

On 12 Nov 71 Capt Griffith and crew were again scrambled from the Bien Hoa FOL. A VNAF UH-1F was reported down twenty miles northeast of Bien Hoa. A RASH FAC Briefed the Jollies on the situation while they proceeded to the area. An army hunter-killer team began preparing the area while the Jollies readied their aircraft for the rescue attempt. The survivors were located in the trees at the edge of a large clearing. Immediately upon arrival they were advised that the area had been thoroughly prepared and were cleared in for the pickup. An authoritative decent and power recovery to a landing was made in the immediate vicinity of the survivors who rapidly boarded through the crew entrance door. During the recovery, ground fire was reported north of the LZ but was never confirmed by the crew. Egress was made from the area and seven survivors brought safely back to Bien Hoa.

37 ARRSQ HISTORY, 1 OCTOBER - 31 DECEMBER 1971

high speed low altitude egress from the area was made and the aircraft recovered uneventfully at Bien Hoa AB.

12 Nov 71

Four days later Capt Griffith and crew were again scrambled from the Bien Hoa FOL. A VNAF UH-1F was reported down twenty miles northeast of Bien Hoa. A RASH FAC Briefed the Jollies on the situation while they proceeded to the area. An army hunter-killer team began preparing the area while the Jollies readied their aircraft for the rescue attempt. The survivors were located in the trees at the edge of a large clearing. Immediately upon arrival they were advised that the area had been thoroughly prepared and were cleared in for the pickup. An autorotative decent and power recovery to a landing was made in the immediate vicinity of the survivors who rapidly boarded through the crew entrance door. During the recovery, ground fire was reported north of the LZ but was never confirmed by the crew. Egress was made from the area and seven survivors brought safely back to Bien Hoa.

On 25 November 71 Jolly Green 70 and 73 were scrambled out of the Bien Hoa FOL for a Navy CH-46 shot down ninety miles south with twenty-one people on board. Major problems encountered enroute were navigation being hampered by low ceilings and poor visibility. As a result both aircraft, forced to fly at 100-300 feet AGL, were exposed to enemy ground fire as they approached the down helicopter. King advised the Jollies to withdraw to a safe holding point to await area preparation. Major Robert B. Swench the Alpha Low AC on Jolly Green 70 was advised that Dustoff and Sea Wolf helicopters had extracted seven injured survivors and that his assistance would be required to pickup the remaining personnel. Jolly Green 70

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF

THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS
(FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER)

TO

CHARLES B. ALDEAN

Airman First Class Charles B. Aldean distinguished himself by extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as a Pararescue Specialist on an HH-53 Rescue Helicopter near Bien Hoa, Republic of Vietnam, on 12 November 1971. On that date, Airman Aldean's outstanding airmanship and extensive technical skill, displayed under hazardous conditions, culminated in the rescue of seven Vietnamese airmen from their crashed helicopter. Airman Aldean exposed himself to hostile ground fire while manning his defensive gun position throughout the rescue effort, thus insuring the successful recovery of the seven airmen. The professional competence, aerial skill, and devotion to duty displayed by Airman Aldean reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

Bob-

NARDI ON

THIS ONE ALSO.

BUT ORDERS ONLY

GO UP TO SGT.

HE WAS TSGT.

OWEA FE

I ALWAYS THOUGHT

THIS WAS MISSION

WE HAD BEEN ON

WHY JIM THOMAS

WENT DOWN, BUT

MUST HAVE BEEN

DIFFERENT ONE

AS DATES DON'T

MATCH.

AA



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH AIR FORCE PACAF
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96307

SPECIAL ORDER
G-0931

18 APRIL 1972

BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT, EACH OF THE FOLLOWING IS
AWARDED THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS FOR EXTRAORDINARY
ACHIEVEMENT WHILE PARTICIPATING IN AERIAL FLIGHT ON THE
DATE INDICATED.

