

TAPC-PED-H (600-8-1m)

18 March 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, U.S. Army Central Identification
Laboratory, Hawaii, 310 Worchester Avenue,
Hickam AFB, HI 96853-5530

SUBJECT: Remains CILHI 0008-93; Proposed Identification of
CAPT Harley H. HALL, USN

1. Background and Acquisition

On 27 January 1973, CDR Harley H. Hall and LCDR Phillip A. Kientzler (CDR Hall has been promoted posthumously to CAPT) were the crew of a F-4J aircraft assigned to attack North Vietnamese supply vehicles in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam. Their aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and caught fire. The crew attempted to proceed to the coastline, but both were forced to eject from the aircraft.

The ejections appeared to have been successful, and the crewmen landed approximately 100 feet apart in Thieu Phouc Village (see map, enclosure #12). Numerous aircraft made several passes over the area but failed to see either of the downed crewmen. Emergency beepers were heard intermittently the remainder of the afternoon and throughout the night, but no voice contact was established. LCDR Kientzler was captured and later released. This incident is known as REFNO 1982.

In January 1989 during the 4th Joint Field Activity (JFA), an American-Vietnamese team traveled to Thieu Phouc Village to investigate REFNO 1982. One witness alleged he was the chief of the village militia forces when two United States pilots parachuted from their jet aircraft which had been hit by anti-aircraft fire on 27 January 1973. He recalled that the first pilot to land was a Caucasian who was already dead when he touched the ground, and he speculated that death was secondary to a wound to the right thigh. The body of this pilot was carried to Xom Co Hamlet where it was buried in a fighting trench near a clump of bamboo, and the personal effects of the pilot were then turned in to higher authorities. The witness claimed the second pilot who was named "Phillip" was captured shortly after his landing and turned over to higher authorities.

The joint team interviewed two other witnesses who provided information which is consistent with the purported burial location having been vandalized by remains hunters.

In January 1993 during the 21st JFA, a joint American-Vietnamese investigative team returned to Quang Tri Province to further investigate REFNO 1982. Several witnesses were interviewed who provided firsthand and hearsay accounts of a

TAPC-PED-H

SUBJECT: Remains CILHI 0008-93; Proposed Identification of
CAPT Harley H. HALL, USN

January 1973 downing of an F-4 aircraft in which one of the members died after both successfully had ejected. The substance of most of the witnesses' testimony is consistent with information given by the primary witness in 1989. Some of the witnesses reported that the burial location had been vandalized by remains hunters, and that some of the remains had been used in traditional Vietnamese medicine. Excavation at the purported burial site by the joint investigative team yielded negative results. One witness provided the joint team with three teeth and bone fragments he allegedly had personally recovered from the grave after unknown villagers had excavated it. These remains were taken from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the US Army Central Identification Laboratory (CILHI) by members of the American team, and the accession was given the laboratory processing number of CILHI 0008-93.

2. Summary of Findings

The location of the incident and the testimony offered by the witnesses correlates well to the known information about REFNO 1982. The credibility of the witnesses accounts is strengthened by the fact that the date of "27 January 1973" is one most witnesses would remember given the fact it was the last day of hostilities with US forces.

The human remains as accessioned by CILHI consist of three restored teeth and 15 eroded skeletal fragments. This differs from information in the Field Investigation Report Concerning Case 1982 which is included in the Site Survey for REFNO 1982 (enclosure 7). Due to the fragile nature of the eight skeletal fragments, it is reasonable to assume that the eight fragments would crumble into smaller portions on their transport from Vietnam to CILHI.

Dental analysis indicates that, within reasonable scientific certainty, the teeth identified as #5, #6, and #9 match the dental radiographs and dental records of CAPT Hall. Anthropological analysis of the accession suggests that they are the remains of an adult male, probably of Caucasoid or Negroid ancestry, but no stature or age determinations are possible.

Witnesses claimed that the purported isolated grave had been disturbed. It is not unusual to find disturbed burial sites in Southeast Asia, as remains and precious-metal dental restorations attract grave robbers. Many citizens of Southeast Asia are convinced that the United States government

TAPC-PED-H

SUBJECT: Remains CILHI 0008-93; Proposed Identification of
CAPT Harley H. HALL, USN

offers monetary rewards and/or resettlement privileges in the United States if they have the remains of missing Americans.

3. Recommendation

Based on the location and circumstances of the incident, and on a favorable comparison between the relevant features of the dentition designated CILHI 0008-93 and the antemortem dental radiographs and records of CAPT Hall, it is recommended that these remains be identified as:

HALL, Harley H.
CAPT, USN

Jimmie C. Schmidt.

Jimmie C. Schmidt
LTC, DC
Acting Laboratory Director

14 Encls

1. Dental Summary
2. Dental Photographs (2)
3. Dental Radiographs (antemortem and postmortem)
4. Anthropological Summary
5. Skeletal Photograph
6. MSG JCRC LIASON BANGKOK TH 091024Z FEB 89, SUBJ:
DETAILED REPORT OF INVESTIGATION OF CASE 1982
7. Site Survey Report for REFNO 1982
8. DD Form 898, Record Data
9. Information Concerning Plane Crash
10. Summary of Incident
11. Map Overlay
12. DD Form 1300, Report of Casualty (6)
13. Antemortem Medical and Dental Records
14. DD Form 2064, Certificate of Death