

Oral history - Tran Duy Ho

RCV11489

CJTF
PW-MIA

05:08 08/13/93

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 RR RUEHBT
 DE RUHQSGG #5366 2211812
 ZNR UUUUU
 R 091812Z AUG 93 ZY8
 FM CDR JTF-FA HONOLULU HI//J2//
 TO RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USDP:RSA/POW-MIA//
 INFO RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASH DC
 RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA//
 RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//CA/OCS/CCS/EAP/VLC//
 RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//OCJCS/J5/PW-MIA/J3-JOD//
 RUHQHQB/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J3/J30-M//
 RUEKJCS/USCINCPAC LO WASHINGTON DC
 RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC//DEA/SEA/IB/DDO/EA/ICOG//
 RUHVAAA/CDRUSACILHI HICKAM AFB HI//TAPC-PED-H//
 RUEHBT/USDAO BANGKOK TH//PW-MIA//
 RUEHBT/CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH
 BT
 UNCLAS //N03460//
 MSGID/SYS.RRM/CDR JTF-FA/J2//
 AMPN/SUBJ/INTERVIEW OF REQUESTED SOURCE, TRAN DUY HOI//
 REF/A/FAX/DET 2/26JUNE93//
 AMPN/SUBJ: LIST OF PERSONS FOR INTERVIEW, ENTRY NUMBER 31 OF
 83//

	ACTION	INFO
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RMKS/1. BACKGROUND. ON 21 JUNE 1993, A JOINT U.S./VIETNAM ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM INTERVIEW TEAM INTERVIEWED RETIRED SRCOL TRAN DUY HOI, A HANOI RESIDENT. HE IS CURRENTLY EMPLOYED BY VIETNAM AIRLINES AND WAS FORMERLY AN AIR FORCE OFFICER WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE BOOK "THE AIR AND AIR DEFENSE FORCE MEMOIRS." THE TEAM MET AT THE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL NEWS AGENCY COOPERATION, VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY, NUMBER 8 TRAN HUNG DAO STREET, HANOI, TO INTERVIEW SRCOL HOI, LISTED IN REFERENCE AS A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF INFORMATION CONCERNING U.S. PERSONNEL MISSING IN ACTION (MIA) IN VIETNAM. THE U.S. CONTINGENT CONSISTED OF MR. KEITH GARY FLANAGAN, DET 2, JOINT TASK FORCE-FULL ACCOUNTING (JTF-FA) CASUALTY RESOLUTION SPECIALIST; TSGT RONALD D. WARD, JTF-FA ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM COORDINATOR; AND PO2 JOHN HARVEY, JTF-FA ANALYST/LINGUIST. THE VIETNAMESE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CONTINGENT CONSISTED OF LTC LE KY, MINISTRY OF DEFENSE; AND MR. TRINH QUOC KHANH, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. SRCOL HOI HAD NOT BEEN INTERVIEWED BY A JOINT TEAM BEFORE.

2. SUMMARY. THE SOURCE, TRAN DUY HOI, PROVIDED NO DETAILS CONCERNING U.S. PERSONNEL MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. HE SUMMARIZED HIS METHODS AND PURPOSES FOR WRITING A CHRONICLE OF

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VIETNAM'S AIR AND AIR DEFENSE FORCE, SOURCE MATERIALS FOR WHICH REPORTEDLY CAME FROM OFFICIAL VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY SOURCES. THE SOURCE CLAIMED NO KNOWLEDGE OF U.S. PERSONNEL, LIVING FREELY OR AGAINST THEIR WILL, IN VIETNAM SINCE 1973.

3. DETAILS.

A. AFTER FORMAL INTRODUCTIONS, LTC LE KY EXPLAINED THE JOINT TEAM'S MISSION AND MR. FLANAGAN BEGAN THE INTERVIEW WITH THE FOLLOWING TWO KEY QUESTIONS:

(1) SINCE 1973, HAVE YOU EVER SEEN OR HAD ANY KNOWLEDGE OF U.S. PRISONERS OF WAR (PW) CAPTIVE IN VIETNAM? SRCOL HOI REPLIED HE HAD NOT.

(2) SINCE 1973, HAVE YOU EVER SEEN OR HAD KNOWLEDGE OF AMERICAN "STAY-BEHINDS" IN VIETNAM? SRCOL HOI REPLIED HE HAD NOT.

