

Laos
Savannakhet

1108



JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER
LIAISON OFFICE
AMERICAN EMBASSY
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96346

Ref: RPT #T84-343
28 December 1984

FROM: JCRC-LNB
TO: Commander, JCRC

SUBJ: Hearsay Concerning U.S. Special Forces Soldier Killed While on
Patrol in Savannakhet, LPDR

REF: Reported by same Source

- A. T84-339
- B. T84-340
- C. T84-341
- D. T84-342

Source:

- a. Name: Meng Sidara
- b. DOB: 1 January 1925
- c. POB: Siang Hom (V) Tchepone (D) Savannakhet
- d. Former position: Major Police, Service Number 1175
- e. Present location: Na Pho 39/14
- f. Identification data: NP 1927
- g. DOI: 1969
- h. Map used: Sheet 6242-1, Series L7015
- i. Date of interview: 29 November 1984
- j. Name of interviewer: Mr. Garnett E. Bell
- k. Other: Arrived Thailand 4 November 1983 (landroute)

Source, a 59 YOA male Lao refugee and former Police Major, provided hearsay information concerning the death of a U.S. Special Forces Soldier in Savannakhet Province during 1969.

Information:

Source stated that sometime during 1976 while undergoing re-education at Tchepone Seminar Camp near Muang Sen (XD 3442) he heard about the death of a U.S. Special Forces soldier at Savannakhet during 1969.

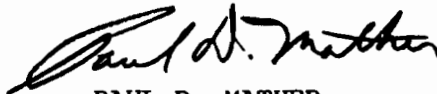
Source heard the story from his cousin Alo (no other name) who visited Source while in Seminar during 1976. Source heard that sometime during 1969 a U.S. patrol was attacked approximately three kilometers South of Ban Din Mo Village (XD 4358). Source heard that several members of the special forces personnel who were on the patrol were wounded and tried to escape by helicopter but that one of the men died and his body was left behind. Source heard that other members of the patrol managed to escape.

REFERENCE: T84-343

PAGE TWO

Source heard that PAVN soldiers in the area removed all of the dead American's personal effects including his rucksack. Source heard that local villagers buried the body near Ban Din Mo Village.

Source did not observe any remains or personal effects associated with the incident. Source was not able to provide further information concerning the incident.



PAUL D. MATHER
Lt Col, USAF
JCRC Liaison Officer

REFUGEE REPORT & PRELIMINARY EVALUATION

SOURCE DATA: MENG SIDARA, 60
REFUGEE REPORT INTERVIEW NR & DATE: T84-343, 28 December 1984
ANALYST: SFC R. R. HILL
CROSS REFERENCE(S): T84-339, T84-340, T84-341, T84-342.

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/potential future reference: NO 1108.

RELATE DATA: On 28 March 1968, SGT Alan L. Boyer, SGT Charles G. Houston, and George R. Brown, USA, were part of a combined US-ARVN reconnaissance patrol in Savan- (P), Laos. After making contact with an unknown sized enemy force in vicinity of 434574, the patrol requested exfiltration by helicopter. However, because of the terrain features in the area, the helicopter could not land and consequently a rope ladder had to be used. After the seventh Vietnamese had climbed aboard, the helicopter began receiving heavy automatic weapons fire and was forced to leave the area. Simultaneous to this action, SGT Boyer began climbing the ladder but after several seconds the ladder broke. When last seen during the extraction both SGT Houston, SFC Brown and the remaining ARVN soldier were alive and appeared to be unwounded. On 1 April 1968 a search team was inserted into the same area but failed to locate any evidence of these men. SFC Brown, SGT Boyer, and SGT Houston are currently carried in the presumptive status of Dead, Body Not Recovered.

BACKGROUND/COMMENTS: Ban Din Mo (V), vicinity of XD 435586, is located approximately 1.3 KM's to the north of the extraction site where SGT Boyer, SGT Houston, SFC Brown and the remaining ARVN soldier were last observed. REFNO 1108 is the only ground incident listed in JCRC files that is located in the area relayed by the source. All three Americans involved in this incident were Special Forces personnel. While the alleged casualty possibly could relate to any one of the three Americans, SGT Boyer is the stronger candidate since he is known to have fallen with the rope ladder when it became separated from the helicopter. The difference in date may be due to hearsay. Source relayed a similiar report, T84-340, which has also been correlated to REFNO 1108.


JOE B. HARVEY
LTC, USA
Commander

DISPOSITION: JCRC LIAISON OFFICE, BANGKOK
JCRC A&S FILES
OASD/ISA, PW-MIA AFFAIRS
JCRC REFNO FILE: 1108

DIA, DC-2
HQ DA/DAAG-PES

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 PUBLIC UPON DELETION OF ALL SOURCE NAMES AND IDENTIFICATION DATA.