

3Apr72 Nail 38

3 April 1972

OV-10A 68-3789 23 TASS, 56 SOW, USAF, Nakhon Phanom

1st Lt William Joseph Henderson (POW)

1st Mark N Clark (survived)

Nail 38 was one of the many aircraft involved in the search for Lt Col Hambleton. 1st Lt Henderson and 1st Lt Clark took over the watch from another Pave Nail FAC on the morning of the 3rd. The aircraft was orbiting near Doug Ha at 5,000 feet with a couple of A-1's when it was hit by a SAM fired from within the DMZ. Both crew ejected immediately and landed safely but were separated from each other. An immediate attempt at a rescue failed when a UH-1 and two escorting AH-1s received heavy ground fire as they approached the downed airmen. 1st Lt Henderson was captured by NVA troops as night fell after hiding in a bamboo thicket for eight hours. 1st Lt Clark landed on the banks of the Cam Lo River and hid for seven days before being rescued by the SEAL team led by Lt Norris. Lt Henderson was released on 27 March 1973 after spending just under a year as a POW.