



JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER

LIAISON OFFICE  
AMERICAN EMBASSY  
SAN FRANCISCO 96346  
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TAY NINH  
1531

FROM: JCRC-LNB  
TO: Commander, JCRC

Ref: RPT #S85-004  
25 February 1985

SUBJ: Aircraft Wreckage and Personal Effects in the Possession  
of Vietnamese in Vietnam

REF: Amembassy Singapore Msg, DTG 110744Z Jan 85

Source:

- a. Name: Doan Van Thanh
- b. DOB: 21 March 1948
- c. POB: Tay Ninh (P)
- d. Former position: ARVN 2LT, Service Number 68/149616
- e. Present location: Hawkins Road Refugee Camp, Singapore
- f. DOI: October-December 1982
- g. Map used: 1:100,000, Series L607, Sheet 6231
- h. Date of interview: 22 January 1985
- i. Name of interviewer: Thomas R. McKay, CW2, USA
- j. Other: Source departed Vietnam on 10 December 1984, was rescued at sea on 15 December 1984 by the Greek vessel Krati Garnet and arrived in Singapore on 17 December 1984. Source's final address in Vietnam was 142 Khu 3, Ap Hoi Bai (H), Hoi Bai (V), Chau Thanh (D), Dong Nai (P).

Source provides hearsay information of a helicopter crash site and first hand sighting information of a flight suit and wallet.

Information:

The following information was related by Source to interviewer as fact. Sometime between October and December, 1982, Source's friend (ex-ARVN 25th Div soldier), Nguyen Van Hung of Cho Cu (old market), Cam Giang (V) (vic XT 2837), Hoa Thanh (D), Tay Ninh (P), showed Source a "flight suit" including pants and jacket in "original" condition (nylon, and gray in color) and a wallet with an ID card and personal pictures, and told Source that he and his father-in-law (name unknown) had discovered the items in helicopter wreckage.

They both went to visit Hung's father-in-law who also lived in Cam Giang (address unrecalled). At the father-in-law's house, Source recalled seeing a large broken rotor which the father-in-law claimed to have salvaged from the wreckage. Source was told the aircraft crashed in the area of the Song Giam Co River, between Cam Giang and Ben Keo. (According to Source, Ben Keo is aka Ap

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Long Binh, vic XT 2443). Source did not personally speak with Hung's father-in-law. Source did not see any remains. The jacket from the flight suit was old but not tattered or rotten. No stains were noticed, Source did not notice any name tape, rank or insignia on the jacket. None of the information on the ID card was recalled, and Source could remember nothing of the photos from the wallet, i.e. children, activities engaged in, etc. Source did not recall the color of the wallet.

*Paul D. Mather*

PAUL D. MATHER  
Lt Col, USAF  
JCRC Liaison Officer

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REFUGEE REPORT & PRELIMINARY EVALUATION

SOURCE DATA: DOAH VAN THANH, 37

REFUGEE REPORT INTERVIEW NR & DATE: S85-004, 25 February 1985

ANALYST: SFC R. R. HILL

CROSS REFERENCE(S): T84-293, T84-291, T84-009, I83-047, M83-087, RP82-051, I81-019.


CATEGORY DATA: Crash Site Data and Observation of Personal Effects/Second-First hand accounts.

FINDINGS: Information in this report is insufficient to establish a definite correlation; however, it will be placed in the following file(s) for possible/~~possible~~ future reference: REFNO 1531-0-01.

CORRELATE DATA: On 24 November 1969, WO Howard B. Comer Jr. was the pilot of a UH1H helicopter on a general support mission when the helicopter crashed into the Vam Co Dung River in the vicinity of XT 223433 in South Vietnam. The helicopter and its passengers were recovered; however, an intensive search was unsuccessful in locating the pilot. WO Comer is currently carried in the status of Dead, Body Not Recovered.

BACKGROUND/COMMENTS: During the subsequent search and recovery effort after this incident, the majority of WO Comer's helicopter was recovered from the river. Of the debris that was not recovered was the armored seat in which he was strapped, which was separated from the aircraft. While it is possible that the source observed a salvaged portion of the main rotor blades, the flight suit and alleged personal effects could not have been recovered from this wreckage. JCRC has received numerous identification media data type reports concerning data taken from WO Comer's ID card. While no such data is reported here, the source may have observed his wallet and flight suit. The location of the incident and alleged recovery is consistent with previous reporting on this incident, consequently, a possible correlation to WO Comer is made.

  
JOE B. HARVEY  
LTC, USA  
Commander

  
DISPOSITION: JCRC LIAISON OFFICE, BANGKOK  
JCRC A&S FILES  
OASD/ISA, PW-MIA AFFAIRS  
JCRC REFNO FILE: 1531-0-01

DIA, DC-2  
HQ DA/DAAG-PES

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