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JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER

LIAISON OFFICE  
AMERICAN EMBASSY  
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96346

FROM: JCRC-LNB  
TO: Commander, JCRC

REF: RPT #I85-088  
30 October 1985

SUBJ: Discovery of American Remains Near Hai Van Pass\*

Source:

- a. Name: Huynh Van Ngoc
- b. DOB: 1939
- c. POB: Binh Duong
- d. Former position: News writer for the Quoc Cuong Newspaper
- e. Present location: Bk 63, Zone 3, Site I, Galang Refugee Camp, Indonesia
- f. Identification data: PG 065013
- g. DOI: September 1976
- h. Map used: 1:100,000, Series L607, Sheet 6641
- i. Date of interview: 31 August 1985
- j. Name of interviewer: Thomas R. McKay, CW2, USA
- k. Other: Source departed Vietnam on 24 November 1984. His final residence in Vietnam was Ap 1 Hamlet, Lac Hung Village, Ben Cat District, Song Be Province. He has a relative, Huynh Tan Tai, living at 129 77th St, North Bergen, NJ 07047.

Source provides firsthand information concerning the discovery of the remains of two Americans he exhumed from a grave in the area of Hai Van Pass, vicinity AT 9189 or AT 9289. He reburied the remains in the Danang area, vicinity BT 075824.

Information:

The following information was related by Source to interviewer as fact. Sometime in September 1976, Source lived in Danang and commonly went into the surrounding forested regions with a friend, Nguyen Dinh, aka Qui (former RVN Navy SFC) in search of firewood which they could later sell. While searching in the area of Hai Van Pass, they discovered a single, unmarked shallow grave. In the grave, they discovered the remains and dog tags of two Americans. Thinking there may be aircraft wreckage in the area, they searched an approximately 2KM zone around the area of the grave for aircraft wreckage but found none. Although the grave was not marked, it was an oblong oval shape and was covered with rocks, which caused them to suspect it might be a grave.

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After digging into the grave, they discovered only the remains, a piece of dog tag chain stuck to an arm bone and two different dog tags. They found no remnants of clothing or boots. The skulls still had brown hair attached. The remains were missing a leg bone and small hand bones, which caused Source to speculate that perhaps jungle animals had feasted on the bodies prior to burial.

A day or two after their discovery, they returned to the grave site with a bag and recovered the remains and took them to Dinh's home, located on Son Tra ("Monkey") Mountain. Source could not locate the grave site area on interviewer's map, but described his route as follows: leaving from Danang, he travelled north and recalled crossing three bridges and arriving at a tunnel which was cut for the road (possibly AT 9386). From there, they turned left off QL 1 (west) and travelled on wood cutters mountain trails for approximately 2½ hours, or a Source-estimated distance of possibly four kilometers moving up into the mountains (northwest). (JCRC Note: we estimate this location to be possibly in vicinity AT 9189 or AT 9289.)

When the remains were carried back to Dinh's home, Source recalled noticing teeth were present with the remains, but did not notice any dental restoration. He stated all remains were co-mingled during transportation. Dinh still retains the dog tags at his home. Source could only recall that one dog tag had the rank of sergeant and could not recall further details concerning the information recorded thereon.

After transporting the remains to Dinh's house for temporary storage, they later took all remains and reburied them in a single wooden box near a banana field irrigation water line located in vicinity BT 075824.

Source claimed to have already written back to Dinh to tell him to find a way to get the dog tags to him so he can pass them to the US and obtain assistance in getting Dinh out of Vietnam.

*Paul D. Mather*

PAUL D. MATHER  
Lt Col, USAF  
JCRC Liaison Officer

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SOURCE DATA: HUYNH VAN NGOC, 46  
REFUGEE REPORT INTERVIEW NR & DATE: I85-088, 30 October 1985  
ANALYST: MSGT R. L. JOHN  
CROSS REFERENCE (S): NONE.

CATEGORY DATA: Grave Site/First Hand Account

FINDINGS: Information in this report is insufficient to establish a definite correlation, however, it will be placed in the following file(s) for possible future reference: REFNO 0844.

CORRELATE DATA: On 2 October 1967, 1LT Patrick L. Ott was the pilot of an F-8E aircraft that crashed in the vicinity of grid coordinates AT 868912, approximately 20 kilometers northwest of DaNang, Quang Nam-Da Nang Province, Vietnam. The crash site was searched on 23 March 1968. Evidence discovered during the search indicated that 1LT Ott's body was removed from the aircraft. A trail of flight gear was laid out in an attempt to lead a rescue team into an ambush. In addition, 1LT Ott's harness and G-suit were found tied together and fashioned into a crude booby-trap. 1LT Ott is carried in the status of Dead, Body Not Recovered.

BACKGROUND/COMMENTS: Source's alleged discovery location is within five kilometers of the actual crash site. If, in fact, 1LT Ott's body was removed from the crash site, this would account for the absence of aircraft wreckage as stated by Source. This is the second grave site report in this area that has been correlated to REFNO 0844.

*Joe B. Harvey*  
JOE B. HARVEY  
AFC, USA  
Commander

DISPOSITION: JCRC LIAISON OFFICE, BANGKOK/  
OASD/ISA, PW-MIA AFFAIRS  
JCRC REFNO FILE: 0844.

DIA/VO-PW  
MHP-10

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THIS IS NOT A FINAL EVALUATION, THIS IS A PRELIMINARY ANALYTICAL POSITION. THIS EVALUATION AND THE ATTACHED REFUGEE REPORT MAY BE RELEASED TO THE NOK UPON DELETION OF ALL SOURCE NAMES AND IDENTIFICATION DATA.



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