



JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER

LIAISON OFFICE
AMERICAN EMBASSY
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96346

Qg Tri
1488

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Reference: T84-229
5 November 1984

FROM: JCRC-LNB
TO: Commander, JCRC

SUBJ: Aircraft Crashsite with Remains on the Vietnam-Lao Border

REF: Report by same Source, T84-236.

Source:

- a. Name: Le Van Ngoc
- b. DPOB: 30 Aug 57, Kim Long Ward, Hue City
- c. Former position: Student
- d. Present location: B20, R1, Sikhui Refugee Camp, Thailand
- e. ID data: NP 004823
- f. DOI: Feb 84
- g. Date of interview: 11 Oct 84.
- h. Interviewer: CW2 Thomas R. McKay
- i. Other: Source left Vietnam on 17 May 84 and crossed Laos on foot. His last address in Vietnam was Vang Xuan St., Kim Long Ward, Hue City.

Source provides firsthand information of aircraft crashsite with remains on the Vietnam-Lao border.

Information:

The following information was related by Source to interviewer as fact. While looking for sandalwood in the forested areas of the Vietnam-Lao border, Source and two friends, Hoang (last name unk) of Phan Chu Trinh St., Hue City; and Nguyen Van Vinh of 5/4 Kim Long St., Kim Long Ward, Hue City, found the wreckage of an F4. The aircraft had hit the earth nose first and was partially buried. The remainder of the aircraft had exploded and the center section and the tail section had been blown away, scattered about the area. Source dug down to the cockpit and dug into human remains. Source left the remains scattered about as he took out the instruments to later be disassembled for the gold and silver contact points and parts. Source saw no skull. No one of the group took any of the bones. Source visited the site only once and never returned.

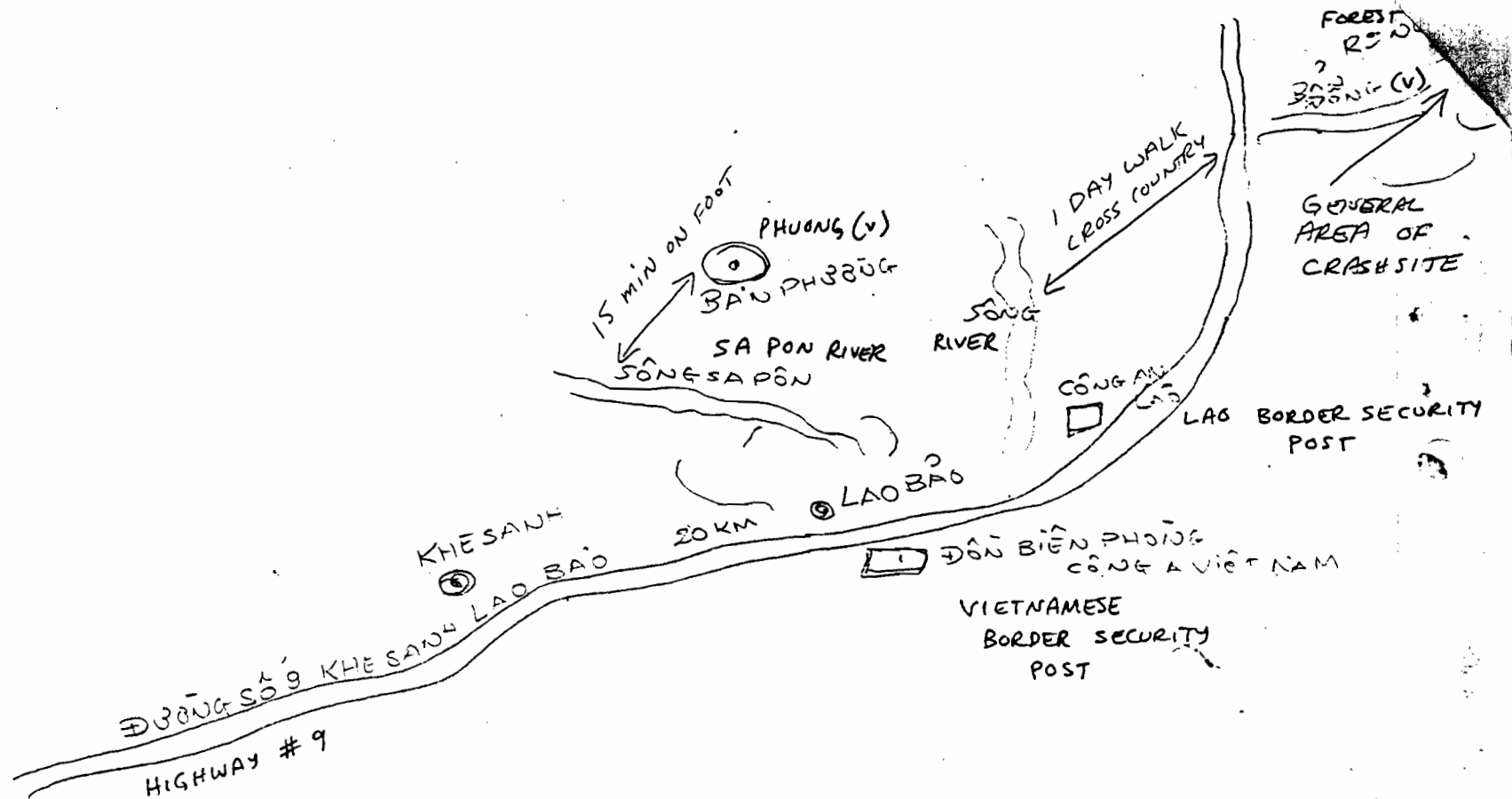
Source did not find the site alone, and therefore could not be certain of the exact location. He originally contacted the local ethnic minorities to inquire about crashsites and they told him of one, but required payment of one water buffalo or one pig for permission to exploit the site. They explained to Source in general terms how to get to the site and Source convinced them the site was too inaccessible and he would not go. He then left the locals and proceeded on to the site. Due to the difficulty of finding the site, Source could not give detailed instructions on the location.

