



Song Be

Reference: T84-217
17 October 19840205 ?
0867

FROM: JCRC-LNB

TO: Commander, JCRC

SUBJ: Refugee Report, U.S. Remains Discovered in Ben Cat (D), Song Be (P)

Source:

- a. Name: Nguyen Cong Chanh
- b. DOB: 17 Oct 58
- c. POB: Tuong Binh Hiep, former Chau Thanh (D), former Binh Duong (P)
- d. Former position: student
- e. Present location: Sikhui Refugee Camp, Thailand
- f. Identification data: SI 3889
- g. DOI: late 1975 or early 1976
- h. Map used: 1:100,000, sheet number 6331, Series L607.
- i. Date of interview: 18 Sep 84.
- j. Name of interviewer: CW2 Thomas R. McKay
- k. Other: Source departed Vietnam on 8 Mar 83. He has an uncle, Di Nguyen, who lives at 1005 S. Maple, Marshfield, WI 54449. Source's last address in Vietnam was Ha Tien (D), Kien Giang (P).

Source provides information of US remains he allegedly found and buried in Ben Cat (D), Song Be (P).

Information:

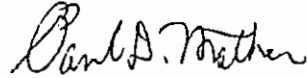
In late 1975 or early 1976, while Source was working at the Lai Uyen New Economic Zone located near former Bau Bang (V) (see Incl 1), he added to his income by searching the old US and ARVN encampment areas for old military items and equipment to sell. While searching, he discovered a set of human remains, charred pieces of a military uniform and US style jungle boots. The set of remains appeared to be complete and in good condition. While collecting the remains, Source discovered a dogtag and dogtag chain. The name recorded thereon was an American name, but Source paid it little attention, and buried the remains and dogtag on the spot in a shallow grave, under approx three decimeters of dirt. The estimated location of discovery and burial is XT 785481. The grave measured approx one meter square and was located approx 15 or 20 meters from the abandoned railroad track, on a fairly straight line east of km marker number 72 posted on Highway 13.

Source marked the grave with a single stick which he stuck into the dirt covering the grave. Source's younger brother, Nguyen Van Hoa, also was aware of the remains and grave but died at sea in an escape attempt in 1980.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Source paid little attention to the incident and name on the dogtag. He stated had he been aware of the importance to the US Government, he would have attempted to recover the remains and bring them out with him on his escape.

