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Mission Narrative - 20 Oct 66

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Jolly Green 02 (Low Bird) and Jolly Green 36 (High Bird) were scrambled from Nakhon Phanom at 0030Z. Take-off was accomplished at 0034Z and both helicopters proceeded to coordinates 16°/58 N, 105°/53 E, where two F-4C pilots (Avenger 3) had ejected. Enroute to the scene, a revised position of 99°/79 N.M. from TACan Channel 89 was received, which later proved to be more accurate than the original coordinates. The Jolly Greens were escorted to the area by Sandy 07 and 08. Sandys 2 and 3 were on the scene when we arrived at 0120Z, and through use of UHF/DF and visual sightings on the Sandy aircraft, we determined the general location of the downed pilots. Voice contact on guard channel was made and Jolly Green 02 established a hover over the rear seat pilot. His parachute was entangled in the top of a 200 foot tree, which the rotor wash came dangerously close to untying from the limbs. The survivor had difficulty transferring from his parachute harness to the jungle penetrator, and this increased the time required for the pick-up. Intense ground fire from nearby automatic weapons was heard and could be felt hitting the helicopter from the left side before the pilot could position himself on the penetrator. Ordinance was requested from Sandy 5, but since the exact location of the second downed pilot was unknown, he deemed it inadvisable to expend ordinance. The tail of the helicopter was turned into the on-coming ground fire and the pick-up continued. The survivor was wounded in two places while being raised on the hoist. The pick-up was completed after 8 minutes of hovering. Immediately after take-off with the survivor on board, the transmission oil pressure dropped to zero and the warning light illuminated. Flight was continued for approximately six miles.

Jolly Green 36 had established an orbit on the 100°/74 N.M. radial of Channel 89 while Jolly Green 02 dropped below the cloud deck to effect the recovery. Visual monitoring of Jolly Green 02 was impossible because of the clouds and he was last observed on a heading of 140°. As Jolly Green 02 disappeared from view, Sandy 05 reported ground fire in the vicinity of the survivors. Shortly afterwards, Jolly Green 02 also reported ground fire during his pick-up effort on the <sup>rear</sup> seat man. Approximately three minutes later, 02 reported that he had zero transmission oil pressure, that he was going to land, and requested that Jolly Green 36 come down and try to pick them up. 36 immediately began a circling descent, visually located 02 upon breaking out below the cloud cover, and maneuvered into a trail position approximately one-half mile behind, and above 02. 02 was observed at approximately 500 feet altitude, descending, and heading for a clearing. Jolly Green 36 observed a village located on the edge of 02's intended landing area and so advised him. 02 acknowledged and continued to fly at approximately 100 feet above the trees to another clearing about one half mile further away where he executed his landing and shut down. Jolly Green 36 dropped his tips,

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED  
Or Changed to  
By Authority of *AKL/S*  
By *EPS*  
(Date) *12/2/83*

DOWNGRADED  
IAW AFR-205-2

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS  
OD DIR 5200.10

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*ARDC 663380*

~~SECRET~~

Hq ARRS SC No. *663343*  
*66-AD-1273*  
*668-00258*

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# 142

began dumping fuel during the approach, and landing which was about 25 yards from O2. Dense elephant grass separated the two aircraft. Ground fire was again encountered by O2 as the crew-members evacuated their aircraft. Two crew-members received superficial wounds from bullet fragments, (The Flight Mechanic and Paramedic). When the four helicopter crewmen and the survivor had boarded, a maximum performance take-off was made, climbing to 2000 feet above the terrain. During the climb out, Jolly Green 36 directed Sandys O7 and O8 to destroy Jolly Green O2. Sandys O7 and O8 rolled in on the downed helicopter and when it was last seen, dense white smoke was rising from it. Upon request, Sandy O5 and O7 victored 36 into the area of the back seat pilot and around several populated areas. A Nail aircraft orbiting the downed pilot spotted his location for 36 by pointing with his left wing. This marking saved valuable time in locating the survivor because of the large number of white parachutes throughout the entire area. Voice communication with the survivor was established but only 50% of his transmissions were readable. As 36 came to a hover over the trees, ALC Ward saw several armed men start from the jungle into a clearing about 75 yards away. He leveled his M-16 and fired from the hip at the men. All men disappeared immediately, but ground fire continued throughout the pickup. The firing of the M-16 in automatic made without prior warning from ALC Ward led 36 to believe he was under fire from beneath the aircraft and 36 departed the scene. This mistake was discovered and 36 returned to the area where the pickup was made at approximately at 0300Z. Sandy O5 advised a departure heading and all aircraft began a return to Channel 89.

