



JCRC CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER

LIAISON OFFICE
AMERICAN EMBASSY
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96346

REFERENCE: T84-148
18 July 1984

FROM: JCRC-LNB

SUBJ: Dogtags and Remains, Live Americans in Laos.

TO: COMMANDER, JCRC
Barbers Point, HI 96862

Source: Mr. *SOURCE* Thai National; DOB 14 May 1943; former *SOURCE*
DATA, an American contractor, at NKP Airbase, until 31
March 1976; present residence *SOURCE DATA*
Ampur That Phanom, Nakhon Phanom Province; interviewed at the American Embassy
on 17 July 84.

Information: Source came to the Embassy to report hearsay information concerning
American dogtags and remains recovered in Laos. He obtained this information
from a neighbor (whom he refused to name) who had received the information from
a Lao resistance fighter who travels between Laos and Thailand, and whose name
is not known to Source. Source was selected to bring this information to the
American authorities because of Source's past employment by the Americans and
because of his (limited) ability with English.

Source produced two slips of paper on which were written the dogtag information
of DAFFRON, THOMAS C., and SIMMONS, ROBERT E. Concerning the Simmons dogtag,
the Lao man alleged that he had personally recovered the dogtag from the crash
wreckage of a "4-propellor Spectre". This wreckage is located about 5 km west
of the village of Ban Wan Krung off of Highway #9 near the Nam Xe Chone River,
Muang Tchepone, Savannakhet Province. The Lao man alleged also that he has the
remains of Simmons. Time of discovery of the wreckage, present location of the
remains and dogtag, and other details and circumstances are all unknown to
Source. Source never saw the dogtag or remains himself. This information (about
Simmons) was allegedly passed to the intermediary (Source's unnamed neighbor)
about one week ago.

Regarding the DAFFRON dogtag, Source never saw the tag but was told by the
intermediary that he had seen the tag and had traced around it to make the
handwritten copy. This dogtag came from the same Lao resistance fighter, and
was brought to the intermediary about 3 weeks ago. Source claimed he was told
that Daffron parachuted from an aircraft and descended into tall trees where he
hung suspended. (Date, time of day, any other details regarding circumstances,
all unknown to Source.) Pathet Lao soldiers came to capture the aviator, but he
shot and killed two of the PL before he himself was shot and killed in return.

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The place of this incident was described as being about 50 km east of Thakhek
and about 30 km west of the Lao/Vietnam border. The Lao man, in addition to
having the dogtag, has somehow also come into the possession of the associated
skeletal remains. These remains were allegedly brought to Thailand about a
year ago and offered for sale. As there were no takers, the Lao man took the
remains back to Laos where they are now hidden. According to Source, he was
told the Lao man has already spent 45000 baht (\$2000) of his own money recovering
the remains of Daffron and Simmons, and expects to be reimbursed before making
the remains available to American authorities.

Finally Source reported a rumor that originated with the same Lao man. This
man allegedly contends that there are two American men, white skinned with blond
hair and quite skinny, who are living and working in the approximate same area
where the Daffron dogtags/remains were supposedly found. These two men are
working as teachers, teaching English to Lao troops. Source could provide no
additional information.

Source was told of USG policy regarding non-payment for remains. Interviewer
advised Source that his information would be forwarded to determine whether
or not any of it was valid. (He was not told that the names were valid.) Source
was advised to take back the message that the USG would gratefully accept any
remains offered to us without pre-condition, and we hoped that, since the Lao
man could allegedly find no buyers, he would see fit to voluntarily turn the
remains over to the USG for examination. Source said he would take this message
back to his neighbor. Source opted to retain the papers on which the dogtag
info was written, but permitted the papers to be copied. (See attached.)

AN

Atch:
Dogtag Info

PDM/mbr

RESOLUTION CENTER

FUGEE REPORT & EVALUATION

ANALYSIS & STUDIES

SOURCE DATA: SOURCE
 FUGEE REPORT INTERVIEW NR & DATE: T84-148, 18 JUL 1984
 ANALYST: SFC R. R. HILL
 OBS REFERENCE(S): SOURCE DATA

TEGORY DATA: Crashsite with remains - live sighting/third hand account.

FINDINGS: Review of data supplied by source reveals a probable correlation to
 d 1561-0-02.

RELATE DATA: REFNO 1807 DATA concerns the loss on 29 March 1972 of

MAJ Howard D. Stephenson, NAMES
 SSgt James J. Caniford, NAMES

NAME who were aboard an AC130A that was hit by a SAM over southern
 os at 0300 hours. The crew of an F4E flying escort observed the A/C explode and tumble to the
 ound in the vicinity of XD165414. No parachutes were observed and repeated passes over the
 ash site revealed no indication of survivors. However, a fifteen second beeper signal was
 ard from the vicinity of the burning A/C about ten minutes after the crash. Search efforts
 ntinued until 31 Mar 72, were negative. All personnel of REFNO 1807 are currently carried in
 e status of Dead-Body Not Recovered.

REFNO 1561-0-02 concerns the loss on 18 February 1970 of CAPT Thomas C.
 dffron, pilot, and 1LT Charles F. Morley, navigator, who were flying on F4C as the wingman in a
 ight of two on a night strike mission over Laos. While making a bomb attack on a target, their
 rcraft was hit by 37mm anti-aircraft fire. A large fireball was seen on the ground about one
 le east of the target, vicinity of XD070912. Both 1LT Morley and CAPT Daffron are carried in
 e presumptive status of Dead-Body Not Recovered.

BACKGROUND/COMMENTS: The alleged crashsite in which A1C Simmons' dogtag was recovered
 rresponds to the general location of REFNO 1807's crashsite. No correlation can be made to the
 o alleged Americans working in central Laos.

DAFFRON
 THOMAS C
 DATA
 POS
 BAPTIST

ROMAN, GAT A
 POS
 DATA
 ROBERT
 SIMMONS

E. B. HARVEY
 C, USA
 Commander

DISPOSITION: JCRC LIAISON OFFICE, BANGKOK
 JCRC A&S FILES
 OSD/ISA, PW-MIA AFFAIRS
 DIA, DC-2
 JCRC REFNO FILE: 1561-0-02

FOLLOW-UP: