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***Defense  
Prisoner Of War/  
Missing Personnel  
Office***



**memorandum**

*Date:* 19 February 2009

*To:* Files

*From:* RA-SEA/Millner

*Subject:* History of Reporting Related John Hartley Robertson (Refno 1184)

Background: On 20 May 1968, SFC Robertson was aboard a Vietnamese H-34 helicopter that was struck by enemy ground fire, flew into a tree line, exploded, and crashed in a ball of fire onto a hillside. According to U.S. witnesses on the ground and in nearby aircraft, there was no indication of survivors. SFC Robertson's remains were not recovered. In 2002 his crash site was placed on the list of sites to be scheduled for excavation (date not yet assigned).

1. DPMO has received several dozen reports concerning John Hartley Robertson, none of which has proven valid. The first was received in 2002 from a [redacted] of [redacted] (b)(6) [redacted] (who was later linked directly or indirectly to bogus reports concerning other American servicemen). As part of her initial report on SFC Robertson, [redacted] [redacted] provided a page of biographic information, dated Jan 1st 2002, which contained the following:

Full name - HARTLEY JOHN ROBERTSON  
Date of birth [redacted]  
Date of Caught - May 20th 1968  
Rank - SFC E7

Below this were two fingerprints and a signature (incorrect) "Hartley John Robertson" which incorrectly transposed the first and middle name. (See Mather Memos dated 22 July 2002 and 9 January 2003.) This same data with the same incorrect name transposition, was used by a source from California (See MFR dated 12 may 2003).

2. Reports on SFC Robertson became more frequent over the years, with more data (mostly incorrect) being added to the accompanying biography until it reached its current, oft-seen form frequently titled "RESUME":

Full Name HARLEY JOHN ROBERTSON

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Date of Birth	[REDACTED] (b)(6)
Rank	SFC E7
Serial Number	US 56299302
Name of the High Ccool	Boston Center High school
Date Come to Vietnam	Apr 1966
Date of Cause	May 20 1968
Father's Name	Harry T Robertson
Mother's Name	Annie Smith
Yuonger Brother	Denis E Robertson
With Name	Sela Wilson
Last Know Address in USA	518 Saint Louis Street Boston USA
Who in Charge in the Unit	Capt Thomas J Jacoby
When were Capture	May 20 1968 South W Laos

This correlates to SFC J. H. Robertson by name, date of birth, and loss date. The rest of the data is wrong. On the first line, SFC Robertson's name is rendered incorrectly. The names of his family members are all wrong, as is the service number. There is no Boston Center High School or "St Louis Street" in Boston, MA. Oddly, "518 Saint Louis Street" is the address of the New Orleans Saints football team HQ in Thibodaux, LA. This same bogus information, with spelling variants, has been seen in many reports.

3. The first alleged photo of John H. Robertson, that accompanied a claim reported to DPMO, was seen in 2004. Other reports followed using photos of different individuals they alleged to be SFC Robertson (see attachment). The most often seen is a man who, in 2006, was interviewed by U.S. personnel at which time he admitted he was a Vietnamese citizen named Dang Than Ngoc (aka Dang Tan Ngoc). Most recently, in late 2008 Mr. Ngoc again posed as Mr. Robertson and was taken to the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh where he was fingerprinted. The fingerprints were subsequently evaluated by the FBI which, in a 13 February 2009 letter, concluded Mr. Ngoc's fingerprints did not match those in SFC Robertson's official records.

4. Reporting on SFC Robertson has varied, but most often claims he is alive, married to a local woman, and has children. None of these reports has used entirely correct biographic information, or photos that (in the opinion of DPMO Analysts) resemble SFC Robertson. Most of the biographic information is false, photos show different individuals, and some photos are obviously edited (witness the photos of "Robertson" in the chair: one with a calendar page on his chest; one without). Despite DPMO requests, no source has provided any information that proves their claim is valid.

