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AVHAG-CC (24 May 71) 6th Ind

SUBJECT: Request Witness Statements for Missing In Action Board

DA, Headquarters, United States Army, Vietnam, APO San Francisco 96375

11 Jun 71

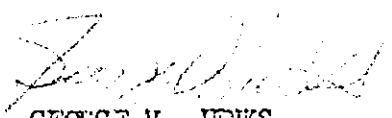
TO: Department of the Army, Office of the Adjutant General, ATTN:
Casualty Division, Washington, D. C. 20314

1. Forwarded are additional statements to be included in the MIA board of 1LT David E. May, WO1 Jon E. Reid, SP5 Randolph L. Johnson and SP4 Robert J. Acalotto.

2. The witness statements by WO1 Jackie B. Giles and SP5 Gerald F. Winchester further justify the present status determination of missing in action for the above mentioned individuals.

3. Recommend that the inclosed statements be considered and inclosed for record with the board proceedings. No further action has been initiated by this headquarters.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



GEORGE V. JENKS
LTC, AGC
Asst AG

1 Incl
as

CF:
USMACV JPRC
USARV DCS OPS, CI Br
CG, 1st Avn Bde
CO, USA Mortuary TSN

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WITNESS STATEMENT

For use of this form, see AR 155-10 - TS PAK 3; the proponent agency is Office of the Provost Marshal General.

PLACE	DATE 2 June 1971	TIME	FILE NUMBER
LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME GILES, JACKIE B.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NO.		GRADE WO1
ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS 48th Aslt Hel Co APO SF 96349			

SWORN STATEMENT

I, WO1 Jackie B. Giles, WANT TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT UNDER OATH.

On 20 February 1971, I was acting as Pilot on the lead aircraft of a light fire team covering an emergency re-supply in Laos. Mr. Reid was serving as Aircraft Commander on the trail aircraft. As we covered the last lift aircraft out of the LZ, we passed over a 51 cal. antiaircraft gun emplacement and began to engage the 51 cal. machinegun. After making several inbound passes and expending our ammunition, Mr. Reid then started his last inbound. At this time we were behind his aircraft. After appearing to get too close to the 51 without turning CW2 Knowles, the aircraft commander on aircraft 4545, called Mr. Reid and told him to break. We received no answer from Mr. Reid's aircraft. Mr. Reid's aircraft then began a slow right turn and the right aft section of the fuselage burst into flames. Approximately 5 to 6 kilometers away from the point of engagement Mr. Reid's aircraft crashed. During this time CW2 Knowles had continuously attempted to regain radio contact with Mr. Reid's aircraft. On the first pass over the downed aircraft I noticed the crew-chief and the pilot of the aircraft were not in the aircraft. 1LT May and SP4 Acalotto were not in the small area around the aircraft nor were they in the seats on the left side of the aircraft. The co-pilot's door appeared to be jettisoned with the complete door being intact. All during this time the aircraft that I was on was taking fire from all sides surrounding the downed aircraft. On approximately the 8th to 10th pass over the area we sustained numerous hits with our gunner being seriously wounded and had to seek medical aid. The crash was, in my opinion, definitely a survivable crash. The tailboom was broken off, but the aircraft was sitting up-right on the skids. Enemy troops were in close proximity of the downed aircraft. Our altitude was 50 feet when we passed over the downed aircraft.

EXHIBIT	INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT JBG	PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES
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ADDITIONAL PAGES MUST CONTAIN THE HEADING "STATEMENT OF _____ TAKEN AT _____ DATED _____ CONTINUED." THE BOTTOM OF EACH ADDITIONAL PAGE MUST BEAR THE INITIALS OF THE PERSON MAKING THE STATEMENT AND BE INITIALED AS "PAGE _____ OF _____ PAGES." WHEN ADDITIONAL PAGES ARE UTILIZED, THE BACK OF PAGE 1 WILL BE LINED OUT, AND THE STATEMENT WILL BE CONCLUDED ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF ANOTHER COPY OF THIS FORM.

WITNESS STATEMENT

For use of this form, see AR 195-10-75 FIG 3; the proponent agency is that of the Provost Marshal General.

NAME	DATE 27 May 71	TIME	FILE NUMBER*
LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME WINCHESTER, GERALD F.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NO.		GRADE SP5 E-5
ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS 13th Aslt Hel Co APO SF 96349			

SWORN STATEMENT

I, SP5 Gerald F. Winchester, WANT TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT UNDER OATH.

Gerald F. Winchester, on the 20th of February 1971, was an eye witness when aircraft 700 UH-1C went down. We were breaking station when we started taking enemy anti-aircraft fire. I told Mr. Knowles who in turn told Mr. Reid. Mr. Reid's aircraft was hit and burst into flames. He obviously lost all controls of the aircraft because the aircraft banked to the right and went into a decent. He crashed in a bunch of trees. Mr. Knowles (the aircraft I was on) followed him in and set up an orbit around the downed aircraft. On the first orbit I saw two people get out of the aircraft on the right side and they went to the rear of the aircraft. Mr. Giles reported seeing the left pilots door jettisoned at the same time. On the second orbit I did not see anybody. We continued the orbits for about 30 minutes putting down suppression fire around the aircraft trying to keep the enemy away. During this time we were under heavy fire (51 cal, and automatic fire. On about the 15th orbit my gunner was hit in the leg with a 51 cal. this was about the same time Mr. Knowles was going to go down and try and get the crew out. We were getting extremely low on fuel, our radios were shot out; but we managed to contact a dust-off on guard. Mr. Knowles told him the situation and request an other gun team. We left the down sit and took my gunner to the med-station at Khe Sanh. The pilot informed me that we were flying at 50 feet when we passed over the downed aircraft.

EXHIBIT	INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT <i>GFW</i>	PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES
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