeep of cemeteries having French graves. Despite upkeep payments, the cemeteries are all weeds.

STATEMENT OF LANCE CORPORAL DARYLE L. GROUNDS DATA 2531 USMC
CONCERNING THE MISSING STATUS CORPORAL JAMES F. WORTH DATA
2531 USMC

14 April 1972

At approximately 1210 on April 1st, the extraction of NGF Team #1-2 from Fire Base A-2 went into effect. In accordance with the plan, Sgt NEWTON and Cpl WORTH prepared the radio and secure-voice gear to be destroyed as well as putting the back pack radio into operation. Lt BRUGGEMAN climbed to the second story of the observation tower to direct the rounds of USS STRAUSS (DDG 16) and USS BUCHANAN (DDG 14) as a covering barrage for our extraction. LCpl BEOUCHER was in the ground level part of the tower to relay corrections from Lt BRUGGEMAN to me because the Lieutenant was out of my hearing range. I relayed, in "plain-voice", to the ships, giving corrections as seen by Lt. BRUGGEMAN. Meanwhile, Sgt NEWTON and Cpl WORTH were destroying the comm gear with two thermite grenades. Shortly after the grenades had burned out, A-2 received incoming near the tower. Cpl WORTH was still trying to burn the comm gear more effectively by pouring diesel fuel on it. However, he retreated into the below ground tower level while one round hit just behind the battery CO's bunker. We received what seemed to be several direct and/or very close hits of mortar or artillery on the tower. None of the NGF Team 1-2 was injured in this barrage. Cpl WORTH felt that the KY-38 (secure voice set) needed further destruction so he proceeded to do a more thorough job with a hammer after the incoming had ceased. Meanwhile, Lt BRUGGEMAN, through our relay system, had given the ships a "checkfire" and "record as target" command. The "cancel checkfire" command was to be given when we moved out of the tower so that the ships could fire the coverage barrage. We waited in the tower for the "Go" sign from Lt EISENSTEIN to head for the LZ. We were ready with LCpl BEOUCHER and me carrying small back packs, Cpl WORTH packing the radio, Sgt NEWTON packing the ground to air transponder, and Lt. BRUGGEMAN with nothing. Each person had weapons, flak jackets and ammo, but the Lieutenant and I didn't have helmets, assumed stolen. Approximately 1230 we ran from the tower after giving the cancel checkfire to the ships and headed for the LZ area as shown by the arrows on the diagram. Lt BRUGGEMAN and Cpl WORTH went into bunker #1, Sgt NEWTON, LCpl BEOUCHER, and I went into Bunker #2 as shown on the diagram. We kept hearing what sounded like helicopter blades chopping air south of us so assumed the pickup would take place soon. The ARVN were in a state of confusion and their only concern seemed to be abandonment of A-2. Several Vietnamese Officers were running around with loaded .45 cal pistols making what appeared to be threats to their enlisted. In addition, 2 or 3 of their wounded were trying to obtain a ride on the helo they knew was coming for us. We tried to discourage them as we knew the helo would be approaching max load with the crew, Lt EISENSTEIN, and the 5 of us.

We waited in the bunkers for word about the extraction for something like 15-20 minutes. Meanwhile, the ships were doing an outstanding job of continuous firing. We got "stand-by" word from Lt BRUGGEMAN and Cpl WORTH who had the radio with them. They told us to stay in our bunker as they moved to the circular wind direction pointer made of 40mm cannisters as shown by No. 3 on the diagram. Within 5 minutes I stepped outside to ask

