



JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER

LIAISON OFFICE
AMERICAN EMBASSY
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96346

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FROM: JCRC-LNB
TO: Commander, JCRC

REF: RPT #HK85-063
21 June 1985

SUBJ: Hearsay of Alleged U.S. Aircraft and One U.S.
Remains In ~~Laos~~ ~~Thien~~

REF: HK85-124 (by same Source)

Source:

- a. Name: Tran Xuan Sanh
- b. DOB: 12 Jun 38
- c. POB: Cam Pho (V), Hoi An (D), Quang Nam (P)
- d. Former position: Cpt, ARVN SN 58/204642
- e. Present location: Chimawan, Hong Kong
- f. Identification data: I.D. 8378
- g. DOI: 1983
- h. Map used: Sheet 6541; Series L607
- i. Date of interview: 6 Jun 85
- j. Name of interviewer: Mr. Garnett E. Bell
- k. Other: Arrived Hong Kong 24 Jul 84; Boat LM2043.

Source, a 47 YOA male VN refugee and former member of the ARVN 22D Arty Bn KBC 4869, provided hearsay information concerning an alleged U.S. aircraft with the remains of Torre, Francis.

Information:

Source stated that while residing in Phu Loc sometime during 1983 he heard about a U.S. aircraft and one U.S. remains. Source stated that he heard the story from a man who had previously resided next door to him and was known to him as Le Ba Tap, and who was a former Sgt, GVN National Police. Source heard from Tap that he had gone to search for crashed aircraft in order to scavenge metal to sell for his living.

Source heard from Tap that the crashsite was somewhere in the area of his native home which Source seemed to recall was in the area of Cau Hai (ZD 086007) or Cau Nuoc Ngot (ZD153010). Source heard that Tap had found the remains still wearing a rotted uniform about 400 meters from the aircraft. Source did not hear what type of aircraft or about any circumstances of the crash. Source heard from Tap that he had found with the remains one dogtag and an I.D. card which had printed on it "Torre Francis SN 2127294 HMH 463 METAL SHOP STATION LIBRARY MCAP SANTA ANA CALIFORNIA". Tap also told Source that the dead man was a CPT.

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HK85-063
PAGE TWO

Source heard that Tap reburied the remains where he found them and took the dogtag and I.D. card to his house where he hid it. Source stated that to reach Tap for additional information and for him to guide U.S. officials to the crashsite, Tap could be contacted through Source's brother Tran Thanh or Source's wife Bui Thi Ngoc Diep residing at 43 Le Loi, Quan 1, Danang. Source was not able to provide further information concerning the alleged crashsite with remains. Source did not see or hear about any Americans remaining in Vietnam. Source gave a possible forwarding address as: c/o Tran Tu Dat (brother),



PAUL D. MATHER
Lt Col, USAF
JCRC Liaison Officer

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REFUGEE REPORT & PRELIMINARY EVALUATION

SOURCE DATA: TRAN XUAN SANH, 46
REFUGEE REPORT INTERVIEW NR & DATE: HK85-063, 21 June 1985
ANALYST: SFC R. R. HILL
CROSS REFERENCE(S): I85-046, M84-070, HK84-124

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CATEGORY DATA: Crash Site and Remains/Second hand account.

FINDINGS: Review of data supplied by the source reveals a possible correlation to REFNO 0488 or 1949 and a probable correlation to REFNO 1055.

CORRELATE DATA: REFNO 0488-On 7 October 1966, 1LT Larry D. Knight, Pilot, and CAPT James A. Treece, Aircraft Commander, were crewmembers aboard a RF4C on a night photo reconnaissance mission in vicinity of Bach Ma, South Vietnam. Subsequent information indicates that the aircraft crashed in vicinity of Bach Ma Mountain (ZD 060930). Both CAPT Treece and 1LT Knight are currently carried in the status of Dead, Body Not Recovered. REFNO 1949-On 28 November 1972, 1LT Jack R. Harvey, Pilot and CAPT Bobby M. Jones, passenger, were aboard a F4D on a ferry flight to Da Nang AFB, South Vietnam. Last contact with the aircraft was made at 0945 hours when it was in the area of Bach Ma, approximately 20 miles northwest of Da Nang. Two beeper signals were last heard by SAR aircraft on 30 November 1972 originating from the area of last contact. The crash site was eventually located in vicinity of ZC 065915. Both 1LT Harvey and CAPT Jones are currently carried in the status of Dead, Body Not Recovered. REFNO 1055-On 19 February 1968, SGT Francis S. Torres was a gunner aboard a CH-53 helicopter on a routine flight enroute to Da Nang, South Vietnam, when contact with the helicopter was lost. The last known position of the helicopter was in vicinity of ZD 050295. Search and Rescue operations were started but all immediate efforts to locate the helicopter or its crew and passengers proved unsuccessful. The wreckage was eventually located and a quantity of remains were recovered from the crash site. However, the remains were comingled could not be segregated. They were subsequently interred as a group burial on 10 September 1968 at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. SGT Torres is currently carried in the status of Remains Recovered.

BACKGROUND/COMMENTS: Source provided basically the same information in HK84-124.

Signed
JOE B. HARVEY
LTC, USA
Commander

DISPOSITION: JCRC LIAISON OFFICE, BANGKOK
JCRC A&S FILES
OASD/ISA, PW-MIA AFFAIRS
JCRC REFNO FILE: 0488 1949 1055

DIA, DC-2
AFMPC/MPCC

THIS IS NOT A FINAL EVALUATION, THIS IS A PRELIMINARY ANALYTICAL POSITION. THIS EVALUATION AND THE ATTACHED REFUGEE REPORT MAY BE RELEASED TO THE NOK UPON DELETION OF ALL SOURCE NAMES AND IDENTIFICATION DATA.

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