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BĪN Sâmbok (ប៊ិន សំបុក); 52 years of age, Male; I07070 (alive)

Occupation: A Unit of Division 310

An interview with BĪN Sâmbok (the person in the biography)

who resides in Prek Chik (ជ្រៃកក ជីក) Village, Saob (សោប) Commune,

Prek Prasap (ជ្រៃកកប្រសាប) District, Kratie Province

13 February, 2006

Interviewed by RA Chhayrann (រ៉ា ឆៃរ៉ាន់)

Chhayrann: What is your name?

Sâmbok: My name is Sâmbok.

Chhayrann: What is your family name?

Sâmbok: My family name is BĪN.

Chhayrann: Is your full name BĪN Sâmbok?

Sâmbok: Yes, it is.

Chhayrann: How old are you?

Sâmbok: I am 52 years old.

Chhayrann: When were you born?

- Sâmbok: I was born 1953. I was born in the year of the horse.
- Chhayrann: Where were you born?
- Sâmbok: I was born in Prek Chik Village, Saob Commune, Prek Prasap District, Kratie Province.
- Chhayrann: What is your wife's name?
- Sâmbok: Her name is LATT Savoeun (ឡាត់ សាវ៉ឺន).
- Chhayrann: How old is she?
- Sâmbok: She is about 42 years old.
- Chhayrann: In what village and commune do you live?
- Sâmbok: I live in the same commune in which I was born.
- Chhayrann: How many children do you have?
- Sâmbok: I have three daughters, no sons.
- Chhayrann: What are your parents' names?
- Sâmbok: One of them is Bîn.
- Chhayrann: What is your father's name?
- Sâmbok: His name is PRES Bîn (ប្រេស ប៊ិន).
- Chhayrann: PRESIs he still alive?
- Sâmbok: No he is not.

- Chhayrann: When did he die?
- Sâmbok: He died during this regime.
- Chhayrann: Did he die after the fall of the POL Pot regime?
- Sâmbok: Yes, he did.
- Chhayrann: What is your mother's name?
- Sâmbok: Her name is Sreylay (ស្រីឡាយ).
- Chhayrann: Is she still alive?
- Sâmbok: No, she isn't. She passed away too.
- Chhayrann: When did she die?
- Sâmbok: She also died during this regime.
- Chhayrann: Did both of them die due to illness?
- Sâmbok: Yes, they did.
- Chhayrann: How many siblings do you have?
- Sâmbok: I do not remember how many brothers and sisters I have.
- Chhayrann: Do you have too many siblings that you do not remember how many of them?
- Sâmbok: I have seven siblings.
- Chhayrann: How many of those siblings are deceased?

- Sâmbok: All of them are deceased.
- Chhayrann: How many siblings of yours in total do you have?
- Sâmbok: I have nine siblings altogether including the deceased.
- Neighbour: His father had two wives. He had two children with the first wife.
- Chhayrann: How many children did your father have with his first wife?
- Sâmbok: He actually had six children.
- Chhayrann: Among the six children, how many daughters and how many sons?
- Sâmbok: There were two daughters and four sons.
- Chhayrann: Are they all still alive?
- Sâmbok: Five children are alive.
- Chhayrann: One of the children has disappeared. Is that correct?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it is.
- Chhayrann: When did that person disappear?
- Sâmbok: That happened during the Khmer Rouge regime.
- Chhayrann: Was that a male or female?
- Sâmbok: It was a male.
- Chhayrann: What is his name?
- Sâmbok: His name was PRES Sambo (ប្រេស សំបូរ).

- Chhayrann: What was the cause of his disappearance?
- Sâmbok: I do not know what the Khmer Rouge assigned him to do. I do not know about that.
- Chhayrann: Where did you come in the family?
- Sâmbok: I am the second child.
- Chhayrann: What is the eldest child's name?
- Sâmbok: PRES Sambo is the eldest sibling.
- Chhayrann: What about your younger sibling?
- Sâmbok: Please say that again?
- Chhayrann: What is the third child's name?
- Sâmbok: Her name is BĪN Sambāth (ប៊ិន សម្បត្តិ).
- Chhayrann: Is she still alive?
- Sâmbok: Yes, she is.
- Chhayrann: How about the fourth child?
- Sâmbok: The fourth child's name is BĪN Chamroerun (ប៊ិន ចំរើន).
- Chhayrann: Is BIN Chamroeun a male or female?
- Sâmbok: He is my brother.
- Chhayrann: Is he still alive?

Sâmbok: Yes, he is.

Chhayrann: What about the fifth child?

Sâmbok: The fifth child is Mēng (ម៉ែង).

Chhayrann: Is that person male or female? Is he or she still alive?

Sâmbok: He is my brother.

Chhayrann: What about the sixth child?

Sâmbok: The name of the sixth child is Hēng (ហែង).

Chhayrann: Do they all live in the same village?

Sâmbok: Chamroeun lives somewhere near Tonle Sap (ទន្លេសាប).

Chhayrann: Does he live in Chhnok Trou (គុកត្រូ) in Kampong Chhnang.

Sâmbok: Yes, he does.

Chhayrann: Did you ever receive any formal education before the Khmer Rouge regime?

Sâmbok: Yes, I did. I attended school. I was a student.

Chhayrann: In what school did you study?

Sâmbok: I went to a school in Prek Chik Village.

Chhayrann: Prek Is it the school presently located at the crossroads of Prek Chik?

Sâmbok: No, it is not.

Chhayrann: What was the name of that school?

Sâmbok: It's called Saob Leu (ស្នាក់នៅ).

Chhayrann: In what grade did you study?

Sâmbok: I studied in Grade 7.

Chhayrann: At that time, could you read and write?

Sâmbok: Yes, I could.

Chhayrann: Did you study French?

Sâmbok: Yes, I did. I studied French language but I only knew a few words.

Chhayrann: Why did you only study up to Grade 7?

Sâmbok: My schooling was interrupted when the war broke out.

Chhayrann: When you studied in Grade 7, there was a coup d'état to overthrow *Samdech* Sihanouk, in 1970. Is that right?

Sâmbok: Yes, it is.

Chhayrann: Was your schooling interrupted when your school was closed?

Sâmbok: Yes, it was.

Chhayrann: Therefore in 1970 the Khmer Rouge was present in this area. Did the Khmer Rouge arrive in this village shortly after *Samdech* Sihanouk was overthrown?

- Sâmbok: Yes, they did.
- Chhayrann: What did you do after the school closed in 1970? ,
- Sâmbok: I returned home and helped my parents with farming.
- Chhayrann: In which year did you return home?
- Sâmbok: I returned home in 1974.
- Chhayrann: What happened after that?
- Sâmbok: After that I was accused of being the Khmer Sar (ខ្មែរស័រ). I was very terrified by that accusation. I then fled to the battlefield.
- Chhayrann: Who accused you of being the Khmer Sar?
- Sâmbok: Preap (ប្រេប) did.
- Chhayrann: Was Preap male or female?
- Sâmbok: He is a male.
- Chhayrann: What does he do now?
- Sâmbok: He is a traditional healer.
- Chhayrann: What did he do when he accused you of being the Khme Sar?
- Sâmbok: He was a member of the commune militia.
- Chhayrann: What side was he on, LON Nol or POL Pot?
- Sâmbok: He was on the POL Pot side.

Chhayrann: Were you accused of being the Khmer Sar earler in the year or later?

Sâmbok: That happened in the middle of the year. After I was accused I was transferred out.

Chhayrann: Did other people besides Preap accuse you of being the Khmer Sar?

Sâmbok: No, they didn't. Only Preap and *Ta Yēp* were the two people who accused me.

Chhayrann: What did *Ta Yēp* do?

Sâmbok: I do not know what he did but I saw the two of them together.

Chhayrann: Was Preap a member of the militia unit?

Sâmbok: He worked in a commune office.

Chhayrann: Was he in charge of the commune?

