

## **BAN ME THUOT AIR FIELD, CAMP CORYELL**

by [Ken de Russy](#)

1969-1970

TUY, 31st SPS; BMT, 31st SPS, TDY DET 9, 619 TCS

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**13) Ken de Russy: SP Tech School graduate, Lackland AFB, Texas, 1968.**

*(Ain't I purtty!)*



**14) SPS Det-9.**

## Fire Destroys MACV Lodge

SAIGON (AP) — A former imperial hunting lodge housing the U.S. military and civil operations headquarters in Ban Me Thuot, capital of the central highlands, was leveled by fire Friday.

The huge two-story teakwood structure dated back to the mid-1950s, one of several hunting lodges built at one time or another for Bao Dai, during and after his reign as Vietnam's last emperor.

Since the early part of the war, it has been used as quarters and offices for the U.S. Military Assistance Command (MACV) headquarters at Ban Me Thuot.

About 200 Americans are based at Ban Me Thuot, most of them in and around the former lodge, but no casualties were reported in the fire, official sources said. Cause of the fire was unknown.

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6 Pacific Stars & Stripes  
Sunday, Dec. 21, 1969

15) News article: Pacific Stars and Stripes.



**16) Road outside the south perimeter.**

**Middle Right:** Shot up Esso station that was kind of shocking to see. Right to the left of that image there is a crew of Vietnamese workers rebuilding the perimeter fence that was shot up in previous action. Fence repair crews had plenty of work as the perimeter gunners usually just opened up when the first round came in. Of course they took no care to avoid the fences! I suppose there was a logic to it as the VC used prelocated positions that were just outside the fence line. I remember stories of patrols finding the actual places where the base plates had made an impression in the ground. In fact the routine was that they would fire some number of rounds and then relocate to another prelocated position so as give us less chance to zero in on their location.

**Middle Right:** *Get that camera outta' my face!*

**From:** [Bill Lumas](#) (WJ LUMAS)

**To:** Ken de Russy

Was my last night in country after 15 months. Stayed out on bunker that night because it was a safer place to be. My hootch took 3 hits. Have photos of the damage and a piece of my 2nd flight hootch roof, complete with blue paint on it. My partner (crewchief) Ernie Plummer was in the hootch & got hit in the behind. They took him to the hospital before I could say good by or get his home address. Searched for him from time to time ever since. Found him last year, had great conversations. He was not well and I made arrangements to bring him to the reunion with me but his doctor said no. He died a few months ago. Sad that he past but it was wonderful to speak with him after so many years, he was a very special person.

[Bill Lumas](#)

4/25/97

DEAR KEN:

DID NOT GET YOUR FAX CORRECT. SENDING SOME BLACK & WHITE 155 PHOTOS, BLIMP SPECS & ODDS & ENDS.

TAPE IS FROM 3 DIFFERENT ATTACKS AT 155 + RECORDING OF AFRUN.

HAVE LOTS MORE STUFF. BEST WAY IS TO GET TOGETHER & TAKE PHOTOS TO A KINKO'S FOR COLOR COPIES.

BLIMP TOURS OUT OF SANTA BARBARA WOULD BE A MONEY MAKER-KNOW ANY POTENTIAL INVESTOR/OPERATORS - BIG BUCKS FOR US!

LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU!

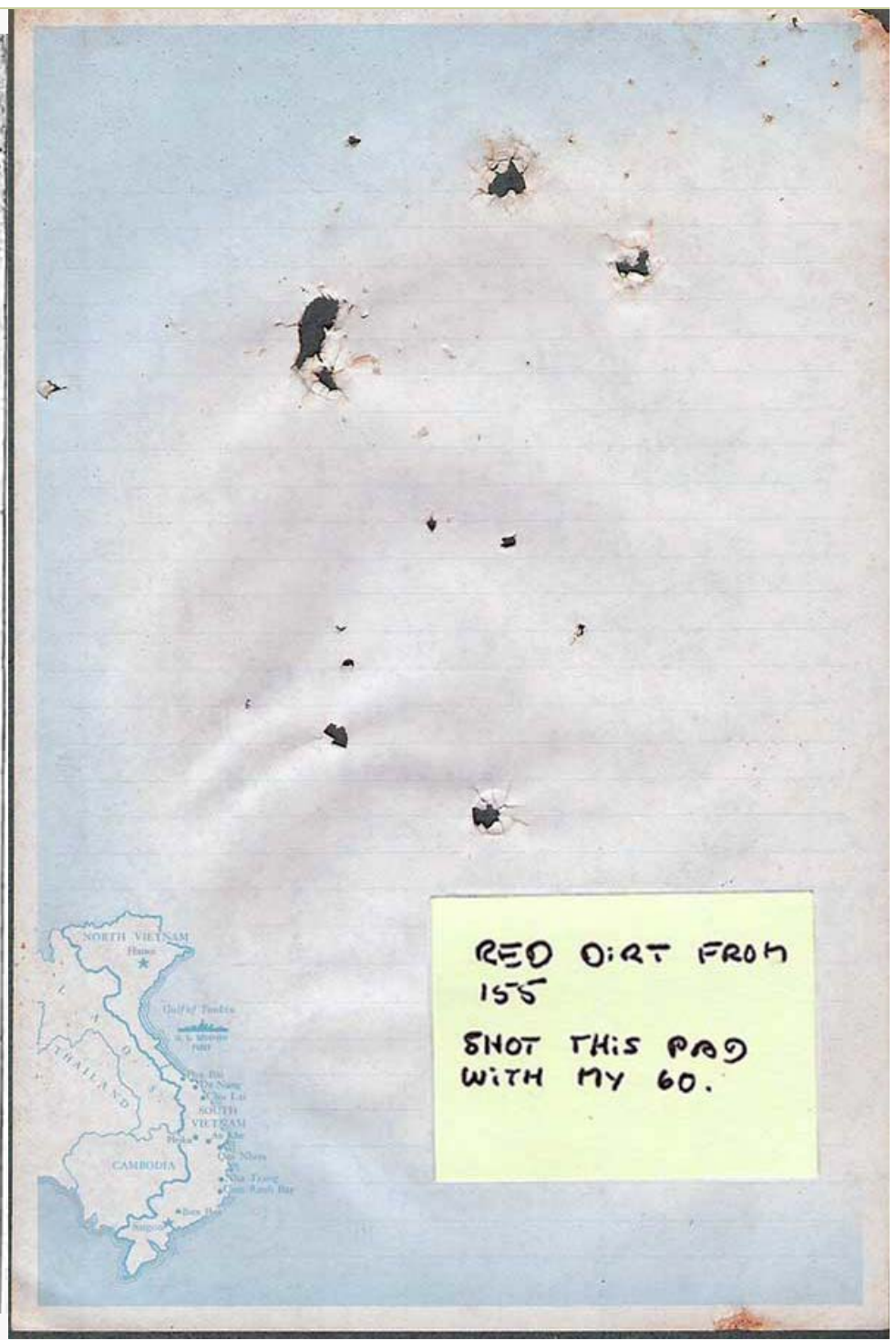
YES - IT REALLY DID HAPPEN - THE BAD DREAM WAS CONTINU HOME.



MY REAL PROBLEM WITH GALOWIN AND MULLIN IS THEIR VERSION OF THE HISTORY OF 155 IS TOO MUCH OF A TRIBUTE TO THEMSELVES & THEIR DILLUSTIOUS OLD GRADUATE. WE LOST THE WAR AND 1/2 OF THE 155 SURVIVORS HAVE MENTAL PROBLEMS - TO THIS DAY.

REGARDS:

Bill Linn



RED DIRT FROM 155  
SHOT THIS PAPER WITH MY 60.

4/25/97

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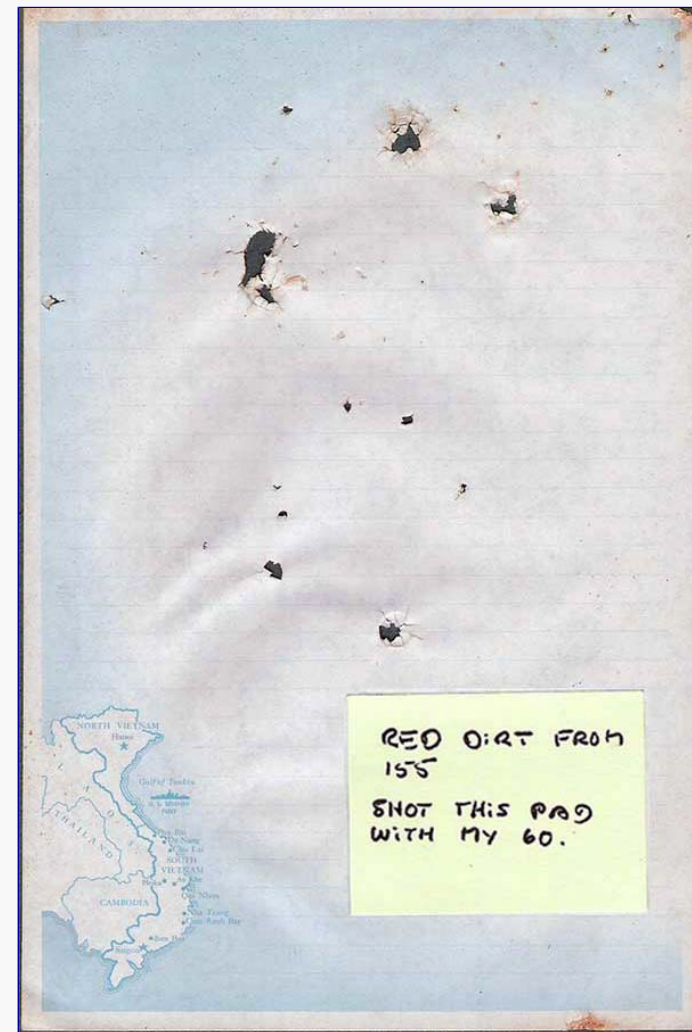
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