



JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER

LIAISON OFFICE
AMERICAN EMBASSY
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96346

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Ref: RPT #S84-012
27 December 1984

FROM: JCRC-LNB
TO: Commander, JCRC

SUBJ: September 1975 Sighting of American in Chi Hoa Prison *HC*

REF: S84-006

Source:

- a. Name: Tran Ngoc Son
- b. DOB: 17 September 1956
- c. POB: Nha Trang
- d. Former position: Student
- e. Present location: Hawkins Road Refugee Camp, Singapore
- f. Identification data: 7515/84
- g. DOI: September 1975
- h. Date of interview: 6 November 1984
- i. Name of interviewer: Thomas R. McKay, CW2, USA
- j. Other: Source departed Vietnam on 6 September 1984 and was rescued at sea on 8 September 1984 by the Liberian vessel SS Castor and arrived in Singapore on 14 September. Source's father, Tran Lu, lives at 621 Sigel St., Philadelphia, PA 19148, tel: (215) 467-8540. His last address in Vietnam was 07 Bach Dang St., Nha Trang City.

Source provides firsthand information of an American held in Chi Hoa in September 1975.

Information:

The following information was related by Source to interviewer as fact.

In September 1975, Source was held in Chi Hoa Prison, HCMC following his arrest for attending an anti-communist meeting. He was held in Bloc AB on the second floor, and by climbing up the wall in his cell and looking down through a crack, he could look down onto the ground floor.

Only once, for approximately five minutes, he saw a white caucasian he felt was an American. Due to his angle of sight, he could not see the American clearly, but described him as follows: wore no shirt, wore shorts and high topped yellow tennis shoes, had short blondish hair, was approximately 30-40 years of age, did not wear glasses, and wore no hat. Source

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only viewed the man as he stood but Source speculated he probably was not crippled as he was outside and did not have crutches. The man had a very thin build.

Source heard common rumors from other inmates that the man was ill with dysentery, was taken away to be treated and never returned. Source also heard that the man was an American and was held near (NFI) South Korean Embassy personnel who were also imprisoned in Chi Hoa during this time.

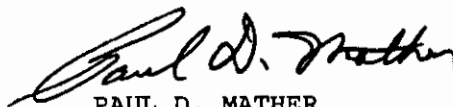
Comment:

After a careful examination of assorted photos, Source picked out the photo of Tucker Gougleman as being the photo which most closely resembled the man he claimed to see in Chi Hoa.

Additional Information:

Source added the following at the completion of the interview. Prior to his departure from Vietnam, a friend, Luong Lac of 117 Xom Con, Nha Trang City told him that he knew a lot about American remains and bodies in the Plieku area (NFI).

With respect to the referenced message, Source never heard anything of an American who committed suicide in Nha Trang as was reported. Source was a life-long resident of Nha Trang.



PAUL D. MATHER
Lt Col, USAF
JCRC Liaison Officer

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REFUGEE REPORT - PRELIMINARY EVALUATION

SOURCE DATA: TRAN NGOC SON, 29
REFUGEE REPORT INTERVIEW NR & DATE: S84-012, 27 December 1984
ANALYST: SFC R. R. HILL
CROSS REFERENCE (S): None

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CATEGORY DATA: Live Sighting/First hand account.

FINDINGS: Review of data supplied by the source reveals a probable correlation to Tucker Gougelmann.

CORRELATE DATA: Tucker Gougelmann was known to have been held at Chi Hoa Prison in 1975/76 where he allegedly died in 1976. His remains were returned to the U.S. on 20 September 1977.

BACKGROUND/COMMENTS: Information provided by the source is similar to previous reports correlated to Tucker Gougelmann. Source selected Gougelmann's photograph as the one which resembled the man he claimed to see in Chi Hoa. The South Korean personnel relayed by the source probably correlates to three Koreans who were imprisoned in Chi Hoa during this same time frame. They were released in the early part of 1980.

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JOE B. HARVEY
LTC, USA
Commander

DISPOSITION: JCRC LIAISON OFFICE, BANGKOK
JCRC A&S FILES
OSD/ISA, PW-MIA AFFAIRS
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JCRC REFNO FILE: TUCKER GOUGELMANN

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This is not a final evaluation, this is a preliminary analytical position.