

FROM: Det 6, 38th Air Rescue Sq, APO US FORCES 96227 10 Nov 65

SUBJECT: Mission Narrative Report-38-1112-8 Nov 65
(Second Mission Summary - 5 saves)

TO: 38th Air Rescue Sq, APO US FORCES 96307

THRU: Det 6, 38th Air Rescue Sq (Commander), APO US FORCES 96227

1. Mission number: 38-1112-8 Nov 65.
2. SAR alerted by: Rescue Coordination Center, 38th Air Rescue Squadron.
3. Type SAR aircraft used: One (1) HH-43F helicopter.

Crew:

RCC	Captain Charles P. Nadler	Det 6, 38th ARS
CP	Captain Maurice G. Kessler	Det 6, 38th ARS
HM	TSgt Kenneth L. Perkins	Det 6, 38th ARS
RS	A1C Henry J. O'Beirne	Det 6, 38th ARS

4. Reaction time from initial notification to first pickup: Mission preplanned on 8 Nov 65 to allow a 0600 takeoff on 9 Nov 65.
5. CAP assistance: Two (2) U.S. Army armed UH-1B helicopters.
6. Area and type of pickups: Recoveries made using rescue hoist, stokes litter and forest penetrator from very hostile heavily wooded jungle area with trees 150-180 feet high. Coordinates 1107 N. 10656 E.
7. Signaling equipment used to locate wounded evacuees: Smoke grenades.
8. Survivors names and serial numbers: Neither available or possible to determine.
9. Summary of events:

On the evening of 8 Nov 65, Major Bliss of the US Army 173rd Airborne Brigade requested that we land at the Third MASH Hospital in the 173rd AB area north of the Bien Hoa runway at 0605. We did so and were briefed on radio frequencies, artillery firing and cover aircraft. We departed the area with four soldiers, two chain saws and gasoline at 0615. We arrived in the area of YT 115-305 at 0625 and followed a UH-1B over the hole in the jungle where the pickups were to be made. We encountered tracer fire which passed some 50 feet to our left. We broke to the right and descended to tree top height over the hole. Four soldiers and their equipment were lowered in five hoist operations using the forest penetrator. The stokes litter was then lowered and a badly wounded soldier was hoisted into the helicopter. This constituted our first save. We returned him to the 3rd MASH hospital, picked up 4 more soldiers and

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returned to the hole. Personnel on the ground succeeded in enlarging the hole so that we were able to descend vertically 180 feet and land. We offloaded the soldiers, loaded 4 more seriously wounded soldiers into the helicopter (two of whom were saves), took off and landed at the 3rd MASH hospital. We loaded water cans aboard the helicopter and made a third trip into the hole, evacuating six soldiers. We flew to 3rd MASH hospital with the wounded. On the fourth trip into the hole, we evacuated the last four wounded soldiers. We offloaded them at 3rd MASH hospital and refueled the helicopter at Bien Hoa AB. We departed Bien Hoa at 1000 and were diverted to YT 157-264 to pick up Australian wounded. Two Stokes litters were lowered through 100 foot trees and one seriously wounded soldier was picked up. We offloaded him at a collection point from where UH-1B's flew wounded and KIA's to Saigon and Bien Hoa 3rd MASH hospital. This man constituted our fourth save. We made a second trip to the same area, picked up a second wounded Australian soldier, and flew him to the collection point. On the third trip into the area, we lowered our pararescue technician to the ground on the forest penetrator. He rode up with the third wounded Australian and informed us that there were no more wounded in that area. We offloaded that soldier at the collection point and proceeded to YT 115-305 to pick up some KIA's. As we were about to enter the hole, we were asked to pick up three litters at the collection point and bring them with us into the hole so that the KIA's would be removed. After loading the KIA's, we were told that one more wounded man was being carried into the area and would arrive in fifteen minutes. I decided to wait for him and when he arrived, he was promptly loaded and taken to 3rd MASH hospital. This soldier was our fifth save. We offloaded the KIA's at the clearing station and returned to our landing area at Bien Hoa AB at 1155.

