

Confidential

This is a letter from Dick Phillips who sent it from Nhatrang on 2/3/68 via an Army boy coming home. John Taylor. His Tel # is 213-632-0472. Address 5512 Olanda St; Lynwood, Calif. page 2 90262-

I am sending you this report of the death of the Bannethuot missionaries with the thought that I have probably heard more the details than others at this point and that you would want even a preliminary word before Franklin is able to send you a full report. Two copies of this ~~memo~~ are going to you, one by APO and the other hand carried which should reach you sooner. Another copy will go to Franklin though I am not sure now how soon it can reach him. I talked to Marie this morning at the 8th Field Hospital in Nhatrang whereshe is recovering nicely from surgery.

Last night I was given quite a few details by phone by a Captain on duty at ^{MCV} in Bannethuot. Some of the time sequence is still vague to me. Mrs. Blood may be able to clear up some of this but she has not yet arrived in Nhatrang.

In the early morning of Tuesday, January 30, the Griswold house (next to the Radsy church) was blown up. Mr. Griswold was killed and Carolyn seriously injured. Others on the compound did not at once realize what had happened. Since a general attack was in progress. Carolyn was under the debris for some seven hours before being rescued by a few nationals including their cook's husband. She was taken to Ziemer's house and cared for by our nurses. Also being treated in Ziemer's house on January 30 were several Ralay (Yuang, the preacher's son, Yhue another Bible school student) who had been burned by napalm that morning. A garbage ditch far back on the property was dug out and converted into a bunker. This left no time for burying Mr. Griswold that day as had been planned. His body had been placed in one of the dependency rooms behind Ziemer's house. That evening (as I gather though Marie says it was Wednesday) all the missionaries decided to spend the night in Ziemer's dependency thinking that other residences might be attacked. Mr. Griswold's body was moved to a long closet under the stairs in Ziemer's house. Our two nurses attended Carolyn in one room. Ziemers and Thompson stayed in the other. That night Thompson's house was blown up, and early next morning the Ziemer's house. The missionaries took refuge in the bunker but did not move Carolyn who had gone into shock every time she was moved. On Wednesday (or Marie says Thursday) Bob and Ed decided to go out and ask the enemy to allow them to take the wounded to hospital. Bob was shot in the head. Then the people in the bunkers were found and shot. Ed and Ruth Thompson and Ruth Wilting died there. Marie was wounded in the arm, chest, let and abdomen. She pretended to be dead but came out when ordered to do so. She and Betty Olsen (wounded very little, if at all) were taken down to a home in Buonalez (?). The Henry Blood family, including three children, and also Yham, Yngue, Yton were held there too. Sometime later Betty Olsen, Henry Blood and the Ralay were led away. I have no further information about them. Marie was released after being held for two days. A Ralay boy helped her walk up the road to the main highway. There Y'djol appeared and had her taken to the province hospital along a path the Viet Cong were permitting people to travel. Then US soldiers took her to the ^{MCV} bungalow for a doctor. Dr. Swallow treated her and arranged for evacuation that same day. February 2nd to the 8th Field Hospital in Nhatrang where she had surgery that evening. Now Carolyn got to MCV I don't know. She seems to have been taken there from the Ralay church. I think by Americans. She was evacuated with Marie to Nhatrang. She died in the hospital about 6:00 p.m. from hemorrhagic shock and internal injuries. Bob's body must have been found the same day and was flown to Camranh Bay. Carolyn's body has been sent to Tansonrut with military ordersto be flown to 260 in New York. I presume the same destination was ordered for Bob. Other bodies were seen in the Bunker on February 2nd but poor security prevented efforts to recover. Mrs. Blood and child arrived at MCV on or before February 2nd but separately from Marie I gather. She had slight leg wound.

*a letter from David Phillips who said it was written by
John Taylor. His address is 5512 Olmsted St., Lynnwood, Calif.
213-634-0472. address 5512 Olmsted St., Lynnwood, Calif.
page 2
90262*

The Milt Barker family of Wycliff living at Hoavinh near the Bannethuot east airfield were untroubled throughout all of this period though no word was heard from them until February 3.

On February 3 the US Captain - Captain Dale Landon in charge of recovering the other bodies called me to say that the three bodies were decomposed to the point that they could not be lifted out of the collapsed bunker intact for transportation. He wanted permission to bury them where they were. We asked that a marker be placed there in case of any future wish to move the bodies. Their personal effects are to be sent to the C&MA headquarters in Saigon. I neglected to remind him of Mr. Griswold's body lest he had forgotten. I am making efforts to do so now. On February 2nd I phone the news of Carolyn's death to Franklin and found that he had not been informed of the others either. Saigon phone lines were functioning poorly, if at all. Then after phoning from Nhatrang to inquire concerning our missionaries on other stations in the central area I was unable to get reconnected to Franklin to pass on the information hence my cable to New York. I later got a message sent to Franklin via one of the US AID agencies and trust it reached him. Also I just now tried by a Chaplain who knows him, a Chaplain Ron Miller. EDAS (?) FEB 15 AS on February 3 carried the news of the five deaths. I had tried repeatedly but to no avail to phone Dalat. So unless others were more successful than I, I am afraid that the Drummonds must have learned the news by the radio. I am sorry. Thankfully the Ziemer and Thompson children had left Bannethuot for Malaysia before. I think about the 25th. Olive Kingsbury was in Pleiku. We were in Kontum just beginning work on a literacy project for the Mhong such as a lot of people did for Raday, Jarai and Koho last year. We were evacuated to Nhatrang on February 1st after having spent three nights in bunkers because of intense fighting.

The Wycliff Center was demolished but their people were unhurt. Mr. Gung was in Bannethuot but was all right. It is hard to believe that this has happened in Bannethuot. What can we do but trust with Jeremiah that God's thoughts to us are good and not evil, to give us a future and a hope. It seems now that only God can be equal to fulfilling such a promise as this.

I have just heard, February 4, that our Dalat school property is under VC control. Our language school personnel were moved to the signal compound. Some of the missionaries to the Koho are believed to be still in the tribes center which is adjacent to the school. I do not know the exact division of personnel in the two places. Also there is word that Mr. Griswold's body has been flown to Camranh for shipment to the States. An army unit that arranges burials has also arrived at Bannethuot and will be able and equipped to re-bury or transfer the other bodies as desired. I am still trying to get all of this word on to Franklin. All the Pleiku missionaries are now in Nhatrang. The Longs at Sutherlands. The others at Lem Morgans servicemen's center. Kleinhens have also moved to Morgans. A Chaplain Phillips will be flying out to Sutherlands this afternoon to check on the four families there. Some are quite concerned about the situation. The Wycliff people were awaiting their director's arrival to discuss evacuation to the Philippines.

the hospital about 8:00 p.m. from hemorrhagic shock and internal injuries.
Bob's body must have been found the day after he was shot. It was flown to Camranh Bay.
Carolyn's body has been sent to Tanconrut with military orders to be flown to
280 in New York. I presume the same destination was ordered for Bob. Other
bodies were seen in the bunker on February 2nd but poor security prevented efforts
to recover. Mrs. Flood and child were seen before February 2nd but
separately from Marie I gather. She had slight leg wound.
Sincerely yours,
RICHARD L. PHILIPS