Sâmbok: He would also been seen in the forest clearing the forest in Thmei (ថ្មី) Village.

Chhayrann: What was his role?

Sâmbok: He was probably a member of the militia. He was in charge of this entire commune.

Chhayrann: What was he in charge of?

Sâmbok: He was in charge of all the youth in this commune.

Neighbor: He was the head of the youth.

Chhayrann: Was he referred to as the head of the combatants?

- Sâmbok: Yes, he was.
- Chhayrann: Was he a commune combattants chief or a district combattants chief?
- Sâmbok: He was in charge at the commune level.
- Chhayrann: Are you referring to Saob Commune?
- Sâmbok: Yes, I am.
- Chhayrann: Why did he accuse you of being the Khmer Sar?
- Sâmbok: I do not know. Maybe I was too talkative. The work was too hard. I was too hungry for food. I just said things unwisely.
- Chhayrann: What was actually Khmer Sar?
- Sâmbok: I do not know about this. People said that the Khmer Sar movement was established by *Samdech* Sihanouk. It was a resistance movement to oppose other parties. I am not quite sure about this.
- Chhayrann: The Khmer Rouge and the Khmer Sar were different. Is that correct?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it is.
- Chhayrann: The Khmer Sar supported the LON Nol. Is that correct?
- Sâmbok: No, it isn't.
- Chhayrann: Was the Khmer Sar another faction?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it was.
- Chhayrann: Do you know who the Khmer Sar leaders were?

Sâmbok: No, I do not. I was familiar with the Khmer Rouge, but when was accused me of being a member of the Khmer Sar I did not really know what it was all about.

Chhayrann: You do not know why they accused you being the Khmer Sar. Is that correct?

Sâmbok: Yes, it is.

Chhayrann: After you were accused, what happened next?

Sâmbok: I started to work with them. I worked in a commune mobile unit.

Chhayrann: After you were accused, did you make a request to them to work in the commune mobile unit or did they order you to work there?

Sâmbok: I made a request to them to work there.

Chhayrann: Who did you make that request to for permission to work in the commune mobile unit?

Sâmbok: I made the quest to Sem (សែម).

Chhayrann: What was his position?

Sâmbok: He was a commune chief.

Chhayrann: Was he the Saob Commune chief?

Sâmbok: Yes, he was.

Chhayrann: Was that in 1974?

Sâmbok: Yes, it was.

Chhayrann: What type of work did the mobile unit do?

- Sâmbok: I worked in a commune production unit. I did farm work and other similar types of work.
- Chhayrann: How old were you at that time?
- Sâmbok: I was about 18 or 19 years old.
- Chhayrann: Why were you accused of being a member of the Khmer Sar? Is it because you did not agree to join the Khmer Rouge? Why did you agree to join them?
- Sâmbok: You are probably right. At that time they recruited people for the army, but I refused to be enlisted.
- Chhayrann: Even though they tried to persuade you, you did not agree to serve in their army. Is that correct?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it is.
- Chhayrann: Then you were accused of being the member of the Khmer Sar. Is that correct?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it is.
- Chhayrann: In 1974 when you asked them to be allowed to work in the production unit, did you work there alone or with other people?
- Sâmbok: There were many people working there.
- Chhayrann: Do you recall any of the people who you worked with?
- Sâmbok: No, I don't. I have lost touch with them.
- Chhayrann: Do you still remember the people that left the village with you?
- Sâmbok: Yes, I do. But I cannot recall their names.

Chhayrann: Initially you worked in the commune production unit. Where was the commune office at that time?

Sâmbok: It was in Boeng Chrang (បឹងច្រែង) Village.

Chhayrann: What is that office used for these days?

Sâmbok: Now it is an ordinary house.

Chhayrann: What was the name of the deputy commune chief?

Sâmbok: I cannot recall his name. It was a long time ago.

Chhayrann: What was the name of the Prek Prasap District committee member?

Sâmbok: His name is Cheth (ចេត).

Chhayrann: In 1974 the Prek Prasap District committee member was Cheth, not Suor (សួរ). Is that right?

Sâmbok: Yes, it is.

Chhayrann: In what year was Suor appointed as the Prek Prasap District committee member?

Sâmbok: I do not know. I had already left when the appointment was made.

Chhayrann: In 1974 when you went to work there, was Cheth the district committee member?

Sâmbok: Yes, he was.

Chhayrann: What was your role within the commune production unit?

Sâmbok: I was a combatant.

- Chhayrann: Since you were a combatant why was the unit you worked with called the production unit?
- Sâmbok: They just gave it that name.
- Chhayrann: What did you do?
- Sâmbok: I was tasked with building dams and rice field dykes.
- Chhayrann: How many people were there in the production unit?
- Sâmbok: There were a lot of people, perhaps 10, 20 or 30 people.
- Chhayrann: Who was the leader of the commune production unit?
- Sâmbok: I do not remember.
- Chhayrann: Were there women workers in the commune production unit?
- Sâmbok: Women worked separately from the men.
- Chhayrann: Were there only men in the production unit?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it was.
- Chhayrann: Do you remember the name of the unit chief?
- Sâmbok: No, I do not.
- Chhayrann: Do you remember other leaders in the unit?
- Sâmbok: Yes, I do. Another leader was *Ta Preap*. He was my leader.
- Chhayrann: When you worked in the production unit, did Preap work there too?

- Sâmbok: Yes, he did.
- Chhayrann: What type of work did they assign you to do?
- Sâmbok: We were tasked with building the rice field dykes and clearing the forest.
- Chhayrann: When you were working there did you return home each evening to sleep or did you stay overnight at the commune?
- Sâmbok: I stayed overnight at the commune.
- Chhayrann: You did not return home?
- Sâmbok: No, I didn't. I stayed at the worksite.
- Chhayrann: Was the work very hard?
- Sâmbok: No, it wasn't.
- Chhayrann: What was your work quota?
- Sâmbok: We were tasked with building the rice field dykes as usual.
- Chhayrann: Did the Khmer Rouge set a quota for the amount of work you had to complete in a day?
- Sâmbok: No, they didn't.
- Chhayrann: At that time, did you eat your meals communally or by yourselves?
- Sâmbok: We ate communally.
- Chhayrann: In 1974 when you worked there, you had to eat your meals communally. Is that correct?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it is.

Chhayrann: Were the cooperatives established at that time?

Sâmbok: Yes, they were.

Chhayrann: Do you remember the name of the cooperative chief?

Sâmbok: No, I don't.

Chhayrann: In 1974 when you worked in the commune production unit, were you given rice porridge to eat?

Sâmbok: No, I wasn't. But we were given steamed rice.

Chhayrann: What was the rice ration per person?

Sâmbok: There was no limit.

Chhayrann: Were you allowed to eat your fill?

Sâmbok: Yes, I was.

Chhayrann: What about other food?

Sâmbok: It depends on how we could find them.

Chhayrann: Did you have set working hours?

Sâmbok: Yes, I did. We started our work early in the morning.

Chhayrann: What time did you start work?

Sâmbok: I started work at about 6.30 a.m.

Chhayrann: What time did you finish work for the day?

Sâmbok: I finished work at 5.00 p.m.

- Chhayrann: What did you do after 5.00 p.m.?
- Sâmbok: I did not do anything.
- Chhayrann: How long did you work in the commune production unit?
- Sâmbok: I worked there until July 1974, when we were sent to the battlefield.
- Chhayrann: How many months did you work there?
- Sâmbok: I stayed there for two or three months.
- Chhayrann: Who sent you to the battlefield?
- Sâmbok: Sem did.
- Chhayrann: Was Sem on the commune committee, when he ordered you to go there?
- Sâmbok: Yes, he was.
- Chhayrann: When you were sent to the battlefield, where were you sent to?
- Sâmbok: I was sent to Division 310.
- Chhayrann: At that time, was it called Division 310?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it was.
- Chhayrann: Did you know that the Division was called Division 310 before or after July 1974?
- Sâmbok: I learnt about the division's name later.
- Chhayrann: Immediately after you arrived there, what did they talk about? Did they tell you about the division that you had been sent to?

