



JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER
LIAISON OFFICE
AMERICAN EMBASSY
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96346

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From: JCRC-LNO
To: Commander, JCRC

JCRC RPT M90-059
29 October 1990

Subj: DOG TAG AND REMAINS INFORMATION FROM DONG NAI PROVINCE (U)

1. Source/administrative data:

- a. Name: Do Viet Thin (M)
- b. DPOB: 15 Dec 52; Trinh Xa (V), Binh Luc (D), Ha Nam (P)
- c. Occupation:
Pre-1975: Roman Catholic monk
Post-1975: Monk, X-Ray technician to 1977; laborer thereafter
- d. Present location: Bldg. 11/2 Zone F, Pulau Bidong Refugee Camp, Malaysia
- e. Identification data: Boat No. MC 602
- f. Education: 12/12
- g. Languages: Vietnamese (native), English (limited)
- h. Religion: Catholic
- i. Status: Asylum seeker
- j. Final address/POC in Vietnam: 77/2 Khu 1, Ph. Tan Hoa, Bien Hoa city, Dong Nai (P)
- k. Date of arrival in 1st asylum: 12 Apr 90
- l. Date of information: 1984-90
- m. Resettlement address/POC: none
- n. Interview data: Source was interviewed at Pulau Bidong on 9 Sep 90 by James M. Coyle, GS-12, DOD.
- o. Map used: Scale: 1:100,000; Series: L607; Sheet: 6330

2. (U) Summary: Source claims that he and his brother recovered in 1984 the remains and identification media of three American servicemen from a helicopter crash site in Long Thanh (D), Dong Nai (vic. YS 1782). Papers they found at the site indicate that as many as nine persons may have been in the helicopter at the time it crashed. One of the remains and two dog tags were transferred to SRV control in August, 1985. The other two remains and one identification card are still in his brother's possession. The name on the identification card is not associated with an active case.

3. Information: In late 1984 Source and his younger half-brother, Vu Duc Tinh, now of Ph. Tan Bien, Bien Hoa city, Dong Nai (P), made an unsuccessful attempt to leave Vietnam illegally. While they were making their way back to Bien Hoa on foot, they discovered the wreckage of a crashed American helicopter on a river bank in Thai Thien (V), Long Thanh (D), Dong Nai (YS 1782).

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The nose of the aircraft was buried in mud 1-1.5 meters deep.

4. Source and Tinh decided to see if they could find anything of value in the aircraft, and so began to dig it up. They found the following items: two dog tags, a military identification card, a "Mido" brand watch, a "Pilot" brand fountain pen, some burned medical supplies, some burned clothing, a large number of papers, some of which suggest that as many as eight or nine persons may have been in the aircraft, two American flags with statements in several languages (blood chits), and a substantial amount of fragmented human remains. The watch hands were stopped at 8:00, and the date indicator at 25.

5. Source and Tinh brought the items they had recovered from the crash site back to their home in Bien Hoa. In August, 1985 they were investigated by the Bien Hoa PSS. Source left the area, while Tinh bore the brunt of the investigation. At the insistence of the PSS Tinh gave one dog tag and a portion of remains to a delegation of SRV officials from Hanoi, led by Nguyen Can, and told the officials about the crash site. Source said that Tinh is still keeping the rest of the remains, one dog tag, and the identification card at his house. Source went back to the crash site in December, 1985, and noted that the wreckage had been substantially salvaged. He expressed doubt that any trace of the wreckage remains today.

6. When Source left Vietnam he brought with him papers which contained complete information about the remains and identification media. Unfortunately, Source's boat was attacked by Thai pirates, and Source's papers were lost. The only information he can remember from the identification media is that the military identification card was issued to ADDISON HARVEY C, 1947, WO1. (This name is not associated with an active case, and has been the subject of frequent "dog-tag" reports.)

7. COMMENT: Interviewer received the impression that Source was being less than completely truthful. There were a lot of lacunae in his narrative that were only partially filled by his answers to interviewer's questions. Interviewer's suspicions were confirmed in a later interview with another passenger on

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Source's boat, who noted that Source was involved in the "resistance," and was known to have direct knowledge of other remains-related incidents (See following report, M90-060).

James D. Spurgeon III
JAMES D. SPURGEON III
Lt Col, USAF
Chief, Liaison Division

cy to:
DIA/PW-MIA

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