

មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលឯករាជ្យកម្ពុជា

Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam)

Interview with Meung Vet, male, age 56

Position under the Khmer Rouge (KR) regime: Deputy Chief of Division 117's office

Hometown: Kbal-O Village, Cheang Torng Commune, Tram Kak District, Takeo province

Current address: Tuol Village, Chakrei Commune, Phnom Proek District, Battambang Province

August 13, 2013

Interviewed by Long Dany

01:36:56

49 pages [in Khmer]

Dany : What is your full name?
Vet : Meun Vet.
Dany : Meun Vet!
Vet : I use the name Meung Vet.
Dany : Meung Vet!
Vet : Yes! I changed my name.
Dany : When did you change your name?
Vet : [My] name 'Meung' was changed in order to get enlisted into the army.
Dany : Now, you use the name Meung Vet?
Vet : Yes
Dany : How old are you?
Vet : I am 56 years old. I was born in 1958.
Dany : Where is your hometown?
Vet : Kbal-O, Cheang Torng commune, Tram Kak district, Takeo province.
Dany : You're from the same hometown as Yut?
Vet : Yes
Dany : You're from the same hometown as Yeay Chem?
Vet : Yes
Dany : You have known her since you was young?
Vet : I have known her since I was young.
Dany : Because Kbal-O people struggled [for the revolution] such as Kean Svay district chief Yeay Bo and other Koh Thom district chief and Saang district chief.
Vet : Someone named Pak was shot dead on an elephant in Ratanak Kiri province.
Dany : How about his 3 siblings?
Vet : I don't know where Boeun, Pak's brother was.
Dany : Yes!
Vet : His first wife was not heard of.
Dany : What is your father's name?
Vet : Chhum Chi.
Dany : Chhum Chi! Look at this background.

Vet : Yes!
 Dany : Nowadays, is he alive or dead?
 Vet : Dead! He died in 1967 or 1968.
 Dany : How about your mother?
 Vet : Nhoem Roeun! She died too.
 Dany : She is dead! She died long time ago?
 Vet : My mother died in 1979.
 Dany : How many brothers and sisters do you have?
 Vet : I have 2 siblings.
 Dany : How many siblings do you have?
 Vet : 3 siblings.
 Dany : 3 siblings.
 Vet : My elder brother is my half-brother.
 Dany : Among 3 siblings, one is your half-brother?
 Vet : I have a different father. My mother was a widow.
 Dany : How many brothers and sisters?
 Vet : 3 brothers.
 Dany : Oh! 3 brothers. What is your elder brother's name?
 Vet : Voeun.
 Dany : Voeun, right?
 Vet : Yes!
 Dany : Voeun was arrested in 1978?
 Vet : Yes!
 Dany : Why was he arrested in 1978?
 Vet : He had been a battalion chief for a few months. In the past, he was in Lungvek. He was [then moved to] in a tank unit in Pochentong. Roeun was arrested, followed by [the arrest of] my brother [Voeun].
 Dany : Where was Roeun arrested?
 Vet : Roeun left from Kampot to Kampong Cham province. The force leader was arrested in 1978.
 Dany : What division in Kampong Cham province was Roeun a leader of?
 Vet : No! He was in a regional force in Kampong Cham province. Before Yuon stormed into the place, Roeun was arrested.
 Dany : Roeun left Kampot province to lead the forces in Kampong Cham province?
 Vet : Yes!
 Dany : [He was in charge of] central zone?
 Vet : Yes!
 Dany : Did he go to the Central Zone with Yut?
 Vet : Yes! My brother was caught in Pochentong.
 Dany : Your brother was caught in Pochentong, right?
 Vet : He was caught in Pochenton, because of his connection [with Roeun]. My father befriended Roeun. [Actually], it was not Roeun. I was mistaken. It was Rin.

Dany : It was Rin, right?

Vet : Yes

Dany : Was your brother in a battalion or a regiment?

Vet : Battalion.

Dany : Were the people in the battalion arrested?

Vet : Yes!

Dany : How about your second sibling?

Vet : My brother lives in Cabin town nowadays.

Dany : You are the second child in the family?

Vet : Yes!

Dany : What was your third sibling's name?

Vet : Poap.

Dany : Did you go to school?

Vet : I attended grade 9.

Dany : Do you know how to read and write well?

Vet : Read! I have just started with French vowels. I stopped going to school with the outbreak of the military coup.

Dany : But you can read and write Khmer?

Vet : Yes

Dany : At what school did you study in grade 9?

Vet : Ang Baksei or Aach Kok pagoda school.

Dany : Ang Baksei pagoda is in Kbal-O village or is it not?

Vet : No! It is in Ang Kralanh village.

Dany : Ang Kralanh village is in Cheang Torng commune, right?

Vet : Yes! It is near [Cheang Tong commune]. It is near one side of the pagoda. It is called Ang Baksei pagoda, previously Aach Kok.

Dany : When did you stop going to school?

Vet : I stopped going to school at the outbreak of the military coup.

Dany : You stopped going to school in 1970?

Vet : Yes

Dany : What did you do when you stopped studying?

Vet : I stopped going to school. My mother fled to the jungle.

Dany : Did you join the struggle?

Vet : Yes! I stayed with my grandmother in the village. It was not until 1973 that I joined the revolution.

Dany : You joined the revolution in 1973?

Vet : I was conscious [of it]. I fought Lon Nol's armed forces. I worked as a messenger to carry rice.

Dany : Where did you go at first?

Vet : I went to Angkor Chey.

Dany : You went to Angkor Chey in 1973?

Vet : Yes! I went to Sen Han Mountain.

Dany : You were in Angkor Chey district forces in Sen Han Mountain?

Vet : I was a messenger in sector 160. Ta Mut was not in charge of the division yet.

Dany : In what sector were you a force of in Sen Han Mountain?

Vet : Sector 13.
 Dany : What did Ta Mut do?
 Vet : Sector 13 committee.
 Dany : Sector committee included Ta Mut?
 Vet : Ta Mut and Ta Saom.
 Dany : Only two of them?
 Vet : No, there were other subordinates but they were all arrested.
 Dany : Who?
 Vet : There were other subordinates. Phen, Maury, and Nith, [and] Ta Mok's brother were arrested.
 Dany : What was his name?
 Vet : His name was Nith, Ta Mok's brother, arrested in Angkor Chey district.
 Dany : His biological brother or brother-in-law?
 Vet : Biological brother.
 Dany : Ta Mok has a brother named Nith as well?
 Vet : Yes!
 Dany : Where did Ta Saom come from?
 Vet : Ta Saom was a newspaper director. I am not so sure whether he came from Svay Rieng or Prey Veng. His home village is the same with Yeay Yut's first husband.
 Dany : Oh! He came from Prey Veng?
 Vet : He was a newspaper director.
 Dany : Was Ta Saom arrested or not?
 Vet : I don't know because I was separated from him. At the time, he was taken from the regional committee. He was sick with lung disease. I went into the Kiri Vong forces. He was sick and was taken to be treated. And then he was removed to B1 to work with Chhean.
 Dany : With Iy Chhean?
 Vet : Yes! He was taken there. I didn't know where I separated from him.
 Dany : Iy Chhean was in Takeo province?
 Vet : No, Iy Chhean came from Preah Vihear province. But he worked with Ta Ieng Sary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
 Dany : Who replaced Ta Saom?
 Vet : Chhoeun replaced the sector committee, Ta Saom.
 Dany : His name is Chhoeun, right?
 Vet : Yes! Chhoeun was arrested. My uncle from Prey Boeng is also Ta Mok's relative.
 Dany : He had connection with Ta Mok as well?
 Vet : Yes!
 Dany : Why did the KR arrest Ta Mok's relative?
 Vet : No
 Dany : Ta Chhoeun replaced Ta Saom?

Vet : Chhoeun was a former Angkor Chey district committee. Because Ta Saom removed Ta Mut, he was then promoted to be in charge of the division. I don't know about that anymore. Later, Chhoeun was moved to the Ministry of Industries to work with Von Vet.

Dany : When?

Vet : In 1977.

Dany : When was Ta Saom removed?