- Sâmbok: No, they did not.
- Chhayrann: What did they tell you when they came to collect you?
- Sâmbok: They did not say anything. They only told me to go to the battlefield.
- Chhayrann: How many people were sent to the battlefield with you?
- Sâmbok: Five or six people were.
- Chhayrann: Do you remember their names?
- Sâmbok: Yes, I do. I can recall the name of one person. I have forgotten the rest.
- Chhayrann: What was that person's name?
- Sâmbok: His name is Phēng (ផង).
- Chhayrann: Is he still alive?
- Sâmbok: No, he isn't.
- Chhayrann: Where did he die?
- Sâmbok: I do not know. We parted our ways when we went to the battlefield.
- Chhayrann: When Sem arrived, he sent you to the battlefield. Is that correct?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it is. He decided who to send there because he worked in the commune.
- Chhayrann: When you were told to go to the battlefield, did you want to go?
- Sâmbok: No, I didn't. I was frightened. I was afraid of dying.

- Chhayrann: Why did you not refuse to go?
- Sâmbok: I was intimidated to refuse.
- Chhayrann: Did you ever argue with them about it?
- Sâmbok: No, I did not. I did not dare to.
- Chhayrann: Did you ever see anyone from your group who refused to go?
- Sâmbok: No, I did not.
- Chhayrann: Why did you not dare to refuse? Is it because you saw people who said no were being mistreated?
- Sâmbok: No, it isn't. I never saw such a thing. However I was still afraid of them.
- Chhayrann: To which battlefront were you sent?
- Sâmbok: Initially I was sent to Koh Tralach (កោះត្រឡាច) battlefront.
- Chhayrann: Where was that?
- Sâmbok: It was located near Phsar Vil (ផ្សារវិល) Market.
- Chhayrann: Where was Koh Tralach and Phsar Vil Market?
- Sâmbok: It's in Kampong Chhnang.
- Chhayrann: Was it an island?
- Sâmbok: I do not know what it was. It's called Koh Tralach. There was an island opposite the market known as Phsar Vil Market.
- Chhayrann: Was it Kampong Tralach?

- Sâmbok: That was Kampong Tralach, but the other one was Koh Tralach.
- Chhayrann: Was that the Koh Tralach battlefield?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it was.
- Chhayrann: Was it near Phsar Vil Market?
- Sâmbok: I walked all around that area. I even reached Longvek (លង្កែក).
- Chhayrann: Did you go to Longveak?
- Sâmbok: Yes, I did.
- Chhayrann: When you were sent to Kampong Tralach battlefield, were you given any military training?
- Sâmbok: Yes, I was. I had been trained here before I was sent there.
- Chhayrann: Did you receive the training at Koh Tralach?
- Sâmbok: Yes, I did. The training took place at the battlefield.
- Chhayrann: Was that place a military base, a battlefield or was it a barracks?
- Sâmbok: It was the battlefield. The soldiers were at the base.
- Chhayrann: When you were sent there, do you remember to which regiment or battalion you were assigned?
- Sâmbok: I was assigned to Battalion 15.
- Chhayrann: What regiment was it?
- Sâmbok: It's Regiment 806. I do not know the name of the division.

- Chhayrann: There was no official division. They had only just established the division but had not yet given it a name. Is that correct?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it is.
- Chhayrann: I have heard of Division 1, Division 2 and Division 3. Were there such divisions?
- Sâmbok: Yes, there were.
- Chhayrann: In what division were you?
- Sâmbok: I was in Division 1.
- Chhayrann: A moment ago you have said that you were in Regiment 805. Is that correct?
- Sâmbok: No, it isn't. I said I was in Regiment 806.
- Chhayrann: Do you know who the Battalion 15 commander was?
- Sâmbok: Chây (ច័យ) was.
- Chhayrann: Who was the commander of the regiment?
- Sâmbok: Tun (តុន) was.
- Chhayrann: Who was the commander of the division?
- Sâmbok: Oeun (អឿន) was.
- Chhayrann: At that time, what was your position?
- Sâmbok: I was a new combatant.

Chhayrann: Shortly after you arrived there, you were given some military training. Who was the trainer?

Sâmbok: The squad chief was.

Chhayrann: Do you remember his name?

Sâmbok: His name is Hean (ហ៊ែន).

Chhayrann: Was Hean the one who conducted the military training?

Sâmbok: Yes, he was. I had the training for two or three days. Then I was transferred and trained somewhere else.

Chhayrann: For how many months were you trained?

Sâmbok: I was trained for four or five days.

Chhayrann: After that training, where were you sent?

Sâmbok: I was immediately sent to the battlefield.

Chhayrann: You were sent to your battalion immediately. Is that correct?

Sâmbok: Yes, it is. The whole regiment was sent to attack the city.

Chhayrann: Was the whole Regiment 806 immediately?

Sâmbok: Yes, it was.

Chhayrann: Where were you sent to engage in the fighting?

Sâmbok: Yes, I was. Initially, we fought at Phoum Thom (ភ្នំមីធំ) battlefield, then Phnm Baseth (ភ្នំបាសិទ្ធិ) battlefield and Trapeang Preay (ត្រពាំងព្រៃយ) battlefield.

- Chhayrann: At that time, did the entire division go to war or only your regiment did?
- Sâmbok: The entire division did.
- Chhayrann: At that time how many regiments were there in Division 1?
- Sâmbok: I do not know about that. I knew only my regiment.
- Chhayrann: After that, did you engage in the fighting continually until you reached Phnom Penh in 1975?
- Sâmbok: No, I did not. We only got as far as Prek Phnov (ជ្រែកក្រវា).
- Chhayrann: At the time of the fall of Phnom Penh in 1975, had you advanced as far as Prek Pnov?
- Sâmbok: Yes, I had.
- Chhayrann: Initially, you went to Kampong Chhang. Is that correct?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it is.
- Chhayrann: In what year were you sent to the battlefield at Prek Pnov?
- Sâmbok: I was sent there in January 1975.
- Chhayrann: At that time, did your regiment go to fight alone or did the entire division go?
- Sâmbok: The entire Division 1 did.
- Chhayrann: At the time Phnom Penh was captured, did you know how many regiments had advanced as far as Phnom Penh?

- Sâmbok: No, I didn't. I served in an artillery unit, so I was at the rear.
- Chhayrann: Were you in an artillery unit?
- Sâmbok: Yes, I was.
- Chhayrann: Was it still in Regiment 806?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it was.
- Chhayrann: How many artillery units were there in Division 1?
- Sâmbok: There was only one.
- Chhayrann: Were all the others infantry?
- Sâmbok: Yes, they were.
- Chhayrann: Where were you sent after the fall of Phnom Penh?
- Sâmbok: I was assigned to do farm work and work in a plantation.
- Chhayrann: Where were you assigned to do farm work?
- Sâmbok: I worked at Kab Srov (កាប់ស្រូវ).
- Chhayrann: Was that in Boeng Payap (បឹងប៉ាយ៉ាប), Kab Srov and Anglong Kngan (អង្គង់ក្បាន)?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it was.
- Chhayrann: After the capture of Phnom Penh, how long were you based at Prek Pnov before you were sent to Anglong Kngan?

- Sâmbok: I was there for about seven months.
- Chhayrann: Therefore it was almost the end of 1975 that you were transferred to Anglong Kngan. Is that correct?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it is.
- Chhayrann: What were you assigned to do there?
- Sâmbok: I was tasked with farming.
- Chhayrann: Before that, what did you do?
- Sâmbok: I also did farming.
- Chhayrann: Where did you work?
- Sâmbok: I worked behind Prek Phnov.
- Chhayrann: Did you never enter Phnom Penh during that time?
- Sâmbok: No, I didn't.
- Chhayrann: After the fall of Phnom Penh, was *Ta Oeun's* division renamed?
- Sâmbok: They did not make any announcement about that.
- Chhayrann: They did not make an announcement about that, but you told me that you had heard of Division 301. When did you hear about Division 301?
- Sâmbok: I heard about it later.
- Chhayrann: Did you hear about it when you were sent to Kab Srov?
- Sâmbok: I do not know exactly when it was. I do not remember well.

