



JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER

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CONSUL OFFICE
AMERICAN EMBASSY
SAN FRANCISCO 96346

Cu Chi, HCMC

Lfno 1442

FROM: JCRC-LNB
TO: Commander, JCRCReference: T84-234
8 November 1984SUBJ: Graves of Two Americans in Hoc Mon (D) ~~HCM 014~~

Source:

- a. Name: Dao Thi Bich Lien (F)
- b. DPOB: 23 May 1936, 21 Nguyen Cong Chu, Hanoi
- c. Former position: Housewife
- d. Present location: Suan Phlu Transit Center at time of interview. Source departed for Philippine RPC on 6 Oct 84, and will resettle with brother, Nguyen Chi Minh Thi of _____ tel: _____ (work) or _____ (home).
- e. ID data: IV 60453
- f. DOI: 3 Oct 84
- g. Date of interview: 10 Oct 84.
- h. Interviewer: CW2 Thomas R. McKay
- i. Other: Last address in VN was: 18/4 Tran Quy Khoat, Ward 1, District 1, HCMC.

Source provides limited hearsay information concerning the death and burial of two Americans at Hoc Mon (D) in May 1968.

Information:

The following information was related by Source as fact. On 3 Oct 84, one day prior to departure from Vietnam under the ODP Program, Source met her younger brother, Dao Huy Hung of H5 Cu Xa Si Quan Chi Hoa Housing Area, Le Van Duyet St. (now Cu Xa Bac Hai, Cach Mang Thang Tam St.), who told her that the driver of their older brother had related to him that in May 1968, two Americans were killed in a VC ambush. Both bodies were buried by locals somewhere in Hoc Mon (D), HCM City. (This driver's name was Tam (FNU). The older brother, Dao Huy Ngoc, now resides at 46-259 Kahuhipa St., #B303, Kaneohe, HI 96744.) Both bodies were buried headless. Personal items and dogtags were also buried with the bodies. No other information was related to Source. Attached report provides supplementary information.

Source requested assistance in getting her younger brother, Hung, out of Vietnam.

PAUL D. MATHER
Lt Col, USAF
JCRC Liaison Officer

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Incl:
Report

T84-234, 8 November 1984 Continued:

BACKGROUND/COMMENTS:

Since the source could not provide a specific location, the well she mentions in her report possibly is the same one visited by the TPJMC in 1975. During the initial search for the two men at 1600 hours, 13 May 69, a well located 20 feet from where they were last seen showed signs of having recently been filled, to include fresh shovel marks. This well was probed and partially excavated and produced negative results. However, the excavation was halted due to darkness and was never completed. If the alleged well did in fact contain explosives placed at the top by the VC, then the partial excavation should have discovered them. A JCRC recovery study at the time estimated that it would take between 6 to 8 hours to excavate a 9 foot well. The time elapsed from when both SP4 Masuda and PFC Munoz were last seen to when they were determined missing was approximately 5 hours. It is highly possible that while both soldiers may have been lost in vicinity of XT 618227, they probably were not killed and buried there, perhaps only wounded, which would account for the spent AK-47 rounds and portions of blood soaked sand found in the same area. Based on information provided by source and previously correlated data, the actual well site is possibly located at Cu Chi (XT 646136), the same site initially visited by TPJMC on 4 February 1975.

REFUGEE REPORT & PRELIMINARY EVALUATION

SOURCE DATA: DAO THI BICH LIEN (F), 48
REFUGEE REPORT INTERVIEW NR & DATE: T84-234, 8 November 1984
ANALYST: SFC R. R. HILL
CROSS REFERENCE(S): I84-034, T83-009, T80-045, T79-043, T79-022, M79-026, M79-024.

CATEGORY DATA: Death and Burial of Americans/third 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/potential future reference:
REFNO 1442.

CORRELATE DATA: On 13 May 1969, SP4 Robert S. Masuda and PFC David L. Munoz were serving as a machine gun team on a recon mission in South Vietnam. Their unit found a large quantity of rice in a village in the vicinity of XT 618227. Both SP4 Masuda and PFC Munoz assisted in destroying the rice cache. Later in the day it was determined that both individuals were missing. An unsuccessful search was conducted in the area. On 18 May, an 82d Airborne Division patch and a pack of cards that may have belonged to SP4 Masuda was found. SP4 Masuda and PFC Munoz are currently carried in the status of Dead, Body Not Recovered.

BACKGROUND/COMMENTS: The information provided by source, even though hearsay, is consistent in two areas with reports associated with REFNO 1442. Previous reporting indicates that two American soldiers were killed by the VC and buried in a well, with their personal equipment (NFI), in vicinity of XT 616226 near Trung Lap (V). In addition, after the well was closed, the VC allegedly placed explosives (NFI) on the top. On 4 February 1975, the TPJMC began excavation of a well site in Cu Chi (vicinity XT 646136) that supposedly contained the remains of a American serviceman and a local female. After digging a few inches, the laborers unearthed an old live handgrenade, and the operation was suspended pending the arrival of EOD personnel. Subsequent efforts uncovered an old rusty bayonet scabbard and when the EOD mine detector continued to indicate further material, the investigation was halted and never completed. If a U.S. serviceman and a local female were buried there, it would be logical to assume that he was off duty, and therefore, would not have been wearing fieldgear. Cu Chi is located in the Hon Mon (D), HCM City and is approximately 6KM southeast of REFNO 1442's incident location.

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JOE B. HARVEY
LTC, USA
Commander

DISPOSITION: ~~JCRC LIAISON OFFICE, BANGKOK~~
JCRC A&S FILES
OASD/ISA, PW-MIA AFFAIRS
DIA/DC-2
JCRC REFNO FILE: 1442
HQ DA/DAAG-PES

This is not a final evaluation, this is a preliminary analytical position.

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