

**Documentation Center of Cambodia**

**NEAK Yoeun (នាក់ យ៉ឺន), male, (alive)**

**Function [during Khmer Rouge]: Soldier of the Navy, Division 164**

**An interview with NEAK Yoeun, 55 years old**

**Address: Damnak Chheu Kram (ដំណាក់ឈើក្រំ) village,**

**Snay Anchet (ស្នាយអង្កេត) commune, Chum Kiri (ជុំគីរី) district, Kampot (កំពត) province**

**Date: 25 April 2007**

**Interviewed by LONG Dany (ឡុង ដានី)**

Dany: To start with, what is your name?

Yocun: NEAK Yocun.

Dany: NEAK Yocun?

Yocun: Yes.

Dany: How old are you now?

Yocun: 55 years old.

Dany: Where is your birthplace?

Yocun: My birthplace is right here.

Dany: What is the name of this village?

Yocun: Damnak Chheu Kram village, Snay Anchet commune, Chum Kiri district, Kampot province.

Dany: What is your wife's name?

Yocun: NIM Hocun (នឹម ហៀន).

Dany: How old is she?

Yocun: 58, 54.

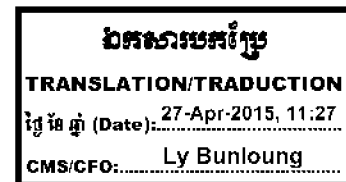
Dany: How many children do you have?

Yocun: Four children.

Dany: How many daughters and sons?

Yocun: Three daughters

Dany: What is your current occupation?



Yocun: I and my wife are rice farmers and selling noodle. That's it. In the past I was a worker in Takeo (តាកែវ), but after two of my children got married, I moved back here.

Dany: What were the names of your father and mother?

Yocun: My father's name was Neak and my mother's name was Eng (អេង).

Dany: Are both of them still alive?

Yocun: Yes, my mother's house is over there. She is alive, but my father has died. My father had lived here. At that time this place was covered by forests, but later on there were other people coming to clear land to live here including two to three of my father's cousins.

Dany: What year was it?

Yocun: It was in the year when they came to cremate the dead ([19]74, 75).

Dany: How many siblings do you have?

Yocun: I had seven siblings, but only four are alive.

Dany: Seven siblings, and only four are still alive?

Yocun: Yes, only four are alive including two men and two women. Two sisters and one brother have died.

Dany: What was the cause of their death?

Yocun: One of them died while he was a soldier, and the other two died during their escape.

Dany: What year did you join the military?

Yocun: I joined in [19]71 or 72.

Dany: Why did you join?

Yocun: They called me to join. When the Khmer Rouge and the Yuon arrived in the area in [19]71, they conscripted people into the military. I decided to join Pot Pot's (ប៉ុល ពត) side to become a Khmer Rouge's soldier.

Dany: But you were not conscripted, you joined them voluntarily?

Yocun: Yes, I volunteered.

Dany: Where did you join them at the beginning?

Yocun: At the beginning I was a messenger in this Damnäk Chheu Kram village. After I left here, I went to stay at Trapeang Andaeuk (ត្រពាំងអណ្តើក) where I carried letters forth and back between three provinces included Takeo, Kampong Speu (កំពង់ស្ពឺ), and Kampot.

Dany: Were you a messenger of whom?

Yocun: The messenger of the Kampot province. As the Kampot province messenger, one had to carry letters forth and back within Kampot province and to and from Kampong Speu province. As for me, I was the Zone's messenger, so I had to carry letters forth and back between Takeo, Kampong Speu and Kampot provinces.

Dany: What committee did the letters come from?

Yocun: For example, when Kampot province wanted to send a letter to Takeo, they gave it to me to take to Takeo; and when Takeo wanted to send a letter to Kampong Speu, they gave it to me to take to Kampong Speu.

Dany: Were you in Trapeang Andaek?

Yocun: Yes, in Trapeang Andaek.

Dany: Who was the chairperson there?

Yocun: It was Lin (លីន). He was from Prey Veng (ព្រៃវែង) village.

Dany: What was his role?

Yocun: He was the chairman of the messenger group of seven persons.

Dany: Who else were in that group of 7?