for some word and was, again, given "stand-by" for a reply. This was the last time I saw Cpl WORTH. Lt BRUGGEMAN and he were crouched in the small bunker of 40mm cannisters, both of them still alert. As I stepped back into the bunker, we started getting incoming - apparently mortars. They were hitting directly on top of bunker #2 and outside the LZ. The 2 1/2 Ton Truck was hit with shrapnel several times. In a space of about 1 minute, somewhere between 12 and 15 rounds impacted on or near the LZ. I waited for more but then ran out to check on the Lt and Cpl WORTH, since I was nearest to the door. I saw Lt BRUGGEMAN laying at the entrance to the 40mm cannister bunker face down. I ran back to inform LCpl BEOUGHIER and Sgt NEWTON that they had been hit. I said "they" because I assumed that Cpl WORTH was laying where I couldn't see him. LCpl BEOUGHIER and me dropped our back packs immediately and ran across the space between our bunker and Lt BRUGGEMAN with Sgt NEWTON, who had managed to keep the transponder, right in step. We got to the Lt and rolled him over on his back to discard his gear. He was breathing shallowly. Sgt NEWTON grabbed our weapons and ran between the bunkers, in the direction shown by #5 on the diagram, yelling for Cpl WORTH. I didn't see any sign of Cpl WORTH near the Lt where I had seen him only minutes earlier. Within a minute the helicopter pulled in and landed at #4 as shown on the diagram. The door gunner helped us with Lt BRUGGEMAN. We loaded on, with several ARVN, Sgt NEWTON jumped on saying he couldn't find Cpl WORTH, and we took off.

This is to the best of my memory.

Darley L. Grounds
DARLEY L. GROUNDS

14 April 1972

STATEMENT OF LANCE CORPORAL KENT A. BEOUGHIER, DATA /0849, USMC
CONCERNING THE MISSING STATUS OF CORPORAL JAMES F. WORTH, DATA
2531, USMC

1 April 1972 we were in standby status (in regard to extraction bird) when all five team members headed to our position along the LZ. We positioned ourselves in two VN bunkers that were facing each other not more than 15 feet apart. These bunkers were parallel to the LZ on its NE corner. We had visual and vocal contact with each other. Lieutenant BRUGGEMAN and Corporal WORTH were in the west bunker and the rest of us were in the east bunker. After several delay reports on the arrival of the bird, Lieutenant BRUGGEMAN and Corporal WORTH ran over to our bunker when they thought they heard the chopper inbound. The VN's were shell shocked and were running from bunker to bunker saying that the VC were attacking from the south. We were all outside looking for the chopper now. Lieutenant BRUGGEMAN and Corporal WORTH went over across the LZ to wave the chopper in. They were inside a small bunker constructed of duster canister cases. Suddenly we were hit with another barrage of artillery. Sgt. NEWTON, LCpl GROUNDS, and I dove into the nearest bunker. Several impacts bracketed our bunker and shrapnel metal came thru at both ends. When the barrage slowed down the three of us ran out of the bunker and observed the Lieutenant lying on his stomach inside the makeshift bunker across the LZ. Corporal WORTH was nowhere in sight. We ran over to help the Lieutenant who had been hit in the head with a piece of shrapnel. Again there was no sign of Corporal WORTH other than his rifle which was laying beside the makeshift bunker. Also there was no sign of a struggle or blood other than the Lieutenant's. Sgt. NEWTON and I called out his name repeatedly in the nearby bunkers along the southern part of the LZ.

Kent A. Broughier
KENT A. BROUGHIER

STATEMENT OF 1STLT JOEL B. EISENSTEIN DATA '0802 USMC CONCERNING THE
MISSING STATUS OF CPL JAMES F. WOTH DATA '2531 USMC

14 April 1972

The five personnel at Alpha 2 were to have been positioned on both sides of the LZ. When the helicopter landed I saw no Marines on the northern side and when I looked to the southern side I saw three Marines attempting to lift a fourth Marine. The door gunner and I dismounted the aircraft and ran to assist the Marines. I recognized Lt. BRUGGEMAN as being the injured Marine. When I reached the Marines, Sgt. NEWTON screamed that he didn't know where Cpl WORTH was. I ran to the position where Lt. BRUGGEMAN had been wounded and then I moved down the road between the bunkers about 20 meters. I did not see Cpl WORTH anywhere. I returned and assisted in carrying Lt. BRUGGEMAN to the helicopter. After putting the Marines (Lt. BRUGGEMAN, Sgt. NEWTON, LCpl BEOUGHIER, LCpl GROUNDS) aboard I pulled two Vietnamese who were badly wounded onboard and turned for another look. The door gunner had repositioned himself in his seat and I did not see any other Americans on the LZ. The LZ was littered with body bags, dead, and wounded and we were still receiving a heavy volume of incoming. The pilots couldn't wait any longer and the Vietnamese were swarming around the aircraft. I boarded and we lifted off. I estimate the time on the LZ at approximately 2 minutes plus.

