

JULY 24

19

Handles

Sgt. Montgall called me up from
V. down this morning and told
me we got a ~~thru~~ in that
Berry died yesterday. It's
funny how a guy risks his
life and gets shot at only to
die from a disease. He'll be
greatly missed by all that knew
him. He was one of the better
ones.

19 Laotian T28 went down 37
miles from here by gunfire. No
trace of him.

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JULY 25

19 HIGH BIRD NXP

J.G. OUT OF 36 GOT A PICK-UP
TODAY. MARINE HOEY WENT DOWN OUT
OF DANANG. J.G.'S PICKED UP TWO
19 OF THE CREW. EVERYTHING PRETTY
CONFUSED OVER RADIO.

A 26 CRASHED 1 1/2 SHORT OF
THE RUNWAY HERE AT 12 LAST

19 NIGHT AFTER RETURNING FROM A
SEARCH + DESTROY IN MU GIA PASS.

BOTH PILOTS DEAD. NOBODY KNOWS
WHY THEY CRASHED. WE COULDN'T GET

19 TO THEM TIL 2 IN THE MORNING
BECAUSE OF THE RAIN + MUD.

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MEN, JULY 18

19 OFF.

Found out today that
Berry has Malaria instead of
Hepatitis. He won't be back
they say. We're really short
on P.J's.

Tried to find Tina + Jim
something for their birthday
but no luck.

Berry has Black Water
fever and they shipped him
to Clark. Heard he was
really sick.

JULY 19

19 HIGH BIRD NKP

SCRAMBLED ON F105 JACK WHO
PUNCHED OUT 65 NW OF HERE.
PICKED HIM UP. NO FIRE. PILOT
19 GOOD SHAPE. RETURNED TO UDORN
TO REFUEL. WEATHER TOO BAD TO
GET TO NKP. STAYED AT UDORN.

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bat saves. Rescue was one of the the Department of Defense.

the full with glorious action, risks, is worth whole years of petty decorum in which silence like sluggish waters either honor or observation.

lter Scott

made by pararescuemen is e Vietnam War Memorial. But l the story of the events immedi- men. The following does.

N FIRST CLASS JAMES E. from the 33rd ARRS, Naha AB, he Gulf of Tonkin, North Vietnam YDAY from an F-4 fighter pilot



Airman First Class
James E. Plieman

badly wounded, helps save the F- r Force Cross. Airman Plieman is his life in the war.

FIRST CLASS WILLIAM H. I-43Fs from Detachment 6, 38th e launched to evacuate wounded :fight thirty-three miles southeast.

Pedro 73, on which Airman

evacuate more wounded and pick up Airman Pitsenbarger. While en route, '73 is advised that enemy activities have intensified and the area was hot. Just as '73 lowers another Stokes litter, it receives heavy small arms fire, causing the pilot to immediately guillotine the hoist cable and break away. Heavily damaged, '73 makes it safely to Binh Ba, but enemy fire is so intense no other aircraft can return to the site. From Army survivors, glowing reports of Pitts' heroism emerge. Constantly throughout the night, while sustaining mortar attacks and deadly sniper fire, Pitts moves amongst the wounded, rendering medical aid and distributing weapons and ammunition, often becoming a human shield as he drags the more seriously injured to the relative safety of the inner perimeter. In the morning, after a night of intense firefights, another Pedro returns to a now quiet battle site. A1C Harry O'Beirne is lowered by hoist to evacuate the few remaining survivors. He finds Pitts lying across a deceased soldier to whom he had been administering medical aid. In his hand is his weapon, aiming out into the now-silent jungle. Airman Pitsenbarger is awarded the Air Force Cross posthumously. He becomes the first publicly announced enlisted recipient of the Cross in its history. (See A3C **Arthur N. Black** in the **Prisoners of War** section)

12 July 1966 - STAFF SERGEANT ROBERT L. BERRY.

Sergeant Berry dies in Thailand.

He is assigned to the HH-3 Jolly Green Giant squadron at Udorn RTAFB shortly after its arrival to Thailand. The unit's mission takes it into the remote mountainous regions of Laos, where it stages out of a highly classified CIA-controlled site, and performs rescues deep into North Vietnam and enemy-held Laos. Living conditions are primitive, rudimentary at best. It is believed Bob contracts Black Water Fever while serving at one such site.



Staff Sergeant Robert L. Berry

18 October 1966 - AIRMAN SECOND CLASS STEVEN H. ADAMS. The HU-16, on which Airman Adams is a crewmember, departs its base under marginal weather conditions to fly a routine SAR patrol over the Gulf of Tonkin. The weather continues to deteriorate, and eventually, the crew fails to report in on a routine radio check. When condi-



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS PACIFIC AIR FORCES
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96553

SPECIAL ORDER
G-286

26 September 1966

1. DP, each of the following individuals is awarded the Silver Star for gallantry while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force on dates indicated;

MAJOR ROOSEVELT HESTLE, JR.,
6 July 1966

MAJOR WILLIAM P ROBINSON,
29 June 1966

MAJOR RICHARD D WESTCOTT,
29 June 1966

CAPTAIN ROBERT P BATEMAN,
9 March 1966

CAPTAIN JESSE M COUCH,
18 May 1966

CAPTAIN LARRY N FEALY,
31 May 1966

CAPTAIN DONALD V HARNAGE,
9 March 1966

CAPTAIN PETER LORENZO, JR.,
9 March 1966

CAPTAIN CHARLES E MORGAN,
6 July 1966

CAPTAIN FRANKLIN C MOYER,
9 March 1966

CAPTAIN BOBBY L NORMAN,
24 June 1966

1ST LT LARRY N LOONEY,
31 May 1966

TSGT SPENCE C HEYWOOD,
22 May 1966

SSGT ROBERT L BERRY, JR.,
22 April 1966

G-286