- Chhayrann: When you were based in Prek Pnov, did you see people being evacuated along the road near there?
- Sâmbok: Yes I did. I saw crowds of people.
- Chhayrann: Did you know if they already had this plan to evacuate the people before they attacked Phnom Penh?
- Sâmbok: No, I didn't.
- Chhayrann: When you saw people being evacuated, did you ever ask your regiment of division commanders why those people had been evacuated?
- Sâmbok: No, I didn't. At that time, we never dared to ask them.
- Chhayrann: After the fall of Phnom Penh, where did they keep the artillery?
- Sâmbok: I'm not sure about the locations. They were kept them at different places. I was based in Chrang Chamreh (ច្រាំងចំរេន). We were relocated several times.
- Chhayrann: Immediately after the fall of Phnom Penh, you were moved to Chrang Chamreh, not to Prek Pnov. Is that correct?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it is.
- Chhayrann: When you lived in Chrang Chamreh, you were assigned to do farm work. Is that correct?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it is.
- Chhayrann: Where did you do farm work? Was it in Kilo 8 (គីឡូលេខ៨) or Kilo 10 (គីឡូម៉ែត្រលេខ១០)?
- Sâmbok: I do not remember exactly where it was, but, it was probably close to those places.

Chhayrann: Did you remain in Regiment 806 or were you transferred somewhere else?

Sâmbok: At that time, the division's code name was announced. There were no more regiments. Instead, they were integrated into collective battalions.

Chhayrann: Therefore Regiment 806 was disbanded. Is that correct?

Sâmbok: Yes, it is.

Chhayrann: After it was disbanded, what did it become?

Sâmbok: It became a battalion.

Chhayrann: Therefore when you went to Chrang Chamreh, the regiment had already been disbanded. Is that correct?

Sâmbok: No, it isn't. That happened later.

Chhayrann: When did that happen?

Sâmbok: It happened about a year later.

Chhayrann: Before that, were you in the same Regiment 806 under the same regiment commander?

Sâmbok: Yes, I was.

Chhayrann: In what year did they start to use division codename?

Sâmbok: I don't recall it.

Chhayrann: When was the division code name pronounced?

Sâmbok: That was at the end of 1975.

Chhayrann: Do you still recall who made that announcement?

Sâmbok: No, I don't.

Chhayrann: What division code name was it?

Sâmbok: It's Division 310.

Chhayrann: Who was the division commander?

Sâmbok: Oeun was.

Chhayrann: Was it Oeun again? Who was subordinate to Oeun?

Sâmbok: I do not know.

Chhayrann: When you lived in Chrang Chamreh, was the artillery unit based separately from the other units or was the entire Division 310 based there together?

Sâmbok: They were based at different places.

Chhayrann: Only your regiment was based at Chrang Chamreh. Is that right?

Sâmbok: Yes, it is. There was only one battalion when I was there.

Chhayrann: Was that only Battalion 806?

Sâmbok: No, it was. It was Battalion 15.

Chhayrann: There was only your regiment that was based at Chrang Chamreh. Where were the other battalions based?

Sâmbok: I do not know.

Chhayrann: How many people were there in Battalion 15?

- Sâmbok: There were about 100 people.
- Chhayrann: Were your working conditions and food rations adequate?
- Sâmbok: No, they were not. We were only given one and a half cans of rice.
- Chhayrann: Were you offered cooked rice or rice porridge to eat?
- Sâmbok: I was given steamed rice for breakfast and rice porridge for other meals.
- Chhayrann: How difficult was the work like?
- Sâmbok: At that time it was not really difficult, not yet.
- Chhayrann: At Chrang Chamreh, the working conditions were not difficult. Is that correct?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it is.
- Chhayrann: When did you get the injury in your arm?
- Sâmbok: That was in 1978 or perhaps in 1979.
- Chhayrann: You were injured when the Vietnamese soldiers arrived. Were you only assigned to do farm work or did you do other work?
- Sâmbok: I was only assigned to work on the farm.
- Chhayrann: Where was the artillery kept?
- Sâmbok: I do not know.
- Chhayrann: Did you serve in the artillery unit from 1974 until the fall of Phnom Penh or were you reassigned to other units?

Part B

Sâmbok:

Chhayrann: For how many months did you live in Chrang Chamreh?

Sâmbok: I lived there for two or three months.

Chhayrann: Did you live there until the end of 1975?

Sâmbok: Yes, I did.

Chhayrann: Where were you sent to after that?

Sâmbok: I was sent to Kab Srov.

Chhayrann: Were you sent there alone or with entire battalion?

Sâmbok: The whole regiment were sent to Kab Srov.

Chhayrann: Was the commander the same person during that time?

Sâmbok: Yes, he was. However a commander was arrested.

Chhayrann: Who was arrested?

Sâmbok: Tun was.

Chhayrann: Was he in Regiment 806?

Sâmbok: Yes, he was.

Chhayrann: Was he sent to Kab Srov?

Sâmbok: No, he wasn't. He was arrested before that. He was arrested shortly after the fall of Phnom Penh.

- Chhayrann: Why was he arrested?
- Sâmbok: They Khmer Rouge talked about the North and the South Zones. I did not understand what they were referring to.
- Chhayrann: Who arrested him?
- Sâmbok: I don't know about that.
- Chhayrann: How long was it after the fall of Phnom Penh that he was arrested?
- Sâmbok: I do not know. His arrest was made secretly. We were only told that he was taken for re-education.
- Chhayrann: Was Tun the battalion or regiment commander?
- Sâmbok: He was the regiment commander.
- Chhayrann: How did you know that Tun was arrested for you were at Chrang Chamreh?
- Sâmbok: He was arrested at that time. He was sent to the commerce section in Kampong Saom first before he got arrested.
- Chhayrann: Was he arrested shortly after the fall of Phnom Penh?
- Sâmbok: Yes, he was.
- Chhayrann: Who told you that he was arrested?
- Sâmbok: I heard from other people.
- Chhayrann: Were people who arrested from the North Zone?
- Sâmbok: Yes, they were. Tun was from the North Zone.
- Chhayrann: Which parts of the country were the people from the North Zone come from?

- Sâmbok: I do not know.
- Chhayrann: Apart from Tun, who else was arrested?
- Sâmbok: Many people were arrested.
- Chhayrann: Was Tun arrested before the others?
- Sâmbok: Yes, he was.
- Chhayrann: I may need some clarification. At the end of 1975, the entire Regiment 806 was sent to Kab Srov. Were other regiments transferred there too?
- Sâmbok: Yes, they were. Several other regiments were transferred there.
- Chhayrann: Was Regiment 806 transferred to Kab Srov before the others?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it was.
- Chhayrann: Were other regiments transferred there too after Regiment 806 was sent there?
- Sâmbok: No, there weren't. Only Regiment 806 was sent to Kab Srov.
- Chhayrann: After Tun was removed, who took control of Regiment 806?
- Sâmbok: Honn (ហ៊ុន) did. He was the deputy commander when Tun was the commander.
- Chhayrann: Where was Honn originally from?
- Sâmbok: I do not know.
- Chhayrann: Was Chây in charge of Battalion 15?
- Sâmbok: Chây was also arrested.