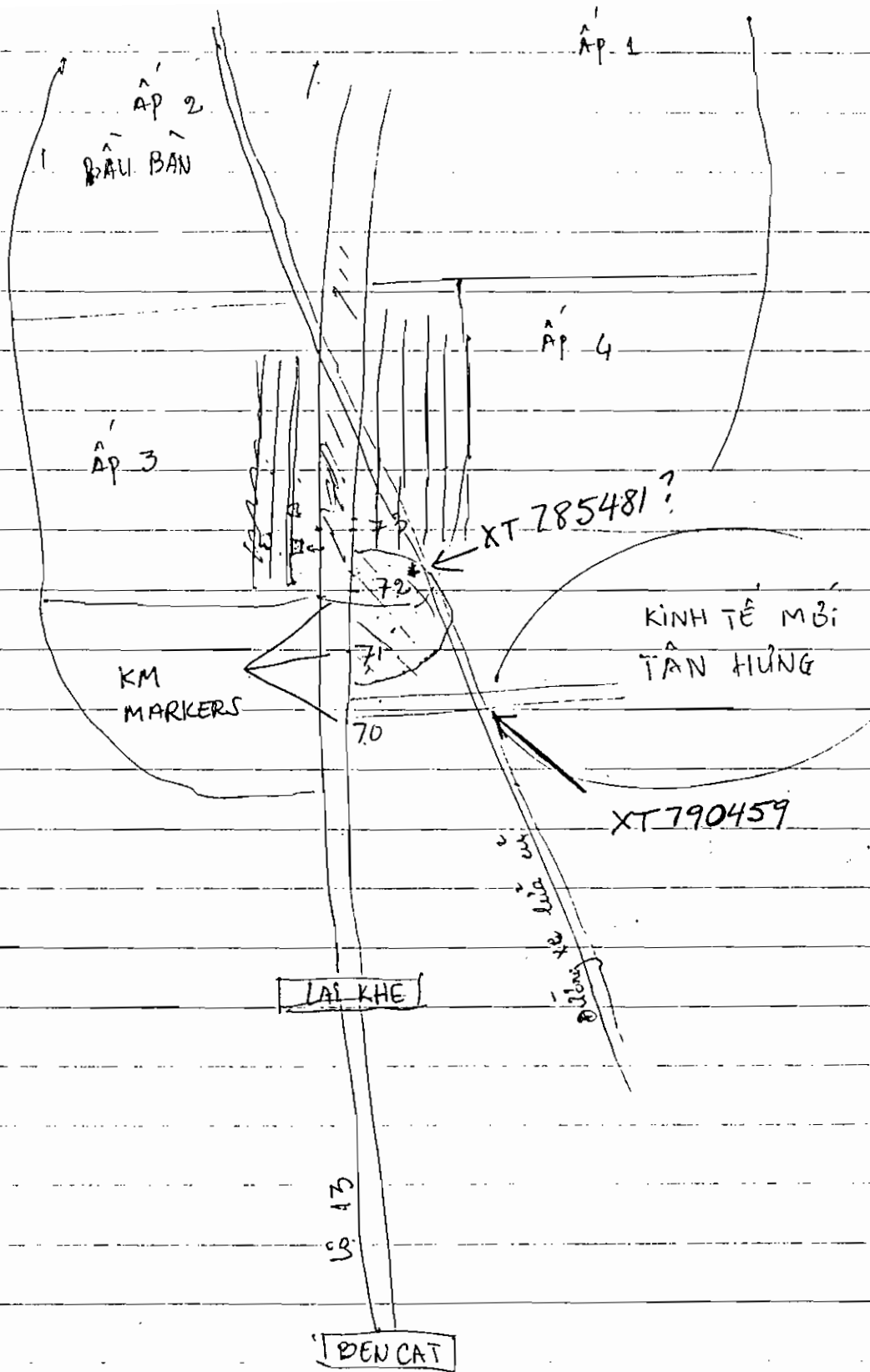


PAUL D. MATHER
Lt Col, USAF
JCRC Liaison Officer

2 Incl

1. General area sketch of Lai Uyen NEZ
2. Specific area sketch of gravesite.

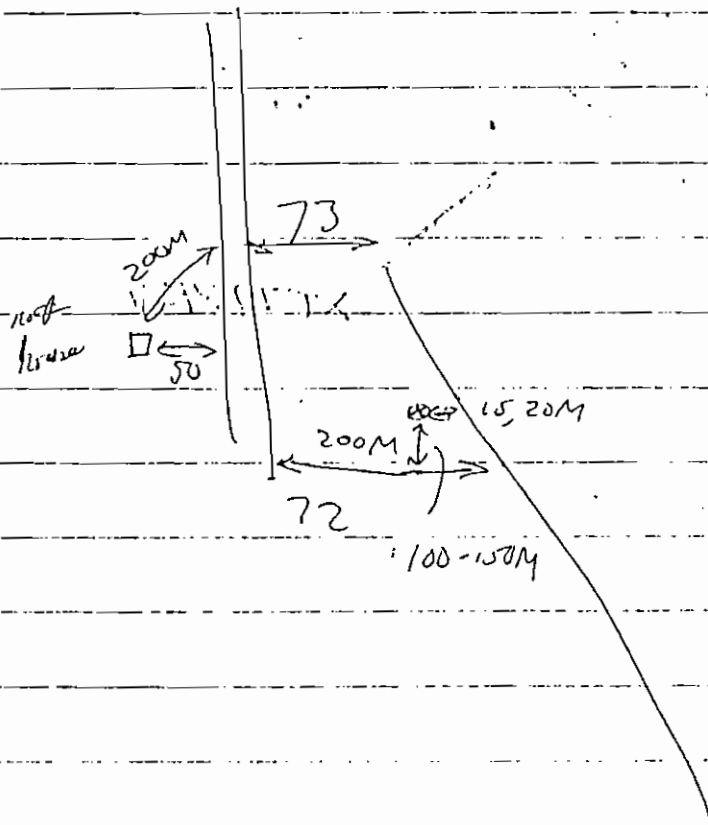
X
UNCLASSIFIED



Incl 1

NGUYEN CONG CHANH

SI 3889



6331

XT

Incl 2

NGUYEN CONG CHANH

SI 3889

REFUGEE REPORT & PRELIMINARY EVALUATION

SOURCE DATA: NGUYEN CONG CHANH, 26
REFUGEE REPORT INTERVIEW NR & DATE: T84-217, 17 October 1984
ANALYST: SFC R. R. HILL
CROSS REFERENCE(S): T82-047, T80-065


CATEGORY DATA: Gravesite with U.S. 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: Potentially relates to REFNO 0205 or 0867.

CORRELATE DATA: REFNO 0205 concerns the loss on 5 December 1965 of SSG Edward C. Upner, Sgt George J. D. Eisenberger and SP4 Morris F. Dibble who were on a ground combat mission when their unit came under fire from a VC encampment vicinity of XT690473. All three men were killed in the initial bursts of fire. Their bodies could not be evacuated by their unit due to the heavy volume of enemy fire. A thorough, although unsuccessful, search for their bodies was made the following two days. It was assumed that their bodies were taken from the battle area by the Viet Cong. All three individuals are currently carried in the status of Dead, Body Not Recovered.

REFNO 0867 concerns the loss on 17 October 1967 of SP4 Paul L. Fitzgerald Jr., and PFC Olin Hargrove Jr., who were riflemen on a search and destroy mission in South Vietnam in the vicinity of XT685575 when their unit came under enemy attack. Contact was broken and their unit withdrew to set up a defense. At that time it was believed that SP4 Fitzgerald and PFC Hargrove became disoriented and moved in the wrong direction as they were discovered missing from their unit. A company size unit searched the entire area the next two days. However, no trace of SP4 Fitzgerald or PFC Hargrove was found. They are currently carried in the status of Dead, Body Not Recovered.

BACKGROUND/COMMENTS: Both REFNOs occurred approximately 10km from the location where the source found the alleged remains. Data relayed by source is consistent with previous refugee reports of gravesites and remains in the Lai Uyen area.


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: 0205
0867

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

HQ DA/DAAG-PES