



JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER

LIAISON OFFICE  
AMERICAN EMBASSY  
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96346

UNCLASSIFIED

Reference: T84-282  
6 December 1984

FROM: JCRC-LNB  
TO: Commander, JCRC

SUBJ: Remains of Black American and Disabled Tank Observed at HCM City

Source:

- a. Name: Nguyen Van Thanh
- b. DOB: 9 July 1949
- c. POB: Tan Binh, Gia Dinh
- d. Former position: SFC, ARVN, SN 69/133812
- e. Present location: Dong Rak, Thailand
- f. ID data: TC 161802
- g. DOI: 1968
- h. Map used: Sheet 6330, Series L607
- i. Date of interview: 20 Nov 84.
- j. Name of interviewer: Mr. Garnett E. Bell
- k. Other: Source arrived in Thailand on 13 Jan 84 (landroute)

Source, a 35 YOA male VN refugee and former ARVN SFC, provided information concerning his observation of the body of an alleged black American soldier, and a disabled tank near Hoc Mon, Saigon, during 1968.

Information: *Poss 1065, Similar to T80-061*

*T84-282*  
Source stated that shortly after the 1968 "Tet" offensive he was assisting his aunt, who was a food vendor, to move her food stocks when he observed the body of a black American serviceman lying over the edge of a water well at Thoi Tu Hamlet, Thoi Tam Thon Village (XT 7704), Hoc Mon District, Ho Chi Minh City.

Source recalled that only the legs of the man were visible and that the man was wearing a green fatigue uniform with jungle boots. Source stated that he was able to determine the race of the man by the skin color on his legs. Source speculated that the man had been dead for several days because of the swollen condition of the legs and the foul odor that emitted from the body. Source did not observe any dogtags or other personal effects associated with the remains. Source did not know the disposition of the body.

Source also recalled seeing a U.S. tank near where he observed the body. Source recalled that the tank had been badly damaged, was torn open, and had burned. Source did not observe any remains near the tank.

Source was not able to provide further information concerning the incident. Source gave a possible forwarding address as: c/o Tran Thi Le Thanh (sister-in-law), . A hand drawn memory sketch provided by Source is attached.

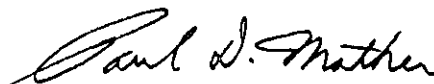
UNCLASSIFIED

REFERENCE: T84-282

PAGE TWO

Comment:

The interviewer recalls hearing a similar story in 1973 in which the body of a black American serviceman was policed up after the "Tet" offensive along with the bodies of numerous Vietnamese including VC and NVA, and buried in a common grave with over 200 remains located vic XS 7895. However, the body mentioned by local residents at that time was, according to them, policed up much nearer to the gravesite than the body reported by Source of this report.



