

56 SOW

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1 SOS 1-31 May 72

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V. NARRATIVE

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The enemy offensive in South Viet Nam and the resumed bombing of North Viet Nam were over shadowing influences on the operations of the 1st SOS during May. Three A-1's were shot down by SA-7 missiles but all pilots were rescued.

The Sandys participated in eleven SARs during which 145 Americans were rescued. There were no accidents or incidents.

On 28 April Gunsmoke 01 (F-4) was shot down near Quang Tri. Hobo 40/41/44/45 were in the area on a strike mission and they immediately organized a SAR. The two survivors who bail-out feet wet, were spotted by the Hobos even before they hit the water three miles from shore. An immediate pick-up was made with the Da Nang Jolly Greens.

On 1 May Sandys 07/08 were ordered to plan the evacuation of all the American advisors in Quang Tri. Quang Tri was surrounded and about to fall to the NVA. The Sandys planned, organized, and executed the rescue effort that afternoon. Sandys 07/08/11/12 and Smoke 22/23 lead four Jolly Greens into the heart of the surrounded city without fast mover support and rescued 129 American advisors. The city fell only hours later.

During the evacuation Bilk 34 (O-2) was shot down about 10 miles southwest of Quang Tri and Sandys 07/08 (Capt Throckmorton, Lt Seitz) left the Jollys feet wet and proceeded to search for Bilk 34. Bilk 34 was in friendly hands but surrounded by NVA, so the Sandys attempted to sterilize the area around the friendly. Bilk 34 reported SA-7 launches and the Sandys attacked the missile positions. Sandy 08 (Lt Joe Seitz) took a direct