



JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER

LIAISON OFFICE
AMERICAN EMBASSY
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96346-0001

Quang
Ninh

FROM: JCRC-LNO
TO: Commander, JCRC

JCRC RPT HK88-060
27 October 1988

SUBJ: Burial of Body of US Pilot in North Vietnam (U)

1. (C) Source/administrative data:
 - a. Name: Hoang Van Phat (M)
 - b. DPOB: 8 May 58; Hai Phong province
 - c. Occupation:
Pre-1975: Student; fisherman
Post-1975: Field worker, fisherman
 - d. Present location: Cape Collinson Closed Refugee Center, Hong Kong
 - e. Identification data: No. 354; L/M 2447
 - f. Educational level: No formal education
 - g. Languages spoken: Vietnamese
 - h. Religion: Buddhist
 - i. Status: Closed camp internee
 - j. Final address in Vietnam was Tuy Nguyen village, Hai Phong province.
 - k. Source arrived in Hong Kong on 2 Aug 87.
 - l. Interview data: Source was interviewed at Cape Collinson Camp on 17 Sep 88 by Garry L. Smith, CW3, USA.
 - m. Source has no relatives in the US.
 - n. Map(s) used: Map Sheet: 6450 IV; L7014; 1:50,000
2. (C) Summary. Source provided first-hand information concerning the body of a US pilot that washed up on shore at Nui Da island in early 1973 and was buried by fishermen at YJ304183.
3. (C) Information: At the beginning of 1978 (possibly in early January) Source and his father and other fishermen were on a fishing expedition just off Nui Da island (YJ3018). Early one afternoon they came ashore (YJ304183) to mend nets and gather firewood.
4. (C) While disembarked, one of the fishermen found the body of a US pilot that had washed up on the shore. The body was wrapped in a red and white parachute and was wearing a helmet, flight suit, and black boots. Source is unable to estimate how long the pilot had been dead, but thinks it may have been "quite a while," since the body was badly discolored and in a state of decomposition.

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5. (C) One of the fishermen dug a shallow grave at a spot just a few meters up from where the body washed ashore. The fishermen dragged the body to the grave, buried it, and marked the grave with a pile of rocks. The fishermen departed the beach in late afternoon. Source never returned to that particular stretch of shore and doesn't know if the grave is still there.


JAMES D. SPURGEON III

Lt Col, USAF

Chief, Liaison Division

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