



JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER

LIAISON OFFICE
AMERICAN EMBASSY
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96346

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REFERENCE: T84-075
23 April 1984

FROM: JCRC-LNB

SUBJ: Refugee Report, U.S. Remains in ~~Ho Chi Minh City~~.

TO: COMMANDER, JCRC
Barbers Point, HI 96862

1. Source Data. Tran Thi Minh Phuong, ID #IV8646; DOB 25 Oct 51; POB Hanoi; Residence ODP Compound. A former CARE Mission employee, Source was interviewed at Phanat Nikhom Refugee Camp, Thailand on 20 April 1984.

2. Information Obtained. The following information was related by Source to JCRC interviewer as fact. In either late January or early February 1984, Source was told by friend, Nguyen Duc Thu (former ARVN Aspirant or 2d Lt, held in re-education camp but inclusive dates unknown, camp name unknown) that he discovered a U.S. aircraft (type unknown to Source) near Hoa Xuan (V), Phu Yen (D), Phu Khanh (P). The aircraft had been shot down and had burned. Thu was in the forest at the time looking for sandalwood to collect and sell. Source estimated that Thu was released from re-education sometime in 1977 and therefore the discovery must have occurred after his release. Thu also discovered amongst the wreckage two sets of burned remains and two dogtags associated with the remains. Thu carried them back to his home at D1/A Phu Lam B (V), District 6, HCMC. Thu's family resides at the above address. None of his family members have yet escaped from Viet Nam. Both the remains and the dogtags are hidden at Thu's residence. The remains are co-mingled and are stored in a single bag. Information extracted by Thu and given to Source from the dogtags is as follows:

Leeper Wallace W
W# 3156849

A

Protestant

Strange Floyd W
W# 3155714

A Pos

Latter Day Saint

Thu also gave Source what he referred to as the Flight #SMB 11899. (Interviewer Comments: we notice that this number could possibly be an upside down rendition of the aircraft serial number (00811) and the vehicle year (66)). Source also provided two sets of negative film of photos of one of the dog tags. The second dog tag was not photographed as it was too badly burned to be easily visible. Source also provided rubbings of the two dog tags (enclosed).

In a second incident, a friend of Source, Nguyen Van Duc also still living in Viet Nam, has information concerning dead Americans in Viet Nam. He has some bone chips which he showed to Source just prior to her leaving. The remains were recovered from the Hue area and had been burned. Source personally only viewed one piece which she estimated was one part of a finger bone. Duc sent word to a knowledgeable person (NFI) in Hue for more information concerning the incident but did not receive a reply prior to Source's departure.

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Khanh Han / Hanoi

lepro 0933

Leeper - Strange

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Source also provided personal information on the families of both Duc and Thu as they both requested Source provide the USG with the information in order to solicit assistance from the USG in escaping from Viet Nam (enclosed). She provided the following as forwarding address:

Tran Thi Minh Phuong
1405 South 6th St
Lincoln, NE 68502
Tele: 402/476-9482

Paul D. Mather

PAUL D. MATHER
Lt Col, USAF
JCRC Liaison Officer

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TRM/mbr

Additional Comment: Please find attached report forwarded to JCRC on 1 May 84.

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