



JOINT CASUALTY RECOVERY CENTER

LIAISON OFFICE
AMERICAN EMBASSY
SAN FRANCISCO 96346

UNCLASSIFIED

FROM: JCRC-LNB
TO: Commander, JCRC

REF: RPT #M86-066
21 October 1986

SUBJ: JCRC RPT M86-066, Hearsay Discovery of Helicopter Wreckage and Remains of Four Americans

1. Source/administrative data:
 - a. Name: Huynh Quang Toan (M)
 - b. DPOB: 14 August 1948; Pho Van (V), Duc Pho (D), Quang Ngai (P)
 - c. Profession:
Pre -1975: ARVN 1LT, svc nbr 68/207985, last assigned to the Quang Ngai Sub-sector
Post-1975: Re-education from May 1975 to March 1986
 - d. Present location: LH 4/23, Sungei Besi Refugee Camp, Malaysia
 - e. Identification data: MB 550004
 - f. Educational level: 12 years (Tu Tai II diploma)
 - g. Languages spoken: Vietnamese (native), English (in-camp study)
 - h. Religion: None
 - i. Status: Refugee (accepted by the US for resettlement, date of departure unknown)
 - j. Date of information: Jan-March 1982
 - k. Interview data: Source was interviewed at Sungei Besi Refugee Camp, Malaysia on 9 September 1986 by Thomas R. McKay, CW2, USA.
 - l. Other: Source arrived in Malaysia on 8 May 1986. His final address in Vietnam was Pho Van (V), Duc Pho (D), Nghia Binh Province. Source has no relatives currently living in the US.
 - m. Maps used: Scale: 1:100,000, Series: L607, Sheets: 6737, 6738, 6231

2. Incident summary. Source provides hearsay information concerning the discovery of the remains of four Americans and an ID card amid helicopter wreckage in the mountainous area approximately 15 kilometers southwest of Nghia Dien (center mass, vicinity BR 6568).

CLASSIFIED BY: JCRC-LNB
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

UNCLASSIFIED

m 86 - 066 UNCLASSIFIED

3. Information: The following information was related by Source to interviewer as fact. Sometime in 1982 (Source could not provide a more precise date), Source was held in the Kim Son Re-education Camp, located at vicinity BR 708770. During the Spring of 1982 (from January to March), Source recalled talking to an acquaintance and fellow inmate (held as a political prisoner) named anh Ba (older brother Ba, NFI). Anh Ba was responsible for the operation and maintenance of the camp generator and was from Binh Dinh Province. Anh Ba told Source that he had heard from (unidentified) fellow inmates that they had discovered the wreckage of a Huey-style helicopter which may have belonged to the US 41st Squadron which normally had aircraft flying from Pleiku to Phu Cat and return.

Anh Ba added that these inmates had not merely discovered the wreckage, but were dispatched by camp cadre to scavenge the wreckage for anything recyclable. Source explained that the less honest cadre often dispatched groups of inmates illegally to collect sandalwood, fruit or anything of resale value. The cadre of the camp would learn of areas of exploitation or crash sites from the local populace of an area and then detail inmate teams to the areas. Source heard the helicopter crash site was somewhere in a mountainous area 15 kilometers southwest of Nghia Dien (center mass, vicinity BR 6568). The helicopter reportedly (according to anh Ba) contained the remains of four Americans who had died in the crash. Anh Ba had also claimed to have heard that one of the inmate scavengers had recovered a military ID card of an American officer who was one of the casualties. Source could recall no further details concerning the account.

4. Source provided the following re-education locations:
 - a. Trai Nuoc Nhap, located approximately four hours by vehicular travel from Kim Son, vicinity BR 5994.
 - b. Trai Nghia Dien, located vicinity BR 7074.
 - c. Trai Kim Son, located vicinity BR 708770.

5. Source provided the following re-education chronology:
 - a. 24 March 1975 - 10 March 1976: General Prisoner Camp #3, located at Vuc Liem, vicinity BS 6336. This camp is not currently in use.
 - b. 10 March 1976 - September 1977: Probation at his home in Pho Van Village, Duc Pho District, Nghia Binh Province.
 - c. 29 September 1977 - 20 December 1982: Kim Son Prison, held for suspicion of anti-communist activities.
 - d. 20 December 1982 - January 1984: Probation at home in Pho Van Village.