- Chhayrann: After Chây was arrested, who took over his command?
- Sâmbok: At that time, Chây...
- Chhayrann: Between Chây and Tun, who was arrested first?
- Sâmbok: Chây was arrested first.
- Chhayrann: How long after the fall of Phnom Penh was he arrested?
- Sâmbok: He was arrested about two or three months after that.
- Chhayrann: Do you know why he was arrested?
- Sâmbok: No, I do not.
- Chhayrann: Did you witness his arrest?
- Sâmbok: No, I did not.
- Chhayrann: Who else was arrested after him?
- Sâmbok: Chhan (ឆាន់) was arrested. He was the battalion commander.
- Chhayrann: When you moved to Kab Srov, did Chhan live there too?
- Sâmbok: No, he did not. Chhan was arrested just before Chây.
- Chhayrann: Do you mean that Chhan was arrested first?
- Sâmbok: Yes, I do.
- Chhayrann: Therefore shortly after the capture of Phnom Penh in 1975, the arrests of people started to happen. Is that correct?

- Sâmbok: Yes, it is.
- Chhayrann: Chây and Chhan were arrested two months after the fall of Phnom Penh. Who replaced them?
- Sâmbok: I do not remember.
- Chhayrann: Between Chrang Chamreh and Kab Srov, which site had more difficult working condition?
- Sâmbok: Work was harder at Kab Srov.
- Chhayrann: Why was Regiment 806 sent to Kab Srov?
- Sâmbok: I do not know. It was said that Kab Srov was the site where soliders were tested.
- Chhayrann: Do you know who gave the order to move the regiment there?
- Sâmbok: The division commander ordered us to move there.
- Chhayrann: Was Division 310 under the command of Oeun?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it was.
- Chhayrann: Can you describe the working condition there compared to Chrang Chamreh?
- Sâmbok: We were tasked with farming over there. We were given only one can of rice for food. Our food rations consisted of rice gruel twice daily.
- Chhayrann: Were you given other kind of food?
- Sâmbok: No, I wasn't. There were only water convolvulus and water lily.
- Chhayrann: Were you made to work harder there than at Chrang Chamreh?

- Sâmbok: Yes, I was. At that time, there were work quotas.
- Chhayrann: What was the work quota like?
- Sâmbok: We had to cultivate one hectare of paddy land per day. Four or five people were assigned to work together to achieve the quota. Sometimes we carried bags of fertiliser to the rice fields. We had to transplant rice seedlings. Yet we not allowed to rest. We moved from one rice field to the next. Sometimes we worked both day and night.
- Chhayrann: When you lived in Kab Srov at the end of 1975, did you ever hear about Oeun who was accused of being the traitor?
- Sâmbok: No, I didn't. However, I heard about *Ta Oeun* and *Ta Thuch* (ផ្អែ).
- Chhayrann: Who was *Ta Thuch* then?
- Sâmbok: He was a division commander. He held a higher position than Oeun.
- Chhayrann: Was he a Zone Secretary?
- Sâmbok: Yes, he was.
- Chhayrann: Which zone was it?
- Sâmbok: It was the North Zone.
- Chhayrann: Who was Thuch's deputy?
- Sâmbok: I do not know.
- Chhayrann: In what year were Oeun and Thuch accused of working for the CIA?
- Sâmbok: It was only after he had been arrested that we heard about that.
- Chhayrann: How long was it after you moved to Kab Srov that you heard about it?

- Sâmbok: I heard it about two years after I moved to Kab Srov.
- Chhayrann: It was two years later that you heard that Oeun was suspected of working for the CIA. Is that correct?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it is. I heard about it when the Southwest Zone cadres came. They came to educate us.
- Chhayrann: In what year did they Southwest Zone cadres come to Kab Srov?
- Sâmbok: They came in 1977.
- Chhayrann: Was it at the start of the year or at the end of the year that they came?
- Sâmbok: They came at the start of the year.
- Chhayrann: At that time, did the name of Division 310 remain the same?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it did. It was referred to as Division 310.
- Chhayrann: After Oeun was arrested, who replaced him?
- Sâmbok: Phên (ផ័ន) did.
- Chhayrann: Was Tuy (តុយ) not his successor?
- Sâmbok: No, he wasn't. Tuy was in charge of the economic section.
- Chhayrann: Was Phên his deputy then?
- Sâmbok: Yes, he was.
- Chhayrann: Do you know where Oeun and Koy Thuon (កុយ ធ្លួន) were arrested?
- Sâmbok: No, I do not.

- Chhayrann: Who told you that Oeun and KOY Thuon had been arrested?
- Sâmbok: I heard it from the Southwest Zone people.
- Chhayrann: Who did you actually hear that from?
- Sâmbok: I heard it from *Ta Nhor* (ព្រំ).
- Chhayrann: Was that at the start of 1977?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it was.
- Chhayrann: Were you educated at Kab Srov or in Phnom Penh?
- Sâmbok: I went to attend the study session in Phnom Penh. It was somewhere near Wat Phnom.
- Chhayrann: Was an audio recording played for you to listen to?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it was. We listened to recordings.
- Chhayrann: That was at the start of 1977. How long did you study there?
- Sâmbok: I was there for two or three days.
- Chhayrann: Do you remember what the recordings were about?
- Sâmbok: No, I do not.
- Chhayrann: After the recordings were played, what questions were you asked?
- Sâmbok: It was a long time ago. I cannot recall them.
- Chhayrann: When you went there, did the battalion and regiment commanders go with you?

- Sâmbok: Are you referring to the study sessions?
- Chhayrann: Yes, I am.
- Sâmbok: They were all arrested.
- Chhayrann: They had been arrested before you went there. Is that correct?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it is.
- Chhayrann: Were your commanders summoned first before you were summoned?
- Sâmbok: Yes, they were.
- Chhayrann: When you went to the training school located near Wat Phnom, did you ever hear Oeun mentioning names of people after listening to the recordings?
- Sâmbok: No, I did not.
- Chhayrann: Who played the recordings that you listened to? ?
- Sâmbok: Nhor did.
- Chhayrann: At the end of your study sessions, where were you sent to?
- Sâmbok: I was sent to Boeng Prayap.
- Chhayrann: Did you not live in Kab Srov?
- Sâmbok: No, I did not.
- Chhayrann: What happened next?
- Sâmbok: ... *(Laughing)*.

- Chhayrann: What did you do after you moved to Boeng Prayap?
- Sâmbok: I still did farm work.
- Chhayrann: Was the work more difficult than before?
- Sâmbok: It was about the same.
- Chhayrann: At that time, did you ever see people being arrested?
- Sâmbok: I do not remember.
- Chhayrann: Did you ever see people from your group being taken away?
- Sâmbok: Yes, I did. Combatants also disappeared.
- Chhayrann: Do you remember any of the names of those who disappeared?
- Sâmbok: Yes, I do. I recall Dēth (ដេត).
- Chhayrann: Dēth was a deputy squad chief and you were squad chief. Is that correct?
- Sâmbok: No, it isn't. I was just a squad member.
- Chhayrann: Where was Deth originally from?
- Sâmbok: In his biography, he was from Kampong Som. I do not know what district he was from.
- Chhayrann: How long did you stay at Boeng Prayap?
- Sâmbok: I stayed there until 1979.
- Chhayrann: At that time, the Southwest Zone cadres took control of the Division 310. Oeun was accused of being a traitor working with the CIA and as you worked in Division 310, were you placed under close watch?

- Sâmbok: Yes, I was. We were under watch.
- Chhayrann: How do you know that you were under watch?
- Sâmbok: We were under investigation. If we did something wrong or something that the Khmer Rouge did not agree with we would be surely arrested.
- Chhayrann: Did you ever personally see them arresting people?
- Sâmbok: No, I did not.
- Chhayrann: You were implicated and accused of having associated with the traitors. Were you ever threatened? Were you mistreated you if you did something wrong?
- Sâmbok: I was threatened.
- Chhayrann: How were you threatened?
- Sâmbok: They Khmer Rouge said that we were useless. Our self value was regarded as lower than a piece of cowdung.
- Chhayrann: Who said that?
- Sâmbok: The Southwest Zone cadres did.
- Chhayrann: Did Nhor say this or someone else?
- Sâmbok: The low level cadres did.
- Chhayrann: What did they say? They said you had no value. Is that correct?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it is. They said that we were connected with traitors. I did not know about that. Only the high level leaders knew about that. The low level ones like me did not know about these things.
- Chhayrann: Before Ouen was arrested, were you returned your seized weapon?