Yocun: There were (1) CHI Phn (ជី ផន), (2) Lin, (3) Moeun (ម៉ែន), (4) Vocun (វ៉ូន), (5) me. I do not remember the names of the other two men, but I knew that one of whom was from Srè Knong (ស្រែក្នុង) village. I cannot recall the other name except Moeun, Vocun, and CHI Phn, who was from Prek Chik (ព្រែកជីក) village.

Dany: Are they still alive?

Yocun: I do not know whether or not they have died. We have separated a long time ago.

Dany: As a messenger carrying the letter, did you know what that letter was about?

Yocun: No, it was totally sealed. If they told me to deliver it to the Sector committee of Takeo, I just delivered it to Takeo.

Dany: Did you deliver it directly to the Sector?

Yocun: No, they did not let us go in their place. For example, when I arrived in Takeo, I had to tell them that I wanted to deliver the letter to a place on the east side of the road, the other messengers at that place would take it over from me.

Dany: From what year to what year did you do that?

Yocun: I was a messenger from [19]70 to 72.

Dany: Was it before you joined the military?

Yocun: Yes, it was. Before joining the military, I stayed in the area of Krang Leav (ក្រាំងលាវ) and Spean Thom (ស្ពានធំ) in Kampong Speu province working in the security unit. After I left that place, I was sent to defend the sea border in the east, and after that, I joined the military.

Dany: Where did you join the military?

Yocun: It was at the [Cambodia] border in Kampot (កំពត) province. After that, I left Kampot at the suggestion of one of my friends who had told Chhocun (ឃ្លីន), who was the chairperson of the economy, that if he wanted to save me, he should take me [from the frontline] to the rear line, otherwise, I would be dead. My friend said that if I died, he would not want to live. This friend and I were very close with each other since we were monks. After that, Chhocun took me to the rear line, and then I got married and was assigned to work in the economy unit. Chhocun kept me to work with him since that time. Chhocun had a messenger named Phēn (ផែន), but at the time they visited Wat Kosâl (វត្តកុសល) Pagoda, Phēn defected from him. Phēn's house was in Psar Wat Châk (ផ្សារវត្តចក).

Dany: Was his name Phēn from Psar Wat Châk?

Yocun: Yes, Phēn. He was fat and having a dark complexion.

Dany: Was he a messenger of...?

Yocun: He was Chhocun's personal messenger.

Dany: Until what year were you with Chhocun at the messenger place?

Yocun: I was there until I was separated from Phēn. I forget Phēn's last name.

Dany: Did you stay with them until Phnom Penh fell in 1975?

Yocun: Yes I did.

Dany: Where did you go when Phnom Penh fell in 1975?

Yocun: At the time Phnom Penh fell in 1975, I went to attack [a base of Lon Nol troops] called Doh Kanh Chor (ដោះកញ្ចក់). When Phnom Penh fell, Doh Kanh Chor did not yet fall. After defeating Doh Kanh Chor, I went to Kampong Som.

Dany: What year did you go to Kampong Som?

Yocun: 75 or 76. In 75, I was assigned to defend aircrafts at the Kang Keng (កងកែង) airfield.

Dany: Did you defend the Kang Keng (កងកែង) airfield in [19]75?

Yocun: Yes, I did. And after that, I was sent to be trained to become a soldier in the navy forces.

Dany: Where were you sent to be trained?

Yocun: In Kampong Som at a place near the King's residence in Ou Chheu Teal (អូរឈើទាព).

Dany: What year were you sent to be trained?

Yocun: In 76.

Dany: What did you learn?

Yocun: There were different sections. Some people were trained to use the vessels, some were trained to operate the machines, some were trained to drive the ships and some were trained to be the telegram operators. I was trained to use the machineguns.

Dany: The guns on the vessel?

Yocun: Yes, on the vessel.

Dany: Were there many people studying in Ou Chheu Teal?

Yocun: There were many people. There were three to four ships each had thirty-eight crewmembers. There were different batches of trainees. For example, after troops in two or three ships had completed their training, they were sent to take charge of the ships, and then more new soldiers were brought in to continue the training.

Dany: Who were the trainers?

Yocun: The Chinese.

Dany: How many Chinese trainers?

