



JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER

LIAISON OFFICE
AMERICAN EMBASSY
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96346

SOC Trang 0014

FROM: JCRC-LNB
TO: Commander, JCRJL

UNCLASSIFIED

REF: RPT #T85-143
10 May 1985

SUBJ: Shootdown of Aircraft and Death/Burial
of Pilot In ~~XXXXXX~~

Source:

- a. Name: Thach Quang
- b. DOB: 12 April 1945
- c. POB: Vinh Phuoc (V) Vinh Chau (D) Bac Lieu (P)
- d. Former position: Cpl 1st Cl, Medic, Service Number 65/504682
- e. Present location: Hut 14, Dong Rak
- f. Identification data: TC 161173
- g. DOI: 1972
- h. Map used: Sheet 6127-1, Series L7014
- i. Date of interview: 2 May 1985
- j. Name of interviewer: Mr. Garnett E. Bell
- k. Other: Arrived Thailand 17 June 1982 (landroute)

Source, a 39 YOA former ARVN medic, provided hearsay information concerning the shootdown of a U.S. aircraft and death of one American crewmember in Vinh Chau District, Bac Lieu Province.

Information:

Source stated that sometime during 1972 while on leave in Ong Thon Hamlet, Vinh Phuoc (V), Vinh Chau District, ~~Bac Lieu~~ Province he heard about the crash of a U.S. aircraft and death of one U.S. and one Vietnamese pilot.

Source stated that at the time, he observed some aircraft wreckage lying approx 500 meters north of Vinh Phuoc (V) (XR 02 ~~XXXXXX~~ approx 150 meters north of the Vinh Phuoc River (not s. ~~XXXXXX~~ map). Source heard from local villagers that the aircraft had been shot down over So Tai A Hamlet sometime during 1972 and that the crew had consisted of one American and one Vietnamese who were killed in the crash. Source heard that the aircraft was hit by ground fire and burst into flames prior to the crash. Source heard that about six months after the crash, villagers removed the engine from the aircraft and carried it to the Ampil Pagoda which was located on Highway 38 between Vinh Phuoc and Vinh Chau District Headquarters (XR 0830).

Classified by SLC-RAB
Declassify on OADR


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BY AUTHORITY OF ~~XXXXXX~~ 1945Z JUL 92
~~XXXXXX~~

Source heard that the aircraft was a small "Malaysian" type aircraft which had three vertical tail sections and was called a "cau tieu" (latrine) aircraft by locals. Source heard that the aircraft was shot down in the afternoon around 1400 hours. Source saw a mound of earth approx 100 meters from the crash-site which locals said contained the remains of the two pilots. Source also heard that at the time of the shutdown the aircraft was supporting an ARVN military operation against VC forces taking place north of Vinh Phuoc Village. Source was not able to provide further information concerning the incident. Source last saw the alleged grave in 1972.

Source gave a possible forwarding address as: c/o Thach Conh (cousin), 2753 S. Dietz St, Indiannapolis, In 46203. Source did not see or hear about any Americans remaining in Vietnam.


Hand drawn memory sketch provided by Source is attached.