SSAN	NAME	ON	PAS
STAFF SERGEANT			
[REDACTED]	ROUGHNER BARRY L	720113	HIUMTW
[REDACTED]	BRADSHAW CHARLES V	700519	KWRD9J
[REDACTED]	GRAY WALTER	720305	HIUMTW
SERGEANT			
[REDACTED]	FOX DEWEY C JR 1ST OLC	720210	UBRSKQ
[REDACTED]	HASTINGS PETER C	700720	KWRD9J
[REDACTED]	HONDL MARVIN H 1ST OLC	710413	UBRSKQ
[REDACTED]	OJALA GEORGE P	710512	DAQKJR
AIRMAN FIRST CLASS			
[REDACTED]	ALDEAN CHARLES B 1ST OLC	711112	DAQKJR

FOR THE COMMANDER

G. R. Peaintsch
M/K PEAINTSCH, SMSGT, USAF
ASST DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION
G-0931

DISTRIBUTION
G

315 ~~PR~~ JG 67 ↑
 3320 ~~PR~~ JG 71 ↑
 3405 ~~PR~~ JG 66 ↓ LOGGED 1.4/1/1
 3435 ~~PR~~ JG 71 ↓ FM AH ORBIT 2.3/1/1
 3630 ~~PR~~ J.G. 67 ↓ FM AL ORBIT
 3744 ~~PR~~ JG 72 ↑ TAG 1.

12 NOV 71

11/2310 ~~PR~~ JG 64 ↑ FOR BIEN HOA
 11/2330 ~~PR~~ Capt. Sutton on Duty
 2330 ~~PR~~ From Queen YG AN NWLC DBVC
 2350 ~~PR~~ AC Status to Joker
 0006 ~~PR~~ Ops Status to Joker
 0215Z ~~PR~~ FM BIEN HOA : JG 64 FM VUSD TO VUBH has made
 Precautionary Landing AT P.T. due LOSS OF Second
 Stage HYD. System - ACFT HAS CONTACT WITH Joker.
 No Further details. Notified MAS Lange who in
 turn Notified Queen AND Hc Rottman at 39p.
 0230Z ~~PR~~ late entry FOR 0210Z. FM Hc Walthall, FOL VUBH.
 Jolies launched at 0840H on MSN # 03-017.
 Object 1, VNAF UH1E, down 20 mi N of BIEN HOA.
 Object found and 7 survivors Rescued by capt
 Griffith & crew.
 0443 ~~PR~~ JG 66 ↑ TO P.T.
 0455 ~~PR~~ J.G. 71 ↑ FOR AL ORBIT
 0458 ~~PR~~ J.G. 67 ↑ FOR AH ORBIT
 0715 ~~PR~~ J.G. 71 ↓ FM AL ORBIT
 0740 ~~PR~~ J.G. 67 ↓ FM AH ORBIT
 1020 ~~PR~~ J.G. 65, 64 AND 66 ↑ FOR BIEN HOA

NOVEMBER 1971				SURVIVORS		
				NAME RANK		
				SSN		
DATE	CREW	JG #	SAVE #	ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	TYPE SAVE
8 NOV	GRIFFITH SARTORI GARCIA ALDEAN NARDI	65	661 THRU 668	DNB-BAN-HUE LT. 219 SP + 7	345/120/73 ASN # 03016, 8 NOV 71	B COMBAT SAVES
12 Nov 71	GRIFFITH SARTORI GARCIA ALDEAN NARDI	65	669 THRU 675	2LT TRONG MINH DUC 2LT PHAU VAN HOA SGT HOANG TRONG PHUOC SGT TRON HUE PHUOC SGT LOUHI H.V. AIC HONG N.V. THANH L.V.	120/73	7 COMBAT SAVES
25 Nov 71	SURICK GEORGE Theobald Thomas FLOSS STEED	366 TC	676 THRU 684		C955N 10559E	14 COMBAT SAVES
25 Nov	WALL DAKE GARCIA NARDI ALDEAN	758 TC	690	AIC STEED STARRS STARRS		1 SAVES NON COMBAT

Robert LaPointe

From: "Lori" <cbaldea@mn.mediaone.net>
To: "LaPointe" <rlapointe@gci.net>
Sent: Saturday, May 06, 2000 12:25 PM
Attach: chuck & me.jpg
Subject: Fw: Hi

Bob, Heres some stuff on missions you asked for. Picture is after 12nov71 mission; Pilots- Griffith& Sartori; PJ's- Nardi& Aldean ; not pictured FE-Garcia.

8Nov71 mission in Cambodia Nardi & I both remember we were expecting Americans. When they broke tree line, were Viet's wearing combo good guy-bad guy uniforms & were all carrying AK's. Came in ramp by Nardi. He kept close watch on em because we still weren't sure who they were, & I layed down covering fire with mini on way out. They were off loaded pretty hush hush at Bien Hoa. We were told later they were a 'road watch' team of repatriated bad guys.