Yocun: There were many Chinese trainers in different sections during the training. For example, in my machinegun section, there were two Chinese coming to teach us how to aim the gun at the target this week, but for next week there were different trainers coming to teach us for three to four days about how to adjust the firing distance, and to turn the gun up and down and right and left.

Dany: Did they teach in Chinese?

Yocun: They taught in Chinese, but there was an interpreter from China interpreting for us.

Dany: Was the interpreter also Chinese?

Yocun: Yes, he/she was Chinese.

Dany: Did he/she speak Khmer?

Yocun: Yes, he/she did. The trainers were older people. In my friend's section the interpreter had lived in Chamkar Mon (ចំការព័ទ្ធ) before moving to China.

Dany: How long did your training last?

Yocun: I studied for six months. At that time, after any persons had passed the training, they were sent to work. But for those who had not passed the training, they stayed to continue the training.

Dany: Were those who could not pass the test put to continue the training?

Yocun: Yes, they continued.

Dany: Did the Chinese teach you for the entire six months period? How many hours a day did the training last?

Yocun: In the morning the training was held from 7 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., and in the afternoon from 2 p.m. to 4p.m.

Dany: How many days a week?

Yocun: Every week.

Dany: From what day to what day?

Yocun: We studied every day throughout the week except Sunday.

Dany: After completing the training what happened?

Yocun: After completing the training, they sent us to the ship.

Dany: After completing the training what ship were you assigned to?

Yocun: I was sent to a ship in Kampong Som and then left to stay in the sea.

Dany: What was the ship you were in called?

Yocun: The defense.

Dany: The defense ship?

Yocun: Yes, it was 30 meters long and 5 meters wide.

Dany: How many persons working in the defense ship?

Yocun: In the defense ship there were 37 crew members including a medic.

Dany: In the navy forces, were there any other types of ships other than the defense ships?

Yocun: There were the assault ships.

Dany: The defense ships?

Yocun: Yes, and there was a ship called the floating which armed with the 8 meters long.

Dany: What was that floating ship?

Yocun: It was the Chinese ship. It was the big ship for firing the torpedo below the water surface.

Dany: There were the defense and the floating ships?

Yocun: And the assault and the mine sweeper vessels which could go through the floating mines, and those mines could not damage them. At that time if we wanted to travel from Ou Chheu Teal beach to the Kampong Som Port we had to drive a car on the main road. There was no detour or shortcut road for us to walk on. We had to stay in place allocated for us where there were guards guarding us. When we went to the ship to attend the training on how to use gun, we had to ride the car. The gun-ship did not dock at the place where we studied.

Dany: The defense ship? What about the PCF?

Yocun: The PCF was American ship captured by us.

Dany: Was it still usable?

Yocun: Yes, it was. This ship had the 80 [80mm mortar] on it.

Dany: What was the 80?

Yocun: It was the 80mm mortar. There was also the 12 [12.7mm machinegun] on it.

Dany: When you were in the defense unit, what was that unit or battalion called?

Yocun: At that time I was in the division's unit called Division 164.

Dany: Were you with the Division?

Yocun: Yes, the ships were under the control of the Division.

Dany: Were they [the ships] under a battalion?

Yocun: No.

Dany: Who was the chairman of your ship squadron?

Yocun: It was Horn (ហ៊ុន).

Dany: Was Horn the commander of the squadron of the defense ships?

Yocun: Yes, Horn birthplace was in Âng Me-trei (អង្គមេត្រី) [village/commune] in Takeo province. But he was dead. He was in charge of three to four or five ships. Each ship had a captain. My ship captain named *Ta Saratt* (តា សារ៉ាត់) who was from Koh Thom (កោះធំ) [district].

Dany: Was Saratt the ship captain?

Yocun: Yes, he was. After Saratt had been reassigned to another ship, TOUCH Huy (តូច ហ៊ុយ) became the captain of my ship. There were two men named Touch at that time, but one Touch was in the infantry.

Dany: So, all the ships were not under the regiment and battalion units but they were directly under the Division?

Yocun: Some were under [regiment and battalion]. For example, *Ta Horn*, who was the commander of the regiment, was also in charge of the ships.