Recommended Action(s): Tech - Update Source File.  
DPMO-L – for JPAC/J2

Distro: Chrono, DM, LC, RA, RA-SEA, Rosenau, Millner, Tech, DPMO-L  
J. H. Robertson (1184), McCain

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## PHOTO HISTORY

Perhaps the first alleged photo of John H. Robertson that accompanied a claim reported to DPMO, was seen in late 2003 (MFR dated 21 November 2003). Photos of this same individual, who appears to be Asian, have been used in several bogus Robertson reports. ID data and photos of this man from Analyst MFR dated 26 June 2004 follow:

Robertson, John, Harley

DOB [REDACTED] (b)(6)

Serial# 56299302

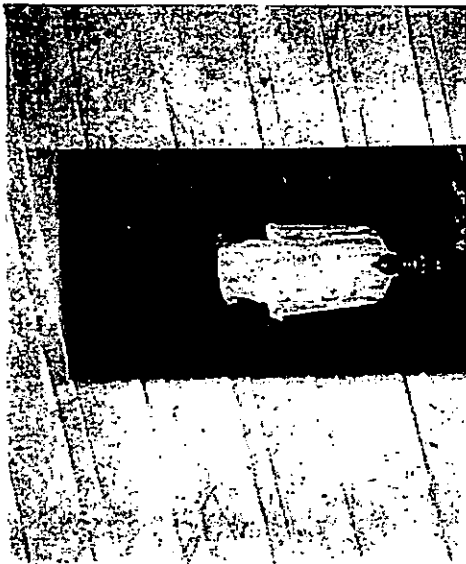
Loss Rank SFC E7

Service: Gunner Fighter, Hel 1<sup>st</sup> Cav. DIV

Date of incident: May 20<sup>th</sup> 1968

Address in United States: 946 Windtonin, Texas

Signature: *Robertson John Hartley*



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Reviewed by DPMO  
IAW 50 USC 435 Note &  
DOD 5400.7-RDate01-Apr-2009□  
Initialed By: S. E. E.

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Another report (*See MFR dated 9 November 2005*) had a clearer copy of one of the previous photos.



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Over the years, reports of J. H. Robertson continued using the same type of biographic information, but included photos of different individuals alleged to be Robertson.

Photo from MFR dated 26 April 06:

