

ORIGIN JCRC2 INFO AMB DCM2 POL SA3 DAO DAO/SB DATTLO ST/INHIP

CEKI *
UHQBPB RUHQHQA RUEKJCS RUEKJCS RUEKJCS RUEADWW
HMA

UEHBBK #1261/01 172 **
CCCCC

022122Z JUN 88
CRC LIAISON BANGKOK TH
UHQBPB / CDR JCRC PARBERS PT HI
RUHQHQA / USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J2/J3/J36//
JCS / JCS WASHDC//OJCS-PW-MIA/J5//
JCS / SECDEF WASHDC//OASD-ISA/PW-MIA//
JCS / DIA WASHINGTON DC//VO-PW//
DWW / WHITEHOUSE WASHDC//NSC/MR CHILDRESS//
HMA / CDRUSACILHI FT SHAFTER HI

CHARGE: JCRC 88/06/20
APPRV: JCRC:PDM
DRFTD: JCRC:GLS
CLEAR: NONE
DISTR: JCRC
ORIGIN: OCR

LIAISON BANGKOK 31261

3303 JUN 88.

ECT: JCRC REPORT HK88-033, DOWNING OF U.S. AIRCRAFT
IN VICINITY OF HON GAI CITY/HEARSAY DEATH OF PILOT
AT HON GAI HOSPITAL (U)

(C) SOURCE/ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

NAME: TRAN MINH DUOC (M)
DPOB: 3 FEB 53, RON GAI, QUANG NINH PROVINCE
OCCUPATION: PRE-75, STUDENT, MECHANIC; POST-75,
ANIC.
PRESENT LOCATION: HEI LING CHAU CLOSED CAMP, HONG

II DATA: NO. 5928, L/M 2274
EDUCATION LEVEL: 8/12
LANGUAGES SPOKEN: VIETNAMESE (NATIVE)
RELIGION: BUDDHIST
STATUS: CLOSED CAMP INTERNEE
INTERVIEW DATA: SOURCE WAS INTERVIEWED AT HEI LING
CAMP ON 26 MAY 88 BY GARRY L. SMITH, CW3, USA.
MAP USED: SHEET 6450-4, SERIES L7014.
OTHER: SOURCE ARRIVED IN CAMP ON 2 DEC 86. HIS
ADDRESS IN VIETNAM WAS 25 PHUONG HONG, HON GAI,
NINH PROVINCE. SOURCE HAS NO RELATIVES LIVING IN
U.S.

SUMMARY: SOURCE PROVIDED FIRSTHAND INFORMATION
REGARDING THE SHOOTDOWN OF AN F4 AIRCRAFT NORTHEAST OF
AI CITY, QUANG NINH (P), IN MAY 1967. SOURCE RELATE
D INFORMATION REGARDING THE EVENTUAL DEATH OF THE
PILOT IN THE HON GAI HOSPITAL, AND SPECULATED ON THE
POSSIBLE USE OF THE PILOT'S SKELETAL REMAINS AS A MEDICAL
TRAINING AID IN THE HOSPITAL. END SUMMARY.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: IN MAY 1967 WHEN SOURCE WAS 14
YEARS OLD, SOURCE WAS ATTENDING SCHOOL IN HA LAM TOWN
AND IDENTIFIED THE LOCATION OF THE SCHOOL AS VJ
10, QUANG NINH PROVINCE. AT ABOUT 0900 HOURS AN
UNKNOWN NUMBER OF U.S. AIRCRAFT BEGAN ATTACKING

LIAISONBANGKOK 031261/01 HB

TARGETS IN THE AREA OF NEARBY HON GAI CITY (YJ1719). THE
STUDENTS IN SOURCE'S SCHOOL WERE INSTRUCTED TO GO TO
SHELTER, AND ON THE WAY OUT OF THE BUILDING, SOURCE
GLANCED UP AND SAW A BURNING AIRCRAFT EMITTING BLACK
SMOKE AND HEADING DOWNWARD. THE AIRCRAFT HIT THE GROUND
AND EXPLODED IN A VEGETABLE GARDEN THAT WAS A HUNDRED
METERS OR SO NORTHWEST OF THE SCHOOL, AND A FEW DOZEN
METERS SOUTH OF THE MAIN ROAD THAT RAN THROUGH HA LAM
TOWN (SOURCE IDENTIFIED THE CRASH SITE AS BEING LOCATED
ON THE WESTERN EDGE OF HA LAM TOWN AT YJ 201196).
SOURCE HEARD LATER THAT THE AIRCRAFT WAS AN F4. SOURCE
DID NOT SEE THE AIRCRAFT BEING HIT, BUT BELIEVES THAT
ANTI-AIRCRAFT BATTERIES STATIONED AROUND HON GAI CITY
BROUGHT THE AIRCRAFT DOWN SINCE DURING THE AIR ATTACK HE
COULD HEAR THEM FIRING. SOURCE SAW NO ONE EJECT FROM
THE AIRCRAFT AND AT NO TIME AFTER THE INCIDENT HEARD
ANYONE ELSE SAY THEY HAD SEEN ANY PARACHUTES COMING FROM
THE AIRCRAFT BEFORE IT HIT THE GROUND.