Dany: What about Chhoeun?

Yocun: Chhoeun was in charge of the island, like Koh Thmei Island (កោះថ្មី). Chhoeun supervised the island and used boats.

Dany: Who was in charge of Tang Island (កោះតាង)?

Yocun: I did not know who was in charge of Tang Island and Poulowai Island (ពូលវ៉ៃ).

Dany: Tang and Poulowai Islands?

Yocun: I did not know who. There were many islands. I went to Tang Island occasionally. When the situation at the maritime border was not good, we took the ship to dock there. And over there we must not leave the docking place during the night or day so that in case of there was an emergency, we had to be on site but not wondering around.

Dany: When the Mayaguez was captured, where were you and what were you doing?

Yocun: I was already in the navy. I was in training.

Dany: In training?

Yocun: I already finished my training. At first we had sent the PCF to capture it, but they pushed us back. Then, we sent the defense ships to capture it.

Dany: To capture the Mayaguez?

Yocun: Yes, we captured it. We did not fire ever one shot...

Dany: What year was the Mayaguez was captured?

Yocun: 76.

Dany: Were you being in the training or...?



Yocun: I had already finished my training.

Dany: Already finished training?

Yocun: Yes, already finished training.

Dany: Did you start your training in [19]76 and your training lasted for 6 months?

Yocun: Yes.

Dany: Were there any soldiers in the Mayaguez at the time it was being captured?

Yocun: Soldiers of which side?

Dany: Of Mayaguez, American soldiers.

Yocun: Americans in the Mayaguez were transferred to the small boats. But I did not go near to see them. I went on the Mayaguez to take a look for just a short moment. That ship was very big. There were badminton and volley ball courts on it. I was in the ship for just a short time and left. And when the Division called me back to the shore, I left the [Tang] Island.

Dany: Which Division?

Yocun: Division 164 of *Ta Muth* (តាមុត).

Dany: *Ta Muth* called you back?

Yocun: Yes.

Dany: Did *Ta Muth* also go to the Island?

Yocun: *Ta Muth* was at the shore. [He said] do not stay there with too many persons.

Dany: At the time of the capturing, did they arrest all the people on the ship?

Yocun: Yes, but I did not know what happened to them because I had left.

Dany: Where did they keep the captured ship?

Yocun: The ship was not taken to the shore; it was at Koh Tang Island.

Dany: What happened at the time of the capturing?

Yocun: After I left, I did not know what happened. I went to Koh Rong Island (កោះរ៉ុង), which was far away, so I did not see it anymore.

Dany: Why did they release the ship?

Yocun: Because American came to attack us.

Dany: Did Americans come to attack?

Yocun: There were many aircrafts attacking us. Some aircrafts were shot down on Tang Island. Americans came to attack us and took back the ship. Two aircrafts were shot down on Koh Tang Island.

Dany: Did we shoot them down?

Yocun: Yes, we did.

Dany: What else happened?

Yocun: After Americans had bombed, they landed on Koh Tang Island, and we fled into the forest. Then they sent more aircrafts to escort the Mayaguez back. Those places like Ream (រីង), Kang Keng, Kampong Som Port and warehouse were on fire.

Dany: Did we release it or did they [American] come to seize it back?

Yocun: They [American] came to seize it back.

Dany: It was not released by us?

Yocun: No, it was not released.

Dany: How many days [before it was released]?

Yocun: It was a little long; it might be one month or a half month.

Dany: Were there many Americans killed during the attack?

Yocun: Americans came with ships to dock at Tang Island and attacked our navy forces. We had troops stationing on Tang Island, but Americans shot at us from the sky. Our four soldiers fell into the sea, and when we tried to rescue them, the aircrafts attacked us from the sky, so we fled into the forest.

Dany: Did you flee into the forest?

Yocun: We fled into the forest on the Island. There were Americans killed on Tang Island. Two aircrafts were downed. The aircraft [helicopter] was shot on the rear when it was flying in front of the 40 [B40 grenade propeller] target. After its rear part had been shot and broken, it went down in darkness.

Dany: Did you see any [Americans] being arrested or any dead bodies being retrieved?

Yocun: No, I did not see. I was far away from them. I saw that after it had already happened. After that event, came the Thai fishermen. There were Thai fishermen coming to fish in our water, so, we were assigned to prepare to arrest them. At that time I was assigned to wait on the island to arrest them [fishermen], but when they saw us, they did not enter and stayed in our water. They only came in and stayed for a short time and left.

Dany: You did not arrest them?

Yocun: No, we did not arrest them if they just came in and stayed [in our water] for just one or two or three days. But if they stayed for months, we would arrest them.

Dany: What else happened after the Mayaguez event?

Yocun: After I was called back, the story ended. There was nothing else.

Dany: After the Mayaguez event, were there any other ships captured?

Yocun: Yes, there was Yuon's ship being captured. Three to four defense ships went to capture it. When I came to help them, I saw our two ships in the front and two in the rear. But they [the defense team] told me that they did not need my help. I was already near them when they told me that they did not need my help since the ship had been already captured. Because those in the captured ship did not speak Khmer, they sent a PCF to take 'A' Phâl (ផា្ល) from the Division base [to translate].

Dany: Phâl?

Yocun: Yes, Phâl was at the Division. He spoke English and other languages.

Dany: Is Phâl still alive?

Yocun: I do not know. I do not know his birthplace.

Dany: You do not know?

Yocun: No, I do not. He was at the Division base. When Phâl arrived and spoke English with them [the crews], they said they would agree to pay a fine in gold or money.

Dany: How much in gold or money?

Yocun: I did not know how much, but I heard that no tax was paid.

Dany: Did we shoot at them at that time?

Yocun: Yes, we did if they had refused our order to drop the anchor. In this situation if we moved toward them, their ship would take a position to be ready to crash against our ship. But if we moved backward, they would escape.

Dany: What year did that happen?

Yocun: I think it was in 77, 78.

Dany: 77, 78?

Yocun: Yes.

Dany: Did the crews of the ship know that their ship was being taken to Kampong Som?

Yocun: I did not know whether or not they knew about that. The Division's troops did the work, so I did not know.

Dany: Did the Division do the work?

Yocun: Yes, it was Horn of the Division who did that.

Dany: Did you know any names of those who took part in that capturing?

Yocun: I did not know them. I was not close with them. And my place was far away from their island.

Dany: Do you remember who took part in that work?

Yocun: No, I do not remember. I did not know their names. At that time I just docked at their port because we needed drinking water. They brought to us whatever we needed.

Dany: When the PCF went to take Phâl the Division messenger, were there any other persons coming with Phâl?

Yocun: There were other persons going with Phâl.

Dany: Did they take the crews from the captured ship and the ship to the Division base?

Yocun: The CPF.

Dany: No, did they take the crews of the captured ship to the Division?

Yocun: I did not know what happened. But I heard the conversation in the radio communication at my place asking the Division for Phâl. The conversation in the radio could be heard by any ones nearby. Then I saw the ship at the Kampong Som Port and saw people coming out. Then, Phâl left in a car with the Division [commander].

Dany: Did *Ta Muth* go to see the ship?

Yocun: *Ta Muth* did.

Dany: Did he also go?

Yocun: Yes, *Ta Muth* boarded the ship.

Dany: Did you see clearly how the ship looked like when he boarded it?

Yocun: I did not see the ship which was sent to the dock.

Dany: Yes!

Yocun: I did not go near it.

Dany: But did you see it from a distance?

Yocun: I saw it from a distance.

Dany: How did the ship look like?

Yocun: It was white.

Dany: How big was it based on your estimation?

Yocun: I could not estimate its width but it was about 40 meters long. It could transport many things. If it was a small boat, it would not dare to collide with the defense ship.

Dany: How big was the defense ship?

Yocun: The defense ship was 130 meters long and 5 meters wide. Its body was all steel, not wood.

Dany: So, it was the aluminum ship? And how far were you from it?

Yocun: About 50 meters. I saw its color.

Dany: Was it white?

Yocun: But it was broken.

Dany: Was it broken by gunshots?

Yocun: It did not stop when it was ordered to stop.

Dany: Where was it at that time?

Yocun: It was shot at a place north of Koh Tang Island.

Dany: North of Koh Tang Island?