Vet : Ta Saom was removed in 1977.

Dany : Ta Saom was removed in 1977 and Ta Chhoeun replaced him?

Vet : He was in charge for a short period and then moved to Phnom Penh. After I went to Kratie, I heard that he was arrested.

Dany : At first, you went to Sen Han Mountain?

Vet : Yes! In 1973 or 1974 or 1975.

Dany : Ta Mok was in charge of that area?

Vet : I worked in security center 160. Ta Chhoeun was promoted to sector committee. He was in charge of Angkor Chey district and led the regional youth called regional youth leader.

Dany : Yeay Chem wasn't in charge of Angkor Chey, right?

Vet : Yeay Chem was a regional woman, just staying in that district. Other woman was in charge.

Dany : She was in charge of sector 13 woman?

Vet : Yes!

Dany : But Yeay Chem stayed in Angkor Chey too?

Vet : Yeay Chem stayed in Angkor Chey. She worked with Ta Nhen. And Chhoeun, regional youth leader, was in charge of Angkor Chey with Ta Nhen.

Dany : You stayed at Sen Han Mountain from 1973 to 1975?

Vet : Yes!

Dany : Was Ta Mut removed from here?

Vet : He went to Kampong Som.

Dany : Before 1975, did he establish the division?

Vet : He established division 3 before 1975.

Dany : Did you join division 3?

Vet : No, I stayed in the sector.

Dany : You were separated from him?

Vet : I was separated from him. I stayed there for less than one year and was separated from him. He was promoted to the division. I was still a sector messenger.

Dany : You were still a sector messenger?

Vet : I was one of Ta Chhoeun's messenger. It was not until September 1975 did I went to Kiri Vong district.

Dany : What was next?

Vet : It was not until September 1975 did I went to Kiri Vong.

Dany : You left here for Kiri Vong?

Vet : Yes!

Dany : You left Angkor Chey?

Vet : Yes!

Dany : Where did you stay when you went to Kiri Vong?

Vet : I stayed in the division's office.

Dany : Was there a division in the southwest zone?

Vet : Yes!

Dany : What was number of the division?

Vet : Division 2 and later division 250 was established. Before 1975, divisions were not established yet. It was not until 1975 that division 2 was established. The division was managed by Ren. There were regiments in sector 13. Later division 230, division 210, division 270 and division 250 were established.

Dany : Southwest zone had only one division?

Vet : There was only division 2 in the southwest zone.

Dany : Ren was division 2's leader, Ta Mok's son-in-law?

Vet : Yes! He was Ta Mut's relative.

Dany : Toem Ren had a brother named Seng?

Vet : Yes! Seng is dead.

Dany : How many regiments within division 2?

Vet : In my division!

Dany : Division 2?

Vet : There were many regiments within division 2 in Angkor Borei. There was regiment 230 in Kampot province. I just knew clearly about the place I lived in. Its were called Regiment 15, 16, 17 or 18. Aftermath, the KR creat division 250, which Phea was in charge of the division.

Dany : 15, 16?

Vet : Yes

Dany : You knew that it was in Kiri Vong?

Vet : Division 250 covered from the iron bridge to Kampot.

Dany : Division 250?

Vet : Yes! The division was arranged later.

Dany : Since 1975, there had been a division 2?

Vet : Yes! There was a division 2. I was in the sector.

Dany : When was division 250 established?

Vet : After I went to Kratie, division 250 was established. Once I came back, division 250 was established. It was established in 1976.

Dany : You went to Kratie in 1977?

Vet : The division was established. At the time, I stayed with Chhav who came from regiment 11.

Dany : Who was the leader of division 250?

Vet : Phea.

Dany : Where was division 250 stationed?

Vet : the division's office was in Kiri Vong. The division operated in Kiri Vong and at Pra Pnao Mountain near Saom pagoda.

Dany : All divisions in Kiri Vong?

Vet : They were stationed in front of the radio-telephone antennas at Preah Sbar Mountain and behind the primary school's hospital.

Dany : Did you know how many regiments in division 2 consisted of?

Vet : I don't know.

Dany : Who was Ta Ren's deputy?

Vet : Ta Ren's deputy was Chhieng but he is dead.

Dany : Ta Mok's other son-in-law was Bo Ran?

Vet : Bo Ran was a carpenter.

Dany : Was he promoted to the armed forces?

Vet : He was not promoted. He worked for Ta Mok. He was promoted when we escaped from Yuon [Vietnamese]. He was in charge of the women and died while Yuon pulled the donator to explode the landmines.

Dany : You said in September 1975, you moved from Angkor Chey to the regional center in Kiri Vong.

Vet : At the time I was a messenger in the region's office. I was a group leader in the office. I was privileged to deliver documents or letters.

Dany : The office in sector 13?

Vet : Yes! I was an armed force messenger. I left the sector and moved back to be in the force.

Dany : Regional force?

Vet : Yes! Regional force.

Dany : It was a regiment?

Vet : Regiment.

Dany : What was the regiment number?

Vet : At the time, the regiment was not numbered but was called a regional regiment.

Dany : Who was the leader of sector 13?

Vet : Phan

Dany : Phan who was transferred here?

Vet : No, Phan was moved from the northwest and was sent back. And then he was arrested.

Dany : Was Phan still in the northwest?

Vet : No, he was arrested.

Dany : Were you still Phan's messenger?

Vet : Yes! I knew Phan was arrested and my uncle knew too and he called me to visit him in Kratie. [After that], I settled there.

Dany : How many districts was sector 13 consisted of?

Vet : I have to count the number.

Dany : You can count the numbers [of the districts]?

Vet : There were 105, 106, 107, 108, and 109?

Dany : 105,106,107,108,109. No more than that?

Vet : 106 in Angkor Chey, 105 in Tram Kak, 109 in Kiri Vong, 107 in Treang, 108 in Kho Andet. At the time, Prey Kabas and Samraong were excluded.

Dany : So you only saw 105?
Vet : As far as I know.
Dany : Who was Tram Kak district committee?
Vet : It was Chim. I have known when I delivered the letters.
Dany : Angkor Chey?
Vet : Ta Nhen and Yeay Chem were in Angkor Chey.
Dany : Trang?
Vet : I don't know Treang. During Lon Nol's regime, I carried rice.
Dany : He was from Koh Andet?
Vet : Ta Seng was from Koh Andet. I knew him from the meeting in Phnom Trel.
Dany : He was moved to Steung Treng?
Vet : No! Phnom Trel pagoda in Tany was an art office, called a regional conference hall.
Dany : How about Kiri Vong?
Vet : Ta Tem, called Tam, was also arrested in Kiri Vong . Ta Tam who was Yeay Yut's relative, was also arrested.
Dany : Who replaced him?
Vet : I don't know who was arrested later because I went to Kratie.
Dany : The first district committee was Ta Saom?
Vet : Yes
Dany : Who else?
Vet : Ta Mut, Ta Phen, Ta Ngoy! I forgot.
Dany : Yeay Chem was in a female unit?
Vet : Regional female unit.
Dany : Was she among the committees?
Vet : Regional committee.
Dany : Did you know Treang?
Vet : I don't know.
Dany : Who was in charge of the military in sector 13?
Vet : During Lon Nol's regime, Ta Nam was in a regional military. He was associated with Yuon and then removed, replaced by Ta Phan, because he was associated with Hanoi.
Dany : Ta Phan was promoted after the liberation in 1975?
Vet : Ta Phan was promoted later. Ta Nam was stripped of his duty because he didn't speak words clearly. His wife and other regional women were stripped of their duties, owing to their association with Yeay Khoeun.
Dany : You lived in Kiri Vong since September?
Vet : I lived there until March, 1977.
Dany : What did the military in Kiri Vong do?
Vet : I transported the injured.
Dany : You just transported the injured?
Vet : You just deliver the letters, mostly transported the injured. At that time, the injured was a result of fighting with the Yuon. I was in the division center and transported the injured to the hospital.

Dany : Zone center in Takeo province?
Vet : At Ta Mok's place, surrounded by water. His meeting hall was in front of the pond. The hospital was also there.

