



JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER
UNCLASSIFIED
LANSOL OFFICE
AMERICAN EMBASSY
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96346

Minh Hai

1070

Ref: RPT #T84-313
18 December 1984

FROM: JCRC-LNB
TO: Commander, JCRC

SUBJ: Immigrant Report (ODP), Vietnamese in Possession of American
Remains in ~~Bac Lieu~~

REF: Reports by same Source:

- A. T84-310
- B. T84-311
- C. T84-312
- D. T84-314
- E. T84-315
- F. T84-324

Source:

- a. Name: Nguyen Thi Tri (F)
- b. DOB: 15 April 1933
- c. POB: Phan Rang, Ninh Thuan
- d. Former position: Administrative Specialist for DAO
- e. Present location: Suan Phlu Transit Center, Bangkok, Thailand.
- Source will travel to the RPC in the Philippines on 14 December 1984.
- f. Identification data: BV 7263
- g. DOI: 1984
- h. Date of interview: 6 December 1984
- i. Name of interviewer: Thomas R. McKay, CW2, USA
- j. Other: Source's final address in Vietnam was 323/18 Cach Mang Thang Tam St., Ward 3, Tan Binh District, HCMC. Source plans to re-settle with her son-in-law's sister, Nguyen Thi Giang Tuyet, who lives at

Source provides scattered hearsay information of a man living in Bac Lieu who possesses the remains of an American major helicopter pilot shot down in 1968.

Information:

The following information was related by Source to interviewer as fact.
The following is the chain of hearsay information.

The original finder: 1) Nguyen Van Phat, DOB 1940, wife and 8 children, living at Vinh Loi (aka Phuoc Loi) near Cau Sap Bac Lieu, Minh Hai (P), told his aunt

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- 2) Mai Thi Quy, DOB 1933, of the Nha Tho Tan Phu Church, HCMC, who told Source's friend
- 3) Tran Van Giau, DOB 17 April 1924 of 32/8 Ap Lac Quang (H), Tan Thoi Nhut (U), Hoc Mon, HCMC, who told Source.

The following story was passed to Source through the above chain of informants: During Tet 1968, in February, an American helicopter was shot down and two people on board, one caucasian major and one negro enlisted man died in the crash. The crash occurred at Cau Sap Bac Lieu, Vinh Loi (V), former Bac Lieu (P). Phat buried the two bodies in different locations, burying the black man under an U/I person's house (NFI). The land on which the major was buried was about to be confiscated by the SRV Government (date and location unknown) so Phat exhumed the burial site and moved the remains to his house at the above address in order to preserve them.

Sometime in 1972, an American woman, the wife of the major, arrived from the US to search for her husband in the Vinh Loi area. Phat actually met the woman, but as the area was still full of VC, he could not come forward with his information for fear of his life.

Giau tried to give Source a vertebral bone, one possible incisor and a tuft of brownish hair belonging to the remains of the major to bring to the US on her departure, but Source refused. Giau still has these items at his residence in HCMC. Phat still has the rest of the remains and dog tag at his house at Vinh Loi. No information concerning personal effects was related to Source. Source never saw anything other than the items Giau tried to give her.



PAUL D. MATHER
Lt Col, USAF
JCRC Liaison Officer

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SOURCE DATA: NGUYEN THI TRI (F), 51

REFUGEE REPORT INTERVIEW NR & DATE: T84-313, 18 December 1984

ANALYST: SFC R. R. HILL

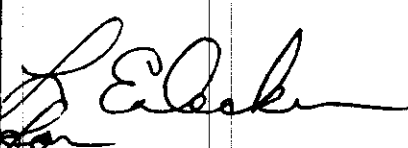
CROSS REFERENCE (S): T84-310, T84-311, T84-312, T84-314, T84-315, T84-324, M83-018, M82-038, I82-004, I81-035, I79-036.

CATEGORY DATA: American Remains and Crash Site/fourth hand account.

FINDINGS: Review of data supplied by source reveals a probable correlation to REFNO 1070-0-01

CORRELATE DATA: On 3 Mar 68, 1LT John T. Welshan was flying an A37 on a mission in the vicinity of WR 732298. He completed a firing pass, called "off target", acknowledged a transmission by the FAC, then disappeared into a cloud formation. Attempts to establish radio contact with 1LT Welshan failed. No hostile fire, explosion, falling debris or parachute were observed. SAR attempts all met with negative results. 1LT Welshan is currently carried in the status of Dead, Body Not Recovered.

BACKGROUND/COMMENTS: In June 1971, an American search operation was conducted for 1LT Welshan's aircraft based on reports that the aircraft had crashed in the vicinity of WR742280. This investigation, unfortunately, proved inconclusive. Subsequent investigations and excavations in Jul-Aug 74 and Sep 74, resulted in the recovered of metal debris, with at least one piece to have probably come from an A37. No human remains were ever recovered. The location of the crash site reported by source is approximately one kilometer south of the excavated crash site. Hearsay information concerning the number of Americans killed and the visit of an alleged wife is consistent with previous correlated reports. 1LT Welshan was married and did have brown hair. No information is available within JCRC files to substantiate the visit of the American wife in the Vinh Loi area in 1972. Discrepancies of the aircraft type and month could be attributed to hearsay.


JOE B. HARVEY
LTC, USA
Commander

DISPOSITION: JCRC LIAISON OFFICE, BANGKOK
JCRC A&S FILES
OASD/ISA, PW-MIA AFFAIRS
JCRC REFNO FILE: 1070-0-01

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