- Sâmbok: Just before the capture of Phnom Penh I almost collapsed, I was sick and sent to the hospital.
- Chhayrann: You did not know if the weapons were returned or not. Is that correct?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it is.
- Chhayrann: Where were you hospitalised?
- Sâmbok: Yes, I was. I was admitted to Preah Keto Mealea (ព្រះកេតុមាលា) Hospital.
- Chhayrann: Where was it?
- Sâmbok: I do not remember.
- Chhayrann: What were you diagnosed with?
- Sâmbok: I had a serious fever.
- Chhayrann: Were you transferred there by your regiment?
- Sâmbok: Yes, I was.
- Chhayrann: Was Preah Keto Mealea Hospital for civilians, soldiers or every one?
- Sâmbok: It was reserved for soldiers only.
- Chhayrann: At the time you were hospitalised, were there many patients there?
- Sâmbok: Yes, there were.
- Chhayrann: What were the most common reasons for people being hospitalised there?

- Sâmbok: They were homeless.
- Chhayrann: What were they diagnosed with?
- Sâmbok: They suffered from malnutrition.
- Chhayrann: Were they suffering from malnutrition?
- Sâmbok: Yes, they were.
- Chhayrann: Do you know who the Preah Keto Mealea Hospital chief was at that time?
- Sâmbok: No, I don't.
- Chhayrann: How long were you hospitalised there?
- Sâmbok: I was in the hospital for over a month.
- Chhayrann: Were the medicines locally produced?
- Sâmbok: I don't know.
- Chhayrann: What kind of medicines was used to treat the patients?
- Sâmbok: Some medicines were brought from a foreign country. Some were locally made.
- Chhayrann: Do you know where they got the Cambodian medicines from?
- Sâmbok: No, I don't.
- Chhayrann: When you served in the artillery unit, do you know where those artillery supplies came from?
- Sâmbok: No, I don't.

Chhayrann: Did you notice any foreign writing or letters on the weapons?

Sâmbok: Yes, I did. They were in Chinese.

Chhayrann: Were they all written in Chinese?

Sâmbok: Yes, they were.

Chhayrann: Do you know what types of weapons they were?

Sâmbok: They were 120mm weapons.

Chhayrann: What was the range of those 120mm weapons?

Sâmbok: They had a range of about six kilometres.

Chhayrann: Do you know where they were bought from?

Sâmbok: No, I don't. However, I believe they could be brought from China. There was nowhere else. At that time Cambodia had a close tie with China.

Chhayrann: When you served in Division 310, did you ever hear of KE Pauk (កែប៉ាក់)?

Sâmbok: Yes, I did. But I never saw him.

Chhayrann: Do you know what position he held?

Sâmbok: He was the Zone Secretary.

Chhayrann: In what year did you hear of him?

Sâmbok: I heard of him in 1974. I never heard of him when I was here. I only heard his name when I went there.

Chhayrann: Where did you go?

Sâmbok: I went to the battlefield.

Chhayrann: You heard about his name when you went to the battlefield. Is that correct?

Sâmbok: Yes, it is.

Chhayrann: Did you ever hear of *Ta 06*, *Ta 07* or *Ta 08*?

Sâmbok: No, I did not.

Chhayrann: After you were sent to Boeng Prayap, were you sent anywhere else?

Sâmbok: No, I wasn't.

Chhayrann: Did you stay in Boeng Prayap until the arrival of the Vietnamese soldiers?

Sâmbok: Yes, I did.

Chhayrann: How many people from Division 310 were there in Boeng Prayap?

Sâmbok: I do not know. My division had about 400 people.

Chhayrann: Was it a regiment of the division?

Sâmbok: It was the battalion.

Chhayrann: Why were there so many people in that battalion?

Sâmbok: It was because it was combined with a regiment. There was only one battalion after all.

Chhayrann: At that time did you still work in the battalion?

Sâmbok: Yes, I did.

Chhayrann: Who was the commander at that time?

Sâmbok: Sib (ស៊ីប) was.

Chhayrann: Where did he come from?

Sâmbok: He came from the Southwest Zone.

Chhayrann: Therefore there was no longer a regiment. Is that correct?

Sâmbok: Yes, it is.

Chhayrann: Did you know anyone else apart from Sib?

Sâmbok: Yes, I did. I recall Ny (នី).

Chhayrann: Was Ny a man or woman?

Sâmbok: He's a male.

Chhayrann: Where did he come from?

Sâmbok: He was from the Southwest Zone.

Chhayrann: Do you know where those people were taken to?

Sâmbok: No, I do not.

Chhayrann: It was said that Sib, Ny and others were also replaced. Is that true?

Sâmbok: I do not know about that either. I was injured at that time.

Chhayrann: In what year were you injured?

- Sâmbok: I was injured in 1979.
- Chhayrann: You lived in Boeng Prayap. When the Vietnamese soldiers arrived, were you re-enlisted?
- Sâmbok: Yes, I was.
- Chhayrann: In what year was that?
- Sâmbok: I was in 1979.
- Chhayrann: Was it when the Vietnamese troops arrived?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it was.
- Chhayrann: How long after you rejoined the army that the Vietnamese troops came?
- Sâmbok: The Vietnamese had already come. We were sent back.
- Chhayrann: When the Vietnamese troops entered Phnom Penh you fled to the border. Then, you were sent back again. Is that correct?
- Sâmbok: No, it isn't. The Vietnamese troops only advanced as far as Suong (ស្ទឹង). I was sent to Suong.
- Chhayrann: Therefore the Vietnamese troops entered Suong at the end of 1978 not 1979. Is that correct?
- Sâmbok: They came in 1979. The war had already been going on for quite a while. I was sent back afterwards.
- Chhayrann: This was because Kratie was liberated before Phnom Penh. When Kratie was liberated, you were sent from Prayap in order to help the troops in Suong. Is that correct?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it is.

Chhayrann: At the time you went to fight at Suong, was Phnom Penh already liberated?

Sâmbok: No, it was not.

Chhayrann: Was your battalion sent to fight at Suong?

Sâmbok: Yes, it was. One battalion was sent there.

Chhayrann: What battalion was it?

Sâmbok: I was transferred to Battalion 207.

Chhayrann: Who was the Battalion 207 commander?

Sâmbok: Nhâ (ញ៉) was.

Chhayrann: Division 310 was changed to Division 207. Is that correct?

Sâmbok: Yes, it is.

Chhayrann: Shortly after you were sent to fight the Vietnamese troops, were you injured?

Sâmbok: I got wounded about two months afterwards.

Chhayrann: Did you remain at the battlefield all that time?

Sâmbok: Yes, I did.

Chhayrann: Were all combatants sent there?

Sâmbok: No, they weren't. Only selected soliders were sent there.

Chhayrann: Do you remember the names of the people who went with you?

- Sâmbok: No, I don't. I only recall that there were many people.
- Chhayrann: Did those people come from Division 310?
- Sâmbok: Yes, they did.
- Chhayrann: Did the battalion commander go there with you?
- Sâmbok: Yes, he did. Everyone went there.
- Chhayrann: Did Nhor, who commanded the soldiers, go too?
- Sâmbok: Yes, he did. His name was Nhâ not Nhor.
- Chhayrann: Did he go to fight in Suong?
- Sâmbok: Yes, he did.
- Chhayrann: Do you know why Division 210 was changed to Division 207?
- Sâmbok: No, I do not.
- Chhayrann: Two months after you went to the battlefield, you were injured. Where did you get wounded?
- Sâmbok: I got wounded in my arms, chest and eyes.
- Chhayrann: Were your eyes injured too?
- Sâmbok: Yes, they were.
- Chhayrann: When you were injured, were you transferred to the hospital?
- Sâmbok: Yes, I was. I was sent to the hospital in Phnom Penh.
- Chhayrann: Which hospital was it?