Paul D. Mather
PAUL D. MATHER
Lt Col, USAF
JCRC Liaison Officer

1 Incl:

Sketch of route to crashsite area

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LE VAN NGOC

NP 004823

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REFUGEE REPORT & PRELIMINARY EVALUATION

SOURCE DATA: LE VAN NGOC, 27
REFUGEE REPORT INTERVIEW NR & DATE: T84-229, 5 November 1984
ANALYST: SFC R. R. HILL
CROSS REFERENCE(S): T84-236

CATEGORY DATA: Crash site with remains/first hand account.

FINDINGS: Information in this report is insufficient to establish a definite correlation, however, it will be placed in the following file(s) for possible/~~potential~~ future reference: REFNO 1488.

CORRELATE DATA: REFNO 1488 concerns the loss on 11 September 1969 of CPT Roger D. Helwing and CPT Roger H. Sterns who were flying an F4D aircraft on a VR and FAC mission over Laos. Their aircraft was downed by enemy ground fire in the vicinity of XC 472415, after marking a target. The aircraft exploded in a fireball, and impacted almost inverted, on the ground. No beeper signals were heard and there were no indications that either crewman survived. Both CPT Helwing and CPT Sterns are currently carried in the presumptive status of Dead, Body Not Recovered.

BACKGROUND/COMMENTS: Based on the sketch map of the area where the crash site was found, and since the source could not be certain of the exact location, only a possible correlation could be made. The aircraft type and the description of the wreckage match well with REFNO 1488. By using map tracking, the crash site, as claimed by the source, would be located vicinity of XC 500390.


JOE B. HARVEY
LTC, USA
Commander

DISPOSITION: JCRC LIAISON OFFICE, BANGKOK
JCRC A&S FILES
OASD/ISA, PW-MIA AFFAIRS
DIA/DC-2
JCRC REFNO FILE: 1488-0-01
1488-0-02

This is not a final evaluation, this is
a preliminary analytical position.

AFMPC/MPCC