



JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER

LIAISON OFFICE
AMERICAN EMBASSY
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96346

UNCLASSIFIED

Gia Lai
Thua Thien

FROM: JCRC-LNB
TO: Commander, JCRC

REF: RPT #HK86-025
16 April 1988

SUBJ: Alleged Recovery of U.S. Remains In Gia Lai-Kontum

REF: A. HK86-023 (Report by same Source)
B. HK86-024 (Report by same Source)

Source:

- a. Name: ~~Nguyen Dang Hinh~~
- b. DOB: 2 Feb 57
- c. POB: Luong Quan (H) Thuy Bieu (V) Huong Thuy (D) Thua Thien (P)
- d. Former position: Civil Servant
- e. Present location: Chimawan, Hong Kong
- f. Identification data: I. D. 10378, Boat LM 2134
- g. DOI: 1983
- h. Map used: Sheet 6536-4; Series L7014
- i. Date of interview: 12 Mar 86
- j. Name of interviewer: Mr. G. E. Bell, GS-13 DOD
- k. Other: Arrived Hong Kong 7 Oct 85

Source, a 29 YOA male VM refugee, provided information concerning his alleged recovery of the remains and dogtag of "David Burkey: from the crashsite of a helicopter in the area of Duc Co (YA 8425) Gia Lai-Kontum.

Information:

Source stated that sometime during 1983 while residing in Pleiku City, he observed helicopter wreckage and human skeletal remains which he believed were those of an American pilot. Source stated that he had heard about U.S. Government interest in recovering U.S. remains during Vietnamese language broadcasts of the BBC and VOA. Source stated that he met a man of the Bahnar tribe (U/I) who often came from Duc Co (YA 8425) to Pleiku City to sell scrap metal. Source stated that he informed the man that he wanted to locate U.S. remains and agreed to pay 60,000 VN dong or one tael of gold per remains. Source stated that he then accompanied the man back to Duc Co to look for remains.

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED
BY AUTHORITY OF JCS 271945Z JUL 92
ON 5 APR 1993

Classified by JCRC-RAB
Declassify on OADP

UNCLASSIFIED

#HK86-025

PAGE TWO

Source stated that he, accompanied by his aunt's brother-in-law Dang Trieu, who resided on Quang Trung Street (number not recalled) in Pleiku City, was guided by the Bahnar man from the Duc Co bus station to the crashsite of a helicopter. Source stated that the crashsite was located on the slope of a hill five hours walk from Duc Co, south and toward the Cambodian border. Source was not able to provide a more specific location for the crashsite.

Source stated that the wreckage of the helicopter had been scavenged with only the frame and engine remaining. Source did not observe any markings or numbers on the wreckage. Source was shown human skeletal remains lying on the ground approx 30 meters from the wreckage of the helicopter. Source recovered what he described as two thirds of a skull with three teeth, some arm bones, two ribs, and a leg bone weighing 1.2 kilograms. Source recalled that the teeth had several cavities but no apparent dental work. Source also found a dogtag of David Burkey, B, 471.781, Roman Catholic. Source paid the Bahnar man for the remains and dogtag and then carried them back to the home of his parents (Nguyen Van Thiem, DPOB 1936, Huong Thuy and Ton Nu Thi Hue, DPOB 1935, Huong Thuy) who resided in Luong Quan (H), Thuy Bieu (V), Huong Thuy (D) Binh-Tri-Thien (formerly Thua Thien) Province.

After arrival in Hue during mid 1984 Source gave half of the lower mandible with three teeth, two rib bones, and a finger joint to a neighbor known to him as Phan Ha, approx 30 YOA native of Thuy Bieu who works as an incense wood gatherer. Source's neighbor Ha agreed to buy the remains and dogtag for two taels of gold but insisted upon taking the partial remains provided by Source to Ho Chi Minh City for an acid test to see if they were American prior to handing over the gold. Source retained the rest of the remains including the skull which he broke into several pieces in order to conceal it while traveling from Pleiku to Hue. Source still had not heard from Ha at the time of his boat escape so Source left the remains and dogtags in the possession of a friend, Nguyen Tuan Hoa, approx 31 YOA native of Huong Thuy still residing in Luong Quan (H), Thuy Bieu (V) Huong Thuy (D) Binh-Tri-Thien (P).



PAUL D. MATHER
Lt Col, USAF

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED BY JCRC Liaison Officer

BY AUTHORITY OF JCS 1945Z JUL 92

ON

5 APR 19

REFUGEE REPORT & PRELIMINARY EVALUATION

SOURCE DATA: NGUYEN DANG HICH, 29
REFUGEE REPORT INTERVIEW NUMBER & DATE: HK86-025, 16 APR 86
ANALYST: MSG D.W. Atherton
CROSS REFERENCE(S): None.

UNCLASSIFIED

CATEGORY DATA: Casualty Data and Crash Site/First Hand Account

FINDINGS: Review of information provided by Source reveals no correlation to data in JCRC files.

CORRELATE DATA: None.

BACKGROUND/COMMENTS: David B. Burkey is not unaccounted for. This report likely correlates to a resolved UH1 crash site in the vicinity of grid coordinates YA8525, which is approximately one kilometer east of Duc Co.

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED
BY AUTHORITY OF JCL 271945Z JUL 92
ON 5 APR 1993

[Signature]
DE B. HARVEY
FC USA
Commander

CLASSIFIED BY: CDR, JCRC
DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

THIS IS A PRELIMINARY ANALYTICAL POSITION AND NOT A FINAL EVALUATION.
THIS EVALUATION AND THE ATTACHED REFUGEE REPORT MAY BE RELEASED TO THE NOK
UPON DELETION OF ALL SOURCES NAMES AND IDENTIFICATION DATA.

DISPOSITION: JCRC LIAISON OFFICE, BANGKOK JCRC REFNO FILE(S):
OASD/ISA, PW-MIA AFFAIRS
DIA/VO-PW



UNCLASSIFIED