

Maj Gerald T. Dwyer was an O-2A Nail forward air control (FAC) pilot with the 23rd Tactical
21May68

Air Support Squadron at Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai AFB, Thailand ...flying in defense of
MCAS - Khe Sanh.

Flying as call sign Nail 55, Dwyer was on a combat mission over the extreme western end of the
A Sầu Valley on 21 May 1968.

Suddenly, a PAVN 37mm AAA projectile (of the Strategic Transportation Group 559, HCM
Trail logistics system) struck his aircraft and blew 🌟 off one of his Skymaster's wings.

As the aircraft began to tumble-∩-flutter down, Major Dwyer released the aircraft's crew door
and dove out the open hole. He pulled the ripcord and was rewarded by the shock of his opening
parachute. \ 🧑 /

While in his descent, Dwyer received small arms fire from enemy troops on the ground.

Dwyer landed without injury and discarded his parachute to begin escape-&-evasion in a ravine
from which there was no escape.

Within minutes, he was being pursued by five heavily armed enemy soldiers.

He made contact with search-&-rescue forces on his survival radio (243.0 MHz) but the 559th's
antiaircraft (AAA) fire was too intense for a helicopter pickup.

Major Dwyer continued to evade in the Laotian jungle until he was instructed to ignite a smoke-
flare in preparation for helicopter pickup.

His pursuers attacked him with rifle fire, pistol fire, and hand-grenades.

Dwyer then killed three of the PAVN attackers with his S&W .38-caliber survival revolver.

Jerry's frontal-assault terrified the remaining two soldiers, who were then dispatched by an air
strike.

Dwyer was rescued by helicopter.



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It was the second time in two months that he had been shot down.

📖 Subsequently, Jerry co-authored the book **NAIL '67-68** with colleague Pat Sweeney,
describing their initiatives while flying as FACs over some of the most highly defended areas in
Southeast Asia.

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