

- IMMEDIATE  
333 DAY 1971  
12.22.53Z  
MSG # 001433  
FY 1: 12.22

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
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DECLASSIFIED

PICKED UP FOR U.S. ARMY EVALUATION AS TO WHETHER THEY  
COULD BE RELATED TO DOWNED AIRCRAFT. IF WEATHER PERMITS  
THERE WILL BE A FIRST LIGHT EFFORT ON 30 NOV 71 TO CONTINUE  
FEET WET AND HIGH LAND AREA SEARCH. NO REFUELINGS WERE  
CONDUCTED.

GP-4  
BT  
#0346

3/3

NNNN

- IMMEDIATE  
333 DAY 1971  
12.22.53Z  
MSG # 001433  
FROM: AESC

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
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DECLASSIFIED

- IMMEDIATE  
336 DAY 1971  
052.07Z  
MSG # 003007  
FROM: AESC

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\* @CONFIDENTIAL \*  
\* @CONFIDENTIAL \*  
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138  
102  
DECLASSIFIED

OTTCZYUW RUMUJNA0031 3360616-CCCC--RUCIMAA.

ZNY CCCCC

O 020505Z DEC 71

FM OL A 3ARRGP SON TRA AB RVN

TO RUEFHQA/CSAF/AFXOTZB

RUHEAKA/PACAF HICKHAM AFB HAWAII/DOH

RUCIMAA/HQS ARRS/COMMAND. ROST/SCOTT AFB ILL

INFO RUCEAAA/HQ USAF ALT MAXWELL AFB ALA

RUCIMAA/MAC/MAOCCP

RUMMRSA/7AF TAN SON NHUT AFLD RVN/CC/DO/D00/IN/DOCT/DP

RUHHABA/41ARRWG/CONTROL CENTER/DOC/HICKHAM AFB HAWAII

RUHHHQA/CINCPAC/CC

RHMSMVA/MACV SAIGON RVN

RUEKAAA/AFEOC FT RITCHIE MD

RUMFRBA/CTF 77

RUMUHFA/101ST ABN DIV CAMP HORN RVN

RUHGQSA/CTG 77.0

RUMUJBA/20 TASS DANANG AB RVN

RUMOJAA/39ARRS CAM RAHN BAY AB RVN

RUMMRSA/3ARRGP TAN SON NHUT AFLD RVN/JRCC

RUMUJBA/37ARRS DANANG AB RVN

CMOSRA/OL-B 3ARRGP UDORN RTAFB THAILAND

PAGE 2 RUMUJNA0031 C O N F I D E N T I A L

RUWTFJA/USAFMPC RANDOLPH AFB TEX/DPMCS

RUMOBEA/56SOW/D00/NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB THAILAND

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L / J O P R E P J I F F Y / O L - A , 3 A R R G P / R E S C U E A - 3 - 0 3 8

0420Z 29 NOV 71.

1. RESCUE CLOSING REPORT 2 DEC 71.

2. MISSION NUMBER A-3-038-29 NOV 71.

3. SITUATION: A CH47 HELICOPTER DOWN.

C. PERSONNEL INFO:

(1) 33 PERSONS INVOLVED - 10 PERSONS LOCATED - 10 PERSONS DECEASED - 23 PERSONS MISSING AT THIS TIME.

(2) SAR OBJECTIVE LOCATED BY US ARMY HELICOPTER, CALL SIGN UNKNOWN. AT 02/0212Z DEC 71 AT COORDINATES 1615N 10753E.

D. FLYING ACTIVITY:

(1) 101ST ABN DIV - 4 SORTIES FOR 17.0 HOURS.

(2) 37ARRSQ - 4 SORTIES FOR 14.2 HOURS.

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06.52.07Z  
MSG # 003607  
FROM: AESC

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\* @CONFIDENTIAL \*  
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DECLASSIFIED

Classified by  
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION  
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652  
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO  
YEAR INTERVALS  
DECLASSIFIED ON 310877

138  
102

| OPR  | CYS |
|------|-----|
| 005  | 1   |
| INFO | CYS |
| 00   | 4   |
| 005  | 1   |
| 054  | 1   |
|      |     |
|      |     |
|      |     |
|      |     |
|      |     |
|      |     |
|      | 7.8 |

W

MESSAGE NOTIFICATION

Individual  
Contacted: S.W

Local Time  
and Date: 0140  
2 DEC 71

- IMMEDIATE  
336 DAY 1971  
06.52.07Z  
MSG # 003607  
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(3) 39ARKSQ - 1 SOR [REDACTED]

G. SUMMARY OF SAR ACTIONS.

(1) AT APPROXIMATELY 0100Z, THE ARMY LAUNCHED SEVERAL US ARMY HELICOPTERS TO SEARCH THE AREA OF LAST KNOWN POSITION AND AT 0212Z A CRASH SITE WAS LOCATED AND SUSPECTED TO BE THAT OF PLAYTEX 866. THIS WAS LATER CONFIRMED BY LOCATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF THE TAIL

PAGE 3 RUMUJNA0031 C O N F I D E N T I A L

SECTION AND NUMBER. THE ARMY THEN REQUESTED THAT USAF AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING SEARCH AND RESCUE AIRCRAFT REMAIN CLEAR OF THE CRASH SITE AND THAT THE ARMY WOULD CONTROL ALL FURTHER RESCUE ACTIVITIES AND THAT USAF RESCUE AGENCIES MAY CLOSE THIS MISSION. THIS WAS CONCURED WITH BY THE JRCC.