Dany : Ta Mok was in charge of the zone?
Vet : Yes
Dany : Who else?
Vet : Ta Sam Bit is dead.
Dany : Were there only the two?
Vet : Two of them.
Dany : Were there any other members?
Vet : Standing members were called based on each zone, as far as I know. Each zone had a secretariat.

Dany : Were there only sector 13, sector 35, sector 32 and sector 33?
Vet : Yes! There were 3 sectors.
Dany : Who was the leader of sector 35?
Vet : Sector 35 was Kang Chap. Yeay Yut was a deputy and she was a lawmaker.

Dany : Who?
Vet : Yeay, who you interviewed.
Dany : Who was in sector 33?
Vet : Kheng was in sector 33, also arrested.
Dany : What was his name?
Vet : Kheng was arrested and so was On, respectively. I was young at the time while fighting on the west side of Phnom Penh. I didn't have rice but only corn in 1974. The base people [also] didn't have food.

Dany : Who was the leader besides; Kang Chap and Yeay Yut in Sector 35?
Vet : I didn't know Rin, who was arrested as well.
Dany : Did you fight with Yuon in Takeo province?
Vet : I fought with Lon Nol. After defeating Lon Nol, I went to Kiri Vong and fought a little bit with Yuon.

Dany : Did Yuon encroach on our territory?
Vet : We were at the border near the creek. In the past, there was a creek at the border and we lived on the west side of the creek. There was heavy fighting in 1977 when I was at Kratie province. I moved to Snuol. Yuon stormed up to the rubber plantation in Snuol.

Dany : From 1975 to 1976, there was no fighting with Yuon?
Vet : There was no fighting with Yuon in 1976.
Dany : In Kiri Vong, right?
Vet : There was no fighting in Kiri Vong.
Dany : In Kiri Vong, there was Tem, called Tom, a district committee? Or was there a replaced person?
Vet : When I was there, he was not replaced yet. When in Kratie, I heard that he was arrested for his connection with Yuon. He was

Ta's aid who accompanied him to the jungle. Ta Tom guided the way.

Dany : You mentioned earlier that Ta Mok's brother was arrested in Angkor Chey?

Vet : Ta Nith was not arrested. He might be in Anlong Veng or in his hometown.

Dany : Where did Ta San work as a district committee?

Vet : Ta San was in Tram Kak in the past. After Chim was removed, Ta San was replaced.

Dany : Where does he live?

Vet : I didn't know whether he was in Anlong Veng or elsewhere.

Dany : Where did Nith work as district committee?

Vet : Nith was a former Angkor Chey district member. Later, I heard Choeun was removed and they were promoted to be in the sector for a while. I didn't pay much attention because I was an armed force. I am not sure. It was hearsay.

Dany : Is he Ta Mok's biological sibling?

Vet : Nith is Ta Mok's biological sibling.

Dany : Where is he?

Vet : Now, I don't know whether he is in his hometown or dead because I separated from him in 1979. He was a former member in Angkor Chey district.

Dany : Ta San was not in Angkor Chey district, right?

Vet : Yes

Dany : I used to interview other people. The person said Ta San and Ta Seng were at odds?

Vet : I don't know about that. It was all about the base people. I knew some about the military.

Dany : How about Ta Mok's other brother-in-law?

Vet : He was Ta Cham. He is dead.

Dany : Ta Mok has siblings; he is the eldest brother. How many brother and sister does Ta Mok have?

Vet : I don't know about that. I know that Nith is his youngest brother. We should ask Ken whose husband is Tit, Ta Mok' brother-in-law. Ta has many siblings—only two brothers, including Ken, Kuob and Koeun. You shouldn't write down, I might cover the wrong information. But I knew that Nith is Ta's brother and Ken, Kuop and Koeun are Ta's sisters.

Dany : How about Ta San?

Vet : Ta San was his brother-in-law.

Dany : Who was his wife?

Vet : I don't know whether Koeun or Kuop was his wife. They had similar names. Tit, Brigadier General, is retired.

Dany : Where is his hometown?

Vet : Tit was a former teacher. He is came from Ta Mok home village

Dany : But at the time?

Vet : In the past, he was a deputy chief of sector 13. Tit was in charge of Kiri Vong.

Dany : How about Kiri Vong?

Vet : Ta Tam was a secretary and Tit was in charge of the sector. While Nith was removed, I had gone to Kratie province.

Dany : Was he in Kiri Vong too?

Vet : Yes.

Dany : When you were in Kiri Vong, he was in Kiri Vong as well?

Vet : Yes.

Dany : He stayed there with Ta Tem and Ta Tom?

Vet : Ta Tem and Ta Tom were there.

Dany : He was superior to Ta Tem and Ta Tom?

Vet : No! He was inferior to them. He was Ta Tom's deputy. After Ta Tom was arrested, he was promoted to the sector.

Dany : After that, Phan was arrested and your brother took you to Kratie?

Vet : Yes! I was taken to Kratie province because he was worried about my association with [Phan].

Dany : How did you know the establishment of division 117?

Vet : When the KR had fight against Vietnamese along the border, the KR's central committee established one more division. The division was separated from the division 1 of western Zone. My uncle Chhum Chin was a former regiment 15's leader. Oh! I don't know, [either] regiment 15 or regiment 16 of the Division 1.

Dany : What about Chin?

Vet : Chhum Chin and Rom befriended each other like adopted brothers. They worked in Ta Mut's office together. He was arrested with Rom. And so, I was dragged into this.

Dany : You left Kiri Vong for Kratie or came to Lungvek?

Vet : No! I came to Phnom Penh.

Dany : Division 117 was established when you arrived in Phnom Penh?

Vet : The division was already established.

Dany : Where was the division established?

Vet : The division was established in Kampong Chhnang.

Dany : The division was established and moved to Phnom Penh?

Vet : Yes.

Dany : When the division was established, you were not enlisted into the division?

Vet : No

Dany : The division was established in early 1977?

Vet : Yes! Because I went there in March, 1977 and the division was [already] established.

Dany : What was the name of the division leader?

Vet : Rom

Dany : What did he do before?

Vet : He was a regiment leader but I don't know where.

Dany : Did you know him before?

Vet : I knew [him] when I was a messenger.

Dany : Did you know his hometown?

Vet : Rom's hometown was in Sre Knong. Before 1973-1974, he worked with Ta Mok. He was a messenger like me, but we had different offices. I worked in office 160 and Rom used to be in educational office 204.

Dany : Did he have the same rank as you when you were enlisted into the division?

Vet : Rom was a leader and I was a subordinate.

Dany : What was Rom's connection?

Vet : Rom had connection with Ta Mut.

Dany : He was Ta Mut's nephew?

Vet : Yes

Dany : His mother and Ta Mut were biological siblings?

Vet : Yes

Dany : He was selected to be a chief when the division 117 was established?

Vet : Yes!

Dany : Who was the deputy?

Vet : His deputy was Leang, when they were in Kratie.

Dany : Did you know him before?

Vet : He was a former force in a regiment. He worked with Ta Soeung. Ta Soeung was one among the KR leaders, who arranged to establish the Division 117.

Dany : Ta Soeung was a chief of division 1 of Western zone right?

Vet : Yes. Ta Soeung administered everyone of Division 117, because they were Soeung's aids.

Dany : Rom worked with Ta Soeung also?

Vet : He worked with Soeung. There were 3 divisions (Division 1, Division 2; and Division 3) within Southwest zone before 1975. After the KR gained power in 1975, they separated the divisions. the division 1 was given to Western zone. The division 3 of Ta Mut was transferred to be KR Navy's division 164. There was only division 2 still remained in Southwest Zone.

Dany : After the liberation in 1975, where was Ta Mut enlisted into?

Vet : He was a part of general staff. The division was under supervision of the KR's central committee, [and] not in the zone anymore. Ta Mok couldn't give order to Mut and Soeung. Ta Si supervised Soeung instead.

Dany : Ta Mut became a chief of general staff in the navy force?

Vet : He was in charge of the navy force. He worked with Ta Khieu [Son Sen]. He was a deputy chief of general staff in charge of all fighting directions.

