

T84-141  
Dong Mai

2. Information Obtained. The following information was related by Source to JCRC interviewer as fact. Source is the natural nephew of Nguyen Van Men who reported information in T84-134. Upon Source's release from detention at the Long Dat Re-education facility (LBN unrecalled), Long Dat (D), Dong Nai (P) where he was held from 8 May 1981 to 19 Jan 1982 for an escape attempt, he returned to his family residence at Xom I, Suoi Thong C, Xa Tu Tra (V), Don Duong (D), Lam Dong (P) to live with his mother, Nguyen Thi Vien, who still currently resides there. Source lived there until February 1982 when he went to Hue City enroute to Thon Ha Uc (H) at vicinity ZD0117 to plan another escape attempt. He lived in Ha Uc with his uncle Nguyen Van Men (T84-134). During this time, Men commonly went into the forested regions of Central Vietnam (exact locations unknown) with Doan Van Son, aka Thao to look for gold which could be obtained from instruments found in aircraft wreckage. Sometime shortly after Source's arrival at Ha Uc, Men and Thao returned from a crash site somewhere in Thanh Hoa (P) (more precise location unknown to Source) with remains of two U.S. servicemen and the accompanying dogtags. Source never accompanied Men or Thao on any of the search trips. Source personally viewed the remains. The remains appeared to be complete, including two skulls with mandibles which still contained teeth. However, many pieces of the remains had been broken into small peices (not intentionally) due to the brittleness of the bones from aging and exposure. Sometime in June or July 1982, Source personally, acting alone but under instructions from Men, buried the remains in a common hole at the corner of a trail behind Men's house in Ha Uc (see sketch). After burying the remains, as Source was not a legal traveller or resident in Ha Uc, he evaded arrest by the local Security Police by moving to Hue City to live with a friend, Truong Thuy Minh Hung at 2/2 Hai Ba Trung St, Hue City. Source lived at this location until 10 November 1983, when he moved to Rach Gia for his final escape attempt on 11 January 1984.

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Source understood from Men that sometime after Source's burial of the remains in Ha Uc, Men dug the remains up to give them to a man from Central Vietnam named either Luong Lanh or Luong Van Lanh who now presently lives with his family in Rach Gia (reason unknown). Source never saw the remains after he buried them. The associated dog tags were at all times held by Men. Source saw them on one occasion but does not remember any of the information recorded on them.

In a separate incident, Source personally observed the remains and associated dog tags at the house of a distant relative named Thiet (full name unknown) at his house in Nghi Giang (V), Phu Loc (D), Binh Tri Thien (P). Thiet wanted to sell the remains and dog tags to Source so he could take them out of Vietnam on his future boat escape and requested one tael of gold per set of remains and dog tag. Source could not buy the remains as he was investing all he had into the expense of the boat and did not have the money. Thiet then gave Source rubbings of the dog tags (enclosed xerox-Source kept original rubbings) so after his arrival in Thailand he could check with the U.S. authorities to find out if the names are names of actual MIAs. If the names are "good", then Source is to report back to Thiet and let him know so plans could be made for the smuggling of the remains out of Vietnam (NFI). The present location of the remains are unknown to Source. Thiet told Source the remains were gathered from a forest in the Nam Dong area of Binh Tri Thien (P). Source thinks they were gathered from an F4 or F5 crash site (NFI). The following information was recorded on the dog tags:

Runnels	Allen
(unknown) Jr.	M.R.
2190649 A	2163227 O
USMC S	USMC M
BAPTIST	CATHOLIC

In a second separate incident, sometime in 1982, while living in Hue City, Source met a distant cousin named The (full name unknown) who is the brother of Pham Lai (reported in T84-134) of Tran Phu St (house number unrecalled), Phu Cam, Hue City, who gave Source the following information:

Reeves	Dominguez, Johnny	Gadson, Gilbert W. Jr
Luckette, N. Jr		1207 Hart Street
RA 1581 5690	A POS	Jacksonville, FL
A POS 450 888884	Catholic	355 2197
Baptist		

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REFERENCE: T84-141  
PAGE THREE

Source personally copied the above information directly from three dog tags. When interviewer brought up the fact that the information concerning Gadson was not typical dog tag information, Source stubbornly maintained that he had personally recorded the data as reported from three actual dog tags and provided no possible reasons for the differences. Mr. The provided the information to Source requesting that he, during his travels involving his boat escape, attempt to sell the dog tags to those who might have overseas contacts in Singapore or Hong Kong. These were tentative plans. No potential buyers were ever contacted or any sale ever made (NFI). Source was told by The that remains of the three above listed individuals had been discovered somewhere near Ban Me Thuot and had been reburied. (Date, location, further circumstances not related to Source.)

Source also provided the following information on the other "players" who provided information in the referenced reports. Luong Lanhor Luong Van Lanh (T84-134), currently resides at Kinh 2, Rach Gia City. He is a relative (relativity unknown) of Nguyen Van Men and is the final holder of the remains and associated dog tags which Source buried in Ha Uc (hearsay, Nguyen Van Men). Duong (full name, address unknown) (T84-134) is a merchant of sandalwood and aircraft parts and lives in Hue City. He also has dog tags of one or two Americans and gave this information to Men. Further disposition of the dog tags or information is unknown to Source. Nguyen Luyen (T84-134, T84-090) is a relative of Luong Lanh, lives at Kinh 2, Rach Gia and is co-possessor of the two remains and dog tags listed above. Van Bien (T84-090, T84-134) is the boat owner of Source's escape boat and has in his possession a dog tag which was given to him by Men prior to their departure from Vietnam as an "inititive" to allow them onboard. Source knows of no remains associated with this dog tag. Nguyen Hung (T84-065) is the brother-in-law of Luong Lanh and received a letter from his father containing dog tag information of two Americans whose remains are currently held by Luong Lanh. Nguyen Hung knows nothing more about the remains or MIAs other than what was contained in the letter.

Source requested assistance of the JCRC interviewer in locating Robert C. Saunders, a former friend of Source's deceased father who was an American advisor and is the supposed writer of the attached personal letter. He was a major and was the old Tieu Can District Advisor, old Vinh Binh (P) and was a friend of Source's deceased father. Major Saunders left Vietnam to return to the U.S. on 5 April 1972. The original letter was retained by Source.