



UNCLASSIFIED

Song Be

FROM: JCRC-LNB
TO: Commander, JCRC

Ref: RPT #T85-085
21 March 1985

SUBJ: Hearsay of Remains of Two Americans in Song Be (P)

Source:

- a. Name: Pham Van Phu
- b. DOB: 1 October 1951
- c. POB: Binh Long
- d. Former position: ARVN SFC, Signal Corps, Service Number 71/126155
- e. Present location: B17, R3, Si Khieu Refugee Camp, Thailand
- f. Identification data: SI 15214
- g. DOI: May-June 1984
- h. Map used: 1:100,000, Series L607, Sheet 6332
- i. Date of interview: 15 March 1985
- j. Name of interviewer: Thomas R. McKay, CW2, USA
- k. Other: Source claimed his sponsor is Mr. Beverly Morton Jr, of USAID/SANA'A P. O. Box 1139, Sana'a, Yemen Republic. He departed Vietnam on 7 December 1984 with his daughter and sister-in-law, Nguyen Thi Mai, who was abducted by pirates in the open sea, but who has since been returned and is presently in Songkhla Refugee Camp.

Source provides hearsay information of American remains which he saw in the possession of a friend who told Source the remains were of two Americans which were discovered somewhere in Song Be (P).

Information:

The following information was related by Source to interviewer as fact. In May or June 1984, while working as a welder and living at Ap Phu Binh (H), An Loc (V), Binh Long (D), Song Be (P), Source met a friend, Trinh Xuan Minh of To 5, Ap Phu Tinh (H), An Loc (V), Binh Long (D), Song Be (P) who showed Source a 50 KG rice bag which contained human remains. The remains were not removed from the bag, but Minh allowed Source to peer down into the bag, whereupon Source observed human remains which Minh said were of two Americans. Source could see only one skull.

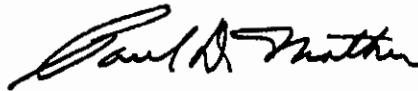
Classified by JCRC-LNB
Declassify on CONF

UNCLASSIFIED

The hiding place for the bag of remains was not revealed to Source. Minh works as a scavenger of former areas of US military occupation where he collects items to sell to Chinese in HCMC. Minh is security conscious and did not provide details of the discovery to Source, but Source speculated (based on non-specific things Minh had said) that the location of discovery was in the area of Dong Long Hill (vic XT 7491).

In late October 1984, Minh came to visit Source at Source's home at 770 Nguyen Dinh Chieu St, District 3, HCMC. When Source told Minh he was about to escape from Vietnam, Minh stated he wished to give Source the remains and a dog tag associated with a set of the remains, (which Source did not see), so Source could turn them over to the US after his arrival in a different country. Source told Minh he would attempt to contact him prior to his departure, but Source was forced to make a hasty departure, and could not get the items from Minh prior to his leaving. Minh did not have the dog tag with him at the time of their October meeting.

Source stated many times throughout the interview that he was providing the above information only for humanitarian reasons and expected nothing in return. Source provided the inclosed letters of introduction for use by the US to assist in making the necessary contacts in Vietnam concerning the recovery of the remains.



PAUL D. MATHER
Lt Col, USAF
JCRC Liaison Officer

- Inclosures (4)
1. Letter of Introduction (3 parts)
 2. Translation
 3. Translation
 4. Translation



Information:

TE5-085

Song Be

The following information was related by Source to interviewer as fact. In May or June 1984, while working as a welder and living at Ap Phu Binh (H), An Loc (V), Binh Long (D), Song Be (P), Source met a friend, Trinh Xuan Minh of To 5, Ap Phu Tinh (H), An Loc (V), Binh Long (D), Song Be (P) who showed Source a 50 KG rice bag which contained human remains. The remains were not removed from the bag, but Minh allowed Source to peer down into the bag, whereupon Source observed human remains which Minh said were of two Americans. Source could see only one skull.

Ref 1837
1853
1855

The hiding place for the bag of remains was not revealed to Source. Minh works as a scavenger of former areas of US military occupation where he collects items to sell to Chinese in HCMC. Minh is security conscious and did not provide details of the discovery to Source, but Source speculated (based on non-specific things Minh had said) that the location of discovery was in the area of Dong Long Hill (vic XT 7491).

In late October 1984, Minh came to visit Source at Source's home at 770 Nguyen Dinh Chieu St, District 3, HCMC. When Source told Minh he was about to escape from Vietnam, Minh stated he wished to give Source the remains and a dog tag associated with a set of the remains, (which Source did not see), so Source could turn them over to the US after his arrival in a different country. Source told Minh he would attempt to contact him prior to his departure, but Source was forced to make a hasty departure, and could not get the items from Minh prior to his leaving. Minh did not have the dog tag with him at the time of their October meeting.

Source stated many times throughout the interview that he was providing the above information only for humanitarian reasons and expected nothing in return. Source provided the inclosed letters of introduction for use by the US to assist in making the necessary contacts in Vietnam concerning the recovery of the remains.