Yocun: If it had traveled in the international water, we would not capture it. But at that time it encroached in Khmer water near Koh Tang Island.

Dany: Did you hear that those people in that ship did not...?

Yocun: They did not speak Khmer.

Dany: Did you hear about that?

Yocun: Yes, they did not speak Khmer. If they spoke Khmer, there was no need to ask Phâl to translate.

Dany: Who at that time asked [for Phâl]?

Yocun: The PCF crews asked for Phâl.

Dany: Who was the captain of the PCF?

Yocun: I did not know.

Dany: Did you know the leadership structure of the PCF?

Yocun: I knew only YÈM Sam On (យ៉ែម សំអុន).

Dany: If I go to ask him, will he know something?

Yocun: He was with the PCF. He went to China since [19]76.

Dany: Since 76?

Yocun: 76, 77.

Dany: What was his name?

Yocun: YÈM Sam On.

Dany: What village is his birthplace?

Yocun: Pong Teuk (ពងទឹក) village.

Dany: What commune?

Yocun: Srae Chaeng (ស្រែចែង) commune.

Dany: Is Srae Chaeng also in Chum Kiri district?

Yocun: Yes, it is in Chum Kiri. His house is on the ground and [selling] salt. His house has a red roof.

Dany: After the capturing of that ship, was any negotiation take place some days later?

Yocun: It was the PCF... My group did not know. The PCF...

Dany: Did you hear that it was the aluminum ship transporting coal mine?

Yocun: Yes, that was what they [our navy soldiers] said. They said that after the ship had been captured, they went to check inside it. First the ship's crews did not want them [the soldiers] to board and check inside their ship, but when [the navy soldiers] warned the crews that they would shoot them to death, the crews let [the soldiers] in. After they were inside the ship, they saw....

Dany: What did they see?

Yocun: They saw uranium and coalmine.

Dany: They saw uranium and coalmine, but they did not know where that ship was from?

Yocun: No, they did not know it was from. At that time when we sent a big ship out with radar on the top, we detected and captured it.

Dany: You said that you knew when Phâl was asked to go, *Ta Muth* also went with him?

Yocun: Yes, I knew he did.

Dany: Who else were with him?

Yocun: I did not know who else.

Dany: How did you know that *Ta Muth* also went [with Phâl]?

Yocun: I heard their conversation in the radio that *Ta Muth* also went with. At that time *Phâl* was waiting to receive the radio call from *Ta Muth* because *Ta Muth* had gone away with the PCF. At that time if there were anything happening, *Phâl* would radio my ship.

Dany: Did you mean that *Ta Muth* came to see the aluminum ship?

Yocun: Yes he did.

Dany: Where was *Phâl* then?

Yocun: *Phâl* was at *Ta Muth*'s place.

Dany: Did *Ta Muth* take *Phâl* to go with?

Yocun: Yes, *Ta Mut* arrived after they had captured that ship. Since *Ta Mut* and all the crews of the PCF did not speak English, they had to ask for *Phâl*. So, *Ta Mut* sent a PCF to pick up *Phâl*.

Dany: Who was *Ta Muth*'s deputy?

Yocun: *Ta Nhãn* (តាញ៉ាន់).

Dany: Did *Ta Nhãn* also go?

Yocun: No, *Ta Nhãn* did not. *Ta Nhãn* was at....

Dany: At where?

Yocun: He was at Trapeang Damnak (ត្រពាំងដំណាក់).

Dany: Where was Trapeang Damnak?

Yocun: Trapeang Damnak was in Preaek Kcheay (ជ្រែកខ្លាប).

Dany: Trapeang Damnak, Preaek Kcheay?

Yocun: Yes, *Ta Nhen* (តាញ៉ិន) was at....

Dany: Was *Ta Nhen* a younger brother of *Ta Nhãn*?

Yocun: Yes, he was a younger brother of *Ta Nhann*

Dany: *Ta Nhen*?

Yocun: His name was NHIÈT Nhen (ញ៉ិត ញ៉ិន).

Dany: Nhèt?

Yocun: His father named Nhèt.

Dany: What village did NHIÈT Nhen live in?

Yocun: Prey Kcheay (ជ្រែកខ្លាប) village.