24May71 Your mission report covers it pretty well.

29Nov71 Cambodia If you remember being at Bien Hoa shortly after Jim Thomas's bird went down, the unidentified picture of pilot on your web site could have been this guy. Was burned, & I dressed his arm & cleaned up his face a little.

25Nov71 Nardi & I hi bird. Thomas , Prose , Steeds lo bird made succesful pickup. Both took hits on way in. Stopped at small army base to check for damage & had quick Thanksgiving Turkey.[Was Thanksgiving Day] On way back to Bien Hoa weather real bad. They went down. We returned & couldnt see anyone in water. I went in river but very strong current & poor visibility & couldnt locate for sure where wreckage was. Also put me down on shore but again unable to locate survivors. Short time later we did pick up Steed who apparently had been taken to different location on shore by Viet fisherman. Keep up good work. See you in Sept thanks Charlie Aldean

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

From: <Genonardi@aol.com>
To: <cbaldea@mn.mediaone.net>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2000 3:40 PM
Subject: Hi



U.S. Air Force Photo By Capt R.

Safely snatched from the jaws ..., Vietnamese airmen chat with their rescuers at Bien Hoa.

Joint effort pays off

12 NOV 71 SOR

Seven saved in one mission

BIEN HOA - Rescue crews from the 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron on alert here recently rescued seven crewmen and passengers of a downed Republic of Vietnam Air Force (VNAF) helicopter from possible capture or death by nearby enemy forces.

The VNAF helicopter was hit at 8:57 a.m., the seven airmen aboard it were on their way to safety via an HH-53 Super Jolly Green Giant helicopter. During those 31-minutes however, a lot happened.

As soon as the VNAF chopper went down, an emergency call went to 3d Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group headquarters Joint Rescue Coordination Center (JRCC) at Tan Son Nhut. Maj. Jimmy Lewis, the duty controller, immediately located the site and his map while MSgt. Darryl D. Tinch plotted the position on the center's search and rescue map.

Major Lewis then punched the hot-line button for Bien Hoa, ordering the two HH-53s on alert there to launch. The next order of the day was

to get air cover over the downed crewmen. To do this, Major Lewis contacted the U.S. Army liaison officer with the JRCC, Lt. Col. Gus Greyhosky, and asked that Army

gunships be diverted to the rescue site. Near Major Lewis, intelligence officers plotted the area again and evaluated it as "hot"... known enemy troop concentrations, within range of possible enemy mortars, good chance of ground fire.

Minutes after the crash, an Air Force OV-10 Bronco forward air control aircraft was on the scene, and notified the JRCC that there was enemy small-arms fire in the area, some as close as 50 yards north of the downed men.

JRCC had by then diverted a specially modified HC-130 Hercules aircraft to act as airborne command and control center for the rescue.

More minutes passed until finally voice contact was made with the Vietnamese crewmen. There was no injuries but they could hear enemy fire very close to them. They had not as yet made contact.

While the Jolly Greens were churning their way to the area, U.S. Army Cobra machines had reached the

Airman's Medal earned by two

UBON RTAFB - A daring crash-scene rescue of two crew members of a blazing F-4C Phantom aircraft in May earned the Airman's Medal for heroism for two NCOs assigned to the 8th Tactical Fighter Wing.

TSgt. Ross O. Finch and SSgt. William F. Campbell of the 497th Tactical Fighter Squadron were cited for "voluntary risk of life at the crash site and commanded for showing complete disregard for their personal safety."

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While the Jolly Greens were churning their way to the area, U.S. Army Cobra gunships had reached the scene and began working with their cohort, a tiny OH-6 low observation helicopter to surpress the enemy's fire and keep them away from the downed chopper.

The Jolly Greens arrived soon after. One of the big helicopters stood off to provide cover while the other went in for the rescue.

Aboard the rescue chopper making the pickup were Captains Rodney S. Griffith, aircraft commander, and Michael C. Sartori, co-pilot. Crewmen included Sgt. David Garcia, flight engineer, and pararescuemen TSgt. Eugene L. Nardi and AIC Charles B. Aldean.

Captain Griffith brought the HH-53 in for a landing near the downed VNAF chopper, and the Vietnamese airmen quickly scrambled aboard. This was the second rescue mission of the week for the men at Bien Hoa earlier this week they pulled another eight men to safety, continuing to live up to their Service's motto - "That others may live."