

Many cases of paratropping of men have been stated, but the exact number of men could not be established. It was stated also that rice and supplies were dropped. Maintenance and repairs on the airstrip were also reported. There were some trenches, weapon pits and sentry posts at the airfield. There are no barbed wire defences.

8) On 29th August, 1954, two sections of Laotian National Army soldiers were paratropped in the region of Ou Neua and Ou Tay;

9) on 5th September, 1954, Laotian National Army paratroops fired shots at the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" elements, wounding 9 and taking 2 prisoners, in the above region;

10) on 29th September, 1954, 'pirates' under French officers attacked a small "Pathet Lao" detachment, killing 1 soldier;

11) on 30th September, 1954, 60 other 'pirates' under French officers attacked in the same region a small "Pathet Lao" detachment, killing 1 soldier;

12) on 4th November, 1954, Franco-Laotian paratroops accompanied by 'pirates' attacked for the fourth time "Pathet Lao" units and occupied Ou Neua.

The Fixed Team from Phong Saly investigated into complaints 8 to 12 above and reported as follows:

The evidence of Franco-Laotian soldiers could not be gathered, as, on arrival of the Team at the airfield on 12th November, 1954, the Team found that the soldiers had moved away. The Team came to the conclusion that some attack on Ou Neua village had taken place. The Team saw burnt houses and ascertained that the population partly took refuge in the forest and lived in fear. Also, according to the evidence of witnesses, there were no Franco-Laotian troops in the place of investigation between 5th October and 3rd November, 1954, but the Franco-Laotian troops came near the village on 4th November and stayed there till the Team came. The Team saw them on 11th November, 1954, and they withdrew in the night of 11th-12th November, 1954. The presence of Franco-Laotian troops created a fear of attack among the population. From the evidence gathered at Ou Neua and Ou Tay, it appears that some Franco-Laotian troops with French Commanders were paratropped on 29th August, 1954.

* With regard to paradrops, the Franco-Laotian side claimed that they paratropped reliefs of personnel and supplies. The Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" side claimed that they were new combatants and new armaments.