



1488 Hcmc
Vaden-Sansone

FROM: JCRC-LNB
TO: Commander, JCRC

Reference: I84-044
24 November 1984

SUBJ: Exhumation of US Remains in Mac Dinh Chi Cemetery, HCM City

Source:

- a. Name: Banh Phu Cu
- b. DPOB: 4 Jun 48, Long An
- c. Former position: SFC, Supply Sgt, SN 68/141746
- d. Present location: Bks 145/1, Zone D, Galang II, Indonesia
- e. ID data: ID 053001
- f. DOI: April 1983
- g. Date of interview: 30 Aug 84
- h. Interviewer: CW2 Thomas R. McKay
- i. Other: Source will resettle o/a 12 Jan 85 to his aunt's address: Ho Thi Mai,

Source provides a firsthand accounting of the exhumation of American remains from the Mac Dinh Chi Cemetery in HCM City in April 1983.

Information:

The following information was related by Source to interviewer as fact. In April 83, the present regime ordered the exhumation of all graves in Mac Dinh Chi Cemetery by associated relatives. As this cemetery was used by the families of VIP and high ranking military, the HCMC People's Committee and the Office of Sanitation ordered the exhumation. While accompanying family members during the exhumation of his relatives, Source observed the exhumation of an adjacent grave, which bore the headstone which read, "The resting place of the late 1Lt, helicopter pilot Le Quoc Dat". When the coffin was dug up, it contained not the body of Lt Dat but that of a blond American, preserved and still clad in a grey flight suit. Source remembers seeing insignia (rank not recalled), a dogtag and personal effects. The coffin was wooden outside but appeared to be lined with aluminum. The relatives of Dat were shocked at the sight but were later told (NFI) that the American was on the same flying team as Dat. At the time of Dat's death (date unk), his relatives were provided with the corpse already sealed in the coffin, ready for burial, and had not observed the body.

The Office of Sanitation took possession of the corpse and effects, cremated the body, and stored the remains and effects at the Office of Sanitation located on Vo Thi Sau St., HCMC. The official government explanation of the incident to the family of Dat is unknown to Source.

Source's brother, Banh Anh Dung, 106C/115 Lac Long Quan St., Ward 3, District 11, HCMC, also knows of this incident.

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