

'OTHERS MAY LIVE'

*Picked up
Capt. Holts*

Air Rescue Men Hailed As Heroes

By LESTER BELL

Century News Service

WASHINGTON — Its motto is "that others may live" and it will dare anyone in and around Viet Nam to prove it's an idle slogan.

Reports of the Air Rescue Service reaching the Pentagon depict Air Force men snatching comrades from the hands of pursuing enemy troops, out of trackless jungles and from the open sea.

Some air rescue teams have died that others may live. In its four years in Viet Nam, the members of the service have earned more than 350 decorations, not a few awarded posthumously.

PRESIDENT'S CITATION

At last count, they had rescued more than 255 men in the combat zone, more than half (128) since January. Of that number, 134 were air crew members and 121 other combat personnel.

President Johnson was so impressed with the record of the 38th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, he gave the outfit the presidential unit citation early this year for extraordinary gallantry in the Vietnamese military operations.

"Because the men of the 38th have risked their lives so that their comrades may live," Mr. Johnson said, "they join that company of the valiant to whom we all owe our freedom and our national honor."

As if spurred to even greater daring by the award, Air Rescue sent a helicopter 80 miles northwest of Hanoi last May 10 for its deepest rescue penetration of the war into North Viet Nam.

Capt. Robert D. Furman of Great Falls, Mont., and his crew went after an Air Force

F-105 pilot shot down near the North Vietnamese capital. They picked him up within two hours after he had parachuted from his disabled plane.

EVADE MIGs

To reach friendly lines, the helicopter and three prop-driven A-1E planes flying cover had to evade three Communist jet MIG-17s armed with Sidewinder-type missiles.

Enemy troops almost had captured a Marine F-4B pilot last April 21 when an Air Rescue helicopter hoisted him aboard. Even then, the helicopter did not leave because the radio operator had suffered a broken leg during the bailout from his disabled plane and was in danger on the ground.

The helicopter lowered a paramedic to help the radioman, but ground fire wounded the hoist operator and forced the helicopter to withdraw. Another helicopter attempting a pickup was hit by ground fire and retired.

Cover planes finally pinned down the Communists, but by then the helicopter lost contact with the downed men.

MIRROR SIGNALS

The radioman later managed to catch the helicopter's attention with mirror signals and was rescued. The paramedic was found uninjured the next day by another rescue helicopter.

Two rescue helicopters flew through flak April 20 to reach a downed F-105 pilot 50 miles west of Dong Hoi in North Viet Nam and in another April recovery, an Air Rescue amphibian landed on the open sea in the Gulf of Tonkin to pick up the two-man crew from a Navy A-6A.

Viet Communique

SAIGON — Air Force pilots kept up their heavy pace against North Vietnam in the week ending June 10, ripping roadways, rail lines, barges, bridges, ferry complexes and fords.

Pilots reported setting off 22 secondary explosions and starting 15 fires in one day's action in the North. Supply and storage areas around Dong Hoi figured heavily in the 90 targets blasted by the F-105s, F-4Cs and B-57s flying 43 missions.

A day earlier, 16 secondary explosions were set off, 13 in the Dong Hoi vicinity. Three radar sites were among the damaged areas. One rail line was cut in three places and box cars riddled by F-105s and F-100s.

On the same day, an HH-3C rescued Capt. James C. Holts, an F-105 pilot who suffered a broken leg after parachuting. The rescue scene was about 25 miles southwest of Dong Hoi. Pararescueman A2C Lavern W. Kellerman assisted Holts in the rescue.

In the South, Air Force pilots closed the week by destroying or damaging almost 100 VC-held buildings. Eight F-4Cs were credited with damaging or destroying 45 buildings in raids 25 miles south of Da Nang. In raids 40 miles northwest of Saigon, F-100 pilots were credited with destroying or damaging 50 or more buildings.

Earlier, A-1E pilots were credited with killing 20 or more VC while flying close air support for Operation Crazy Horse, a 1st Cav. mission in the South.

Forward Air Controllers, who averaged about 70 missions a day during the week, credited two F-100 pilots with killing possibly 25 or more VC in a raid in the Mekong Delta. On the same day, an HH-43 of Det. 6, 38th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Sq., Bien Hoa AB, was shot down while trying to evacuate wounded soldiers of the Army's 1st Infantry Div.

A second copter, commanded by Capt. Charles P. Nadler, flew cover and picked up some of the wounded soldiers. Later, the downed helicopter crew was picked up. The rescue was the unit's 202d pickup since it arrived in Bien Hoa last October. This year, it has rescued 85 men.

C-130s of the 315th Air Div set a one-day mark for cargo and passenger tonnage to South Vietnam, Col. Charles W. Hawe, 315th chief, announced.

In one day, C-130 crews airlifted 1899 tons, up 219 tons from the last reported high in April.

In other milestones, F-100s of the 308th Tactical Fighter Sq. completed six months of combat, and the 311th Air Commando Sq., flying C-123s out of Da Nang, passed the 50,000 mark in combat sorties. The 311th arrived here in 1963.

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