



JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER
LIAISON OFFICE
AMERICAN EMBASSY
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96346

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FROM: JCRC-LNB
TO: Commander, JCRC

REF: RPT #M85-129
10 March 1986

SUBJ: L-19 Aircraft Wreckage in ~~Cuu Long Province~~

Source:

- a. Name: Tran Van Lanh
- b. DOB: 5 October 1951
- c. POB: Cuu long Province
- d. Former position: Farmer
- e. Present location: Bldg 414, Zone D, Pulau Bidong Refugee Camp, Malaysia
- f. Identification data: MB 272013
- g. DOI: 1974-1975
- h. Map used: 1:100,000, Series L607, Sheet 6228
- i. Date of interview: 25 November 1985
- j. Name of interviewer: Thomas R. McKay, CW2, USA
- k. Other: Source departed from Vietnam on 4 December 1984. His final residence in Vietnam was Ap Tan Loi Hamlet, Tan Quoi Village, Binh Minh District, Cuu Long Province. Source claims to have an uncle, Nguyen Tan Tai, living in the U.S. but has lost his address.

Tra Vinh
1575?

Summary:

Source provides firsthand sighting information concerning wreckage of an L-19 aircraft located in the area of Ap Long Dai Hamlet, Long Duc Village, Tra Vinh Town, Cuu Long Province, vicinity XS 4503.

Information:

The following information was related by Source to interviewer as fact. Approximately 10 years ago (year unknown, but sometime before the communist take-over), Source was living at the Ap Tan Loi Hamlet, Tan Quoi Village, Binh Long District, Vinh Long Province (now Cuu Long Province) and was working as a hired hand in the rice fields in the Ap Long Dai Hamlet, Long Duc Village, Tra Vinh Town. While working in the area of XS 4503, Source sighted aircraft wreckage which had been completely stripped, including the engine. Source's aunt, a local lady and his employer, told him the aircraft had crashed 6 years earlier. Source heard from locals Ba Chau and Tan Thom that the bodies of both pilots were buried nearby near the Rach Cam Soan waterway. Source never saw the area of the alleged graves.

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on 8 APR

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Comments:

During a previous interview trip, Source completed interviewer's screening sheet, upon which he recorded the following concerning the location of the graves: The bodies are buried on the land of Ba Chau 20 meters from Rach Cam Soan and 100 meters from Ba Chau's house. During the interview, Source would not estimate the distance to the graves, claiming he had forgotten. On the sheet, Source also stated he had no prior military service, but during the interview, he stated he was a soldier and had the service number 509704. When asked, he then recalled the first two digits as 76. He claimed to be a former soldier of the ARVN 1st Division. When asked why he did not so state on the screening sheet, Source replied that he was medically discharged. Source had no reason as to why the first two digits of his service number were 76 and not 71 as they should be. Source then claimed he had forgotten much of what he had written on the sheet and asked interviewer to allow him to review the sheet prior to answering further questions.

At the conclusion of the interview, Source repeatedly stressed his recommendation that the US go to Vietnam and contact Ba Chau and Tam Thom, stating everyone in the village knows them, which would make contacting them easy. Source stated he did not report the information to the U.S. earlier (he has been in camp for over a year) because he wasn't sure of the details, but has decided to report the details as he knows them.

Paul D. Mather
PAUL D. MATHER
Lt Col, USAF
JCRC Liaison Officer

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REFUGEE REPORT & PRELIMINARY EVALUATION

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SOURCE DATA: TRAN VAN LANH, 34
REFUGEE REPORT INTERVIEW NUMBER & DATE: 1585-129 10 MAR 86
ANALYST: MSG D.W. Atherton
CROSS REFERENCE(S):

CATEGORY DATA: Crash and Grave Site/First and Second Hand Account

FINDINGS: Review of information provided by Source reveals a probable correlation to REFNO 1575.

CORRELATE DATA: REFNO 1575: On 20 March 1970, Captain Robert G. Cozart and WO3 James E. Butler were crew members on an OIG aircraft. The aircraft, serial number 51-12899 disappeared while enroute to Tra Vinh, grid coordinates 4798, Cuu Long (formerly known as both Tra Vinh and Vinh Binh) Province, Vietnam. Subsequent information indicates Captain Cozart and WO3 Butler died in the crash of their aircraft and were buried in the vicinity of grid coordinates XS 468047, approximately six kilometers north of Phu Vinh (Tra Vinh) City. Both individuals are carried in the status of Dead, Body Not Recovered. Negotiation folders were passed to the SRV during the 21-30 May 1981 and 25-28 September 1985 Technical Meetings in Hanoi.

BACKGROUND/COMMENTS: Source's report is consistent with the facts of REFNO 1575 and with previous reporting correlated to this REFNO. The general location reported by Source is within two kilometers of REFNO 1575's crash site. L-19 is the prior designation for the O1 Aircraft.


JOE B. HARVEY
JTC USA
Commander

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DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

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THIS EVALUATION AND THE ATTACHED REFUGEE REPORT MAY BE RELEASED TO THE NOK
UPON DELETION OF ALL SOURCES NAMES AND IDENTIFICATION DATA.

DISPOSITION: JCRC LIAISON OFFICE, BANGKOK JCRC REFNO FILE(S): 1575
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