B. SRCOL TRAN DUY HOI (TRAANF ZUY HOWIJ) RELATED THAT HE WAS A FRENCH ERA WAR VETERAN, AND DURING THE ANTI-AMERICAN WAR WAS AN AIR FORCE OFFICER IN THE GROUND SUPPORT SERVICES FIELD. THOUGH NOT AN AUTHOR, HIS SUPERIORS DIRECTED HIM IN 1970 TO BEGIN, ALONG WITH A GROUP OF FELLOW CONTRIBUTORS, COMPILING INFORMATION FOR WHAT EVENTUALLY BECAME "THE AIR AND AIR DEFENSE FORCE MEMOIRS."

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THE GROUP'S PURPOSE WAS TO DOCUMENT, FROM A PERSONAL VIEW POINT, THE WARTIME AIR/AIR DEFENSE (AAD) FORCE'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS, WITH EMPHASIS ON THE MISSION'S DIFFICULTY AND THE ORGANIZATIONS'S OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS. HOI STATED HIS DIRECT SUPERIOR IN THIS PROJECT WAS NGUYEN HONG NIEM (NGUYEENX HOONGF NIEEMJ) (SEE PARA. 7.B., BELOW).

C. SOURCE INFORMATION FOR THE BOOKS, SRCOL HOI SAID, CAME FROM VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY (THOONG TAANS XAX VIEETJ NAM) SOURCES, TO INCLUDE THE PEOPLE'S ARMY NEWSPAPER (BAOS QUAAN DOOIJ NHAAN ZAAAN), THE PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER (BAOS NHAAN ZAAAN), AND VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY PHOTOGRAPHS. HE DID NOT KNOW THE DISPOSITION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS HE HAD USED, AND SAID HE NEVER USED SKETCHES OR ARTIST WORKS TO COMPILE INFORMATION. HE DID OFFER, HOWEVER, THAT TACTICAL BATTLE SKETCHES USED IN THIS AND OTHER BOOKS OF ITS TYPE WERE BASED ON BEST ESTIMATES ONLY, AND HE BELIEVED THEY WERE FAIRLY INACCURATE.

D. AS FOR INSTANCES IN WHICH AAD UNITS CAME IN CONTACT WITH U.S. PRISONERS, SRCOL HOI SAID HE KNEW OF NONE, EXPLAINING THE UNITS DID NOT HAVE VEHICLES FOR PRISONER RETRIEVAL AT THEIR DISPOSAL. CONCERNING U.S. PW'S, HE STATED THAT, TO HIS

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KNOWLEDGE, ONLY "MILITARY INTELLIGENCE PERSONNEL" ASSOCIATED WITH THE PRISONERS. HIS WARTIME SPECIALTY HAD NOT PUT HIM IN A POSITION TO KNOW THE DISPOSITION OF U.S. PW'S; IN FACT, HE CLAIMED, THIS TYPE INFORMATION WAS CLASSIFIED SECRET AND WOULD NOT NORMALLY BE MADE AVAILABLE TO INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT A NEED TO KNOW.

E. WITH NO FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR SRCOL HOI, THE JOINT TEAM AGREED TO CONCLUDE THE INTERVIEW.

4. CORRELATIONS TO EXISTING POW/MIA CASES. NONE.

5. POTENTIAL LEADS. NONE.

6. MATERIAL EVIDENCE: NONE. THIS SOURCE BROUGHT ~~NO RECORDS,~~ NOTEBOOKS, DIARIES, OR ANY MATERIAL EVIDENCE ASSOCIATED WITH UNACCOUNTED FOR U.S. PERSONNEL.

7. COMMENTS.

A. THE SOURCE, TRAN DUY HOI, PROVIDED STRAIGHTFORWARD AND CREDIBLE STATEMENTS CONCERNING HIS WARTIME ACTIVITIES AND LACK OF INVOLVEMENT WITH U.S. PERSONNEL MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. BELIEVE THE CHANCE OF SRCOL HOI PROVIDING FUTURE STATEMENTS USEFUL IN SOLVING EXISTING PW/MIA CASES IS VERY SLIM.

B. THE JOINT ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW TEAM INTERVIEWED NGUYEN

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HONG NIEM ON 19 JUNE 93.

C. THE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT TEAM CONFERRED ON THE QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED DURING THIS INTERVIEW. TEAM MEMBERS AGREED THAT THE NEED TO RE-INTERVIEW THIS SUBJECT WOULD DEPEND ON WHETHER FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR SRCOL HOI ARISE DURING THE COURSE OF THE ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW TEAM'S FUTURE WORK.

D. REQUEST THE VNOSMP MAKE SRCOL HOI AVAILABLE FOR RE-INTERVIEW IF NECESSARY.//

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