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During the return flight and join-ups, Sandy O8 was unaccounted for. Sandy O5 was encountering engine difficulties at the same time. Wreckage of Sandy O8 was discovered in the recovery area by unknown aircraft. Additional SAR effort was impossible by Jolly Green 36 because of fuel state (750 lbs) and recovery was made at Channel 89 at 0405Z. Weather generally was good throughout the mission. Cloud conditions in the pick-up area were 3500 AGL broken and visibility 10 miles.

Radio discipline was good except by the fighter aircraft flying high cover. Unnecessary radio chatter on UHF on the scene was excessive.

Numerous white parachutes in trees in the area of the downed pilots caused difficulty in pin-pointing the downed pilot's location. It is impossible to differentiate between a personnel chute and a flare chute from the air., Since the size cannot be determined when the chutes are hanging from the limbs of a tree.

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED  
BY [Signature]  
ON [Date]  
REASON: [Text]

TIME: 00128Z  
DOWNED PILOT: 1st Lt. Joseph E. Merrick  
RECOVERY AREA: 099°/79 N.M.  
RADIO PROCEDURES: Excellent  
CREW COORDINATION: Excellent

TIME: 00122Z  
DOWNED PILOT: Major Lacey Breckenridge  
RECOVERY AREA: 099°/79 N.M.  
RADIO PROCEDURES: Excellent  
CREW COORDINATION: Excellent

JOLLY GREEN - O2  
RCC - Major Adrian D. Youngblood  
RCCP - 1st Lt. Edward G. Burford  
HM - A2C Gary R. Meyer  
PJ - A2C Thomas C. Davis

DOWNGRADED  
IAW AFR-209.2

JOLLY GREEN 36  
RCC - Captain Leland T. Kennedy  
RCCP - 1st Lt. Elmer C. Lavender  
HM - SSgt Raymond Godsey  
PJ - ALC Robert J. Ward

*Adrian D. Youngblood*  
ADRIAN D. YOUNGBLOOD, Major, USAF  
RCC

AROPC 663380

Hq ARRS SC No. 663743

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3d ARRGp Hist, Oct-Dec 66

Det 2-3-117-20 Oct (RCC Narrative)

(C) (GP-4) Jolly Green 02 (Low Bird) and Jolly Green 36 (High Bird) were scrambled at 0030Z. Take-off was accomplished at 0034Z and both helicopters proceeded to a point SW of Dong Hoi, where two F-4C pilots (Avenger 3) had ejected. Enroute to the scene, a revised position was received, which later proved to be more accurate than the original coordinates. The Jolly Greens were escorted to the area by Sandy 07 and 08. Sandys 2 and 3 were on the scene when we arrived at 0120Z, and through use of UHF/DF and visual sightings on the Sandy aircraft, we determined the general location of the downed pilots. Voice contact on guard channel was made and Jolly Green 02 established a hover over the rear seat pilot. His parachute was entangled in the top of a 200 foot tree, which the rotor wash came dangerously close to untying from the limbs. The survivor had difficulty transferring from his parachute harness to the jungle penetrator, and this increased the time required for the pick up. Intense ground fire from nearby automatic weapons was heard and could be felt hitting the helicopter from the left side before the pilot could position himself on the penetrator. Ordnance was requested from Sandy 5, but since the exact location of the second downed pilot was unknown, he deemed it inadvisable to expend ordnance. The tail of the helicopter was turned into the on-coming ground fire and the pick-up continued. The survivor was wounded in two places while being raised on the hoist. The pick-up was completed after 8 minutes of hovering. Immediately after take-off with the survivor on board, the transmission oil pressure dropped to zero and the warning light illuminated. Flight was continued for approximately six miles. Jolly Green 36 had established an orbit while Jolly Green 02 dropped below the cloud deck to effect the recovery. Visual monitoring of Jolly Green 02 was impossible because of the clouds and he was last observed on a heading of 140°. As Jolly Green 02 disappeared from view, Sandy 05 reported ground fire in the vicinity of the survivors. Shortly afterwards, Jolly Green 02 also reported ground fire during his pick-up effort on the rear seat pilot. Approximately three minutes later, 02 reported that he had zero transmission oil pressure, that he was going to land, and requested that Jolly Green 36 come down and try to pick them up. 36 immediately began a circling descent, visually located 02 approximately one-half mile ahead and below. 02 was observed at approximately 500 feet altitude, descending, and heading for a clearing. Jolly Green 36 observed a village located on the edge of 02's intended landing area and so advised him. 02 acknowledged and continued to fly at approximately 100 feet above the trees to another clearing about one half mile further away where he executed his landing and shut down, Jolly Green 36 dropped his tips, began dumping fuel during the approach, and landing which was about 25 yards from 02. Dense elephant grass separated the two aircraft. Ground fire was again encountered by 02 as the crew-members evacuated their aircraft. Two crew-members received superficial wounds from bullet fragments, (The Flight Mechanic and Paramedic). When the four helicopter crewmen and the survivor had boarded, a maximum performance take-off was made, climbing to 2000 feet above the terrain.

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3d ARRGp Hist, Oct-Dec 66

During the climb out, Jolly Green 36 directed Sandys 07 and 08 to destroy Jolly Green 02. Sandys 07 and 08 rolled in on the downed helicopter and when it was last seen, dense white smoke was rising from it. Upon request, Sandy 05 and 07 vectored 36 into the area of the back seat pilot and around several populated areas. A Nail aircraft orbiting the downed pilot spotted his location for 36 by pointing with his left wing. This marking saved valuable time in locating the survivor because of the large number of white parachutes throughout the entire area. Voice communication with the survivor was established but only 50% of his transmissions were readable. As 36 came to a hover over the trees, ALC Ward saw several armed men start from the jungle-into a clearing about 75 yards away. He leveled his M-16 and fired from the hip at the men. All men disappeared immediately, but ground fire continued throughout the pickup. The firing of the M-16 in automatic made without prior warning from ALC Ward led 36 to believe he was under fire from beneath the aircraft and 36 departed the scene. This mistake was discovered and 36 returned to the area where the pickup was made at approximately 0300Z. Sandy 05 advised a departure heading and all aircraft began a return to base. During the return flight and join-ups, Sandy 08 was unaccounted for. Sandy 05 was encountering engine difficulties at the same time. Wreckage of Sandy 08 was discovered in the recovery area by unknown aircraft. Additional SAR effort was impossible by Jolly Green 36 because of fuel state (750 lbs); recovery was made at 0405Z. Weather generally was good throughout the mission. Cloud conditions in the pick-up area were 3500 AGL broken and visibility 10 miles. Radio discipline was good except by the fighter aircraft flying high cover. Unnecessary radio chatter on UHF on the scene was excessive. Numerous white parachutes in trees in the area of the downed pilots caused difficulty in pin-pointing the downed pilot's location. It is impossible to differentiate between a personnel chute and a flare chute from the air. Since the size cannot be determined when the chutes are hanging from the limbs of a tree.

Det 2-3-121-26 Oct (RCC Narrative)

(C) (GP-4) While standing strip alert on 26 Oct 1966 word was received from Compress at 1130L that a mission was to be performed that afternoon by the Jolly Greens and that the briefing would be given by representatives who were enroute. Beginning at 1220L, the briefing was given which included the following background information: A 9 man team was discovered by enemy forces on the morning of 25 Oct 1966. At least one of the team was killed. The team apparently split up and were taking E and E action carrying a radio with a very weak battery. The last transmission received was about noon on 25 Oct. The briefer assumed that the team was out of food and in grave danger of being killed and/or captured. The weather in the search area was, at briefing time, very poor but forecasted to improve in the afternoon. Mission planning called for first aircraft (42 Zulu) to depart first to check weather and initiate the search with Sandy's 04 and 05 to escort him and if visual sighting was made Sandy 04 to be low lead. Their departure time to be at 1315L. Jolly Green's 36 and 52 were to depart about 30 minutes later escorted by Sandy's 06 and 07.