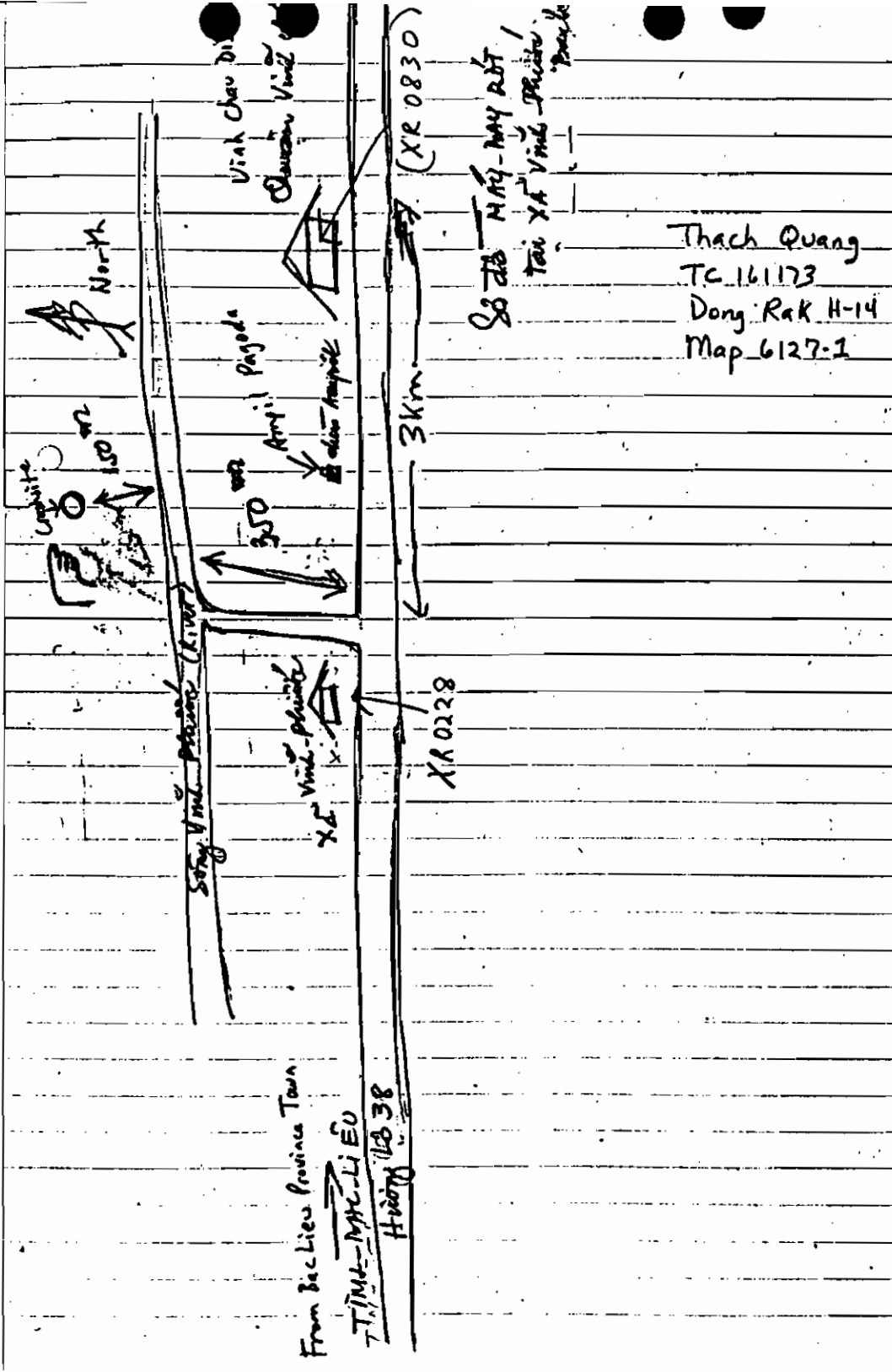
Comment: Source at first claimed to have witnessed the incident but later said he had heard about it. Since Source has been at Dong Rak for over two years and has been classified as unqualified (low rank and no close relatives in U.S.) it is possible that he has gleaned the information from another refugee or has received word from family members residing at Vinh Phuoc and is passing on the story with the hope of getting reconsidered for resettlement.


PAUL D. MATHER
Lt Col, USAF
JCRC Liaison Officer

Atch:
Sketch

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ON 20 APR 1993





Thach Quang
 TC 161173
 Dong Rak H-14
 Map 6127-1

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SOURCE DATA: THACH KHANG
REFUGEE REPORT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: T85-143, 10 May 1985
ANALYST: MSGT R. L. JOHN
CROSS REFERENCE(S): NONE.

CATEGORY DATA: Casualty Data/Second 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 future reference: REFNO 0014.

CORRELATE DATA: REFNO 0014: On 28 August 1962, Capt Robert L. Simpson was the pilot of a T28B aircraft with a Vietnamese Air Force pilot, participating in a combat training mission. The aircraft was struck by enemy ground fire and crashed in an unidentified river in the vicinity of grid coordinate XR 058278. An organized 9 day search was conducted with negative results. Capt Simpson is currently carried in the presumptive status of Dead Body Not Recovered.

BACKGROUND/COMMENTS: Although most of the information provided by the source matches well with this case, only a possible correlation can be made. This is due in part to a discrepancy in the time of the incident. Source reported the crash occurred in 1972, while the actual date was 1962. This may be attributed to the hearsay nature of the information. The source visited the location in 1972 and may have used this as the incident date.


JOE B. HARVEY
LTC, USA
Commander

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JCRC A&S FILES
OASD/ISA, PW-MIA AFFAIRS
JCRC REFNO FILE: 0014

DIA/VO-PW
AFMPC/DPMPC

Classified by: CDR, JCRC/DECL: OADR
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