We flew a total of twenty five sorties for five hours and ten minutes and picked up 19 wounded and three KIA's. We made a total of six hoist operations with the forest penetrator and three with the Stokes litter. We transported 8 soldiers and 400 pounds of equipment into the hole. We are credited with five saves.

I strongly suggest that the HH-43F be equipped with the high speed hoist so as to reduce the length of time in a hover. Hoist operations and rescues would be made in less time thus allowing the helicopter greater fuel reserve and range. It also reduces the time that the helicopter is very vulnerable to enemy ground fire.


CHARLES P. NADLER
Captain, USAF
Rescue Crew Commander

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<u>MISSIONS</u>	<u>NUMBER OF SORTIES(ARS)</u>	<u>OBJECTIVES</u>	<u>TYPES AND NR</u> <u>ARS ACFT LOST</u>	<u>ARS MENWIA ,</u> <u>KIA, MIA</u>
38-1110-6 Nov 65	4	1 F105 Pilot 2 A1E Pilots 4 CH3C crew 4 SH3 crew	1 Ch-3C	3 MIA 1 WIA
38-1111-7 Nov 65	1	1 A4C Pilot		
38-1114-8 Nov 65	71	106 Btl Cas*		
PROV 1-1-14 Nov 65	5	Accid. Vict.		
38-1138-17 Nov 65	2	1 F8E Pilot		
38-1141-18 Nov 65	3	1 F105 Pilot		
7-671-21 Nov 65	2	UNK C-123		
38-1167-26 Nov 65	2	6 UH1B crew		
38-1174-28 Nov 65	2	1 F8E Pilot		
38-1188-2 Dec 65	4	2 F4B crew		
38-1220-15 Dec 65	3	1 F105 Pilot		
38-1236-20 Dec 65	2	1 F105 Pilot		
38-1239-21 Dec 65	3	1 F105 Pilot		

*Battle Field Casualty evacuation.

31. Key personnel assigned. (U) 38th Air Rescue Squadron

Col Arthur W. Beall	Commander 26
Lt Col James L. Blackburn	Operations Officer
Lt Col Donald F. Karschner	Chief JSARC
Maj Franklin H. Roberts	Chief of Maintenance
1st Lt James R. Haug	Supply Officer
CWO W-4 Earl A. Wilson Jr.	Administrative Services Officer

Det Prov First, 38ARS, Cam Ranh Bay AB, RVN Capt Richard C. Pfadenhaur, Cmdr 27
Det 2, 38ARS, Taklii AB, Thailand, Capt Edwin J. Christy, Cmdr 27
Det 3, 38ARS, Ubon AB, Thailand, Capt Henry P. Fogg, Cmdr 27
Det 4, 38ARS, Korat AB, Thailand, Capt Jerome R. Luttinger, Cmdr 27
Det 5, 38ARS, Udorn AB, Thailand, Major Baylor R. Haynes, Cmdr 27
Det 6, 38ARS, Bien Hoa AB, RVN, Major Maurice G. Kessler, Cmdr 29
Det 7, 38ARS, Danang AB, RVN, Major Charles E. Hamrick, Cmdr 28
Det 9, 38ARS, Pleiku AB, RVN, Capt Richard R. Cowles, Cmdr 27
Det 10, 38ARS, Bien Thuy AB, RVN, Capt Ervin L. Schaefer, Cmdr 30

26 Atch 1
27 Atch 5
28 Atch 3
29 Atch 8
30 Atch 9

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to the Navy helicopter landing scene and picked up the remaining two crewmembers. In order to hover it was necessary to dump fuel which precluded its continuing on to the CH-3C bailout area. The two Navy survivors were taken to Udorn. On the morning of Nov 8, a first light search was initiated in the CH-3C bailout area. Several passes were made and no ground fire was observed by the A1E's that were receiving a beeper. However, as more aircraft entered the area to attempt to pinpoint the beeper heavy ground fire erupted. Two A1E's were hit and had to withdraw; both landed safely at Udorn. Due to the intensity of the ground fire, the further recovery of survivors was deemed to be not feasible without additional losses. The mission was suspended on 8 Nov. The missing CH-3C crewmembers are: Capt Warren Lilly, 1Lt Jerry Singleton, and SSgt Arthur Cornier. 20

