



LIAISON OFFICE
AMERICAN EMBASSY
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96346

FROM: JCRC-LNB

REFERENCE: HK84-083

22 June 1984

SUBJ: Refugee Report, Helicopter Wreckage Observed near Phu Tuc, ~~Quang Nam~~

TO: COMMANDER, JCRC
Barbers Point, HI 96862

Cpl

added by me

Source: Vu Minh Chau; DPOB 10 Aug 31, Ha Dong. A former Cpt 1st Class ARVN, SN 478, Source is presently located at Chimawan. ID #7537, date of interview 7 June 84. Map used: Sheet 6640-4, Series L7014. Source arrived Hong Kong 2 May 84, boat LM 2007.

Source stated that he observed the wreckage of a large U.S. helicopter which had crashed near Phu Tuc re-education camp (vic AT8868) during 1981. Source recalled that at the time of his observation he was on a rations pick up detail from An Diem Re-ed Camp near Thuong Duc. Source stated that the helicopter wreckage was located approx 500 meters straightline distance from Phu Tuc Camp (approx two km ground distance due to terrain). Source observed that most of the wreckage had already been scavenged for scrap metal but some large pieces of metal and a big engine remained. Source saw four small black rifles lying near the wreckage (same type as those used by "Mike Force" according to Source). Source did not observe any graves. Source heard from villagers in the area that the helicopter was a large type called a Caribou (sic) and that it had been shot down when it landed right on top of a Viet Cong unit when it came to support a joint US/ARVN unit under attack by the VC at Phu Tuc Camp. Source was not able to provide further information concerning the crashsite.

Paul D. Mather

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Lt Col, USAF
JCRC Liaison Officer

GEB/mbr

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SOURCE DATA: VU MINH CHAU, 53
REPUGNE REPORT INTERVIEW NR & DATE: HK84-083, 22 JUN 1984
ANALYST: SFC R. R. HILL
LOSS REFERENCE(S): T83-094, HK83-013, HK83-012

WITNESS DATA: Crashsite/first hand account.

FINDINGS: Review of data supplied by source reveals a possible correlation to REFNO 1019.

RELEVANT DATA: On 1 Feb 68, CPL Michael G. Murdock was a member of a nine man recon team being inserted by a CH46A with a crew of four. On the final pass over the landing zone the A/C received heavy caliber ground fire (which killed CPL Murdock) and was forced to crash land in the vicinity of AT845709. The remaining twelve personnel aboard the A/C were receiving heavy ground fire and were forced to leave CPL Murdock's body behind as they made their escape. All twelve were subsequently rescued. On 3 Apr 74 an ARVN unit recovered a set of remains (identified as Murdock) and assorted personnel belongings (including ID tags) of CPL Murdock. CPL Murdock is currently carried in the status of Dead, Remains Recovered.

BACKGROUND/COMMENTS: It is possible that source observed the wreckage of REFNO 1019. JCRC files contain no other helicopter crashsites within fifteen kilometers of the area described by source.



JOE B. HARVEY
SFC, USA
Commander

DISPOSITION: JCRC LIAISON OFFICE, BANGKOK
JCRC A&S FILES
OSD/ISA, PW-MIA AFFAIRS
DIA, DC-2
JCRC REFNO FILE: 1019

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FOLLOW-UP: