

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE: 29 November 1971

MISSION NUMBER: A-3-038 November 71

AIRCRAFT DESIGNATION: King 21

DISTRESSED AIRCRAFTS: CH-47 - Playtex 866

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

SAVES: NONE

Classified by
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO
YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED 310577

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 IPR. 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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GROUP-4
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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)
 Helix 15
 Jolly Green 72/21 (AM) 65/67 (PM)
 Flatboat 33 (2 Gunships)

Ships

PECAN

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

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GROUP 4
 Downgraded at 3 year intervals.
 Declassified after 12 years.

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ZNY CCCCC

FM OL-A/3ARRGP SON TRA AB RVN

RUHHABA/PACAF/HICKHAM AFB HI/DOH

RUCIMAA/HQS ARKS/COMMAND POST/SCOTT AFB ILL

INFO RUCEAAA/HQ USAF ALT MAXWELL AFB AL

RUCIMAA/MAC/MAUCGP

RUMMRSA/7AF TAN SON NHUT AFLD RVN/CC/DO/DOO/IN/DOCT/DP 57

RUHHABA/41ARRWG CONTROL CENTER DOC/HICKHAM AFB HI

RUHHHQ/CINCPAC/CC 101 TO 23

RHMSMVA/MACV SAIGON RVN

RUEKAAA/AFLOC FT RITCHIE MD

RUMJRBH/CTF 17

RUHGOSA/CTG 17.0

RUMOJAA/39ARKS COM RAHN BAY AB RVN

RUMMRSA/3ARRGP TAN SON NHUT AFLD RVN/JRCC

RUMUMMA/101ST ABN DIV PHU BAI RVN

RUMUJBA/37ARKS DANANG AB RVN - 04-147004.2

RUMOSRA/OL-B 3ARKGP UDORN RTAEB THAILAND

RUWTFJA/USAFMPC KANDOLPH AFB TEX/DPMCS

301-2-1000 2011-11-10

FORCES FOR THE 1994 ELECTION

DEFENDING ON NEW YORK

PAGE TWO RUMUJNAU346C O N F I D E N T I A L

RUMOREA/56SOW 400 NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB THAILAND

BT 101-101-BM DIA TEL FRANKF S 1-2

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CONFIDENTIAL/JOPNEP JIFFY/OL-A, 3ARRGP/RESCUE A-3-038/0047Z NOV 71.

1. RESCUE OPENING REPORT, 29 NOV 71. (PAGES 1-10)

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

3. SITUATION: A CH-47 HELICOPTER IS MISSING AND PRESUMED DOWN BETWEEN DANANG AND HUE-PHU HAI, POSSIBLY IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.

A. DESCRIPTION OF SAR OBJECTIVE: 7

(1) CH-47/08-15-866/BROWN/PLAYTEX-688

(2) TACTICAL FLIGHT PLAN FROM LANDING ZONE 'CHARGER PAD' TO

HUE-PHU BAI AIRFIELD 0100 1000 1100 1200 1300 1400 1500 1600 1700 1800 1900 2000 2100 2200 2300 2400

(3) PILOT: UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME

(4) POW: 33

(5) WEATHER VERY POOR, RAIN WITH CEILING DOWN TO ZERO IN

MOUNTAIN AREAS, 8500 FT. IN THE DESTINATION AREA. 088 442 601

COMING OFF THE HOOK

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

- IMMEDIATE

353 DAY 1971

12-22-537

MSG # 001413

MSG # 001433
FROM: AFSF

FROM: AESC

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Classified by
 SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
 SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
 AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO
 YEAR INTERVALS
 DECLASSIFIED ON 31 DEC 77

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

* ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ *

2/3

(6) SURVIVAL EQUIPMENT: US ARMY STANDARD

(7) LAST KNOWN POSITION: 16-15N 107-53E

B. ACTIONS TAKEN:

(1) CONTROLLING AGENCY, UL-A, 3ARKGP, NOTIFIED AT 280850Z
NOVEMBER 1971 BY DANANG TOWER THAT A PLAYTEX 688 HAD NOT

PAGE THREE RUMUJNA0346 C O N F I D E N T I A L
ARRIVED AT THE HUE-PHU BAI AIRPORT.

(2) FOLLOWING SAR FORCES ALERTED:

(A) 39 ARRS AT 29/0001Z NOV 71.

(B) 37 ARRS AT 29/0001Z NOV 71

(C) 101ST ABN DIV AT 29/0002Z NOV 71

(D) 20 TASS AT 29/0003Z NOV 71

(3) FOLLOWING SAR FORCES WERE LAUNCHED OR DIVERTED:

(A) 39 ARRS AT 29/0047Z 1 HC-130

(B) 37 ARRS AT 29/0105Z 4 HH-53

(C) 101 ABN DIV AT 29/0105Z 2 U-2

F. FUTURE PLANS:

(1) PLAN TO SEARCH COASTAL AREAS AND LAND AREAS AT FIRST
LIGHT DEPENDING ON WEATHER.

(2) SAR FORCES FOR 30 NOV 1971.

(A) 39 ARRS - 1 - HC-130P

(B) 20 TASS - 3 - OV-10

(C) 101ABN DIV - UNKNOWN - UH-1H/LOCH'S

(D) 1 CAV DIV - UNKNOWN - UH-1H/LOCH'S

(E) US NAVY - UNKNOWN - UNKNOWN

(F) VN NAVY - UNKNOWN - UNKNOWN

PAGE FOUR RUMUJNA0346 C O N F I D E N T I A L

(G) 37 ARRS - 2 - HH-53

G. SUMMARY OF SAR ACTIONS:

1. ON 28 NOV 71 THERE WAS A COMMUNICATION CHECK ON OVER-
DUE CH-47. PLAYTEX 866. FIRST LIGHT ON 29 NOV 71 KING 21
ARRIVED IN AREA TO BE AML. 101ST ABN DIV PROVIDED HELI-
COPTER COVERAGE OF THE HUE AREA. TWO (2) HH-53'S FROM 37 ARRS
HELPED IN SEARCH IN FEET WET AREA OVER COAST. WEATHER IN
MOST OF THE AREA WAS 500 FEET OVERCAST WITH 1000FT VISIBILITY.
WATER AREAS HAD GOOD COVERAGE AND SEVERAL ITEMS HAVE BEEN

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

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- IMMEDIATE
354 DAY 1971
10.58.44Z
MSG # 003632
FROM: AESC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ I A L

MESSAGE NOTIFICATION	
Individual Contacted:	H.M.
Local Time and Date:	0535 30 NOV 71

OTTCZYUW RUMUJNAU361 3341015-CCCC--RUCIMAA.
ZNY CCCCC
O 301010Z NOV 71
FM OL-A/3ARRGP SUN TRA AB RVN
TO RUEFHQA/CSAF/AFXOTZB
RUHHABA/PACAF/HICKHAM AFB HI/DOH
RUCIMAA/HQS ARRS/COMMAND POST SCOTT AFB ILL
~~INFO RUCEAAA/HQ USAF AFT MAXWELL AFB AL~~
~~RUCIMAA/MAC/MAOCLD~~

RUMMRSA/7AF TAN SON NHUT AFLD RVN/CC/DO/DOO/IN /DOCT/DP
RUHHABA/41ARRWG CONTROL CENTER DOC HICKHAM AFB HI
RUHHABA/CINPAC/CC
RUMUMJA/101ST ABN DIV CAMP EAGLE RVN
RHMSMVA/MACV SAIGON RVN
RUEKAAA/AFLOC FT RITCHIE MD
RUMFRBA/CTF 17
RUHGOSA/CTG 77.0
RUMFTGT/CTU 70.8.9
RUMQJAA/39 ARRS COM RAHN BAY AB RVN
RUMMRSA/COMNAV 4B SAIGON
RUMMRSA/3ARRGP TAN SON NHUT AFLD RVN/JRCC
RUMUJBA/37ARRS DANANG AB RVN

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SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
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YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED ON 31 DEC 77

PAGE TWO RUMUJNAU361 C O N F I D E N T I A L
RUMOSRA/OL-B/3ARRGP UDORN RTAFB THAILAND
RUWTFJA/USAFMPC/RANDOLPH AFB TEX/UPMCS
RUMOREA/56SOW DOU NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB THAILAND
BT

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

CONFIDENTIAL/JOPREP JIFFY/OL-A, 3ARRGP/RESCUE A-3-038/1000Z 30 NOV 71.

1. RESCUE PROGRESS REPORT NBR 1.
2. MISSION NUMBER A-3-038/00472 29 NOV 71.
3. SITUATION: CH47 HELICOPTER IS MISSING AND PRESUMED DOWN BETWEEN DANANG AND HUE PHU BAI, POSSIBLY IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.
- C. PERSONNEL INFO: 35 PERSONS INVOLVED.
- (2) SAR OBJECTIVE: PLAYTEX 866, HAS NOT BEEN LOCATED AT THIS TIME.
- D. FLYING ACTIVITY: FOR 29 NOV 71 ENDING LAST LIGHT.
 - (1) 101ABN DN - 3 SORTIES FOR 12.1 HOURS.
 - (2) 37ARRSQ - 4 - SORTIES FOR 14.2 HOURS.
 - (3) 39ARRSQ - 1 SORTIE FOR 9.7 HOURS.

- IMMEDIATE
354 DAY 1971
10.58.44Z
MSG # 003632
FROM: AESC

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1 cy reproduced
by ARRS/DNAS
30 NOV 71

- IMMEDIATE
304 DAY 1971
10.58.44Z
MSG # 003602
FROM: AESC

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A-3-038

29 Nov 71

F. FUTURE PLANS: (1) PLAN TO CONTINUE THE SEARCH OF THE LAND ROUTE BETWEEN DANANG TO HUE WITH ARMY HELICOPTERS AND A OVER WATER SEARCH UTILIZING HH53 HELICOPTERS AND NAVY SHIPS AS SOON AS WEATHER PERMITS.
(2) SAR FORCES FOR 1 DEC 71.

PAGE THREE RUMUJNAU361 C O N F I D E N T I A L

(A) 39 ARRSW - 1 - HC130P
(B) 37 ARRSW - 2 HH53
(C) 101 ABN DIV - 4 - 6 - UH1H/LOCH
(D) 1ST CAV DIV - 2 - 4 - UH1H/LOCH

6. SUMMARY OF SAR ACTIONS: (1) AT FIRST LIGHT PRIOR TO LAUNCH TIME A WEATHER CHECK WAS MADE AT DANANG, HUE/PHU-BAI AND THE RESCUE AREAS. THE CEILINGS AND VISIBILITIES AT LAUNCH BASES WERE BELOW MINIMUMS. THE WEATHER IN THE SEARCH AREAS NEVER IMPROVED ENOUGH THROUGHOUT THE DAY TO PERMIT ANY TYPE OF FLYING. THE WINDS OVER THE SEARCH AREA OVER THE SOUTH CHINA SEA CREATED HIGH SEAS, WHITE CAPS AND BLOWING MIST SO AS TO REDUCE VISIBILITY TO ALMOST ZERO AND NEGATE ANY SURFACE SEARCH. SEA SURFACE CONDITIONS WERE REPORTED TO US NAVAL SHIPS ON SCENE. THE CORRECT CALL SIGN OF THE SUSPECTED DOWN AIRCRAFT IS PLAYTEX 866.

GP-4
BT
#0361

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- IMMEDIATE
304 DAY 1971
10.58.44Z
MSG # 003602
FROM: AESC

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- IMMEDIATE
335 DAY 1971
11.04.05Z
MSG # 011643
FROM: AESC

* ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ *
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OTTCZYUW RUMUJNA0017 3351020-CCCC--RUCIMAA.

~~ZNY CCCCC~~

O 010945Z DEC 71
FM OL-A 3 ARRG P SON TRA AB RVN
TO RUEFHQA/CSAF/AFXDTZB
RUHHABA/PACAF HICKHAM AFB HI/DOH
RUCIMAA/HQS ARRS/COMMAND POST/SCOTT AFB ILL
INFO RUCEAAA/HQ USAF ALT MAXWELL AFB AL
RUCIMAA/MAC/MAOCCP
RUMMRSA/7AF TAN SON NHUT AFLD RVN/CC/DO/D00/IN/DOCT/DP
RUHHABA/41ARRWG/CONTROL CENTER DOC/HICKHAM AFB HI
RUHHHQA/CINCPAC/CC
RUMUMJA/101ST ABN DIV DAMP EAGLE RVN
RHMSMVA/MACV SAIGON RVN
RUEKAAA/AFEOC FT RITCHIE MD
RUMFRBA/CTF 77
RUHGQSA/CTG 77.0
RUMFSBB/CGU 70.8.9
RUMOJAA/39ARRS CAM RAHN BAY AB RVN
RUMMRSA/3ARRGP TAN SON NHUT AFLD RVN/JRCC
RUMUGKA/COMNAV 4B SAIGON
RUMUJBA/37ARRS DANANG AB RVN

OPR	CYS
ARRS 1	
INFO	CYS
DO 4	
DOC 1	
CSEA 1	
	7

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SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO
YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED ON 3/06/77

PAGE 2 RUMUJNA0017 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
RUMOSRA/OL-B 3ARRGP UDORN RTAFB THAILAND
RUWTFJA/USAFMPC RANDOLPH AFB TEX/DPMCS
RUMOREA/56SOW/D00/NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB THAILAND
BT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~/JOPREP JIFFY/OL-A, 3ARRGP/RESCUE A-3-038/
1000Z 1 DEC 71.

1. RESCUE PROGRESS REPORT NBR: 2
2. MISSION NUMBER: A-3-038 - 0047 29 NOV 71.
3. SITUATION: A CH-47 HELICOPTER IS MISSING AND PRESUMED DOWN BETWEEN DANANG AND UEE-PHU BAI, POSSIBLY IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.

C. PERSONNEL INFO:

- (1) 33 PERSONS INVOLVED
- (2) PLAYTEX 866 HAS NOT BEEN LOCATED AT THIS TIME.

D. FLYING ACTIVITY: FOR 01 DEC AND ENDING LAST LIGHT.

- (1) 101 ABN DIV - 1 SORTY FOR 1.2 HRS.
- (2) 37 ARRSQ - 4 SORTIES FOR 5.0 HRS.

- IMMEDIATE
335 DAY 1971
11.04.05Z
MSG # 011643
FROM: AESC

* ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ *
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MESSAGE NOTIFICATION	
Individual Contacted:	SW
Local Time and Date:	5:45 1 DEC 1971

- IMMEDIATE
335 DAY 1971
11.04.05Z
MSG # 011643
FROM: AESC

* ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ *
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E. FUTURE PLANS:

(1) PLAN TO CONTINUE THE SEARCH OF THE LAND ROUTE BETWEEN DANANG TO HUE WITH ARMY HELICOPTERS AND AN OVER WATER SEARCH UTILIZING HH-53S HELICOPTERS AND NAVY SHIPS AS SOON AS THE

PAGE 3 RUMUJNA0017 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
WEATHER PERMITS.

(2) SAR FORCES FOR 2 DEC 1971

(A) 39 ARRSQ - 1 - HC-130P

(B) 37 ARRSQ - 2 - HH-53

(C) 101 ABN DIV - 4 TO 6 - UH-1H/LOCHS

(D) 1ST CAV DIV - 2 TO 4 - UH1H/LOCHS

SUMMARY OF SAR ACTIONS:

(1) AT FIRST LIGHT PRIOR TO LAUNCH TIME A WEATHER CHECK WAS MADE AT DANANG, HUE/PHU BAI AND THE SEARCH AREA. HUE WAS BELOW MINIMUMS AND DANANG WAS BARELY ABOVE. TWO JOLLY GREENS FLEW IN THE MORNING ON A FRAGGED MISSION NEAR THE SEARCH AREA. RETURNING FROM THAT MISSION THEY FLEW BY THE SEARCH AREA AND (WITH 200 TO 300 FOOT CEILINGS) SPOTTED SOME 'GREEN' WRECKAGE ON A BEACH. THEY WERE AT BINGO FUEL, SO TOOK PICTURES OF WRECKAGE AND RETURNED TO DANANG. AFTER REFUELING THEY TOOK OFF AGAIN TO RE-INVESTIGATE THE WRECKAGE AND ONE HUEY FROM HUE/PHU BAI JOINED THEM. THE WRECKAGE WAS CONFIRMED BY THE HUEY AS NOT CH-47. LATER, FLYING UP THE BEACH THE HUEY LANDED IN SEVERAL PLACES AND DID PICKUP MORE DEBRIS. IT WAS JUDGED LATER NOT TO BE FROM A CH-47 ALSO, BECAUSE OF LIMITED WEATHER THE JOLLY GREENS RETURNED THEN TO

PAGE 4 RUMUJNA0017 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DANANG. NO AIR REFUELINGS WERE ACCOMPLISHED.

GP-4
BT
#0017

- IMMEDIATE
335 DAY 1971
11.04.05Z
MSG # 011643
FROM: AESC

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