

REF: RPT #T85-259
26 August 1985

FROM: JCRC-LNB
TO: Commander, JCRC

SUBJ: Remains and Crashsite Information, Savannakhet
Province, Laos (U)

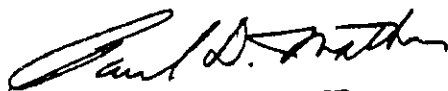
Source:

- a. Name: Saysithideth, Khamson
- b. DOB: 18 April 1930
- c. POB: Savannakhet (P), Laos
- d. Former position: RLA Major, Transportation Officer
- e. Present location: Na Pho Refugee Camp, Bldg 105, Rm 5
- f. Identification data: T-126452
- g. DOI: November 1979
- h. Map used: 1501 JOG, NE 48-15
- i. Date of interview: 21 August 1985
- j. Name of interviewer: William R. Gadoury, Jr.,
SMSgt, USAF
- k. Other: Source has been accepted for resettlement to
the U.S., and will be relocated to Phanat Nikhom Refugee
Camp on 28 August 1985.

Summary: In mid November 1979, while an inmate at Lako Re-education Camp, Savannakhet Province, Source saw the remains of what he believed were three American crewmembers from a helicopter which crashed in the vicinity of XD 6263.

Information:

While at Lako Re-education Camp (aka Vinko Re-ed Camp) vic XD 6457, inmates were allowed to go outside the camp to fish in nearby streams as a means of supplementing their food rations. In mid-November 1979, friends of Source, while out fishing, discovered the wreckage of a large helicopter that they said looked like a "Jolly Green". Subsequently, the Camp's Chief of Security, Lt Boonpheng sent a camp guard named Phan to check the wreckage for possible remains and bring back whatever he found. Phan later returned and Source saw him turn over a quantity of remains to Lt. Boonpheng. Source later talked with Phan and was told that the bones were from three sets of remains he found at the crash site. Source opined that Boonpheng probably wanted to sell the bones.



PAUL D. MATHER
Lt Col, USAF

20(F) (3) THAILAND REPORTS
T85-221/325

CATEGORY DATA: Crash Site with Remains/Second Hand Account

FINDINGS: Review of information provided by Source reveals a probable correlation to REFNO 1643.

CORRELATE DATA: On 30 June 1970, CAPT Leroy C. Schanebert, Maj John W. Goeglein, SSGT Marvin E. Bell, SSGT Michael F. Dean and MSGT Paul L Jenkins were crew members aboard a HH53C aircraft. The aircraft was hit by enemy fire, burst into flames and crashed inverted in the vicinity of grid Coordinates XD617617, Savannakhet (P), Laos. No parachutes were sighted and no electronic beacon signals were heard.

BACKGROUND/COMMENTS: Source's information correlates well with the facts of this case. The reported coordinates of the re-education camp are within six kilometers of REFNO 1643's crash site location. Although the terrain is mountainous, the maps show numerous trails in the area between the crash site and re-education camp. The crash occurred near a small stream which supports source's statement that he discovered the AC while fishing. REFNO 1643 involved a "Jolly Green Giant" and resulted in the loss of five persons. This general area of Laos was the scene of numerous air and ground losses; however, a check of the All Loss Records revealed no other HH53's lost in this area.