



NO. 9 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION INC. ONLINE

From: Peter Robinson **Email:** plobbo@iinet.net.au
Subject: Capture of Documents
Recipient Group: To all members who were in Vietnam December 1969

CAPTURE OF DOCUMENTS by RAAF NO9SQN BR 71

Brief scenario of event

Capture by: No 9 Squadron
Item/s: Two VC packs.
By whom: BR71

Crew were: Captain: Brian (Bomber) Brown, Co-pilot: Tony Lea, Crewman: Peter (Robbo) Robinson, Gunner: Tony Pahl.

In company was BR72: Crew were: Captain: Bill Robertson, Co-pilot: Bob Treloar, Crewman: Geoff Smith, Gunner: Terry May.
Date: 08 December 1969
Time: 0900hrs

Where: Location grid ref: YS622623.

Thought to be 'Long Greens'? Song Rai River area? Near Xuyen Moc? The grid reference will tell the story. If some one, who has a map, could supply this position, I would be grateful.

Report: By Det.

Div. Intel. Unit Linguist Section, Batch No 1141. Where found – on bodies.

This report lists the 'basic' items that were found in the two packs.

It has been mentioned that the packs contained, apart from documents, a tooth brush/toiletry gear, a photograph of a 'wife?' and a Christmas card. Ravages of war: It is these items that have created living memory for one person who has always thought – 'now we have killed a person with a family – how sad'.

Bomber Brown has this original Report.

History Making: It is believed that this event maybe the first time No9SQN instigated a contact and actually captured item/s? Can anyone confirm this? I feel that this would be near impossible???

Brief Description of the event:

Very briefly: On the way back to Vungers? Or to Nui Dat – this seems more likely because of BR having to re-arm? from strafing up the Long Hai's after a No2SQN bombing run? and me firing the M60's at a bloke in black running from a tunnel - we came upon smoke from trees in between paddy fields (a main walk way), somewhere I think, near Dat Do (see Ref point) – we mini gunned the area (I think also with a few rockets) which was a 'free fire zone'.

After completing this I suggested to Bomber "let me get out and retrieve the two packs..." (which we saw from the air). This was done – to our amazement, I believe they were VC that we had shot up and on handing the two packs in, it was discovered that there was very valuable info in the form of documents etc. Bomber was 'smacked' (so was I) on the hand for doing such a silly thing and lost his Gunship Captaincy for one day etc etc. An award was also mentioned, BUT, because of the 'Quota System', it would not eventuate!! Maybe someone would like to describe this 'Quota System' for me please?

Realisation now:

The fact that landing a Gunship was illegal for one, but then, when I think about this event, I cringe – here I was, walking (in line of the gunship armament) with a piddley SLR and with (my helmet on still – I couldn't have heard any enemy movement with this helmet on!!), then to pick up the two packs, not really thinking that they could've been booby trapped! It could've been a 'set-up' to start with. Smoke, we come down to investigate etc and Kabooooom! All these possibilities!

Also for me and since my research and talking to people, I am not the only one that has always had this event in their minds. Also to wonder what was in those two packs.

Future:

It is my aim to create a story about this event for history sake. After I complete my research and writing to draft stage, I will send it to Nugget and the two crews of BR71 & 72 for vetting/alteration etc – then to the finished story. You will all get a completed story of this event.

Hope you all agree with what I intend doing. This is one of 4 'events' I intend writing about.

Your help:

Apart from the crews of BR71 & 72 (as I'm already talking to people), it would be appreciated if you could give me your thoughts on this event in writing and any pics that maybe around – were any taken from BR72? This writing will eventually form part of No9SQN's History by (hopefully) the future No9 Squadron Assoc.

History Project.

Cheers for now – Robbo. Ph No (08) 9409 7299 Email: plrobbo@iinet.net.au