PAUL D. MATHER

Lt Col, USAF

JCRC Liaison Officer

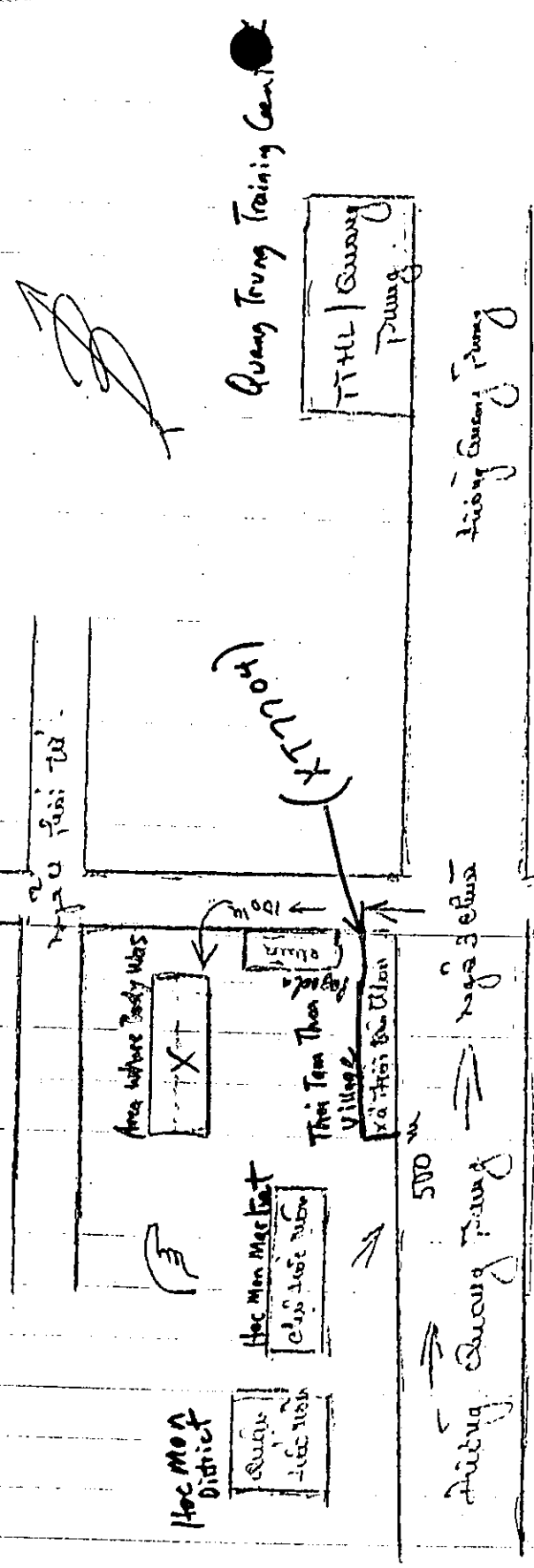
1 Incl:

Memory sketch

f

UNCLASSIFIED

Đã thấy XÁC MỸ năm 1968 (màu  
 đỏ) ở Thời tế, xã Thời tam Thôn  
 Quận Hồ Nội, tỉnh Gia Bình



Nguyen Van Thanh  
 TC 161802  
 Dong Rak

UNCLASSIFIED

CASE DATA: NGUYEN VAN THANH, 35  
REFUGEE REPORT INTERVIEW NR & DATE: T84-282, 6 December 1984  
ANALYST: SFC R. R. HILL  
CROSS REFERENCE(S): I83-029, T82-028, RP81-009, T80-061.

CATEGORY DATA: Casualty Data/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/potential future reference:  
REFNO 1065-0-01.

CORRELATE DATA: On 28 February 1968, CPL Robert W. Hunt was a gunner on a M41 tank engaged in a recon-in-force mission in South Vietnam when the enemy launched an attack with rocket-propelled grenades (RPG) and heavy automatic weapons fire. CPL Hunt was last seen standing on the rear of the tank in the vicinity of XT 742017 when the tank received two direct RPG hits. Because of the heavy fighting it was not until the next day that the tank position could be regained and searched. The remains of two other crew members were recovered; however, nothing was found of CPL Hunt. CPL Hunt is currently carried in the status of Dead, Body Not recovered.

BACKGROUND/COMMENTS: The location of the alleged well is approximately 3.7 kms northeast from the area where CPL Hunt was last seen. Source of T80-061 relays a similar account of an alleged American killed and thrown into a well in vicinity of XT 7603 during TET 1968. Information provided in the past, by other sources, have indicated that CPL Hunt may have died shortly after his capture and buried in the area of his incident.

UNCLASSIFIED



JOE B. HARVEY  
SFC, USA  
Commander

DISPOSITION: JCRC LIAISON OFFICE, BANGKOK  
JCRC A&S FILES  
OASD/ISA, PW-MIA AFFAIRS  
DIA/DC-2  
JCRC REFNO FILE: 1065-0-01  
HQ DA/DAAG-PES

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