18. 3SARS-1111-7 Nov 65 (U). On 7 Nov 65, Lt Cmdr Charles Wack's A4E was hit by ground fire while pulling out of a dive over his target. He immediately headed toward the coast, and about 12 miles out over the Gulf of Tonkin he ejected. The distress call on guard channel was monitored by the HU-16 pilot 1Lt Joseph Kirby, who immediately headed for the bail out site. The HU-16 crew spotted the pilot approximately 15 minutes later, and noted a junk fleet one half mile from the downed pilots raft. The external fuel tanks were jettisoned, and a water landing made. The downed pilot was brought aboard the HU-16 just 17 minutes after his distress call went out. The uninjured pilot was taken to Danang AB.

19. 3SARS-1114-8 Nov 65 (C). At 1230H on 8 Nov, a request for MED EVAC of battle casualties was received. A large scale operation was taking place and over 100 casualties were reported. Rescue helicopters from both Bien Hoa and Tan Son Nhut were utilized in this recovery operation that was to run two days. The recovery site was a heavily wooded jungle area with trees 150 to 180 feet high. There were no clear areas, so all of the wounded had to be picked up from a high hover. A rescue technician was lowered into the pick up point with a chain saw to make a landing zone but the saw malfunctioned. Of the 71 sorties flown by the HH-43's during the two days the following was typical. They were escorted in by armed UH-1B's and waited in a high hover until the "Hueys" had made several firing passes to suppress VC ground fire. The "Hueys" received hits while performing this task. When they felt they had silenced the opposition, the HH-43's were directed in. While hovering over the 180 foot trees, the rescue technician lowered the stokes litter threading it through the tree branches. The casualties were picked up and taken to a forward aid station, and ammunitions and C-rations were taken in on the return journey. During the course of the operation the HH-43's recovered fifty personnel, of whom 20 were saves. In addition 3 cases of ammunition, 2 cases of TNT, 10 cases of medical supplies and 30 cases of C-rations were taken into the battle area. 21

20 Append 5 page 12

21 Append 6 page 11

TO: Det 6, 38th Air Rescue Sq, APO US FORCES 96227 10 Nov 65

SUBJECT: Mission Narrative Report-38-1112-3 Nov 65
(Second Mission Summary - 3 saves)

FROM: 38th Air Rescue Sq, APO US FORCES 96307

THRU: Det 6, 38th Air Rescue Sq (Commander), APO US FORCES 96227

1. Mission number: 38-1112-3 Nov 65.
2. SAR alerted by: Rescue Coordination Center, 38th Air Rescue Squadron.
3. Type SAR aircraft used: One (1) HH-43F helicopter.

Crew:

BCC	Captain Charles F. Madler	Det 6, 38th ARS
CP	Captain Maurice G. Kessler	Det 6, 38th ARS
HM	TSgt Kenneth L. Perkins	Det 6, 38th ARS
RS	A1C Henry J. O'Saurna	Det 6, 38th ARS

4. Reaction time from initial notification to first pickup: Mission preplanned on 8 Nov 65 to allow a 0600 takeoff on 9 Nov 65.

5. CAP assistance: Two (2) U.S. Army armed UH-1B helicopters.

6. Area and type of pickups: Recoveries made using rescue hoist, Stokes litter and forest penetrator from very hostile heavily wooded jungle area with trees 150-200 feet high. Coordinates 1107 N, 10656 E.