- Sâmbok: The hospital was located to the south of Hospital P-98 (ពេទ្យ៧៩៨). It was known as the Chinese Hospital (ពេទ្យចិន).
- Chhayrann: Were you in the artillery unit when you got injured?
- Sâmbok: Yes, I was.
- Chhayrann: Were you in Battalion 80?
- Sâmbok: Yes, I was.
- Chhayrann: Were there a fewer people in that battalion?
- Sâmbok: Yes, there were.
- Chhayrann: How long were you hospitalised?
- Sâmbok: I was hospitalised for three months.
- Chhayrann: When you were discharged from the hospital where were you sent to?
- Sâmbok: By the time I was discharged the Vietnamese troops had already achieved victory. I then went home.
- Chhayrann: Therefore when the Vietnamese troops launched their final attacks, you were in the hospital. Is that correct?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it is. I was in the hospital but I was sent to Battambang.
- Chhayrann: Had you fully recovered by then?
- Sâmbok: No, I had not.
- Chhayrann: How were you transported to Battambang?

- Sâmbok: We travelled there by train.
- Chhayrann: How many days after the arrival of the Vietnamese troops were you transferred to Battambang?
- Sâmbok: I do not know. When I went to Battambang the Vietnamese troops also went there. It was about one day later.
- Chhayrann: In what district in Battambang was it?
- Sâmbok: It's in Bavel (ប៉ាវែល) District.
- Chhayrann: You were transferred to Bavel District. After the Vietnamese troops arrived there where did you escape to?
- Sâmbok: I did not escape. I just returned home.
- Chhayrann: You were transferred as far as Bavel District. Is that correct?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it is.
- Chhayrann: When the Vietnamese troops arrived, were you not sent somewhere else? Did you not attempt to escape?
- Sâmbok: I was told to go with them. But I did not go.
- Chhayrann: Did you escape from them?
- Sâmbok: Yes, I did.
- Chhayrann: At that time, did the other injured people who were with you join the Khmer Rouge or return to their homes?
- Sâmbok: Most of them returned to their homes.
- Chhayrann: When you were hospitalised in Hospital 98, were most of the patients injured like you or sick patients?

- Sâmbok: Most of them were the wounded soldiers.
- Chhayrann: Where did those injured patients come from?
- Sâmbok: They were brought from the General Staff hospital and from around the hospital.
- Chhayrann: Did the General Staff hospital belong to the Centre?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it did.
- Chhayrann: Do you know who the hospital chief was?
- Sâmbok: No, I don't.
- Chhayrann: How did you know that the hospital was the General Staff hospital?
- Sâmbok: I knew that because soldiers from all the divisions were sent there.
- Chhayrann: Which divisions sent soldiers to be treated at that hospital?
- Sâmbok: Division 920 did.
- Chhayrann: To whom did the Division 920 belong?
- Sâmbok: It was the Khmer Rouge division.
- Chhayrann: What level of division was it?
- Sâmbok: It was the division of the Centre.
- Sâmbok: Do you know who the Division 920 commander was?
- Chhayrann: No, I don't. In the past I knew. However, they had already been arrested.

- Sâmbok: Who was the commander?
- Chhayrann: Chhĭn (ឈឺន) was.
- Sâmbok: In what year was he the commander?
- Chhayrann: He was the commander at the same time as Oeun.
- Sâmbok: With regards to Chhĭn, was Division 920 integrated into the Centre or was it still in the North Zone?
- Chhayrann: It had already been integrated.
- Sâmbok: Did Division 310 belong to the zone or the Centre?
- Sâmbok: It belonged to the latter.
- Chhayrann: At the time this division launched attacks on Phnom Penh, was it integrated into the Centre?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it was.
- Chhayrann: What was the name of the Division 920 commander?
- Sâmbok: Chhĭn was.
- Chhayrann: Was there a deputy commander?
- Sâmbok: I don't recall it.
- Chhayrann: How many divisions were there in the Centre?
- Sâmbok: There were three divisions at the North Zone.
- Chhayrann: Were the three divisions from the North Zone also integrated into the Centre?

Sâmbok: Yes, they were.

Chhayrann: Which divisions were they?

Sâmbok: There was Division 450.

Chhayrann: Was Division 450 integrated into the Centre?

Sâmbok: Yes, it was.

Chhayrann: Who was the Division 450 commander?

Sâmbok: I do not know.

Chhayrann: What was another division that was integrated into the Centre?

Sâmbok: That was Division 310.

Chhayrann: How about Division 502?

Sâmbok: I heard about that division but I do not know how it fitted into the organisational structure.

Chhayrann: Was it the North Zone Division?

Sâmbok: It was the North Zone Division.

Chhayrann: What about Division 520?

Sâmbok: It was not included.

Chhayrann: Do you know how many divisions there were in the the Centre?

Sâmbok: No, I do not.

Chhayrann: Do you only know the North Zone Divisions?

- Sâmbok: Yes, I do.
- Chhayrann: When Oeun was accused of being a traitor, were arrests made at other divisions including Division 920?
- Sâmbok: Anyone who was associated with him was arrested. The arrests were carried in three divisions.
- Chhayrann: Were people from all three divisions arrested?
- Sâmbok: Yes, they were.
- Chhayrann: Do you not know who the Division 450 commander was?
- Sâmbok: No, I do not.
- Chhayrann: Was Chhĭn arrested at the same time as Ouen?
- Sâmbok: I do not know. Division 920 was stationed at Rattanakiri province.
- Chhayrann: Where was Division 450 stationed?
- Sâmbok: It was stationed near here, at Kab Srov.
- Chhayrann: At Khmuonh (ក្រុង), Division 920 was included in the Centre, but it was moved to Rattanakiri. Is that correct?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it is.
- Chhayrann: Did you ever hear about Division 801?
- Sâmbok: Yes, I did. But I do not know where it was based.
- Chhayrann: In 1979, how long did you stay in Bavel before returning home?
- Sâmbok: I stayed there for three to four days.

Chhayrann: When you returned, were you persecuted by the Vietnamese troops?

Sâmbok: Yes, I was.

Chhayrann: Can you tell me about that?

Sâmbok: I walked until I reached Siem Reap.

Chhayrann: Did you travel on foot?

Sâmbok: Yes, I did. I walked and sometimes got a ride on a Vietnamese truck.

Chhayrann: What happened next?

Sâmbok: When I arrived at Siem Reap I was arrested. I was sent jail.

Chhayrann: How long were you imprisoned?

Sâmbok: I was detained for a week.

Chhayrann: Why were you detained?

Sâmbok: I was accused of being in Khmer Rouge.

Chhayrann: How were you released?

Sâmbok: I was re-educated about their current policies.

Chhayrann: Were the Vietnamese soldiers involved in the re-education sessions?

Sâmbok: Yes, they were.

Chhayrann: Were there any interpreters?

Sâmbok: Yes, there were.

- Chhayrann: After that week in prison, you were released to return to your home village. How did you get home?
- Sâmbok: I went home on foot.
- Chhayrann: How long did it take you to reach home?
- Sâmbok: It took me about two weeks. In total the trip took about a month to include the time spent in Battambang too.
- Chhayrann: When you arrived at your home village, did you see your relatives?
- Sâmbok: Yes, I did. We met each other. However, we had lost one person.
- Chhayrann: Only one person had disappeared. Were both your parents still alive?
- Sâmbok: Yes, they were.
- Chhayrann: When did you get married?
- Sâmbok: I got married in 1984.
- Chhayrann: What is your wife's name?
- Sâmbok: Her name is LATT Saboeun (ឡាត់ សាប៊ុន)
- Chhayrann: Is her name LATT Savoeun (ឡាត់ សាវៀន)?
- Sâmbok: No, it isn't. Her name is LATT Saboeun.
- Chhai Răn : You have survived the Khmer Rouge regime and you were also injured, what is your opinion of the Khmer Rouge regime?
- Sâmbok: It was a totalitarian regime; it was a regime of genocide.
- Chhayrann: Why do you say that?

