



39th AIR RESCUE SQUADRON

RAAF Element HQAFV
PWMAO Building
12 Tran Quoc Toan
CHON N
APO 96243

26th March 1971

Lt Col S.M. SPILSETH
Commander
39th ARRS
Cam Ranh Bay
APO 96326

Dear General,

On my own behalf and on behalf of all those in my Command here in South Vietnam, I wish to thank you, your crew, and your Squadron for the part you played in the rescue of the crew of Magpie 41 on Monday 15th March 1971.

We had more or less given the crew up for lost after 24 hours on the ground with nothing heard, despite your ceaseless and untiring efforts. Your notification that you had established voice contact with both crew members was one of the most welcome pieces of information we have ever had. The smooth way in which the subsequent very difficult rescue was co-ordinated reflects great credit on your crew, Squadron, and on the entire USAF SAR organization in RVN.

Thank you again for all your help. I will be returning to Australia in the next few weeks. If you can make it to Saigon in the near future I would welcome the opportunity to meet you and quaff a few ales.

Sincerely,
[Signature]



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

TELEPHONE:

No 2 Squadron

RAAF

1700 0400 AB RWI

23/006/3/P2 PL3 (2.)

22nd March 1971

IN REPLY QUOTE.....

Commander

39th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron.

Dear Sir,

1. On behalf of the officers and men of No 2 Squadron may I express our gratitude and sincere appreciation for the part your squadron played in the successful search and rescue of Wg Cdr F.J.L. Downing and Flt Lt A.J. Pinches. The success of the rescue operation and the survival of the two officers was largely attributable to the timely location of the survivors position by one of your aircraft, King 26.

2. Would you please convey my appreciation to the crew of King 26 for the professional and efficient manner in which they located the survivors and initiated recovery action. The success and efficiency of the rescue operation has greatly impressed the aircrew of No 2 Squadron and enhanced their confidence in the rescue and recovery system of which your unit plays such a vital part.

3. I have enclosed a squadron plaque for presentation to your unit as a gesture of our appreciation for your efforts, and to serve as a reminder of the association that exists between 39th ARRS and No 2 Squadron RAAF.

*Yours sincerely,
Arthur Brown*