Dany : What direction was Ta Mut in charge of?

Vet : Ta Mut was in charge of Kampong Som. He could make decision on the army's affairs on behalf of Ta Khieu. He was privileged to do so.

Dany : What direction was Ta Mut in charge of?

Vet : He was in charge of Kampong Som. It was not until 1978 that he went to Kratie after Von Vet was arrested.

Dany : He was in charge of Kratie direction?

Vet : Yes! He was in charge of the border.

Dany : When you arrived in Phnom Penh, you joined division 117?

Vet : Yes! I took a big boat.

Dany : What was your duty?

Vet : When I went there, the office was not established yet. A month later, the office was established. I was not a chief of office. I was a deputy chief. Phal was the chief.

Dany : Phal was the chief and Vet was a deputy chief?

Vet : Yes

Dany : A deputy chief of division's office?

Vet : Yes

Dany : A chief of division's office was equal to a chief of a regiment or a battalion?

Vet : We were privileged to order regiments. We could do on behalf of the division leaders.

Dany : Could the chief of regiment order office chief of the division?

Vet : No! Office chief of the division could replace the division leaders, such as administering the materials for all office chiefs.

Dany : Ta Rom was in charge of general affairs and Ta Leang was a deputy chief of military, and how about the members?

Vet : Nim was a member.

Dany : What were the members in charge of?

Vet : He was in charge of the battle field.

Dany : The division consisted of 3 regiments?

Vet : Regiment 15, 16 and 17.

Dany : Who was the leader of regiment 15?

Vet : Phan.

Dany : Who was Phan's deputy?

Vet : I forgot.

Dany : [Who was the leader of] regiment 16?

Vet : At the time, perhaps Khan or Chhut were the leaders.

Dany : Chhut was a leader of regiment 17?

Vet : Chhut was a leader of regiment 17! I forgot other leader who was in charge of 16.

Dany : It wasn't Nim?

Vet : He was a standing committee but he was a member of the division committee. There was another chief.

Dany : Was there a battalion?

Vet : Intervention.

Dany : The battalion was independent?

Vet : Special unit.

Dany : Who was the leader of special unit?

Vet : I forgot it! I forgot. I don't remember. I am stumped.

Dany : Was there a battalion 122, and 100?

Vet : The battalions had every numbers.

Dany : What number?

Vet : I forgot. They were all intervention units. I forgot the numbers.

Dany : I went to Anlong Veng and knew that Phan was the leader of regiment 15 and Nim the leader of regiment 16. They all had positions in the division?

Vet : Yes!

Dany : At first, Leang was a leader of regiment 17 and Chhut was promoted as leader instead.

Vet : Yes, I forgot. It was not all about chief or deputy chief. I transported materials from Phnom Penh to Kratie and vice versa. I didn't have other authority.

Dany : Where was the office of the division?

Vet : It was in Krakor on the north side of Kratie province.

Dany : It was in Kratie province, right?

Vet : It was on the north side of Kratie province, a kilometer away from Kratie province.

Dany : At the time, the office of the division and the sector worked jointly or separately?

Vet : They worked separately.

Dany : Who was the leader of sector Kratie ?

Vet : Ta Moeun.

Dany : Where did he come from?

Vet : Moeun was a peasant.

Dany : Who were his relatives?

Vet : He was Mut's relative. Before going to Kratie, he was a force in Angkor Borei. He was in regiment 14. He was [then] removed from the army.

Dany : Where was he taken to after quitting the force?

Vet : Khon

Dany : Khon was a deputy?

Vet : Khon was a deputy.

Dany : Who was Khon's relative?

Vet : His wife was Ra. She came from Sre Rarnaong. She was a regional committee.

Dany : The people in Sre Rarnaong were Ta's relatives?

Vet : Yes! Ra was his wife.

Dany : Was he a relative of Ta Saroeun 05?

Vet : He might be Ta Saroeun 05's relative. I don't know about that. But most of the peasants were Ta Saroeun 05's relatives.

Dany : How was the relationship between Ta Saroeun and Ta Mok?

Vet : They were relatives because Ta 05 went there in 1970.

Dany : Yes! You mentioned earlier that your uncle took you to division 117 in Kiri Vong. What you mentioned earlier you didn't tell me of your uncle's name.

Vet : Chhum Chin in Snuol district.

Dany : Was he a Snuol district committee?

Vet : He was a secretary in Snuol district. He changed his name to Phoan. He was in regiment 16 with Leang and Ta Lim.

Dany : His name was Chhum Chin, called Phoan.

Vet : He was arrested along with his friends.

Dany : How many groups in division 105? Do you remember how many districts [there were] in sector 105?

Vet : Yes! There was no sector 105. There was sector 505.

Dany : Oh! 505.

Vet : There were Snuol district, Sambor district, Kratie district and Prek Prasap district.

Dany : Prek Prasap was in Central Zone.

Vet : Sambor district, Snuol district and Kratie district were in the autonomous sector. Kratie was an autonomous sector, [but] it was not included in the other zones.

Dany : Kratie!

Vet : Yes! Kratie, Snuol and Sambor district.

Dany : Your uncle Chhum Chin, called Phoan, was a secretary of Snuol district. So, who was the secretary of Sambor district?

Vet : Voeun was in Sambor district. Now Voeun is in the division and a Kampong Chhnang resident.

Dany : Where is Voeun?

Vet : He is in Anglong Veng. His wife's name is Pheap.

Dany : His wife's name is Pheap?

Vet : Yes! She is a Kampong Chhnang resident. She is as big as Ta Met.

Dany : Ta Voeun was a division leader?

Vet : Yes! He is a division leader now.

Dany : His division was in Preah Vihear province?

Vet : Yes! He was in charge of the district. It was only he who was not arrested, along with Rom and the other 11 people. In Kratie district Yeng was not arrested. You can ask Dul. You could ask Dul about that. I forgot the date of the arrest.

Dany : Yeng was also arrested?

Vet : Yeng was in Kratie district! Voeun was dragged into trouble when he did not attend the meeting. Vorn Vet went to the meeting. Dul was a chief of the sector office. I went to pick up him and then 11 people were arrested.

Dany : Ta Voeun was alive?

Vet : Voeun didn't attend the meeting. 11 people were arrested and sent to Tuol Sleng.

Dany : Could you tell me [more] about this? Sector committee, division committee, sector 505 committee and division 117 committee were summoned to the meeting and arrested?

Vet : In my opinion, as a messenger and [who was also] in charge of the office to guard the distinguished guests, I was summoned to the meeting to administer my office. As for Vorn Vet, he didn't go to the sector, but [instead went] to the division. The division has a warehouse but didn't have a meeting hall like Ta Moeun's house in the sector. Vorn Vet came to attend the meeting [in Ta Moeun's house] and to pay a visit. I met him at Prek Te. Yuon was on the east bank of the creek and we were on the west bank of the creek. We took a picture. Vorn Vet took a picture near O-Kantuot Bridge. At the time, it was a wooden bridge but now it is a stone bridge. There was no fighting when he stopped in Kratie. At the time, he took the boat to Phnom Penh. On his arrival in Phnom Penh, I learned that he was arrested a few days later.

Dany : Where was he arrested?

Vet : Vorn Vet was arrested. I saw the letter when Vorn Vet was arrested. The letter was written "M-870" and I had to check the letter that was sent to the upper echelon. I knew that it was Mut's messenger who brought the letter to the upper echelon in person.

Dany : It was Mut's messenger who brought the letter to the upper echelon?

Vet : He brought the letter to the upper echelon! Mut's messenger was a telegrapher. The letter was written "M-870" because 870 meant the office chief of Pol Pot regime. Rom and 11 other people were asked to go up to Phnom Penh. And then they had to take Nakata plane. And so I had to accompany him as promised. My uncle was in Thmar Krel in Phnom Sambok. We all talked in the car.

Dany : He was afraid at the time?

Vet : He talked to his wife that if he dies, he asked his wife not to marry another guy. He jokingly talked to his wife [about this]. At 9 o'clock the plane arrived. We all took the car and accompanied him to the airport. I used to go to the airport to deliver the telegraphs. During the daytime, we were not allowed to drive the car in the compound. The cadres took the car and picked up Ta Nhann. The military leaders and I went to visit Stung Treng.

