



JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER

LIAISON OFFICE
AMERICAN EMBASSY
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96346-0001

Hai Phong

FROM: JCRC-LNB
TO: Commander, JCRC
REF: RPT #HK88-010
April 4, 1988

SUBJ: Shootdown of U.S. Aircraft in North Vietnam/Death of Crew Members

1. Source/administrative data.
 - a. Name: Dinh Quang Y (M)
 - b. DPOB: 2 February 1963; Pha Le Village, Thuy Nguyen District, Haiphong Province
 - c. Profession:
 - Pre -1975: Student
 - Post-1975: Enlisted soldier in Quang Ninh Province; fisherman
 - d. Present location data: Hei Ling Chau Closed Camp, Hong Kong
 - e. Identification data: No. 7491; L/M 2606
 - f. Educational level: 6/12
 - g. Languages spoken: Vietnamese (native)
 - h. Religion: Buddhist
 - i. Status: Closed camp internee
 - j. Date of information: October-November 1972
 - k. Interview data: Source was interviewed at Hei Ling Chau Closed Camp, Hong Kong on 1 March 1988 by Garry L. Smith, CW3, USA.
 - l. Other: Source arrived in camp on 9 September 1987. His final address in Vietnam was Pha Le Village, Thuy Nguyen District, Haiphong City. Source has no relatives living in the U.S.
 - m. Maps used. Scale: 1:50,000; Series: L7014; Sheets: 6350 I and IV

2. Summary: Source provided firsthand information concerning the crash site of a U.S. aircraft (model and type not known to Source) in a field between Gia Duc village (XJ 823203) and the south bank of the Da Bach river (XJ 823217). Source observed the bodies of two airmen lying 200-300 meters from the crash and witnessed their recovery by soldiers. Source related hearsay information regarding the autopsy, subsequent burial at a Chinese temple cemetery in Gia Duc village and an attempt to dig up the remains in the mid-1980's. End Summary.

3. Information: When Source was ten years old in late 1972, possibly in the month of October, there were a number of U.S. air attacks in the vicinity of Pha Le village (XJ 8111) where he lived. Early one morning after a night punctuated by heavy bombing in the distance, Source heard villagers talking about a fireball that lit up the sky the previous night. They speculated that it could have been a missile hitting an aircraft. Source and

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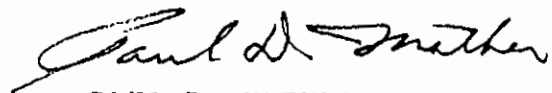
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his older brother, Dinh Quang Qui, decided to investigate the incident, so they traveled north by bicycle in the direction the flash was seen. By stopping and asking directions from eyewitnesses, they eventually arrived at the burned out wreckage of an aircraft that was lying in the center of a crater in a field between Gia Duc village and the south bank of the Da Bach river. Source recalls no identifiable symbols or numbers on any remaining pieces of aircraft that were scattered in and around the crater. About 200-300 meters from the crash site, Source and his brother observed the bodies of two airmen that were covered with mud. Source saw no parachutes or other personal equipment where the bodies were lying. Source did not know whether the two men died in the crash, or if they were able to eject and were subsequently killed. Because of the mud covering the bodies, Source was unable to discern identifiable features such as height, weight, or race.

4. About 1100 hrs, soldiers carried the bodies to Gia Duc village using makeshift stretchers. Source and his brother were not permitted to accompany the procession, so they returned to their home in Pha Le village. Source heard later from a relative that military forensic personnel (phaps y quaan dooi) performed an autopsy on the bodies, which were then buried in a cemetery next to a Chinese temple (name of temple not known to Source) in Gia Duc village. Source does not recall ever hearing or reading about the crash or deaths of the two airmen in the official news media. Source heard several years ago that in the mid-1980's, there was an attempt by someone to dig up the remains from the grave site, but Source is only vaguely aware of the details of the story and is not sure about its validity.



PAUL D. MATHER
LT COL, USAF
JCRC Liaison Officer

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