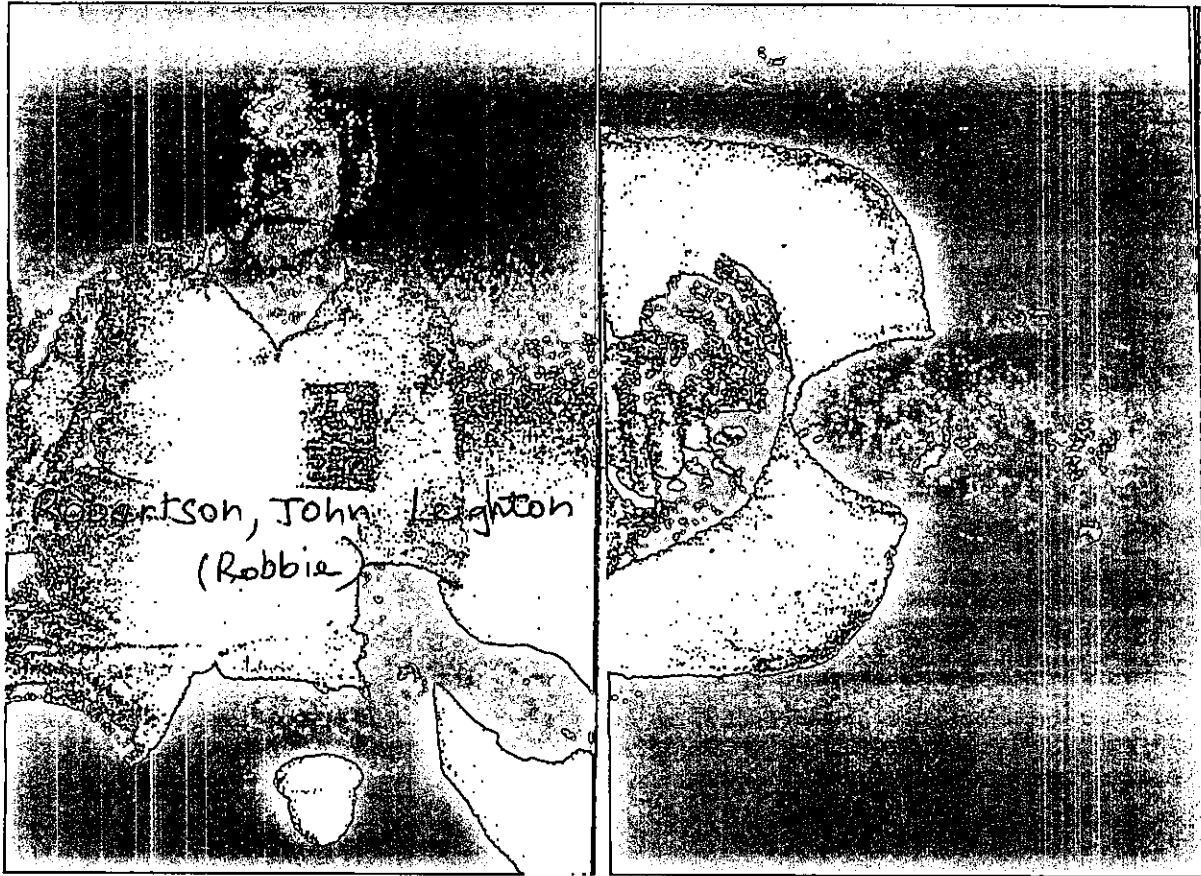


Mr. Hartley, John Robertson

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Photo from MFR dated 1 may 2006. (This was received from the same individual who provided photo of Robertson in 26 April 2006 report above.)



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A report using the "RESUME" format bio-data (MFR 4 May 2006) included a photo of an individual who would be used in many John. H. Robertson reports. This man was interviewed by U.S. personnel in 2006 and admitted he was actually a Vietnamese citizen named Dang Than Ngoc (or Dang Tan Ngoc). He also admitted being used for fabricated reporting. His fingerprints were evaluated by the FBI in February 2009 and were determined not to match SFC Robertson's:



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A color copy of this same photo was used in another report a few months later (See MFR dated 21 Sep 2006):



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Another copy of the same photo, though with no calendar page pinned to Mr. Ngoc's shirt  
(See MFR dated 5 December 2007):

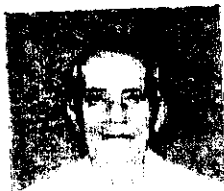


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“Johnson Phen Voc” (and various spellings) has also been the subject of several bogus reports. Believe this name may be erroneous version of “Robertson, John Hartley” copied by someone who misread an earlier copy of the name. This photo of Mr. Ngoc is from the same MFR (dated 31 August 2007) as the previous photo.