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3d ARRGp Hist, Oct-Dec 66

i. (U) In the late afternoon of 18 October 1966, Crown Bravo (HU-16, SN 517145) on orbit mission (Det 1-3-78-18 Oct) over the Gulf of Tonkin failed to return to home base at Danang. Control agency became aware of possible emergency because of lack of operations normal reports from Crown Bravo at 1700L and 1730L. Organized search began that evening and continued until 1820L on 25 October 66 with no sightings or findings reported. Aircraft was assigned to 37 ARRSq and had a total of seven crewmen aboard. Loss of the HU-16 amphibian was reported as missing due to hostile action.

j. (U) On 20 October Jolly Green 02 (SN 65-12778) on an ACR mission (Det 2-3-117-20 Oct) was disabled by suspected enemy ground fire. Oil pressure was lost and the HH-3E helicopter was forced to land in a hostile area. The crew and a recently recovered survivor were quickly taken aboard the other HH-3E (high bird) and they departed the area. RESCORT (A-1Es) destroyed the disabled Jolly Green to prevent it from falling into unfriendly hands.

k. (U) On 28 October Pedro 42 (HH-43F, SN 62-4511) on an Army Med Evac mission (Det 9-38-31-28 Oct) near Pleiku was shot down and burned. Three evacuees and the Flight Mechanic in the rear of the helicopter were killed. Army troops and the Pararescueman (PJ) on the ground helped get the Pilot and Copilot out of the burning wreckage under enemy fire. The PJ, Pilot and Copilot were flown out the next morning by another Pedro helicopter. The Copilot subsequently died from injuries received in the shooting down and crash of the helicopter.

l. (U) In the afternoon of 29 Oct Pedro 56 (SN-62-4525) flying in support of the mission (Det 9-38-31-28 Oct) in which Pedro 42 was lost, received a volley of groundfire and had to make a forced landing at Army LZ 3-Hotel, near Pleiku. Crew sustained only minor injuries and was returned to Pleiku that afternoon. HH-43 (Pedro 56) was repaired locally and is back in operation.

m. (U) On 15 November, Detachment 11, 38 ARRSq located at Tuy Hoa AB, SVN became operational. Tuy Hoa is situated approximately 50 miles north of Nha Trang on the Vietnam coast. One HH-43B is presently assigned; however, a second HH-43 will be placed there when resources permit.

n. (C)(GP-4) Jolly Green 52 (SN 64-14229) lost transmission oil pressure (15 Nov) shortly after launch on an ACR mission and made a forced landing. Parts were dispatched and maintenance performed in the field. On return, severe transmission problems developed after short flight and Jolly Green 52 was forced to land. Due to uncertain reception by local populace, crew was evacuated and friendly forces supplied to protect aircraft until repairs could be made. Aircraft subsequently repaired at landing site and flown to secure base.

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## Eight Rescued on Two Days

*Jim Reeves was all involved in this one.*

# Rescuemen Match Efforts With Fate

DA NANG—The men involved in rescues at Da Nang had two hectic days recently in which they saved eight aircrew members, including four of their own.

On Oct. 20, all the guns of North Vietnam's Tigre Island couldn't stop one of the most dramatic rescue efforts in the Gulf of Tonkin.

Six Air Force personnel were pulled from the enemy's grasp near the island stronghold about four miles away. The quick re-

sponse of tactical airpower and the courage of Air Force crews made the daring escape possible.

Two days earlier, the rescue team saved two RF-4B Marine crewmembers after they had parachuted into the stormy, windlashed Gulf of Tonkin. The Marine pilots climbed aboard a Jolly Green rescue helicopter of the 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron exactly 23 minutes after they had been forced to bail out.

The Oct. 20 rescue began early in the morning when an F-4 Phantom from the 366th Tactical Fighter Wing was crippled by enemy fire over the southern panhandle of North Vietnam. The two crewmembers headed for the coastline and ejected near Tigre Island.