Dany : You were happy [because] you didn't have the leaders to control you?

Vet : In fact, the leaders in the regiments didn't know where we were. After coming back from Stung Treng, I brought dry meat for the forces. Saroeun 05 brought dry meat for the forces. I didn't know about the arrest. [After his] arrival at the place, Mut summoned people to the meeting. I was at the warehouse and was told that my leader was a traitor and went to attack Yuon. The inferior went to transport the materials in Stung Treng.

Dany : Oh! Ta Mut told that in the meeting.

Vet : Yes! After the meeting announced the traitors, I went to attack the Vietnamese. My forces went to attack the Vietnamese in Kan Tuot.

Dany : You mentioned that when you went to the airport, did you know that the guarding forces didn't allow you to enter?

Vet : The air forces opened the barricade for us to go in.

Dany : Division 502 was there too?

Vet : Division 502 was at the airport.

Dany : Division 502 littered around all zones and sectors.

Vet : Division 502 [was stationed] in each airport. But there were few people of division 502 in Ratanakiri province airport.

Dany : When did Ta Nhann go there?

Vet : He took the plane to go there.

Dany : When he took the plane, they got off the plane there?

Vet : He took the plane, people here got off from the plane.

Dany : What was the mark of the plane?

Vet : Dakata. It was a plane that carried the injured.

Dany : Nakata?

Vet : At the time, it was called Dakata.

Dany : Helicopter?

Vet : No.

Dany : How many people could the plane carry?

Vet : The plane could carry a few injured people. The seriously injured was placed in a width position. We carried the injured on the stretchers. There were only a few seats at the back.

Dany : All 11 people took the plane?

Vet : Yes

Dany : Did you remember all 11 people's names?

Vet : I knew 2 people from the sector.

Dany : Did you know Ta Moeun?

Vet : Ta Moeun and Khon.

Dany : How about the forces?

Vet : Ta Phan's forces.

Dany : Rom and Leang went with Ta Phan?

Vet : At the time, I didn't know whether they went with him or not. But there were 11 names in the letter. I wondered if Leang went with him or not. [You] must ask Dol for clarification.

Dany : Among 11 people, was there Moeun's name in the letter?

Vet : I knew 4 people from the regiments.

Dany : Was there Moeun's name?

Vet : No, there was a name of the regiments.

Dany : Who were the leaders of the regiments?

Vet : Among 11 people, I knew that there were 4 people from the regiments and 2 from the division.

Dany : 2 people from the division and 4 people from the regiments?

Vet : Yes. $4+2=6$ and $6+2$ from district $=8$. There would be other sector committee.

Dany : There were 4 people from the regiment and 2 people from division committee?

Vet : It equaled 8.

Dany : Including the sector.

Vet : I knew 2 people from the sector. It equals 10. There would be 11 people including Dul.

Dany : There would be 11 people including Dul.

Vet : 11 people.

Dany : What were the names of the 4 people in those regiments? Who were they?

Vet : I knew only Phan. I didn't go there anymore when I was on the run.

Dany : Among the 4 people in the regiments, I knew only Phan. You didn't know other 3 people?

Vet : I didn't pay attention to that.

Dany : Rom was a committee of division 2?

Vet : I went with Rom and I didn't know other people.

Dany : Who else was the division committee?

Vet : I didn't know with whom Leang went with. I heard that they went there on separate days. I wondered how he could have gone there, because there was only one trip to go there.

Dany : Phan, Rom, Leang and other district committee went there. Who were the district committee?

Vet : Yeng was a Kratie district committee and Chin, called Phoan was a Snuol district committee.

Dany : Chin, called Phoan was your uncle?

Vet : Yes, he was my father's brother.

Dany : How about the sector committees?

Vet : Moeun alias Ket and Khon.

Dany : What did Dul do?

Vet : He worked as a chief of a sector office.

Dany : When the plane landed, you saw?

Vet : [They] stepped down the stair of the plane on each side.

Dany : Was there Ta Nhann?

Vet : Ta Nhann, Ta Phon, called Ti from Saang, and Ta Pak. Ta Phon from Chhouk district and went to the district committee.

Dany : Phon?

Vet : Phon, called Ti.

Dany : Phon, called Ti who was a district committee with Yeay Yut?

Vet : No, he went to Saang with Pak. 3 people came here. San was also in Chhouk. He was a district force in Saang.

Dany : Ta Nhann, Phon, called Ti, and San?

Vet : No, Pak was a cousin.

Dany : Phon, called Ti and Pak came too?

Vet : Pak came with San. Four people came together.
 Dany : Were there Nhann, Phon, called Ti, San and Pak?
 Vet : Yes
 Dany : What position did they held?
 Vet : Nhann was a chief of the division.
 Dany : Where was Ta Nhann?
 Vet : He was in Kampong Som.
 Dany : Division in Kampong Som was Ta Mut's division?
 Vet : Yes
 Dany : Ta Mut's division in Kampong Som was 164. What was Ta Nhann's role in Kampong Som?
 Vet : He was in the division with Seng.
 Dany : Division committee?
 Vet : Division committee with [Seng].
 Dany : What was Phon's former role, [also] called Ti?
 Vet : Oh! Pheap is dead. Pheap 88 worked with Mut when he was in Kampong Som.
 Dany : Pheap was in Kampong Som.
 Vet : There were two sector committees to be replaced. Pheap was Phea's relative.
 Dany : Pheap in sector 105?
 Vet : 505.
 Dany : There were Pheap and Phon in sector 505. Who were a chief? Who was a deputy?
 Vet : Phon was a chief. He held the position for 2 days and then fled. Pheap was young and controlled the force.
 Dany : Phon was a chief and Pheap was a deputy. Pheap came to Ta Mok's place 164. How about Ta San?
 Vet : Ta San was with Pak. He was with the force leader of Saang district.
 Dany : San was from Saang?
 Vet : It was not San. San was a force but this was another San.
 Dany : It was not San (06)?
 Vet : No.
 Dany : San and Pak came from Saang?
 Vet : San and Phon were Saang residents. Ta Prak and Ta Chhey were all arrested.
 Dany : What position would San and Pak hold?
 Vet : They came to live in Kratie.
 Dany : San and Pak came to Kratie.
 Vet : Pak was a district committee and San was a district force. There was no one to replace the person in Snuol district.
 Dany : Why wasn't there a person to replace in Snuol district? Snuol district was captured?
 Vet : It was captured.

Dany : Two forces were taken to replace and one person was taken away?

Vet : Chhot was promoted later. Nim stood still and didn't go to the west bank of the river. Nim preferred to be stationed. Yeay Nan, a medic, went to her hometown.

Dany : Who?

Vet : Ta Nim's wife. Yeay Nan came from Trapeng Thom.

Dany : Yeay Nan was Ta Nim's wife.

Vet : Yes

Dany : His wife was Nan.

Vet : Yeay Nan.

Dany : Ta Nim is alive?

Vet : I don't know. If he was in Anlong Veng, he was alive. He might be dead [now] because Ta Mok perhaps [might have] killed him.

Dany : Yeay Nan is in her hometown now?

Vet : I don't know where she went.

Dany : After the chief of division 117 was taken away, Ta Nhann was replaced and who was the deputy?

Vet : Chhut and Ta Nim were the deputies. Chhut was promoted to be a deputy. Immediately after that, Yuon [Vietnamese] stormed the place.

Dany : There was no fighting?

Vet : Yuon [Vietnamese] stormed the place again.

Dany : You were at the office?

Vet : I transported the materials out. I had to operate a boat to transport the guns. The guns were transported to Prek Prasab people. The force didn't transport the materials to Stung Treng province. And so the forces were separated from one another.

Dany : At the time, the force was just established and then fragmented?

Vet : I don't know [about] Ta Nhann's division, but when we were on the run. I knew them [because] we followed one another.

Dany : Was there a chief of regiment at the time?