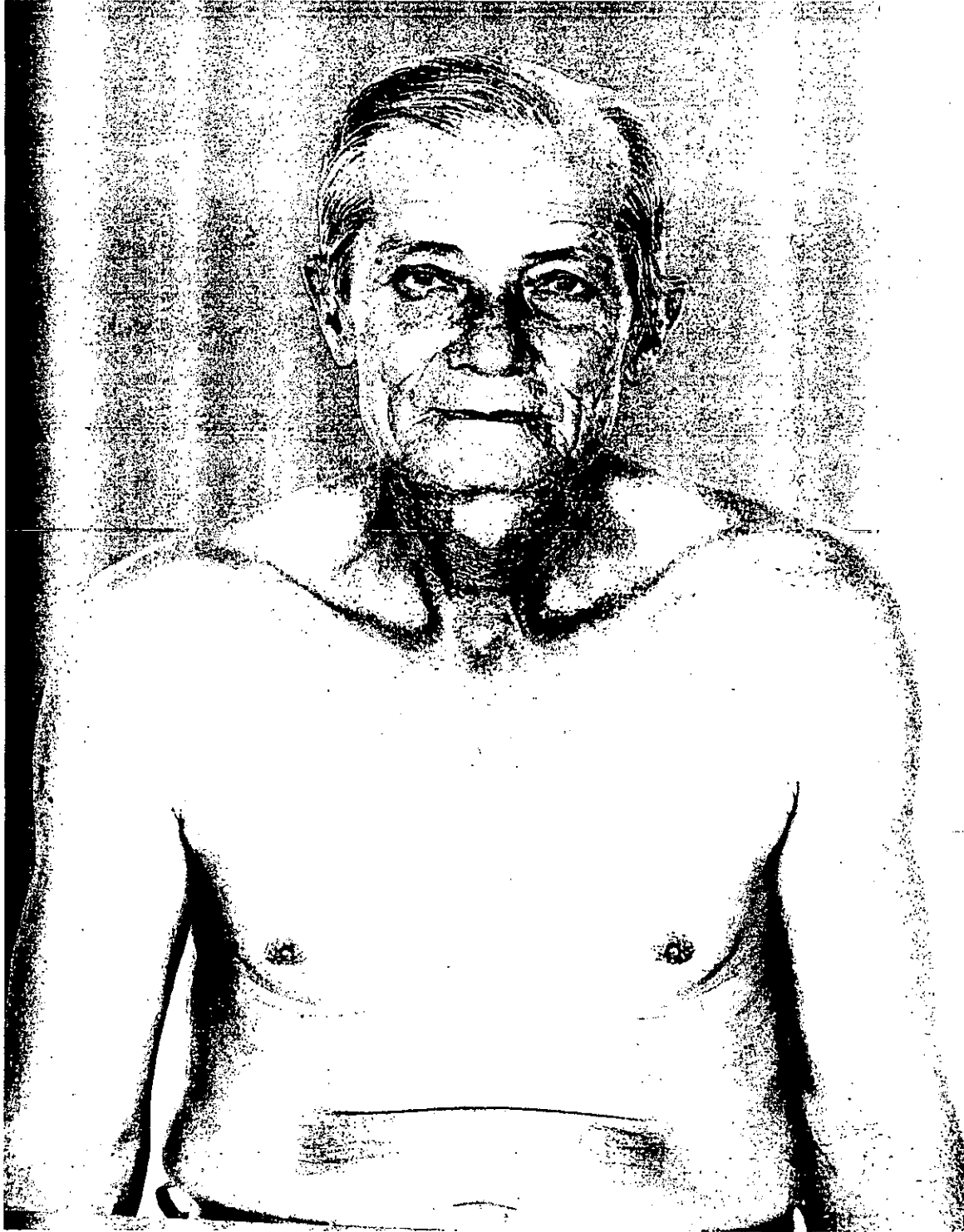
~ NH SON PHEN VOC  
LISA  
177712 SHIPBOOV  
SONH SOM PHEN QUAY  
SON SON U.S.A  
MALI LEN U.S.A



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Photo of same individual from an MFR dated 18 June 08:



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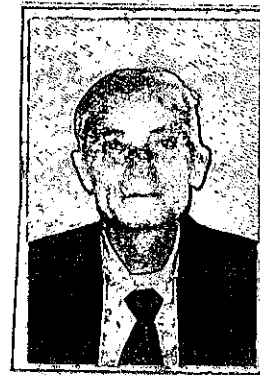
Photos from an MFR dated 7 Aug 2007:



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Also from MFR dated 7 Aug 2007:



MFR dated 27 February 2007:

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