Jolly Green Giant helicopters from the rescue squadron immediately were vectored to the area to make the pickup. A-1 Skyraider pilots from a detachment element of the 5th Special Operations Squadron were scrambled to direct about a dozen tactical fighters called to provide fire support for the rescue.

As the fighters headed for the rescue site, Communist gunners on Tigre Island opened fire. The first hit blew a chopper's tail off after it had landed to make the pickup.

"Our rescue attempt was over at that time and we became a part of the surviving party," recalled Jolly Green pilots Captains Gerald M. Moore and Laurence C. Davis Jr. Once in their rafts they rowed against the mounting seas away from the enemy fire.

Helping the F-4 pilot — who had suffered serious back injuries — were pararescueman Sgt. Steve T. White of Los Alton, Calif., and the copter's flight engineer, Sgt. Robert T. Anderson of St. Louis.

After facing 10-foot swells and continued enemy fire for almost an hour, two Jolly Greens attempted a multiple pickup. Fighter pilots temporarily suppressed some of the enemy fire and a smoke screen was laid for the descending, zig-zagging choppers.

"The seas were pretty rough and we couldn't land so we had to use the hoist," commented

Maj. Charles Wicker, the rescue crew commander. "Each time we went into a hover, the people on the island started zeroing in on us. I've never made faster pickups in my life, because the enemy was just walking them up to the chopper."

It took only three to four minutes to pick up all six men — four on Major Wicker's aircraft and two on the chopper commanded by Capt. Jerry M. Griggs, Kannapolis, N.C.

Two days earlier, the two Marine pilots were rescued by a Jolly Green scrambled from Quang Tri Marine Corps base, 23 miles from the crash scene.

Making the pickup were Captains Richard D. Griffiths, Pembroke, Mass., and George Stokes, Houston, AIC Robert Cassidy, Mercer, Pa., and Sergeant Anderson who was to play another life-saving role two days later.

*Check,  
Major James Reeves was  
the Spad Leader on  
this mission*

*Don Wines*

NK	Capt O'Mara Lt Harris	SSgt Riley A2C Halvorson	87	Lt Glover	30 Sep 66	USAF	NVN	F-4C
NK	Capt Murphy Lt Lyall	SSgt Godsey A1C Kellerman	88	Maj Waxman (Deceased)	1 Oct 66	USAF	NVN	F-4C
NK	Lt Webster Lt Dean	SSgt Riley A2C Hackney	89	Capt Lockhard	2 Oct 66	USAF	LAOS	F-104 Under Fire
NK	Capt Kennedy Lt Harris	SSgt Hall A2C Williamson	90	Lt Garland	5 Oct 66	USAF	NVN	F-4C Under Fire
NK	Maj Youngblood Lt Burford	SSgt Ely SSgt Hunt	91	Maj Taylor	14 Oct 66	USAF	NVN	F-105 Under Fire
2	Maj Youngblood Lt Burford	A2C Meyer A2C Davis	92	Lt Merrick	20 Oct 66	USAF	LAOS	F-4C Under Fire
6	Capt Kennedy Lt Lauvender	SSgt Godsey A1C Ward	93 94 95 96 97	Maj Youngblood Lt Burford A2C Meyer Lt Merrick A2C Davis	20 Oct 66	USAF	LAOS	HH-3E Under Fire
NK	Capt Kennedy Lt Lauvender	SSgt Godsey A1C Ward	98	Maj Brelkerridge	20 Oct 66	USAF	LAOS	F-4C Under Fire
NK	Maj Wood Lt Feigert	A2C Cotter A1C Kellerman	99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106	8 man ground party (class)	26 Oct 66	LAOS	LAOS	

1966 (cont)

23 Jul 66  
(cont)

when he flew from Lima, Peru, and snatched a packet on Easter Island.

5 Oct 66

Captains Leland T. Kennedy and Oliver E. O'Mara, both assigned to Detachment 5, 38th ARR Squadron, piloted H-3s during a mission to rescue a downed F-4 crew in Laos. With an escort of "Sandy" aircraft, Captain O'Mara repeatedly attempted to reach the downed airmen, despite intense ground fire. Captain O'Mara's H-3 was damaged, forcing a withdrawal, but Captain Kennedy persisted, and after more unsuccessful attempts, his crew rescued the F-4 copilot.



*Air Force Cross Ceremony at Scott AFB, Illinois, in 1967. Officers in foreground are Major Leland Kennedy, Captain Oliver O'Mara, General Howell M. Estes, Jr., and Colonel Allison C. Brooks.*

Both Captains Kennedy and O'Mara received the Air Force Cross.

20 Oct 66

Captain Leland T. Kennedy, piloting an H-3, again qualified for another Air Force Cross. On this mission two H-3s attempted to rescue two F-4 pilots downed near Dong Hoi. The first aircraft, piloted by Major A. D. Youngblood, picked up one of the pilots, but the H-3 was damaged and he was forced to land in the vicinity of the pickup site. Then Captain Kennedy descended and rescued the H-3 crew and the F-4 pilot. The crippled H-3 was destroyed by a "Sandy," and another H-3 pilot, Captain Henderson, ultimately rescued the other F-4 pilot.

14 Dec-  
15 Dec 66

First actual in-flight transfer of fuel from an HC-130 tanker to an HH-3 helicopter was accomplished during tests near Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.





Major A. D. Youngblood will never forget this one.

On 20 Oct 66 while Tdy with Det 5, 38th ARRS Major Youngblood in Jolly Green 02 with his crew from Det. 5 and backed up by Capt. Lee Kennedy, was scrambled on an F-4 crew that had successfully bailed out. While picking up one pilot, J.G. 02 took heavy automatic weapons fire knocking out the transmission oil system. Major Youngblood nursed the aircraft about 6 miles to an elephant grass clearing and Capt. Kennedy and crew landed in front of 02 and recovered the crew under fire. Major Youngblood's H.M. and P.J. were both wounded while running between the two aircraft. J.G. 02 was destroyed by a Sandy pilot who was shot down on his second pass. Capt. Kennedy recovered the other F-4 pilot. The Sandy pilot was MIA.



NEWS 7.JPG

# DAVID RAYMOND WAGENER

SANDY ☺☺

**CAPT - O3 - Air Force - Reserve**  
**27 year old Married, Caucasian, Male**  
**Born on Jun 22, 1939**  
**From ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN**  
**Length of service 6 years.**  
**His tour of duty began on Oct 20, 1966**  
**Casualty was on Oct 20, 1966**  
**LAOS**  
**HOSTILE, FIXED WING - PILOT**  
**AIR LOSS, CRASH ON LAND**  
**Body was recovered**  
**Panel 11E - - Line 92**



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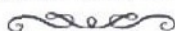
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THURS OCTOBER 20

19 F4C DOWN IN 100 RADIAL 80 MILES NKP.

29 BIRDS SCRAMOLED OUT OF NKP. WE SCRAMBLE OUT OF 98 FOR NKP. LOW BIRD GOES IN FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> MAN. GETS ALL SHOT UP

19 PICK-UPS UP R.O. HE GOT SHOT IN FOOT COMING UP HOIST. HIT THEIR TRANSMISSION, MOST ALL OIL PRESSURE, PUT O2 DOWN IN LITTLE CLEARING. OTHER J. 6. WENT DOWN

19 WITH HIM AND PICKED THE CREW UP. THEY SAID THE BULLETS WERE REALLY CUTTING AROUND THEM. MADE IT OKAY, WENT AND PICKED UP OTHER PILOT.

19 DAVIS, MAJ YOUNGBLOOD AND W. BURFORD ON DOWNED BIRD. CAPT KENNEDY WARD ON PICK UP BIRD. SANDY (CAPT WALAWER) GOT SHOT DOWN WHILE MAKING PASSES

19 SUPPRESSING THE GROUND FIRE. THEY SAW HIS PLANE BURNING AND DON'T THINK HE GOT OUT. THE 56 CREW + F4C CREW WERE REALLY LUCKY.

OCTOBER 20

19 Ward thinks he got a couple of the bad guys. No trace of the sandy pilot. Captain C. 47 went down about 50 miles SE of here #5 on board. Nothing found of them.

AIR FORCE CROSS FOR CAPT

19 KENNEDY FOR YESTERDAY

19

19