Vet : The chief of regiment was promoted. The chief of regiment was promoted on the west side of Prek Te. The artilleries were shelled [on the compound] before the meeting of the forces took place. While we were eating, the artilleries were shelled in the compound. Aoeung, a chief of Kratie regiment, who came from Ta Keo province, was arrested. Nhann called Aoeung radio-telephoned about the artilleries on the ground. [Then Aoeung] was killed. The forces were fragmented.

Dany : What was the name of Aoeung's wife?

Vet : Ram.

Dany : Where did he come from?

Vet : Aoeung, Ram and Ra were from Sre Rarnaong.

Dany : Sre Rarnaong?

Vet : Yes

Dany : Ta Nhann saw the artilleries being shelled to the compound and Aoeung was accused of the cause?

Vet : Yes! I didn't know why he was angry to death.

Dany : Before Aoeung, who was a regiment leader?

Vet : Aoeung was a regiment leader.

Dany : He had been a regiment leader since Moeun.

Vet : Moeun assigned the regiment leader.

Dany : When 11 people were taken away, there was no Aoeung, right?

Vet : Yes, he was a good and honest guy. He got into problems when artilleries were shelled in the compound.

Dany : Was he angry?

Vet : The forces were angry.

Dany : Ta Nhann was angry with his subordinates when he saw it?

Vet : I knew about it when I went to transport the injured.

Dany : You mentioned earlier that Vorn Vet was in charge of the battle field?

Vet : Yuon stormed into the place from all directions. Snuol was not yet captured. Yuon captured the timber factory. We all agreed that Vorn Vet should administer the army. He was in charge of the ministry of industrial with Choeun. My uncle was arrested along with Vorn Vet.

Dany : A former district committee, Choeun, was transferred to work with Vorn Vet?

Vet : Yes! Vorn Vet was arrested along with my uncle.

Dany : When was Vorn Vet promoted to be a commander in chief of the army?

Vet : He was promoted 3 days before his arrest. After the promotion, he went to Kratie province and then was arrested when he came back.

Dany : When was he arrested?

Vet : In 1978.

Dany : [He was arrested] while the country was nearly liberated.

Vet : Yes

Dany : In late 1978, he was arrested while Yuon started to storm the place?

Vet : He was arrested a week before Yuon stormed the place.

Dany : When he was promoted to be a commander in chief of the army, he went to Kratie province to administer the army?

Vet : When he went to administer the army, Yuon didn't fight with us. I took pictures with the messengers and intervention unit for memory. Yuon couldn't go across the creek to reach Kratie province because Prek Te [Te Creek] was too steep for tanks to go down the creek. Ta Mut ordered the air force to bombard [the place]. 4 planes were sent for bombardment, but only one plane came back to Phnom Penh.

Dany : Who was a former general staff?

Vet : General staff Son Sen.

Dany : What did Son Sen do [after Vorn Vet was promoted to be a commander in chief of the army]?

Vet : I knew from the inside that at the time, they didn't have confidence in one another.

Dany : They didn't have confidence in Son Sen?

Vet : They didn't have confidence in Son Sen. Son Sen went to Suong. He had the status of general staff in name but Met and the late Met were in charge.

Dany : Only the two of them?

Vet : Met was in the air force. He administered the force on behalf of Son Sen. I knew about that because I [need to have] the signature from Met. Khieu didn't have any authority.

Dany : When did people lose confidence in Khieu?

Vet : Before Yuon stormed into the place.

Dany : When did Yuon storm into the place?

Vet : In late 1977.

Dany : When Yuon stormed into the place, he was a general staff but stationed in the ministry?

Vet : Khieu arrested Nat.

Dany : Ta Nat?

Vet : Nat was in division 703 and 603 also belong to general staff. Both divisions were in Kampong Cham province.

Dany : Since then no one was confident in Khieu?

Vet : Later, Pin was in the division and then shot dead by Yuon.

Dany : When did Ta Mut go there?

Vet : He went there when Yuon stormed the place. He went there to watch the battlefield. He went there for a short period.

Dany : Ta Khieu didn't have the authority over the forces. Only Ta Met and Ta Mut had the authority.

Vet : Ta Mut had the privilege to send the materials to the general staff.

Dany : Ta Mut had the privilege?

Vet : Ta Mut was privileged to get materials [and] guns from the warehouse.

Dany : When 11 people were called to board the plane, Ta Mut boarded the plane as well?

Vet : Ta Mut didn't go there.

Dany : When did the meeting take place?

Vet : Mut drove his car to the north, heading to Stung Treng province. I didn't know whether he arrived at Stung Treng or just stopped over Sambo. He was heading north.

Dany : You didn't meet him at the time?

Vet : No.

Dany : When 11 people were asked to board the plane, Ta Mut drove his car to Stung Treng? When did he come back?

Vet : At the time, I went to Stung Treng province. We drove two cars to visit Stung Treng province because our leaders went to be educated.

Dany : How many days did you stay there?

Vet : One night stay.

Dany : You spent a night there and came back?

Vet : I slept in Lampat. I slept at the place where Roeun used to stay.

Dany : A place where Ta 05 used to stay?

Vet : Roeun was in division 801, Ratanakiri province. And his office was near the market. I visited his division and I was given dry meat and then put it into the bag. After arriving at the place, we were taken by surprise by the traitors.

Dany : After spending a night there and arriving at the place, you were summoned to the meeting to learn about the announcement?

Vet : The next day I was summoned to the meeting.

Dany : You spent a night there and then you were summoned to the meeting?

Vet : After coming back, the next day I was summoned to the meeting along with other people from all offices, medics, people in the garages, warehouses, and all messengers. Intervention units didn't attend the meeting because they were fighting. The meeting called on the superior of all offices to fight against Yuon because Yuon [Vietnamese] approached us.

Dany : Who led the meeting?

Vet : Mut led the meeting and came back to Phnom Penh.

Dany : Mut led the meeting alone at the time?

Vet : His messengers—Thi and Kung— and other telegraphers died in Kampong Som province.

Dany : Only Ta Mut was a superior?

Vet : Yes.

Dany : Only Meas Mut [was a superior]?

Vet : Yes.

Dany : What did he say in the meeting?

Vet : He told the superior to fight against Yuon [Vietnamese], including Nhann.

Dany : What did he say to you about your superior who boarded the plane?

Vet : Your superiors were traitors.

Dany : You didn't complain to him?

Vet : I didn't dare.

Dany : He said your superiors were traitors. Rom wasn't his nephew?

Vet : He said his nephew was also a traitor.

Dany : He said his nephew was also a traitor?

Vet : He delivered a short speech. Yuon stormed into the place fast because we didn't attack Yuon. If he didn't leave early, he would

be killed. Let me say this, if we don't attack Yuon, Yuon will storm into our place.

Dany : Yes! I learned that Ta Tit was transferred from sector 13 to Kratie province for a short period. Did he go to Battambang province?

Vet : Tit?

Dany : Yes

Vet : No

Dany : Have you ever seen him?

Vet : No, he was submissive. He was not relevant. He was Acha [a male elderly who spends his life in a monastery] like San. San was passive and literate. When the army saw him, they gave him food.

Dany : Ta Tit?

Vet : Ta Tit and San.

Dany : Where was he in Kiri Vong?

Vet : He grew vegetables. When he came to visit Ta Tit, he gave us some vegetables.

Dany : Did Meas Mut know you?

Vet : Now, he might not recognize me because we are old now. He knows Rom and Chin. At the time, when I was young I [used to] peeled coconut shells. Now I forgot him and he forgot me. Even general Ieng Phan doesn't remember me.

Dany : Where was Ieng Phan at the time?

Vet : At the time Ren said he used to be a messenger with him.

Dany : At the time, Ieng Phan had the same rank as you?

Vet : At the time, he was in the regiment. We were in the same office. But he was in the regiment of special unit. Now, we don't know each other. When he came to administer here, we knew each other. But now we don't know each other.

Dany : Are you still an armed force now?

Vet : Yes!

Dany : What is your position?

Vet : Lieutenant.

Dany : You are inferior to him so that's why he doesn't know you?

Vet : Yes, it was very dark so we couldn't see each other clearly. I didn't dare approach him because he was a major general. Our status was so different.

