



JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING
DETACHMENT ONE
BOX 30, AMERICAN EMBASSY
APO AP 96546

Dac Lac

1817
1018

From: JTF-FA DET 1 JTF-FA RPT J91-014
To: Commander, JTF-FA 11 August 1992
Subj: RECOVERY OF ALLEGED U.S. REMAINS AND DOG TAGS NEAR BAN ME
THUOT

1. Source/administrative data:

- a. Name: NGUYEN VAN LOI (NGUYEENX VAWN LOWIJ) (M)
- b. DPOB: 5 May 48/Ninh Binh (P)
- c. Occupation:
Pre-1975: SFC, RVNAF helicopter mechanic
Post-1975: Mechanic
- d. Present location: Shinagawa Refugee Camp, Japan
- e. Identification data: 090396551
- f. Education: 11/12
- g. Languages: Vietnamese (native), English (fair),
Japanese (fair)
- h. Religion: Catholic
- i. Status: Government sponsored refugee
- j. Final address in Vietnam: 225 Ngo Gia Tu Street, Nha
Trang
- k. Source arrived in Japan on 4 May 90
- l. Forwarding address in the U.S.: None
- m. Interview data: Source was interviewed at Shinagawa
Refugee Camp, Japan on 17 Sep 91 by Michael D. Janich, GS-12,
DOD.
- n. Map used: Sheet ND48-16; Series 1501; Edition 2.

2. Summary: Source provided firsthand information concerning the discovery of the wreckage of a U.S. helicopter and a grave containing the remains and corresponding dog tags of two alleged Americans near Buon Cuor Nia (V), Dac Lac (P) in 1985 or 1986. Source and several companions reportedly recovered the remains and dog tags. They were later reburied in a field (U/L) near Buon Cuor Nia village.

3. Information: Source stated that at an un-recalled time in 1985 or 1986, he went with three other people to search for gold and incense wood in an area called Cua Kho Nia (CUA KHOW NIA) near Ban Me Thuot, Dac Lac (P). Source recalled the name of only one of these three, (LNU) Hoa, a 34-35 YOA resident of the area. During their search, they discovered the tail and additional burned wreckage of a U.S. helicopter on the side of a hill.

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Approximately 100 meters from the tail, Source saw a human skull partially buried in the ground. From the appearance of the skull, Source speculated that it had been buried and subsequently exposed by erosion. Source and his companions began digging in the area and ultimately discovered two nearly complete human remains buried there. They also discovered several pieces of burnt, layered cloth and two dog tags, each on a stainless steel neck chain. They did not find any other personal effects or identification media. Source and his companions recovered the remains and placed them in an abandoned ARVN pillbox about 500 meters from the wreckage. They intended to leave them there until they could return with bags or containers to carry the remains back. Source then left the Ban Me Thuot area and returned to Nha Trang.

4. About 4-5 months later, Source returned to the Cua Kho Nia area. When he met with Hoa, he learned that Hoa had taken the remains from the pillbox, placed them in a plastic bag, and reburied them in a field near his house. Source never visited Hoa's house and did not see the reburial site.

5. In late 1989, Hoa supposedly visited Source in Nha Trang. He brought one dog tag with him, which he gave to Source. He also explained that the remains were still buried in the field near his house. Source mentioned that there was a rumor that people in Ho Chi Minh City would pay large sums of money for American remains, but Hoa refused to sell the remains they had found. At the time of Source's departure from Vietnam, Hoa still kept the remains. Source did not take the dog tag Hoa had given him when he left Vietnam, but recalled that the family name on the dog tag was "NEWCOMER." He did not recall any other data from the dog tag.

6. Source was shown a map of the Ban Me Thuot area and asked to identify the location where he and his companions had found the remains. He pointed out Buon Cuor Nia (Cua Kho Nia) in the vicinity of grid coordinates ZV2314 as the location where they had discovered the remains.

7. Comments: Source was cooperative and answered all questions in a straightforward manner.

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8. A preliminary check of JTF-FA files indicated that the name "NEWCOMER" does not pertain to any individual presently listed as unaccounted-for.

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DAVID A. GERALDSON
LT COL, USAF
Commander, JTF-FA Det 1

Atch:
None

cy to:
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DOD POW-MIA Central Documentation Office