



JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER

LIAISON OFFICE
AMERICAN EMBASSY
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96346

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Cu Chi-Hoang
Brown-F5 (Vinh Binh?)
Rach Gia Kien Giang Helo C/S?

FROM: JCRC-LNB
TO: Commander, JCRC

REF: RPT #M86-072
21 November 1986

SUBJ: JCRC RPT M86-072, Remains and Crash Site Information
From Cu Chi, ~~Saligon~~ and Rach Gia

1. Source/administrative data:
 - a. Name: Le Anh Phuong (M)
 - b. DPOB: 13 March 1959, Danang
 - c. Profession:
Pre -1975: Student
Post-1975: Various handicraft occupations, including tile maker and wood carver
 - d. Present location: Building 4/5 Zone F Pulau Bidong
 - e. Identification data: MB 545
 - f. Educational level: 10th grade
 - g. Languages spoken: Vietnamese (native), English (limited)
 - h. Religion: Catholic
 - i. Status: Refugee
 - j. Date of information: March-May 1985
 - k. Interview data: Source was interviewed at Pulau Bidong on 6 September 1986 by James M. Coyle, GS-12, DOD.
 - l. Other: Source arrived in camp on 5 May 1986. His final address in Vietnam was Bung Rieng 1 (V), Xuyen Moc (D), Dong Nai (P). Source has no relatives in the United States.
2. Incident summary: Source provides hearsay information concerning remains of two Americans buried in a well in Cu Chi (D), remains of three Americans in the hands of various parties in HCMC, and concerning a helicopter crash site off the coast of Rach Gia.
3. Information: In 1984 Source and his older brother, Le Xuan Oanh of Khom 1, Xa My An (V), Thap Muoi (D), Dong Thap (P) heard rumors that possession of American remains would guarantee

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resettlement to the US, so they decided to search for remains. Early in 1985 they were introduced by a friend of Oanh named "Hau" to a self-styled former "sapper" named "Bay Ho". This meeting took place somewhere in Cu Chi district; Source cannot remember the address, or even the village.

"Bay Ho" told Source and Oanh that one evening in 1968 or 1969 he and two others (since deceased, names forgotten) had surprised two Americans looking into a well in Cu Chi, and had stabbed and killed them. The next day "Bay Ho" returned to the scene, took the shoes, dog tags, and personal effects of the dead men, then threw the bodies down the well.

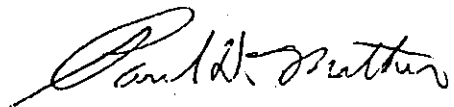
"Bay Ho" said that he was now (1985) dissatisfied with the regime and wanted to work with Source and Oanh. The three men then agreed to purchase the 4 sao of land containing the well for 2 taels of gold. (Source noted at this point that neither US dollars nor VN dong were acceptable to the seller.) They intended to remove the American remains from the well in order to use them to get to the US. Before they did so, however, they began to hear rumors that "the matter of remains was encountering difficulties" (van de hai cot dang gap kho khan, by which Source meant that remains traders were getting into trouble), so they discontinued their project. To the best of Source's knowledge "Bay Ho" still owns the land and still has the personal effects of the dead Americans. Source has not seen these effects, and does not know the names of the two dead men.

At the same time Source and Oanh were dealing with "Bay Ho" they were introduced to other remains dealers by a friend of Oanh's named "Thieng". These traders were "Ong Muoi" from Phu Nhuan (HCMC), "Hau" from Tan Binh (HCMC), and a third man from Quang Tri whose name Source cannot remember. Each of these men claimed to have possession of one set of remains and each gave a photograph of the remains, a portion of the remains, and a rubbing of a dog tag to Thieng as proof. "Hau" claimed to have the remains of an F-5 pilot named CPT Brown. Source remembers this man because he saw a photograph of "Brown" showing his name and rank. Source remarked that Thieng was arrested shortly after this introduction.

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Source has also heard a fourth-hand hearsay story of a helicopter shot down off the coast of Rach Gia. This incident is supposed to have taken place "sometime before 1970", just off the beach near Border Garrison (thu) 11, Rach Gia. The wreckage of the helicopter lies about 4M below the surface of the water. The tail of the helicopter points up, and local fishermen still catch their nets on it. The bodies of two Americans are said to remain in the wreckage, which is firmly stuck in the sea bottom. Source says that everyone in the Rach Gia area knows about this crash site.

4. Comment: Source made no direct requests of JCRC rep, but noted that his brother Qanh had initiated these various transactions. Consequently, if JCRC wanted more information they would have to make contact with Qanh.



PAUL D. MATHER
LT COL, USAF
JCRC Liaison Officer

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