Upon returning to MACV 155 I contacted the Vietnamese in order to determine if Cpl WORTH was still alive somewhere on Alpha 2. I was informed by MACV 155 that the Vietnamese from 3d Bn, 57th Reg, 3d Div. had seen one dead American on Alpha 2. In the process of organizing another flight to Alpha 2 I was informed that the Vietnamese had abandoned the base at Alpha 2.

Two days later, I met with the Vietnamese Lt. who had reported one dead American at Alpha 2. Interrogation revealed that the reported American body at Alpha 2 was that of Lt. BRUGGEMAN, who had been carried from the field. The Vietnamese Lt. had no knowledge of any other Americans other than those carried off by the helicopter which I was aboard. Upon further investigation, I was unable to find any Vietnamese who had any knowledge whatsoever concerning reports of American's at or near Alpha 2.

I passed the word that Cpl WORTH was missing to the advisors around Quang Tri and to the aircraft which came in the area.

JOEL B. EISENSTEIN

ENCLOSURE (5)

WITNESS STATEMENT			
INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT: 195-10 - TB PMG 3; the proponent agency is Office of the Provost Marshal General.			
PLACE	DATE	TIME	FILE NUMBER
MMAAF, DaNang, RVN	8 Apr 72	1300	
LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME	SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NO.	GRADE	
Sheridan, Robert	DATA		
ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS			
F Troop 8th Cavalry, 196th Infantry Brigade, APO 96349 USARV			
SWORN STATEMENT			
WANT TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT UNDER OATH:			
<p>I, Robert Sheridan, on 1 Apr 72, WO1 Ben Nielsen and I departed the Quan Tri Combat Base at approximately 1230 hrs in an attempt to rescue 5 Marines from the FSB at A-2. While enroute we lost radio contact with the team at A-2 after advising them we were inbound. When the aircraft piloted by Mr Nielsen sat down on the pad, 3 Marines approached from our left rear. They were carrying a fourth Marine who was wounded. The small group was accompanied by 4 wounded South Vietnamese. The aircraft's crew chief and gunner dismounted and assisted the Marines in carrying the wounded man to the aircraft. The five Marines were not on the pad when we arrived and because of the tactical situation at the base, which was practically surrounded and taking heavy incoming, we could not wait. At no time did we even detect the presence of another American on the base.</p>			
END OF STATEMENT			
EXHIBIT	INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT	PAGE 1 OF	PAGES
ADDITIONAL PAGES MUST CONTAIN THE HEADING "STATEMENT OF TAKEN AT DATED CONTINUED." THE BOTTOM OF EACH ADDITIONAL PAGE MUST BEAR THE INITIALS OF THE PERSON MAKING THE STATEMENT AND BE INITIALED AS "PAGE OF PAGES." WHEN ADDITIONAL PAGES ARE UTILIZED, THE BACK OF PAGE 1 WILL BE LINED OUT, AND THE STATEMENT WILL BE CONCLUDED ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF ANOTHER COPY OF THIS FORM.			
DA FORM 2823			

ENCLOSURE 70

STATEMENT (Continued)

EXHIBIT

NOT USED

AFFIDAVIT

Robert Sheridan

HAVE READ OR HAVE HAD READ TO ME THIS STATEMENT WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 1 AND ENDS ON PAGE 1. I FULLY UNDERSTAND THE CONTENTS OF THE ENTIRE STATEMENT MADE BY ME. THE STATEMENT IS TRUE. I HAVE INITIALED ALL CORRECTIONS AND HAVE INITIALED THE BOTTOM OF EACH PAGE CONTAINING THE STATEMENT. I HAVE MADE THIS STATEMENT FREELY WITHOUT HOPE OF BENEFIT OR REWARD, WITHOUT THREAT OF PUNISHMENT, AND WITHOUT COERCION, UNLAWFUL INFLUENCE, OR UNLAWFUL INDUCEMENT.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this day of 1972.

ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS

196th Infantry Brigade

AFD SF 96349

INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

DATE

PAGE OF PAGES

WITNESS STATEMENT

For use of this form, see AR 195-10 - TB PMG 3; the proponent agency is Office of the Provost Marshal General.

PLACE

DATE

TIME

FILE NUMBER

LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME

SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NO.

GRADE

ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS

1 Troop 8th Cavalry, 196th Infantry Brigade, APO 96349, USARV

SWORN STATEMENT

I, Benny M. Nielsen, WANT TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT UNDER OATH:

On 1 Apr 72, when making the extraction at FSB A-2, I was informed that there were five American Marines to be picked up. When we landed, we found only four. We waited as long as we could, then headed back to "Quan Tri". We did not receive any radio transmissions on the way in or on the way out. We had an American aboard who talked to the people. But he said that no one called or would answer his transmission.

END OF STATEMENT

EXHIBIT

INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

PAGE 1 OF PAGES

ADDITIONAL PAGES MUST CONTAIN THE HEADING "STATEMENT OF TAKEN AT DATED CONTINUED." THE BOTTOM OF EACH ADDITIONAL PAGE MUST BEAR THE INITIALS OF THE PERSON MAKING THE STATEMENT AND BE INITIALED AS "PAGE OF PAGES." WHEN ADDITIONAL PAGES ARE UTILIZED, THE BACK OF PAGE 1 WILL BE LINED OUT, AND THE STATEMENT WILL BE CONCLUDED ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF ANOTHER COPY OF THIS FORM.

DA FORM 2823

ENCLOSURE (7)

HE COMPLETED ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS FORM. IF THE STATEMENT IS NOT COMPLETED ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS FORM, THE STATEMENT IS INCOMPLETE AND THE PERSON MAKING THE STATEMENT IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR AWARD OF A MEDAL OR OTHER HONORARY AWARD.

INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

NOT USED

AFFIDAVIT

I, Benny M. Nielsen

HAVE READ OR HAVE HAD READ TO ME THIS STATE-

MENT WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 1 AND ENDS ON PAGE 1. I FULLY UNDERSTAND THE CONTENTS OF THE ENTIRE STATEMENT MADE BY ME. THE STATEMENT IS TRUE. I HAVE INITIALED ALL CORRECTIONS AND HAVE INITIALED THE BOTTOM OF EACH PAGE CONTAINING THE STATEMENT. I HAVE MADE THIS STATEMENT FREELY WITHOUT HOPE OF BENEFIT OR REWARD, WITHOUT THREAT OF PUNISHMENT, AND WITHOUT COERCION, UNLAWFUL INFLUENCE, OR UNLAWFUL INDUCEMENT.

WITNESSES:

(Signature of Person Making Statement)

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this 8 day of April, 1972.

ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS

WANT TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT

(Signature of Person Administering Oath)

Troop 8th Cavalry
6th Infantry Brigade

AF 96349

(Typed Name of Person Administering Oath)

ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS

SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NO.

(Authority To Administer Oaths)

INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

PAGE OF PAGES

GPO: 1971 431-066/1084

WITNESS STATEMENT		DATE	TIME	FILE NUMBER
INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT		8 Apr 72	1300	
PLACE		FILE NUMBER		
MIAAF, DaNang, RVN				
LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME		GRADE		
Lowe, James M		Sgt		
SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NO.		GRADE		
DATA		Sgt		
ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS				
F Troop 8th Cavalry, 196th Infantry Brigade, APO 96349 USARV				
SWORN STATEMENT				
WANT TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT UNDER OATH:				
<p>While flying door gunner on the UH-1H piloted by WO1 Ben Nielsen and 1LT Robert Sheridan, we were given a rescue mission to pull five (5) US Marines off FSB A-2. At approximately 1235 hours 1 Apr 72, we landed on A-2 and I immediately saw 3 Marines carrying a fourth. I jumped out of the aircraft and helped carry the wounded Marine aboard the aircraft. Due to the tactical situation we had to depart immediately. At no time did I see a fifth Marine anywhere around the area of the Landing Zone. JNL</p>				
<p>INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT</p> <p>WITNESSES: JNL</p>				
<p>EXHIBIT</p> <p>INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT</p> <p>JNL</p>				
<p>PAGE 1 OF PAGES</p>				
<p>ADDITIONAL PAGES MUST CONTAIN THE HEADING "STATEMENT OF TAKEN AT DATED CONTINUED." THE BOTTOM OF EACH ADDITIONAL PAGE MUST BEAR THE INITIALS OF THE PERSON MAKING THE STATEMENT AND BE INITIALED AS "PAGE OF PAGES." WHEN ADDITIONAL PAGES ARE UTILIZED, THE BACK OF PAGE 1 WILL BE LINED OUT, AND THE STATEMENT WILL BE CONCLUDED ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF ANOTHER COPY OF THIS FORM.</p>				

DA FORM 2823

ENCLOSURE (8)

STATEMENT (Continued)
 I HAVE READ THE STATEMENT AND HAVE CONSIDERED ON THE BEHEST OF THE PERSON MAKING THE STATEMENT THE CONTENTS OF THE STATEMENT AND HAVE INITIALED THE BOTTOM OF EACH PAGE CONTAINING THE STATEMENT. I HAVE MADE THIS STATEMENT FREELY WITHOUT HOPE OF BENEFIT OR REWARD, WITHOUT THREAT OF PUNISHMENT, AND WITHOUT COERCION, UNLAWFUL INFLUENCE, OR UNLAWFUL INDUCEMENT.

NOT USED	BY PERSON MAKING STATEMENT	BYSE 1 OF	BYSE 2
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AFFIDAVIT

I, James W. Lowe, HAVE READ OR HAVE HAD READ TO ME THIS STATEMENT WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 1 AND ENDS ON PAGE 1. I FULLY UNDERSTAND THE CONTENTS OF THE ENTIRE STATEMENT MADE BY ME. THE STATEMENT IS TRUE. I HAVE INITIALED ALL CORRECTIONS AND HAVE INITIALED THE BOTTOM OF EACH PAGE CONTAINING THE STATEMENT. I HAVE MADE THIS STATEMENT FREELY WITHOUT HOPE OF BENEFIT OR REWARD, WITHOUT THREAT OF PUNISHMENT, AND WITHOUT COERCION, UNLAWFUL INFLUENCE, OR UNLAWFUL INDUCEMENT.

James W. Lowe
 (Signature of Person Making Statement)

WITNESSES: Stephen R. Davis
 Subscribed and sworn to before me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this 19 day of 1972 at

ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS: 1st Troop 3th Cavalry
 (Signature of Person Administering Oath)

16th Infantry Brigade
 (Typed Name of Person Administering Oath)

AF 96349
 ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS:
 (Authority To Administer Oaths)

INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT: JWL
 PAGE OF PAGES

STATEMENT OF FIRST LIEUTENANT JOHN M. THOENS DATA '0302 USMC
 CONCERNING THE MISSING STATUS OF CORPORAL JAMES F. WORTH 213 56 21 83/
 2531 USMC

On 2 April 1972 at approximately 1615 I was able to monitor a transmission from Cpl WORTH. At the time Quang Tri Combat Base was under heavy artillery attack and no one was able to reach a radio to reply to his call. From the partial message traffic I was able to monitor it appeared that he was either in Dong Ha, or on his way to Dong Ha to join the U. S. Marine Advisors at that position.

The attack by fire ended one hour later and at that time we were unable to raise Cpl WORTH on the radio. Cpl WORTH has a very distinctive voice and manner on the radio and identification was made by this unique character.