Dany: What commune?

Yocun: Snay Anchet commune.

Dany: Was he *Ta Nhãn*'s younger brother?

Yocun: Yes, he was *Ta Nhãn*'s younger brother.

Dany: Did *Ta Nhãn* ever come here?

Yocun: Yes, he did.

Dany: How many days had that captured aluminum ship been kept before it was released?

Yocun: No, I did not know how many days. I forget. I did not pay attention to it when they captured it.

Dany: Where was the command base of the Division at that time?

Yocun: It was in Kampong Som.

Dany: In which part of Kampong Som?

Yocun: It was in the west part of Kampong Som....

Dany: What did they do at the Division's command base?

Yocun: They stayed there.

Dany: Where did *Ta Muth* stay?

Yocun: *Ta Muth* stayed at that place.

Dany: What about the Seven Stories (Prampi Chœan) Hotel?

Yocun: The Seven Stories Hotel was the house.

Dany: Where was the study/training place?

Yocun: The study place was changed from place to place. If they studied about the ship, they went to the broken ship place.

Dany: Was it the place where they replaced the engine and repaired ship?

Yocun: Yes, they repaired ship.

Dany: Where did the ships dock?

Yocun: The defense and the attack vessels did not dock at the port. Those ships were anchored in the sea. For thirty days in a month they never came to the shore.

Dany: Were there any ships docking at Ream?

Yocun: There were not any combat vessels but the fishing ships and boats at Ream. At that time when any rusted fishing ships needed a repair, they were usually sent to Ream. Some unit had rusted ships....

Dany: Were there any arrests of the Thai and Yuon people later on?

Yocun: Yes there were arrests....



Dany: Where were they sent to after their arrest?

Yocun: They were shot to dead.

Dany: Shot to dead at where?

Yocun: On Koh Rong Island.

Dany: Were they not sent to...?

Yocun: If the soldiers of the Division had arrested them, they sent them to the Division base in Kampong Som. There were two persons....

Dany: Were some of them arrested and sent to the Division base?

Yocun: Yes, there were. For example, if they [soldiers] at Koh Rong Island had arrested them, the soldiers radioed to tell the Division about that. Then, the Division told the soldiers [“]Just do whatever you want. Do not keep them[”]. At that time they did not take ships from my group to do the arrest mission because each ship used four engines and two batteries. They took the PCF to do the arrest.

Dany: Were the arrested people taken to Koh Rong Island?

Yocun: Yes, they were sent to Koh Rong Island.

Dany: Did you ever see them?

### **End of part A**

Yocun: ... They took the Thai ship to an unknown place. I did not see it. We were not allowed to go out....

Dany: Were there any people arrested and sent to the Division base?

Yocun: There was one time when they sent the arrested people to Ou Chheu Teal....

Dany: How many persons?

Yocun: I did not know because other soldiers arrested them.

Dany: Who were those people?

Yocun: They were Yuons.

Dany: Were they the Yuons of the Thiev Ky (ផ្ទៃ ក្រី) [government]?

Yocun: Yes, Thiev Ky.

Dany: Were they brought to Ou Chheu Teal?

Yocun: After they arrived at the Ou Chheu Teal, they were walked to....

Dany: How many Yuons?

Yocun: I did not know.

Dany: Did you see them?

Yocun: I saw them from a distance. I did not know how many of them.

Dany: How did they put them on the ship?

Yocun: They had the Yuons sitting in the back of the PCF with guards sitting on their sides, and the PCF was told to dock at a specific place at Ou Chheu Teal.

Dany: Which place in Ou Chheu Teal were they taken to?

Yocun: To the mainland.

Dany: Where else were they sent to on the mainland?

Yocun: I did not know. I did not look at what they were doing. My ship was anchored for the whole time of the month. We did not move unless there was something happening at the maritime border.

Dany: What happened to the Thai fishermen after the aluminum ship had been captured?

Yocun: The Thai fishing boats were small. Later on there were two big ships captured after the Thai boats.

Dany: Where were those two big ships taken to?

Yocun: The two big ships were taken to Ream and Kampong Som.

Dany: Were the two ships kept at...?

Yocun: They were hidden in Boeng Kak (បឹងកក់) lake when the Thai came to look for them.

