



JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER

LIAISON OFFICE
AMERICAN EMBASSY
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96346

REFERENCE: T84-055
14 March 1984

FROM: JCRC-LNB

SUBJ: Refugee Report, Alleged American Graves Observed at Sam Neua, Laos.

TO: COMMANDER, JCRC
Barbers Point, HI 96862

Source: Kongvieng Kinnavanthong; DPOB 1 Jan 56, Sayaboury, Laos. A former student, Source is presently located at Napho 67/8. ID #NKP 24664, date of info 1980, date of interview 9 March 1984. Map used: Sam Neua City Map L9011. Source arrived Thailand 14 Dec 81 (landroute).

Source stated that after the communist takeover of Laos his father was arrested and sent to re-education at Sam Neua Province (father Sutha Kinnavanthong, 58 YOA, POB Vientiane, Laos, former school principal and Ministry of Education Official). Source went to visit his father during 1980 at Sam Neua and while in the area he observed six mounds of dirt on the outskirts of Sam Neua Town which local villagers said were the graves of American pilots killed during the war. Source stated that government officials in the area must know about the graves because many villagers know about them and the graves are not concealed. Source stated that the area containing the graves was not fenced off and not well maintained (overgrown with grass approx 4 inches high). Source claimed that he observed approx 2 meter tall trees growing on each side of the area approx 150 meters from the graves. Source estimated that the graves were located approx 100 meters from an asphalt road which passed the area and went into Sam Neua Town. Source recalled that the area containing the six graves measured approx 3 meters X 2 meters. Source did not hear how or when the six Americans died but seemed to recall having heard the villagers (U/I) say that the graves had been there for nine years. Source stated that the area containing the six graves was near the Sam Neua market. Source stated that he did not know whether his father was still in re-education or had been released. Source did not know anyone else who had observed the graves and subsequently fled to Thailand. Source was not able to provide further information concerning the alleged American graves. Source gave a possible forwarding address as: Aunt, Louane Phousalith, 220 Cortland Ave #2, San Francisco, CA 94110. Hand drawn memory sketch provided by Source is attached.

Comment: Source claimed to have 15 years of formal education (1961-1975) and appeared to be of at least average intelligence. Source had his "memory" sketch prepared prior to the interview and declined to attempt another one. Although Source claimed to have personally observed the alleged six American graves he did not appear to be familiar with the area. Source did not actually observe any wreckage, remains, or personal effects and based his story entirely on hearsay from unidentified villagers.

PAUL D. MATHER
Lt Col, USAF
JCRC Liaison Officer

Atch: Sketch
GEB/mbr

Ban Sopdong (VH 3192)

Ban Hom (V)
aka Muang Hom
B Hom (VH 3686)

Ferry

To Vietnam

Ma River

NAM MA

Wang

Nam Puang

(Ban Nampung)
(Ban Sopong)

Permanent
Seminar
Camp

02

Handwritten notes on the right margin.

