

June 29, 1994

Dear Bill,

I spoke with Ann recently and she suggested that you might be willing to review the enclosed material on my father's case. When I saw her off yesterday, she confirmed that approval was never granted for you to join the "gaggle" led by Lord and Gober to SEA - a unfortunate decision for the issue.

I've enclosed copies of the most significant reporting we've received. Since 1987, we've received a series of dog tag reports and one live sighting report, last October. Most of the reports contain only dog tag type id information, however, one included a black and white photo of a dog tag, presumably his, and another included photos of five full skeletal remains which were later determined to be mongoloid due to the size, etc. of the skulls.

JTFFA investigated his case last year and stated, after a cursory review of the alleged site, that any biological remains would have been washed away. They recommended the site be closed and the case be added to the pending category. After some persistence on my part, in the form of questions and clarification of gaping holes in their investigation process, they reinvestigated the case and site during the 29th JFA this May. The results of that investigation are provided in the enclosed report, which I received by fax last Thursday. Col. Cray and a Sgt. Beckman of JTFFA Det. 2 called me per my request to General Needham the day after the team returned from the field. The only difference in what they said and what appears in the written report is that upon the most recent questioning of the primary witness, Mr. Le Van Quynh, he suggested that about 10 years ago, Laotian officials came across the border and dug in the area - he said he didn't know if they recovered anything. The report does not specify that the people who probably dug there ten years ago were Laotian. Mr. Quynh also suggested in an offhand way that were our family to give him a hunting rifle, he might be willing to part with the helmet. (I wrote him a personal letter in March, appealing for the helmet - JTFFA reps passed that to him, I assume via VNOSMP). I would be happy to talk with you by phone to give further background on any part of the case.

The few bones recovered in the last investigation are at CILHI now; hopefully there are enough grams in good enough condition for DNA testing, so that we might get an individual identification. Ultimately, were we able to learn that these bones, which include vertebrae, are indeed my father's, it would be enough for my family to have peace. Once we had confirmation that he was dead, someone trying to sell us a femur or a skull months or years down the road would not be as devastating. It would add insult to injury, but we wouldn't be victim to the manipulation we have now.

Any information you can provide regarding troops which may have been stationed in the area at the time or recommendations on strategies for motivating the witness, Vietnamese, Lao or U.S. governments to get more information faster would be greatly appreciated. Please contact me collect at any time. My home office number is _____ and I keep rather late pm and early am hours.

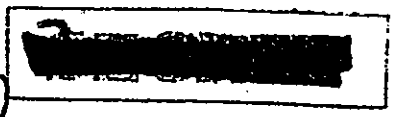
Thanks for your time and help, Bill.

Best Regards,



Working Doc

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On 2 Dec 72, I was HOBO 2 flying #2 on a Airborne Alert mission. Downed member was HOBO 1 flying lead. Member was downed at 0945L in the vicinity between 1930N 10400E and 1925N 1040930E along route 7.

The flight had been assigned an orbit point which was North and East of the PDJ. The orbit was established in the area assigned at 21,000' awaiting further direction from Cricket. After a short time in orbit, HOBO 1 indicated to #2 that he was going to descend and visual recce a section of the road in the Fishes Mouth. #2 remained in orbit at 16,000' while #1 descended below the broken deck of clouds below. #1 was observed for 5 to 10 minutes maneuvering up and down along Rt 7 in the valley. After approximately 10 minutes during which #2 sighted #1 several times, #2 called lead and asked him what he had found. There was no contact with #1 on UHF, FM or UHF Guard. #2 notified Cricket that contact had been lost with #1. Cricket in turn request GUNG HO 1 and 2, a flight of two F-4s to assist in locating #1. GUNG HO 1 and 2 descended into the area and reported several muzzle flashes and ground fire. #2 requested SAR assistance and three SANDY A-7s were launched from Korat. Visual and electronic search continued through the day with negative results. The most probable area of loss is along a 10 NM segment of Rt 7 from 1930N 10400E ESE to 1925N 1040930E.

Craig
s/John G. Gottschang
c/JOHN G. GOTTSCHANG, 1st Lt, USAF, 289-44-0158
355TFS 2 Dec 72

"A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY"

Belgium

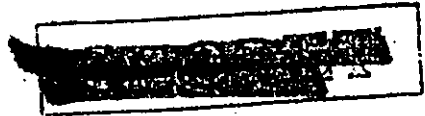
H. H. H. H. H.
H. H. H. H. H., Captain, USAF
225-46-2337V, 398 Oabt Spt Gp
APO San Francisco 96208 8 December 1972

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JCRC
847-73 *4/4*

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bill -

June 30, 1994

Didn't get a chance to
get this out before I
left DC. I'm in

California for a wedding
and thru July 4.

Will call soon.

-Colleen

SHINE
& Associates

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