John M. Thoens
 JOHN M. THOENS

STATEMENT OF CWO2 JOHN H. COLE, JR. DATA 0130 USMC, ADJUTANT,
SUB UNIT ONE, FIRST ANGLICO, FMF, SAIGON, RVN

14 April 1972

I have furnished copies of the missing status report and all progress reports on the missing in action status of Corporal James Frederick WORTH DATA USMC which occurred on 1 April 1972 to the following agency:

Address

Hq, MACV J212-3 (JPRC)
APO 96222

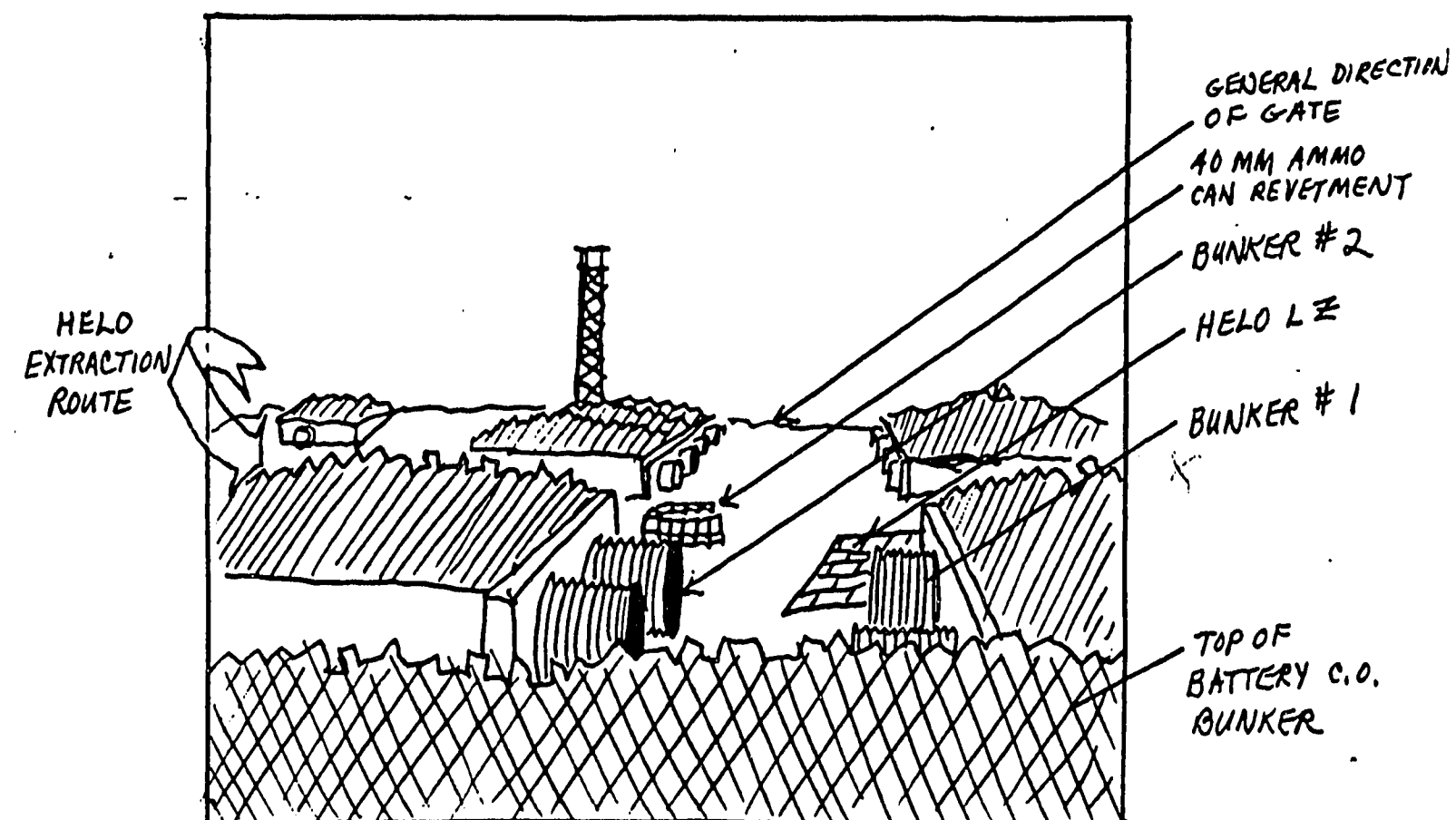
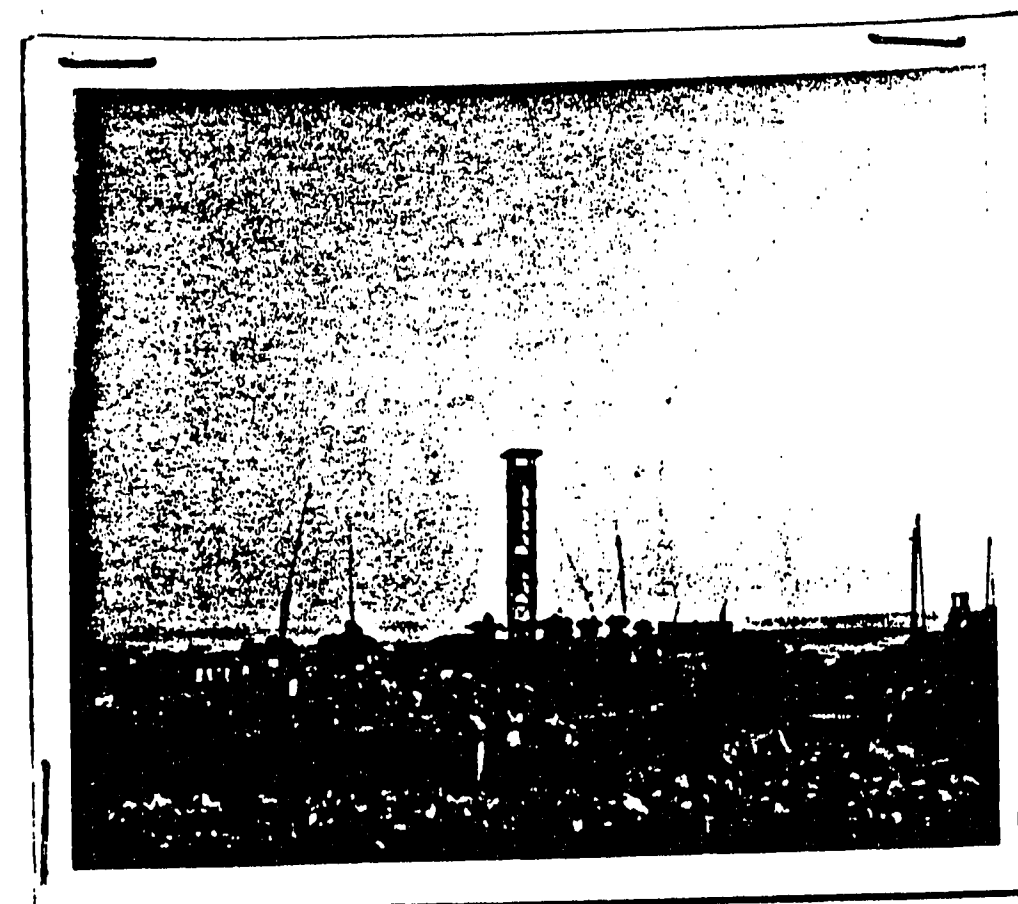
Message Address:

COMUSMACV/JPRC

J. H. Cole, Jr.
J. H. COLE, JR.

ENCLOSURE (10)

PHOTOGRAPH OF SCENE 1 APRIL 1972 EMERGENCY EXTRACTION (PHOTO TAKEN PRIOR TO 1 APRIL 1972)



LOOKING SOUTH, TAKEN FROM GROUND O.P.

ENCLOSURE (13)

DIAGRAM OF SCENE OF 1 APRIL 1972 EMERGENCY EXTRACTION

FRENCH PORT

ROUTE TAKEN BY LT BRUGGEMAN & CPL WORTH

GROUND O.P.

BUNKER BATTERY C.O.

DESTROY COMM GEAR HERE

BUNKER

BUNKER 1

TRUCK

BUNKER 2

BUNKER

ROUTE TAKEN BY LT EISENSTEIN

HELO LZ

40MM AMMO CAN REVESTMENT

EXTRACTION HELO ROUTE

BUNKER

BUNKER

BUNKER

ROUTE TAKEN BY SGT NEWTON

BUNKER

BUNKER

BUNKER

TO GATE

TRACE OF DEFENSE

ENCLOSURE (12)

THIS DIAGRAM REPRESENTS THE GENERAL LAYOUT OF THE A-2 OUTPOST AND THE ROUTES TAKEN.

1st Lt JOEL B. EISENSTEIN

James L. Newton

Sgt JAMES L. NEWTON

LCpl Barryle L. GROUNDS

LCpl Kent A. BEOUGHIER

On 1 Apr 72, Cpl WORTH was serving with Sub Unit One, 1st ANGLICO, FMF, assigned to the Shore Fire Control Party in support of the 3rd ARVN Division in Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam. The SFCP manned the observation tower at outpost Alpha Two, overlooking the DMZ. For the preceding forty-eight hours, the outpost had been subjected to a heavy and continuous barrage of enemy rockets, mortar and artillery fire. The SFCP directed naval gunfire in counter-battery fire and in interdiction fires against the avenues of enemy approach. Since the commencement of the NVA offensive on 28 Mar 72, five ARVN fire bases along the DMZ had fallen or were abandoned. The naval gunfire directed by the SFCP provided the only viable supporting arms fire available to allied units in Quang Tri Province. Despite the intensive incoming fire received by the outpost and the increasing probability of ground assault, the team continued to direct harassment, interdiction, and artillery suppression fires against the advancing enemy, performing their duties with professional competence, and coolness under extreme duress.

At approximately 1000, 1 Apr 72, the ARVN commander announced that evacuation was near. The members of the SFCP stood firm and continued the disruptive and destructive effects of naval gunfire against observed artillery sites and against Freedom Bridge, the northern terminus of Highway One. Shortly before noon the ARVN commander lost control of his unit. ARVN officers ran through the compound brandishing drawn pistols, attempting to rally the disintegrating unit. The ARVN evacuation was confused, disorderly, and rapid. When notified by 1stLt BRUGGEMAN that the team's withdrawal by helicopter was imminent, Sgt NEWTON and Cpl WORTH quickly assembled all communications equipment and classified material for destruction, even as enemy fire continued to pound their position. They rigged an AN/PRC-77 for use during the final stages of their withdrawal prior to destroying the accountable equipment with two thermite grenades. Additionally, Cpl WORTH poured gasoline over the burning equipment and smashed the remaining pieces with a hammer. At approximately 1235H, the Marines moved from the base of the tower to two bunkers in the immediate vicinity of the LZ. 1stLt BRUGGEMAN and Cpl WORTH then took position amid a ring of ammunition cases at the edge of the LZ to direct the final approach of the helicopter and to facilitate the boarding of the helicopter from both sides simultaneously once it had landed. At about 1310H, the outpost again began taking intense incoming fire. 1stLt BRUGGEMAN was soon found mortally wounded and Cpl WORTH missing. The remaining team members carried the Lieutenant on board the helicopter and, unable to locate the missing Corporal, departed the area in the midst of heavy enemy fire. Cpl WORTH is officially listed MIA.

Directly through the efforts of this SFCP, the NVA attack was blunted and slowed, giving the retreating ARVN forces enough time to reform at Dong Ha and along the south bank of the Cua Viet River where they made a successful defensive stand. With self-controlled assurance Cpl WORTH soberly called in naval gunfire with unfailing competence. The courage he possessed to perform so well under the continually deteriorating conditions reflects great credit on himself and the United States Naval Service.

DATE: 20 JUN 1972

From: SECNAV (NDBDM)

To: [REDACTED] CMC (CODE DL)

1. Reviewed and recorded. Forwarded for appropriate action.
2. Extraordinary heroism recommended ☐ yes ☒ no

BY DIRECTION (Signature)