(2) TOTAL FLYING ACTIVITY: SE E ITEM 3D.

GP-4

BT

#0031

W/12

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\*\*\*\*\*

[REDACTED]

AIRCRAFT DESIGNATION:

DECLASSIFIED

DISTRESSED AIRCRAFT: CH-47 - Playtex 866

LOCATION: 130°-100° Radial 10-15 Miles Hue Tacan

STATUS: NONE

At 0430, 29 Nov. 71, we were briefed by Jack that we would be diverted from the normal King 21 orbit to cover the search for an Army CH 47 - Call Sign - Playtex 866 that had been missing on a flight from Danang to Hue Phu Bai. The last reported contact was at 0530Z 29 November on the 130° radial of Hue NDB. King 21 arrived in the area of the search at 0730 local and made contact with PECAN - a ship off the coast acting as on-scene commander. At that time there were no aircraft in the area due to bad weather conditions. Contact was made with Hue approach control who confirmed the last call of Playtex 866. He reported on the 130° radial of Hue NDB at 0530Z, said he was declaring an emergency and going Tactical IFR. There was no indication of the nature of the emergency. Contact was then made with Danang VFR control to attempt to determine the exact route of flight. They indicated that they did not have radio or voice contact with Playtex 866 at any time. The weather in the area at the time of last contact was reported to be 500 to 1000 overcast - visibility 3-4 miles and both ceilings and visibility lower in rain showers. Queen had a report that some fishermen observed a low flying helicopter pass over head about that time and he was heading out to sea. This area was on about the 100° radial of Hue NDB and on the coast. About 0830 local, several Army helicopters (6) arrived in the area led by Smokey 26 - a UH1H. A search area was set up and co-ordinated with Smokey 26 and each aircraft covered an area 10 kilometers square. Several sightings were made of old wrecks in the area of ZD 169058 and ZD 151054 but were confirmed as previous crashes. During the morning hours, attention was focused in the area of the coast and low lands where the Playtex was last reported. The high areas were obscured by low clouds. At 1130 local King 21 was diverted from the mission to cover the orbit due to another SAR in progress. Upon returning around 1300 local we were informed by Sailfish 18 (101st Airborne Cmd Post) that the Army had called off the search for the day as the weather was too bad. During the afternoon, three aircraft were used to continue the search and the area was expanded to include the sea. Several items were found floating off shore but could not be readily identified as being on board the aircraft. They consisted of 6 - 7 boxes of "Booster Bomb Nose" M-148, Lot 2020, and numerous cans about 10-15" long and 5-8" in diameter. These were suspected to be contents of the boxes as several had broken. These were located on the 090 radial for 18 miles from Hue Tacan. A piece of plywood about 6'x6' was discovered about 2 miles further out and several pieces of white styrofoam and a piece of cloth about the 26 mile area on the 087 radial. The ship- PECAN was vectored to the areas of debris but nothing

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Downgraded at 3 year intervals.  
Declassified after 12 years.

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could be identified. Jolly Green recovered one box of Booster Bomb Nose M-148 for later identification. King 21 departed the area at 1615 local due to lack of fuel. The weather in the search area remained 500 to 1000 ft overcast with 3-4 miles visibility - lower in rain showers, and moderate to severe turbulence was encountered in mountainous areas.

King 21 Crewmembers

|        |                            |    |                          |
|--------|----------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| AC/AMC | Lt Col Edgar C. Benson Jr. | FE | TSGT Kenneth G. Spiegel  |
| CP     | 1Lt James F. May           | LM | TSGT Johnny B. Mullins   |
| N      | Capt Joel F. Hancock       | FE | TSGT Edgar L. Trout Jr.  |
| N      | Maj James J. Kelly         | N  | Capt Thomas T. Ishii Jr. |
| RO     | MSGT Thomas R. Kimbrell    | RO | SSGT Rosco Williams      |
| RO     | TSGT Lester L. Ruark       | FS | Col Lewis Smith          |
| FE     | MSGT Sidney A. Presley     |    |                          |

Other Resources Used

|                                   |              |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Smokey 26 + 6 UH1H's (Army)       | <u>Ships</u> |
| Helix 15                          |              |
| Jolly Green 72/21 (AM) 65/67 (PM) | PACAN        |
| Flatboat 33 (2 Gunships)          |              |

*Edgar C. Benson Jr.*  
 EDGAR C. BENSON, Lt Col., USAF  
 Aircraft/Airborne Mission Commander

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Declassified at 1 year intervals,  
 unless otherwise indicated.