7. Signaling equipment used to locate wounded enemies: Smoke grenades.

8. Survivors names and serial numbers: Neither available or possible to determine.

9. Summary of events:

On the evening of 8 Nov 65, Major Elias of the US Army 173rd Airborne Brigade requested that we land at the Third MASH Hospital in the 173rd AB area north of the Bien Hoa runway at 0605. We did so and were briefed on radio frequencies, artillery firing and cover aircraft. We departed the area with four soldiers, two chain saws and gasoline at 0615. We arrived in the area of YT 115-305 at 0625 and followed a UH-1B over the hole in the jungle where the pickups were to be made. We encountered intense fire which passed some 50 feet to our left. We broke to the right and descended to tree top height over the hole. Four soldiers and their equipment were lowered in five hoist operations using the forest penetrator. The Stokes litter was then lowered and a badly wounded soldier was hoisted into the helicopter. This constituted our first save. We returned him to the 3rd MASH hospital, picked up 4 more soldiers and

ORIGINATOR (Typed Name and Grade)

ACTION/REMARKS

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TYPIST'S INITIALS

DATE PREPARED

Return to action agency for signature if checked

NOTE: FORM 110 PREVIOUS EDITIONS MAY BE USED

COORDINATION SHEET

returned to the hole. Personnel on the ground succeeded in enlarging the hole so that we were able to descend vertically 180 feet and land. We offloaded the soldiers, loaded 4 more seriously wounded soldiers into the helicopter (two of whom were saves), took off and landed at the 3rd MASH hospital. We loaded water cans aboard the helicopter and made a third trip into the hole, evacuating six soldiers. We flew to 3rd MASH hospital with the wounded. On the fourth trip into the hole, we evacuated the last four wounded soldiers. We offloaded them at 3rd MASH hospital and refueled the helicopter at Bien Hoa AB. We departed Bien Hoa at 1000 and were diverted to YT 157-264 to pick up Australian wounded. Two stokes litters were lowered through 100 foot trees and one seriously wounded soldier was picked up. We offloaded him at a collection point from where UH-1B's flew wounded and KIA's to Saigon and Bien Hoa 3rd MASH hospital. This man constituted our fourth save. We made a second trip to the same area, picked up a second wounded Australian soldier, and flew him to the collection point. On the third trip into the area, we lowered our parascue technician to the ground on the forest penetrator. He rode up with the third wounded Australian and informed us that there were no more wounded in that area. We offloaded that soldier at the collection point and proceeded to YT 115-505 to pick up some KIA's. As we were about to enter the hole, we were asked to pick up three litters at the collection point and bring them with us into the hole so that the KIA's would be removed. After loading the KIA's, we were told that one more wounded man was being carried into the area and would arrive in fifteen minutes. I decided to wait for him and when he arrived, he was promptly loaded and taken to 3rd MASH hospital. This soldier was our fifth save. We offloaded the KIA's at the clearing station and returned to our landing area at Bien Hoa AB at 1155.

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CHARLES P. MADLER
Captain, USAF
Rescue Crew Commander

ORIGINATOR (Typed Name and Grade)

ACTION AGENCY

PHONE NUMBER

TYPIST'S INITIALS

DATE PREPARED

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

TO

HENRY J. O'BEIRNE

Airman First Class Henry J. O'Beirne distinguished himself by heroism while participating in aerial flight as rescue specialist at War Zone "D", Republic of Vietnam on 9 November 1965. On that date, Airman O'Beirne played a decisive role in the rescue of 18 severely wounded United States and Royal Australian Army personnel from dense jungle. He hoisted four armed soldiers with chain saws through 180 foot trees to the jungle floor. When the area was cleared and the helicopter was landed, Airman O'Beirne loaded the helicopter with wounded. He then remained on the ground for some two hours to assist in caring for other wounded personnel. At least five lives were positively saved on this rescue operation. During the entire five hours and teen minutes mission, the crew was continually exposed to ground and artillery fire. The outstanding heroism and selfless devotion to duty displayed by Airman O'Beirne reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