Sâmbok: People were killed all over the places.

Chhayrann: Did you witness the killings first-hand?

Sâmbok: Yes, I did.

Chhayrann: When did you see it?

Sâmbok: I saw it when I was at the East Zone.

Chhayrann: When did you witness the killing?

Sâmbok: I saw it a long time ago.

Cassette 2

Part A

Chhayrann: When you heard that the East Zone had created the traitorous plot, had Oeun been arrested yet?

Sâmbok: Yes, he had.

Chhayrann: How long was it after he had been arrested that you heard about it?

Sâmbok: I was sent to the battlefield. I saw it first-hand.

Chhayrann: When you were sent you to fight in 1978, did you learn then that the East Zone had been traitors?

Sâmbok: Yes, I did. I saw them being arrested.

Chhayrann: Did you see the arrests being carried at the West Zone?

Sâmbok: Yes, I did.

- Chhayrann: Who was the East Zone Secretary at that time?
- Sâmbok: SAO Phïm (ស៊ីម ភីម) was.
- Chhayrann: Did you know or ever met him?
- Sâmbok: No, I did not. I only heard of him.
- Chhayrann: When you were sent to fight, were you sent to fight SAO Phïm?
- Sâmbok: I was sent to fight the Vietnamese troops.
- Chhayrann: Do you know the reasons why SAO Phïm was accused of being a traitor?
- Sâmbok: No, I don't. But his armed forces were fighting the Khmer Rouge. At that time, there was internal fighting amongst the Khmer Rouge.
- Chhayrann: How was SAO Phïm arrested in 1978?
- Sâmbok: After SAO Phïm was arrested his armed forces were also arrested.
- Chhayrann: You talked about the killings. Did you see the killings first-hand?
- Sâmbok: Yes, I did.
- Chhayrann: How did that happened?
- Sâmbok: People were beaten to death.
- Chhayrann: Where did you witness that?
- Sâmbok: I saw the killings in Ta Hiv (ហ៊ីវ) Village.
- Chhayrann: In what district was it?

- Sâmbok: It was in Suong District.
- Chhayrann: How many people were killed at the East Zone?
- Sâmbok: About 200 or 300 people were killed.
- Chhayrann: Were they killed at the same time? How were they killed?
- Sâmbok: They were clubbed to death.
- Chhayrann: What kind of tools used for the killings?
- Sâmbok: I think the piece of axel from an ox-cart was used as the tool for the killings.
- Chhayrann: Were the East Zone people civilians or soldiers?
- Sâmbok: They were soldiers.
- Chhayrann: Who killed the East Zone people?
- Sâmbok: Soldiers from the Centre did.
- Chhayrann: What division was in the West Zone?
- Sâmbok: Division 207 was.
- Chhayrann: The Division 310 soldiers went to kill the East Zone soldiers. Is that correct?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it is.
- Chhayrann: Do you mean that soldier from your division went to kill them?
- Sâmbok: Yes, I do.
- Chhayrann: How many times did you witness them killing the West Zone soldiers?

- Sâmbok: I only saw it once.
- Chhayrann: Were 200 people killed at one time?
- Sâmbok: Yes, they were. Truckloads of people were killed.
- Chhayrann: Where were they burried?
- Sâmbok: I don't recall it. It was somewhere around here.
- Chhayrann: Apart from the West Zone soldiers, did you ever other people being killed?
- Sâmbok: No, I did not. I was sent back from the battlefield.
- Chhayrann: How many times did you actually witness the killings?
- Sâmbok: I saw it only once.
- Chhayrann: Because you saw this, you call the Khmer Rouge regime the regime of genocide. Since you are a survivor of the regime, have you ever told these stories to your children or grandchildren?
- Sâmbok: No, I didn't. I think we do not need to tell them the stories as they should be heard to them already from the elderly.
- Chhayrann: Why have you not told them the stories?
- Sâmbok: I do not want to tell them more than saying that during the Khmer Rouge regime our lives were miserable.
- Chhayrann: When you told your children and grandchildren the stories, did they believe you?
- Sâmbok: They did not witness it themselves; they might not have believed me.
- Chhayrann: Do you not think that they believed you?

- Sâmbok: No, I don't. They may not have believed me. I think that the next generation will not believe in it anymore.
- Chhayrann: Based on your opinion, what can we do to make the next generation believe in the existence of the Khmer Rouge regime?
- Sâmbok: We should write the history for them to learn.
- Chhayrann: What do you think we need to do to make the younger generation interested in learning about Khmer Rouge history?
- Sâmbok: Encourage all Cambodians to learn to live together peacefully.
- Chhayrann: Are you saying that we need to prevent the regime from re-occurring?
- Sâmbok: Yes, I am.
- Chhayrann: Have you ever heard on the news about the Khmer Rouge tribunal?
- Sâmbok: Yes, I have. I only heard some rumours about it. I do not know when they will sentence them.
- Chhayrann: What did you hear?
- Sâmbok: I heard that they would put the Khmer Rouge leaders on trials. That is all I know.
- Chhayrann: What is your personal opinin about the establishment of the Khmer Rouge tribunal?
- Sâmbok: I am very pleased to hear that.
- Chhayrann: Do you want the court to be established?
- Sâmbok: Yes, I do.
- Chhayrann: Why do you want the court to be established?

- Sâmbok: I want to see justice. I want to know who is guilty and who is not.
- Chhayrann: If the court puts all the leaders on trials and if they are found guilty how do you want the court to punish them?
- Sâmbok: We should ask people their ideas about that. Personally, I feel a lot of bitterness towards them.
- Chhayrann: Do you mean that, if they kill people, they deserve to be killed?
- Sâmbok: Yes, I do.
- Chhayrann: If those leaders are sentenced to life imprisonment, would you accept that?
- Sâmbok: A sentence of life imprisonment is as serious as executed capital punishment already..
- Chhayrann: Based on your opinion, if the court only condemns the high level leaders and it does not put the low level leaders on trials, do you think it is fair and just?
- Sâmbok: It is difficult to say what should happen. The orders were from the high level leaders.
- Chhayrann: In your opinion, they were just following orders from the high level leaders. Is that correct?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it is. However some people abused those orders. They were drunk with power.
- Chhayrann: Did you ever visit your home while you worked for the Khmer Rouge?
- Sâmbok: No, I did not.
- Chhayrann: Did you ever write a letter home?
- Sâmbok: No, I did not.

- Chhayrann: Did you ever make a request to visit your home?
- Sâmbok: Yes, I did. But I was never given permission to visit home.
- Chhayrann: Did you ask permission after the fall of Phnom Penh?
- Sâmbok: Yes, I did.
- Chhayrann: What do you think about the term ‘justice’?
- Sâmbok: Justice means fairness.
- Chhayrann: I have no more questions. Do you have anything else you want to add?
- Sâmbok: No, I do not. I entered the jungle once again to join the resistance movement. I joined the *Samdech* Sihanouk army.
- Chhayrann: Did you join the Khmer freedom fighters?
- Sâmbok: Yes, I did.
- Chhayrann: Why did you do that?
- Sâmbok: We love monarchy.
- Chhayrann: That is why you joined the movement again. Is that correct?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it is.
- Chhayrann: In what year did you return home?
- Sâmbok: I came home in 1993.
- Chhayrann: Was it during the General Elections?
- Sâmbok: Yes, it was.

Chhayrann: Thank you very much.

Sâmbok: You are welcome.