

Subj: Re: MIA Jars(s)
Date: 96-04-26 10:56:25 EDT
From: Oldlaohand
To: [REDACTED]

I know that there are persistent stories that a jar exists in the Smithsonian...and certainly anything is possible when it come to Laos!

However for those of you who did not get my earlier e-mail it basically said the some thing as Win/Jiggs with a few more details.

It was basically Win's idea to bring a jar over for Chao Saykham at Sam Thong. Win and I, with some Barrel troopers, took H-34 (tail number of an H 34) over to the PDJ to pick up a small jar. The pilot said that H-34 was a new chopper with the orginal/frame.skin and was thus lighter in weight than older, repaired choppers. The pilot got down low on fuel and told Win and I that given the altitude and temperature he could sling either 3800-4000 pounds or 2800-3000 pounds as I recall. We picked out the smallest jar that we could find. Using shovels and pieces of wood we were able to leverage the jar onto a sling/net. The Barrels were to small to pull the net up around the jar and fasten it to the hook under the chopper. So, in one of my more stupid moments, I got up on the jar and hooked the net onto the hook. The chopper then tried to take off but could not lift the jar...and this was the SMALLEST jar that we found. There is no question of this story because I filmed the entire scene, minus me being under the chopper. I have the movies here at home.

What I remember is that a jar was taken later to Sam Thong. I recall that a jar was taken to either Vientiane or Udorn for shipment to the US. Someone, and I thought it was Win, told Chao Saykham who told the Prime Minister, Chao Souvanna Phouma , who contacted the Ambassador. The jar was returned to the RLG. In the back of my mind I think that Chao Saykham told me this story but I can not be sure. The jar was already at Wat Prakeo by 1973 or 1974 because we have photos of Christine sitting next to it and she was about three or four years old at the time. Phaythoune and I, like Win, saw the jar again in 1991 and again in 1992 at Wat Prakeo.

I agree with Mac that the jar was not VP's to give away, if in fact he did. Maybe the respective ambassadors might remember. We tried to take the first jar off in late summer to fall of 1969. So from June 69 - April 75 there are only Godley and Whitehouse with a charge (Dean and who else) or two in between

Jack: Don't forget you said that if you can make arrangements to see the jar that you would include me. I may be the only person in this circle of

interested jarheads who has actually seen one in the wild. Don't want the Smithsonian to have a Thai "ang nam" or a "hai phai" stashed away somewhere at taxpayers expense thinking that it is one of THE JARS!!

Regards to all the other addressee jarheads. Have not been in contact with many of you for several years. Ernie