

28Jan70 Jolly shoots down MiG

Thanks for the fast reply to my dues question.

Below is the information I have on the supposed shoot down of a Mig by a Jolly Green. I was not able to find any official information on this event in any SAR mission reports or unit histories.

I would be reluctant to publish this event in any book that relies on primary source material. All we have are two oral histories. It begs the questions about why they did not write it in the post mission report that they did submit on their SAR. Plus the North Vietnamese (oops!! I meant the Socialist Republic of Vietnam) have published lists of all MiG's shot down during the war. Plus why did not the Sandy's or King bird not notice the shootdown and then put it in their SAR mission reports.

I am not saying that while researching this story I was unable to locate any primary source documents that officially documented this event.

In any case, it makes quite a story and it is explained in detail below.

-----Original Message-----

From: dmcgill12@tampabay.rr.com [mailto:dmcgill12@tampabay.rr.com]

Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2015 1:13 PM

To: Robert Lapointe

Subject: PJ MIG SHOOT DOWN (28 Jan.,1970)

Importance: High

Bob, just a re-send incase you didn't receive my last e-mail below. I don't have a notification format to tell me if you received or opened it.

Doug McGill sends 1 December, 2015 USA 12:12 EST

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Bob,

Tally Ho !

I missed your come-back that must of come in earlier. Sorry about that! Been TDY.

I don't have Skype capability. Other than knowing how to turn the computer on and off and sending e-mails, I'm a complete idiot geek.

I will try and accommodate your request for Jerry Shipman's and Jack Moran's e-mail addresses.

Be advised that Jack is suffering from mild dementia. His wife called me in the morning when Jack was reading her 5X5 and handed me over to Jack. He and I had

our long conversation about the shoot down. Like I said, he was hesitant at first to speak about the mission until I told him that Jerry had told me his account of that day. Jack, then perked up and the more we spoke, the greater the details. He and Jerry have indicated that just after the explosion that Jerry and his co-pilot and FE witnessed, he immediate response was to move away due to falling debris into his rotors. He then told me that his crew returned to the area(nap of the earth flying) looking for survivors when some circling aircraft started calling out that that same MIG had returned flying low. He said that that same aircraft start giving out clock locations of the MIG. The clock positions indicated to them that the MIG was coming around to finish Jerry's bird off as well.

Jack said that he returned to his ramp gun position hearing the pattern the MIG was engaged in, and waited until his turn into and towards his Jolly when a opened up and expended all his ammo into the approaching MIG.

Jerry said that the MIG was down low and flew just under his AC window. He said that by all indications that the MIG pilot's helmet was laying against his canopy and he appeared dead. He said the MIG peeled off under and behind the Jolly and a few seconds later the HC-130 said that the MIG hit the ground.

Doug McGill sends

Via Morrow, Jack & Babs <bmoran@gtcom.net>

Jack & Babs <bmoran@fairpoint.net>

Jerry Shipman's email is: <cwshipman@comcast.net>

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.....

---- Robert Lapointe <rlapointe@gci.net> wrote:

> HOLY COW!!!! I had heard a few (very few) rumors about a PJ who shot
> at a MiG

with his minigun; but, NEVER heard even a syllable about any PJ who shot down a MiG. Logic tells me that this incident could not have happened. The maximum effective range of the 7.62 round is 1500 meters. The speed that a MiG could fly combined with the limiting devices on the minigun mean that the minigun would be able to put its sights on a MiG for a very brief time. Lastly, the Jolly would have had to be flying higher than the MiG for the gunners to be able to even see the MiG.

>

> But, all those factors pale in consideration to the fact that you have
> found

two primary sources that both state that it happened. Shipman and Moran both have impeccable records and should be highly reliable sources.

>
> I still wonder why this MiG shootdown has never been verified before.
> I
checked my records but could not find a SAR mission report from the high bird on
this mission.
>
> Thanks for sending this to me. For some reason, I never received your
> first
email and appreciate your persistence. I will be at the 2016 reunion and look
forward to seeing you there.
>
> Do you have Shipmans and Morans emails? I would like to contact them
> and
solicit any primary source documents they might have.
>
> If you don't mind, I will try to phone you using Skype. I am still in
> the
Philippines and my internet bandwidth is very slow. Most of the time Skype does
not work except when most citizens are sleeping. My best results are around 5
a.m. my time which would be 4 p.m. your time. Are you home around then?
>
> Time for me to do my PT. It is 6 a.m. now and I am 30 minutes late.
> But better
late than never. Early PT is a must here for me. When the sun comes up it is too
hot for any PT by me. I guess I am getting lazy in my old age.
>
> Take care and thanks again
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: dmcgill2@tampabay.rr.com [dmcgill2@tampabay.rr.com]
> Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2015 12:09 AM
> To: rlapointe@gci.net
> Subject: HELLO....and INFO ON JOLLY GREEN 71 SHOOT DOWN
>
> Bob,
>
> Awhile back I sent you a heads-up on the shoot down of Jolly 71 but
> got no
response..... so I'm trying again.
>
> During the last Jolly Green Association reunion(May of this year
> 2015) I was
speaking with Lt. Col.(ret) Jerry Shipman. Jerry is an OLD friend who was AC on
the bird flying formation with Jolly Green 71 before it was shot down. Jerry told
me, during one of our many conversations, that one of his PJs in the back of his
bird, shot down the MIG that had shot down 71.
>
> I was stunned to hear that piece of news and decided to find out who
> was on
his bird (he couldn't remember) and get the names of the two PJs onboard during
that event. In my research if found that PJs Jim Gerwert and Jack Moran were the

two. I found that Jim Gerwert was is already deceased but Jack was still alive and kicking. I contacted Jack and had a long, informative conversation with him. At first he was reluctant to speak about the mission, but when I mentioned that his AC Lt. Col. Shipman had indicated that one of his PJs had shot the MIG down..he finally admitted that he was the man that did the deed.

>

> Jack explained, in extreme detail, the events of that day, which
> paralleled

the same story that Jerry Shipman had relayed to me.

>

> Jerry Shipman (now 90 and veteran of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam) has
> been asked

to speak about his rescue mission and pick-up of Boxer 22. One of his of his PJs on that mission was Red Willis, so we're trying to make sure that Red attends the 16 JG reunion to validate(two heads being better than one) and perhaps offer his prospective from a guy that was in the back of the bird).

>

> Jerry is also going to ask the JG Association if he can also speak
> about the

shoot down of 71 and all the real events that took place during that mission. I heard his recollections of the event and it will make your palms sweat, to say the least.

>

> I just wanted you to know this bit of information since you are the PJ Historian. I do hope all is going well with you and your family. I too, hope to see you at the PJ Reunion in 2016 in Florida,....until then,

>

> I remain,as always,by the motto and for the Air Rescue Brotherhood,

>

> Doug

>

> Doug McGill

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