



U.S. Air Force Photo by Capt. Robert A. Fuller

Relief workers unload supplies from USAF transport

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Through heavy enemy fire

Downed rescue chopper recovers

DA NANG AFLD—Fast reaction and teamwork by the men of the 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron resulted in the recovery of a HH-53 Super Jolly Green Giant helicopter shot down by enemy fire recently.

To Maj. Donald L. Jensen, commander of the craft, it started out as a textbook recovery operation. At mid-afternoon, his chopper and another Super Jolly Green hovered over the Song Tra Khuc River about 15 miles south of Chu Lai to recover a body from a downed U.S. Army helicopter.

Suddenly a barrage of enemy bullets tore through Major Jensen's big chopper. The major fought desperately for altitude but did not get it. "When I looked around," he said, "I saw my flight engineer crouched down on the floor of the chopper. He had been hit by shrapnel."

"We had to make an emergency landing on a nearby sandbar," the major continued. "We radioed for help and an Army UH-1 Huey helicopter came in and picked us up. The Army troops set up a perimeter guard around the aircraft and we were taken to Quang Ngai where the other damaged Super Jolly Green was waiting to return us to Da Nang."

Upon arrival at Da Nang a volunteer maintenance team was formed to recover the downed chopper. Said Lt. Col. Royal A. Brown Jr., 37th ARRS operations officer, "We knew that if we didn't get the aircraft out that night, we'd lose it. The situation was critical because we had young maintenance men who had never been under enemy fire before and we had to drop them in territory that the enemy had surrounded."

Major Jensen flew the six-man

According to Colonel...
cials at the Malaysian air...
they were "short on food,
transportation."

"We were advised that 24 hours the water level 10 feet," he said. "Wednesday the highway from the airport was seven feet under water."

He noted the weather had "a great deal." He said scattered clouds in the area giant Globemaster arrived visibility was "probably 10 there were no signs of heat that would produce rain."

British and Malaysian mated at least 100,000 per cental lowlands to be in n clothing and medical attent

team to Quang Ngai where Huey took them to the site. airmen broke into three teams and immediately went. "We knew what we had to do a little time we had to do worked just like a compe Sgt. Armando C. Zamora.

An hour after the team la jor Jensen was able to fly t per Jolly Green off the sandbar. "I thought we were take off on just one engine marked, "but the mainten were able to repair both of th

The airmen stripped so m off the damaged helicopter loaded Huey could only take six men on the first short Quang Ngai.

As darkness set in, enemy and small arms fire rained on The remaining men, armed M-16s, dug holes in the sand the mortar fire.

Above the sound of exploded tars and rifle shots, the drone of the Huey could be hitting louder. As the craft pre settle on the sandbar, enemy increased their barrage, trying third downed helicopter. "It v ly a terrible feeling to see th go back up and circle the are Capt. John C. Rogers, mai officer with the team, "but w he had to do it."

After the fire died down a airmen moved closer to the where the Huey came in and quick pickup.

"It would have been a real in Charlie's cap if he destroyed per Jolly Green," Major Jen claimed, "but we weren't abou him do it."

F-4 Phantoms blast enemy camp, kill 14 near Kontum

PHU CAT — Two F-4 Phantom fighter-bomber crews of the 318th Fighter Tactical Squadron killed 14 enemy soldiers, destroyed 20 fortifications and 12 bunkers, and ignited two secondary fires on a strike 14 miles northeast of Kontum City recently.

Three of the crewmembers were Captains Charles L. Garder and Samuel D. Cornelius, and 1st Lt. Robert D. Ellis Jr.

"Our scramble instructions informed us we were going after a known enemy location and storage

area," Lieutenant Ellis recalled. "While receiving the FAC's report we circled the target area, making visual contact with the target located in the right branch of a 'Y' shaped draw."

"Army observer helicopter pilots had reported hostile ground fire. Therefore we went in together with the lead aircraft, strafing the ridges around the target while the wing man dropped his bombs. We made close to 10 such passes during the mission and then pulled off high and dry to wait for the damage assessment."