REFUGEE REPORT & PRELIMINARY EVALUATION

SOURCE DATA: PHAM VAN PHU, 33
REFUGEE REPORT INTERVIEW NR & DATE: T85-085, 21 March 1985
ANALYST: MSGT R. L. JOHN
CROSS REFERENCE(S): NONE.

CATEGORY DATA: Human Remains/Second Hand Account

FINDINGS: Review of data supplied by source reveals a probable correlation to REFNO 1853 and possible correlations to REFNOs 1837 and 1855.

CORRELATE DATA: REFNO 1853-0-01 concerns the loss of an A-37 pilot, Lt Joseph M. Blassie on 11 May 1972. While on a combat mission over An Loc, Lt Blassie's aircraft was struck by ground fire and crashed in the vicinity of grid coordinates XT 732912. The aircraft exploded on impact. Lt Blassie's wingman observed the crash and stated there was no chance of pilot survival. On 31 October 1972, a reconnaissance patrol discovered human remains near the crash site location. Also discovered were dog tags and identification belonging to Lt Blassie. There were insufficient remains for a positive identification. Lt Blassie is currently carried as Dead, Body Not Recovered.

REFNO 1837: On 27 April 1972, Maj Harry A. Amesbury Jr., 1Lt Kurt F. Weisman, 1Lt Richard J. Russell, TSGT Donald R. Hoskins, TSGT Richard E. Dunn, SSGT Clavin C. Cooke Jr., and one Vietnamese loadmaster were flying a C-130E which was engaged in an emergency resupply mission over An Loc City in South Vietnam. The aircraft was making a night aerial drop when at about one mile southwest of the city, it was struck by hostile ground fire and crashed at XT 745866. Because of the hostile activity in the area, a ground search was not conducted until 27 February 1975. At that time a fairly complete set of remains were found. These remains were identified as 1LT Weisman. All other individuals involved in this incident are currently carried as Dead, Body Not Recovered.
Continued on supplementary page.

BACKGROUND/COMMENTS: Source's reported location is only 800 meters from Lt Blassie's incident location. Since source only speculated on the discovery location, a possible correlation can be made to REFNOs 1837 and 1855 whose incident locations are within five kilometers of the discovery location.

DE B. HARVEY
C, USA
Commander

DISPOSITION: JCRC LIAISON OFFICE, BANGKOK
JCRC A&S FILES
OASD/ISA, PW-MIA AFFAIRS
JCRC REFNO FILE: 1837, 1853 and 1855

DIA/VO-PW
HQ DA/DAGG-PES
AFMPC/MPCC

Classified by: CDR JCRC/DECL: OADR

THIS IS NOT A FINAL EVALUATION, THIS IS A PRELIMINARY ANALYTICAL POSITION. THIS EVALUATION AND THE ATTACHED REFUGEE REPORT MAY BE RELEASED TO THE NOK UPON DELETION OF ALL SOURCE NAMES AND IDENTIFICATION DATA.

SUBJECT: JCRC REPORT T85-085A, DOGTAG INFORMATION OF
- HARRY AMESBURY, REFNO 1937-0-03. (U)

REF. A. JCRC-BKK LTR RPT T85-085, DTD 21 MARCH 1985.

1. REF A REPORTS RESULTS OF INITIAL INTERVIEW OF
REFUGEE PHAM VAN PHU WHO REPORTED HEARSAY INFORMATION FROM
FRIEND TRINH XUAN MINH CONCERNING MINH'S POSSESSION OF
AMERICAN REMAINS.

2. DURING RECENT 10 SEP 85 INTERVIEW TRIP TO SI
KHU CAMP, THAILAND, JCRC TECHNICIAN WAS APPROACHED BY
MR. PHAM VAN PHU WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE RECENTLY RECEIVED
A CODED LETTER FROM MINH. THE LETTER WAS WRITTEN IN AUG
85. IN THE LETTER, MINH WROTE IT AS IF HE WERE A FEMALE
ASKING SOURCE TO FIND HER HUSBAND AND PROVIDED THE FOLLOW-
ING IDENTITY INFORMATION OF "HER HUSBAND".

- AMESBURY HARRY AJR
- 542283776 FR
- ANEG
- PRESBYTERIAN

IN THE LETTER, MINH ALSO STATED HE HAD ASKED SIMILAR
ASSISTANCE FROM A FRIEND, MR. PHUC DAI DUONG OF 1993
ALAWAI BLVD #204, HONOLULU, HI 96915, TEL: (808) 947-
2398.

3. COMMENT: WE NOTE THE MENTION OF PHUC DAI
DUONG IN JCRC MSG RPT M85-048, DTG 290934Z JUL 85, WHICH
ALSO REPORTED INFORMATION OF HARRY AMESBURY, LISTING
PHUC DAI DUONG AS THE SON OF THE MAN IN VIETNAM CUR-
RENTLY IN POSSESSION OF AMESBURY'S REMAINS. WE NOTE
THE POSSIBILITY THAT MINH'S PROVIDING THE DOG TAG IN-
FORMATION TO DUONG IN HAWAII MAY HAVE RESULTED IN
DUONG PROVIDING IT BACK TO HIS FATHER, TRU, THE
"FINDER" OF AMESBURY'S REMAINS AS REPORTED IN M85-047.