Dany: Did the Thai come?

Yocun: They came to look for...

Dany: Who were those Thais who had come to look for...?

Yocun: Thai.

Dany: Who were those Thais?

Yocun: They were Thai fishermen.

Dany: Were not they the Thai navy troops?

Yocun: No, they were the Thai fishermen. They came to ask for their boats back. After capturing their boats, we gave them back some of the boats which were the 30 and 50 horsepower boats. We kept only the fishing boats and fishes. Later on, there were some Thais coming to look for their boats, saying that if we had them, they would want to buy them back. But the Khmer was hiding those captured boats.

Dany: Were there any fishes in those two captured Thai boats?

Yocun: There were big fishes.

Dany: Were the boats sent to dock at Ream?

Yocun: Yes.

Dany: Did you see if there were any Thai fishermen had been arrested and sent to the Division base?

Yocun: No, the Thai were arrested occasionally. If we had captured their big boat, we gave them back just a smaller Khmer boat.

Dany: You never saw any Thai being arrested?

Yocun: If they had arrested any Thai, they did not send them....

Dany: They did not send them away or kill them? Did they send them to the Division and let the Division solve the problem?

Yocun: The Division instructed that if we had arrested any Thai, we did not need to find Khmer boat to take them to the mainland. There was no need to solve any problem.

Dany: Until what year did they stop capturing/arresting boats and people?

Yocun: Ah! We did not stop capturing/arresting people until the time [the Regime fell] when we escaped. As for the Yuon, if they had been arrested, they would not be kept alive.

Dany: Were the arrested Yuon not kept alive?

Yocun: No, they were not kept alive. But for the Thai, they were not [killed].

Dany: Were any arrested people sent to Phnom Penh?

Yocun: As for the Yuon, I did not know what happened because if they were arrested at the island.

Dany: Did the Division radio to instruct [their soldiers] to smash them?

Yocun: Yes, the Division told the troops on the island that if they had arrested them, just smash them. If the [soldiers] on the Rong Island had arrested them, they should destroy them on the Rong Island, and if the Tang Island had arrested them, they should destroy them on the Tang Island. The PCFs were deployed to every island, and it was the PCF which chased and captured small boats.

Dany: How many PCFs were there?

Yocun: There were 16 PCFs. Each island had 1 or 2 PCFs. But there were no [PCF] at Koh Rong Island because it was near Kampong Som.

Dany: When you stayed on the island did you ever see they arrested any foreigners and sent them to the Division base?

Yocun: No, the PCF team was the one who arrested foreigners. After they had arrested any foreigners, they took them directly to the Division. They did not stop at the island.

Dany: You never heard them talking about that...?

Yocun: I heard from a person...

Dany: Where and who?

Yocun: He lives near here on the east side of Angduong (អង្គឌួង) street...Kang Keng. He was also in the navy forces.

Dany: Was he also in the navy forces?

Yocun: Yes.

Dany: What is his name?

Yocun: PAK Sokh (ប៉ាក់ សុខ).

Dany: What village does PAK Sokh live in?

Yocun: Damnak Chheu Kram village.

Dany: What is PAK Sokh's wife name?

Yocun: His wife is Pheap (ភីព). They had just returned from the refugee camp. They live here.

Dany: Is his house near the village and pagoda?

Yocun: His house is on Angduong street.

Dany: Which one is Angduong street?

Yocun: It is east of here. It is our main road which starts from the pagoda eastward and then turns southward. You can ask people along the way to find him.

Dany: Is PAK Sokh having only one leg? Was he in the navy also?

Yocun: Yes, one leg. He was also in the navy.

Dany: Was he in your group also?

Yocun: No, he was in the floating squadron of the navy.

Dany: Who else were in the navy?

Yocun: I do not know who else. If you go to ask Sokh, he might know other persons who had been in the navy. You can also go to ask Nai (ណៃ).

Dany: Is his [Nai] house a Karaoke parlour?

Yocun: Karaoke? I never asked him about that. But sometimes in the afternoon he comes to hang around here.

Dany: I do not have any other questions to ask you. I would like to thank you very much.

Yocun: Yes, thank you

**--THE END--**