4. SOURCE AND HIS FELLOW CLASSMATES RAN TO THE
CRASH SITE, FROM WHICH THEY COULD OBSERVE THAT THE
REMAINING WRECKAGE WAS BURNING. ALMOST IMMEDIATELY LOCAL
MILITIA MEMBERS ARRIVED ON THE SCENE TO TAKE CHARGE OF
THE SITUATION AND BEGAN TO MOVE PEOPLE THAT HAD GATHERED
BACK FROM THE CRASH SITE. SOURCE AND HIS FELLOW STUDENTS
STAYED AS CLOSE AS THEY COULD FOR ABOUT A HALF HOUR OR SO
AND THEN WERE INSTRUCTED TO RETURN TO SCHOOL. HOWEVER,
BEFORE WALKING AWAY FROM THE AREA, SOURCE CAUGHT A GLIMPSE
OF MILITIA MEMBERS CARRYING A STRETCHER ON WHICH APPEARED
TO BE A BODY, FROM THE CORDONED AREA. SOURCE WAS TOO
FAR AWAY TO DETERMINE IF THE INDIVIDUAL ON THE STRETCHER
WAS AN AMERICAN, OR ALIVE OR DEAD. SOURCE HEARD A COUPLE
OF HOURS LATER FROM THE PROPAGANDA LOUDSPEAKER THAT A
U.S. PLANE HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN AND A PILOT CAPTURED;
THEREFORE, SOURCE ASSUMED THAT THE PERSON HE SAW ON THE
STRETCHER MUST HAVE BEEN THE PILOT OF THE AIRCRAFT WHO
SOMEHOW SURVIVED THE CRASH, SINCE SOURCE HAD NOT SEEN
ANY PARACHUTE.

SOURCE HEARD FROM GENERAL HEARSAY THAT THE PILOT
WAS TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL IN HON GAI CITY, WHERE HE DIED
SHORTLY AFTER BEING ADMITTED. IN 1974, SOURCE WAS TALK-
ING TO HIS UNCLE TRINH QUANG PHO, WHO FOR MANY YEARS HAD
BEEN AN EMPLOYEE AT THE HON GAI HOSPITAL. THE UNCLE TOLD
SOURCE THAT HOSPITAL PERSONNEL WERE USING SKELETAL
BT

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED
BY AUTHORITY OF JCS 271945Z JUL 92
ON

11 MAY 1993

272 [REDACTED] LIAISONBANGKOK 031261/02 HP

REMAINS OF A U.S. PILOT AS A MEDICAL TRAINING AID AT THE HOSPITAL. DURING THE CONVERSATION, SOURCE'S UNCLE MADE NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THE 1967 CRASH THAT SOURCE HAD WITNESSED AND THE SKELETAL TRAINING AID; HOWEVER, SOURCE LATER PUT THE TWO TOGETHER IN HIS MIND AND SPECULATES THAT THE MEDICAL TRAINING AID PROBABLY PERTAINED TO THE PILOT WHO DIED AS A RESULT OF THE CRASH WHICH HE WITNESSED AT HA IAM TOWN.

6. (C) INTERVIEWER'S COMMENTS: SOURCE RESPONDED VOLUNTARILY TO COME FORWARD AND PROVIDE INFORMATION AFTER A LOUDSPEAKER CALL-OUT AT HEI LING CHAN. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE INTERVIEW SOURCE BEGAN TO REQUEST FINANCIAL AND RESETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE, LEADING INTERVIEWER TO SUSPECT THAT SOURCE'S MOTIVE FOR PROVIDING INFORMATION HAVE INCLUDED THE POSSIBILITY OF PERSONAL GAIN. INTERVIEWER PRESENTED TO SOURCE THE USC POLICY REGARDING NO REWARD OR RESETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE FOR INFORMATION. DICL: OADR.

B1

#1261

NNNN

2/2 [REDACTED] LIAISONBANGKOK 031261/02 HB

11 MAY 1968