Dany : He became a major general and you are inferior to him. You don't dare approach him?

Vet : Yes.

Dany : In the past, you had some form of relationship!

Vet : Now, we have law. We have to obey law.

Dany : After Ta Mut said, "The superior have to attack Yuon. The rear transports the materials," what happened next?

Vet : After that I fought against Yuon. I went to Kantuot, O-Da. 70 people were assigned by Nhann. I said we had to split our forces. Half of our forces went with Nim. Nim didn't go to the west bank

of the river but preferred to stay in Chamkar Leu, on the north side of the road while I was on the south side of the road. The tanks came to the airport. In the meantime, fuel was not transported out yet. And then the place was burnt down. My 70 people group went across the rice field, heading to the river bank to reach Raka Kandal. After arriving there, we were asked to be stationed. At 4 o'clock in the morning, we cooked at the riverbank, and had to prepare the boats. I stayed away from the riverbank and the forces were stationed there. We told the cooks to prepare the meal at 5:30 in the morning. At 6 o'clock, everyone must be present at the front line. We called people through radio-telephone to attack Yuon when Yuon came. Arriving there, we were divided into 3 groups. The trench was hit with artillery and everyone was panic-stricken. The boats sank and I jumped into the river, using a bamboo stick [to help me float].

- Dany : Where did you flee to at the time?
- Vet : At the time, I reached the west bank of the river. The river was small but I was dragged downstream by the flowing river. I swam with the help of a bamboo stick. Most of us swam and using pans to help them float but died afterwards. Reaching the west bank of the river, the people didn't allow us to climb up. They said we had to stay at where we were. At 12 o'clock, Nhann negotiated with Prek Prasap people to allow us to climb up the riverbank. After climbing up, we were given guns because the guns on the two boats [there] were new. The guns were not yet transported out. I learned that AK guns and ammunition on the boats sank in the Prek Prasap [Prasob creek], when Ta Khieu was stuck in Suong.
- Dany : Ta Khieu was stuck in Suong?
- Vet : Ta Khieu was stuck in Suong and we came to the rubber plantation.
- Dany : How about Ta Mut?
- Vet : Ta Mut had been in Kampong Som.
- Dany : He went to Kampong Som?
- Vet : He went to Kampong Som to attack [Yuon]. Kampong Som was under serious attacks. Our division 117 came to attack Yuon to liberate Khieu.
- Dany : You went across to the other side of the river bank to liberate the place?
- Vet : [We came] to bring him to the plantation in Stung Trang. Pak also came to help Khieu.
- Dany : You arrived at Stung Trang district?
- Vet : Yes! We brought Khieu to stay with Pak.
- Dany : How were you and your division?
- Vet : I stayed with Nhann and went up to the Dangrek Mountain. I learned that my mother had come here. And then, I asked [the

upper echelon] to visit her but I took the wrong truck. I was angry with Khieu. My father and Khieu knew each other.

Dany : Khieu and Son Sen, right?

Vet : Yes, they used to be municipal messengers. Let me go back to the history a bit. If I would receive punishment about [what I'm going to say], I would accept it. He knew me. He asked my group to escort Nhann to the office. Khieu went up to Dangrek Mountain in April and I to Dang Rek Mountain in June. It was not until June did I passed Thala Borivat to reach Choam Ksan. When I went up there, I didn't reach Tonle La-Peou at 1001, but reach Ta Mok's 1003 place instead. Ta said that when 600 people reached the Dangrek Mountain, they will be arrested because they would be under surrender by Yuon. 600 people walked pass Phnom Chhat and met the late Yorn.

Dany : Yorn came from division 519?

Vet : We met Yorn and he asked where we were going. I knew him when I visited my mother at Ta Ngoc.

Dany : Where?

Vet : At Ta Ngoc. My mother died at the creek bank. Yorn asked, "What can you take." I replied I could take ammunition truck. I took the truck to Kilometer 13. I reached there and there were so many relatives out there. Ta Khieu knew me. He allowed me to stay with Ta Kin.

Dany : What was Ta Kin's position in the division?

Vet : At the time, he was a battlefield committee. It was not until 1982 was the battlefield committee established. When I was in division 320, I married to my wife.

Dany : You stayed there and were separated from Ta Nhann?

Vet : I was separated from him but I met Ta Nhann when going to study there.

Dany : You came to division 320 again?

Vet : I came to work with Rom.

Dany : When was division 320 established?

Vet : It was established in 1982.

Dany : It was established in 1982?

Vet : In the past, only regiment was established and in 1983, division 320, division 705 and division 948 were established.

Dany : What division was established first?

Vet : Division 320 was established.

Dany : When?

Vet : There had been only one division in 1979.

Dany : The division was [established] from 1979 to 1983?

Vet : Division 320 was established before 1983. It was not until 1983 that division 320 divided into division 705, 948. There were 3 divisions.

Dany : Where was division 705 stationed?

Vet : Division 705 was stationed in Komreang. It was Kung's division.
 Dany : Komreang belonged to Ta Kung. Ta Kung was a chief?
 Vet : Kung and Cheat were chiefs.
 Dany : Kung is a deputy governor of Battambang province, now?
 Vet : Yes
 Dany : What division?
 Vet : 705.
 Dany : Cheat and Kung were in Kamreang? How about their division?
 Vet : I mentioned the division, [it was] established in 1983 or 1984.
 Dany : How about 948?
 Vet : There were Put, Bin and other deputies in 948.
 Dany : Where were Put and Bin stationed?
 Vet : They were stationed near to Tonle Sap [The Tonle Sap River].
 Dany : Of what province in Tonle Sap?
 Vet : The battlefield was near to Tonle Sap. Sit and Ron were in division 948.

 Dany : What was the division in Phnom Proek?
 Vet : Division 320 belonged to Rom.
 Dany : Division 320 ranged from Sampeou Loun to Phnom Proek?
 Vet : Yes
 Dany : Who was the chief?
 Vet : Rom was the chief. The late Hoeun and Rom had the same authority – one of which was a chief of political affairs.

 Dany : Hoeun and Rom, right?
 Vet : Yes. Ta Bai
 Dany : Ta Bai stayed here?
 Vet : Yes, he was a deputy governor of Phnom Proek district. It was not until 1980s that a intervention division 404 was established.

 Dany : When?
 Vet : In 1986 or 1987, another division was established.
 Dany : In 1986 or 1987, the new division was established?
 Vet : New division was 404. It was Kin's intervening division. There were many divisions.

 Dany : Intervention division
 Vet : Late Mao.
 Dany : Who was a chief of the division?
 Vet : Mao.
 Dany : Mao?
 Vet : Mao came to 43. Ta Rat was a commander of the armed force. Ta Khieu Khi was his deputies.

 Dany : Ta Bai was a deputy governor.
 Vet : No, Khieu Khi stayed with Ta Khieu since [1001]. He was in division 404.

 Dany : Which Khi?
 Vet : Khieu Khi was a colonel and a deputy commander in chief of the division.

Dany : Where? What division?
Vet : He worked with Rom, my superior, in division 53.
Dany : Division 53 is in Kamprang?
Vet : Kamprang.
Dany : There were Mao, Rat, Khieu Khi in division 404. There were 3 people in the division?
Vet : There are many deputies. But they are the chiefs of the division.
Dany : You mentioned earlier there was Kin?
Vet : Kin was a joint battlefield committee.
Dany : He was [a leader] of division 948, 320, 404, 705?
Vet : All divisions were under his control.
Dany : Where is Kin, now?
Vet : He is in [sector] 32.
Dany : What is his full name?
Vet : Ny Kin.
Dany : Ny Kin?
Vet : He was an advisor to the Ministry of National Defense. Bu he is retired now.
Dany : Ny Kan, right?
Vet : Yes, Ny Kan but his name is Kin and he was called Ny Kan, but his real name is Kin.
Dany : He is called Ta Kin?
Vet : Ta Kan is his nick name [but] his real name is Ta Kin.
Dany : He is called Ta Kin in this area?
Vet : I know that his name is Kin but people call him Ta Kan.
Dany : Who else?
Vet : In the past, Roeun alias (63) . He died in 1988.
Dany : What about Saroeun?
Vet : Sat Saroeun.
Dany : Sat Saroeun.
Vet : In the past, there were 3 battlefield committees. Ieng, Phan, Ta Thoem in died in O-Anluok. Ta Thoem was a logistics committee. He was a standing committee.
Dany : When did Sat Saeun died?
Vet : 1988.
Dany : Why did they die?
Vet : They died of illness.
Dany : Who else?
Vet : Ieng Phan.
Dany : Ieng Phan was a battlefield committee?
Vet : A member.
Dany : Did he work in any division?
Vet : In 1983, he came back.
Dany : He went back to Veal Veng?

