

SUPPORTING DOCUMENT 1

MISSION ON UH1H AT CAMP HOLLOWAY, EYEWITNESS STATEMENT

On 6 December 1969 at 1400 hours Pleiku Tower notified Rescue Operations that an Army UH1H had crashed one-quarter mile south of Pleiku Air Base. Pedro 98 launched at 1405 hours.

After Pedro 98 was airborne radio contact was established with Camp Holloway tower and was advised that the crashed aircraft was in the POL area.

Flying over the area it was observed that Camp Holloway's crash trucks and a number of people were searching around the burning Huey wreckage. Some people were trying to get into the aircraft. Major Gordon maneuvered close to the aircraft, released the FSK and landed to disperse the two firemen and PJ near the aircraft crash. Advancing toward the crash scene Pararescueman Palmer was advised that survivors were alright and being evacuated to 71st Hospital, and that it was feared that one or more persons were still trapped inside. TSgt Sonnenberg realized that not much of an effort had been made to search the crash so he directed the other fireman Sgt Giove, and the PJ in crash entry procedures. They finally determined that no other persons were trapped inside. The 7.62 ammunition and rockets on the Huey were cooking off all around the fireman and PJ.

Det 9, 38ARRSq Hist, Oct - Dec 69

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The crewmembers were:

AC Major Robert C. Gordon

CP Captain Arthur A. May

FF TSgt Norman L. Sonnenberg

FF Sgt Joseph L. Giove

PJ SSgt Larry E. Palmer

SUPPORTING DOCUMENT # 21

THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS
(SECOND OAK LEAF CLUSTER)

TO

EUGENE L. NARDI

Staff Sergeant Eugene L. Nardi distinguished himself by heroism while participating in aerial flight as a Rescue Specialist on an HH-3E near Quang Tri, Republic of Vietnam, on 6 December 1969. On that date, Sergeant Nardi confidently rendered suppressive fire from vulnerable positions inside the aircraft while the aircraft was attempting a rescue. Sergeant Nardi's quick actions to aid another crewman and his evaluation of hostile groundfire were essential in the aircraft exiting from the hostile environment. The outstanding heroism and selfless devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant Nardi reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.