Vet : He came here in 1982 when Yuon stormed attack. He came to replace for 2 years from 1982 to 1983. After 4 divisions were established, he came back and Yuon stormed attack.

Dany : He went back to Veal Veng and who else?

Vet : Ta Thoem came here and late Mech and brother 94 in division 405 held the logistic affairs. They were battlefield committees.

Dany : Ta Thoem?

Vet : No, Ta Thoem was in O-Anluok. I don't know his surname. He was an ethnic minority.

Dany : Ta Thoem was in O- Anluok?

Vet : He is dead. Mech is also dead. Brother 94 is dead. They were all my members.

Dany : Mech was called brother 94?

Vet : His number was 94. Thoem's number was 13.

Dany : They are dead?

Vet : They all [could make decision] on behalf of the battlefield committees.

Dany : All divisions were stationed from Kamreang to Sampeou Loun?

Vet : In the past, all divisions were stationed over the vast land, stretching over Malai. The land stretched from Sangke village to Daung village or from Boeung Trakuon on the north side of Raung Mountain to Pin' sector 250. Now Boeung Beng and Phnom Raung were transferred to Malai. In the past, Malai covered small portion of land, stretching over [area] 93 and Kla Ngab [name of the place]. Sector 250 covered large portion of land, sharing a border with Barvil.

Dany : It was called 250?

Vet : Yes

Dany : Sector 250?

Vet : Yes

Dany : It was not sector 32?

Vet : No, but it was battlefield committee of sector 250. 32 was his office.

Dany : Battlefield 250?

Vet : Yes.

Dany : How many divisions were there in Malai?

Vet : There was only one division in Malai. It was Pheap's division 450.

Dany : How many divisions were there in Pailin?

Vet : There was division 415 in Pailin.

Dany : Only division 415?

Vet : Yes, there were 3 regiments – regiment 15, 16, and 17.

Dany : Where were the numbers adopted from?

Vet : The numbers of the divisions were adopted from [the former division] in Kratie province.

Dany : The divisions in Pailin were mostly numbered 117?

Vet : All divisions were 117.

Dany : Former division 117 was in Kratie province?
Vet : Ta Khe is dead. All former divisions and regiments [in Kratie province] were moved to Pailin.

Dany : Why didn't Ta Nhann stay there?
Vet : [The division here] didn't like the new people. The old forces were fragmented. Chhut died on the way [to Pailin]. The former superiors divided the forces and usurped them in 1979.

Dany : Why did Chhean come here?
Vet : Chhean didn't involve in the armed force. Chhean took care of the guests and dealt with food. He had good manners. And so soldiers preferred to work with him.

Dany : Division 415 mostly consisted of former members of the division?
Vet : It was almost all former members of division 117.

Dany : When you arrived here, Y Chhean was a chief of the division or who else?
Vet : Chhean was in charge. There was no other chief.

Dany : Y Chhean was a chief and who was a deputy?
Vet : There were many deputies at the time. I didn't know the new people.

Dany : Did Nim come here?
Vet : No.

Dany : Chhut didn't come here?
Vet : Chhut was dead. Yuon shot him dead.

Dany : Only chiefs of regiment and battalion went to Pailin?
Vet : Only armed forces and others from the battalion went to Pailin. Some people from the company went to Pailin. And so they would be promoted to be in the regiments.

Dany : You mentioned earlier your father was Ta Khieu's friend?
Vet : Yes

Dany : Your father is Chhum Chi?
Vet : Yes

Dany : How long did your father work with him?
Vet : I don't know. My father was a chauffeur for the National Fund.

Dany : To whom was your father a chauffeur for?
Vet : My father was a chauffeur for the National Fund.

Dany : What? I didn't hear it clearly?
Vet : Chauffer.

Dany : To whom was your father a chauffeur for?
Vet : I don't understand what you were talking about.

Dany : You mentioned a chauffeur?
Vet : At National Fund.

Dany : Oh! A chauffeur of the National Fund.
Vet : Yes!

Dany : With Son Sen, called Ta Khieu, right?
Vet : I don't know. I was able to survive until present day because of this connection.

Dany : Ta Khieu told you?
Vet : Yes
Dany : Or you told Ta Khieu?
Vet : I brought meals to him. Normally, we have to have a good background.
Dany : You mentioned earlier when you went to 1003, you met Ta Mok?
Vet : 1003?
Dany : 1003.
Vet : In 1980s, he went there in April and I went there in June. We were late because we had to go to the mountain to prevent the armed forces from coming here. The superiors were not killed. Ta Mok's messengers told us not to go up to Dangrek Mountain because we would be arrested. I went up the mountain, and Yuon ambushed me. Some people went to 1003 but I didn't dare. Therefore, I went to Phnom Chhat [instead].
Dany : At the time many armed forces didn't come here?
Vet : There were 600 people in my force.
Dany : Division 117?
Vet : Some armed forces in division 117 went to Dangrek Mountain with Central zone. I was asked to wait at Phnom Chi in Kampong Thom. Each place consisted of 10 to 20 people.
Dany : And so you went to Phnom Chhat?
Vet : I went to Phnom Chhat.
Dany : You met Ta Yorn?
Vet : I stayed with him for several days. Yorn knew my uncle named Chin. They were in the same regiment and so I took the ammunition truck to go there.
Dany : How about the other 600 armed forces?
Vet : They worked as armed forces with Yorn. Some got married and some quit the armed forces.
Dany : 600 people didn't go to Pailin?
Vet : No.
Dany : It meant the forces were divided?
Vet : Forces were divided into 4 factions.
Dany : There were some in Pailin?
Vet : There were 600 or 700 people that went to Pailin. The armed forces in Pailin were all from the same place. We were coalition forces – tailors, medics, and coalition forces in the central zone.
Dany : Did you meet Ta Mut's faction? Ta Mut was in Samlot?
Vet : I never met him, but I met Ren. He came here in 1982.
Dany : What did Ta Ren do?
Vet : He was a commander in chief for the Democratic Kampuchea. He took control of all the battlefields. He went to wage battles in the most difficult places.
Dany : When he was in Takeo, was he a chief of division 2?

Vet : He was a chief of the division. When he defected to the government, he was assigned to be a leader. But he loved carousing.

Dany : After 1979, was he a chief of division 2 or promoted?

Vet : He was still a chief of the division.

Dany : Until liberation?

Vet : He was promoted to be a leader after the liberation in 1979. He liberated the nation. He was a leader.

Dany : He was superior to the battlefield committee?

Vet : He was superior to Ta Mut. Ta Mut replaced Ren. Ren was paralyzed. He slept, crying on the bed. I visited him in 1988.

Dany : What is your wife's name?

Vet : My current wife.

Dany : You have two wives?

Vet : It was hard to say. Look at my background.

Dany : What is your wife's name?

Vet : Phon Touch.

Dany : Wife.

Vet : If we are sentenced, we will all be sentenced.

Dany : What is your first wife's name?

Vet : Prak Yut.

Dany : Prak Yut was your first wife. How many children do you have?

Vet : 4 Children.

Dany : 4 children. How many children do you have with your second wife?

Vet : I have 1 child with my second wife, 1 child with first wife and 2 children with third wife.

Dany : You have 3 wives?

Vet : It is hard to talk about that.

Dany : What village do you live in now?

Vet : Tuol Chakrei village.

Dany : Tuol village, Barang Thleak commune, Phum Proek district, Battambang province. I would like to say thanks to you for sharing your experience.

[THE END]