

Still Unaccounted For



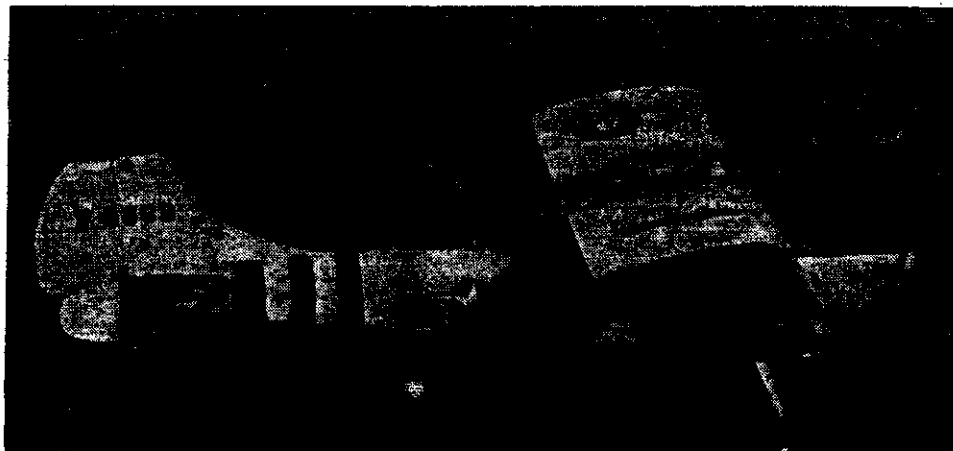
Since the last Combat Controllers Newsletter there were remains of 4 US servicemen turned over to the US Joint Casualty Resolution Center in Hickam, HI, by the Vietnamese. This drops the total unaccounted-for to 2,344. Two of our own CCT's are included in this figure: A1C Andre R. Guillet and Sgt. Paul L. Foster. Below is a story of each individual as related to those tragic moments and as viewed by those "on scene" compadres and aircrews:

Vietnam. SSgt Jim Stanford was backseat in the other O-1E and on this particular mission was flying low-bird while Andre would fly high and provide radio communication/relay.

Three airstrikes were completed at different locations and the 2 crews headed back to NKP. Andy's pilot decided to investigate a bulldozer at one of the earlier targets which was located 33 miles southwest of Dong Hoi, North Vietnam. The

drastically. When the crews arrived in the rescue area, there were no O-1E aircraft to be found on the ground. The enemy had, overnight, made it vanish without a trace. There wasn't even any groundfire — silence! Several attempts were made to draw fire, but to no avail. With no traces of Andre and the pilot or aircraft, the operation was subsequently called off.

For months after, both SSgt Jim Stanford and TSgt Charlie



Air Commando Newsletter



A1C ANDRE R. GUILLET

A1C Andre R. Guillet was born in Waterbury, Connecticut and joined the USAF in 1964. After completion of technical school and jump school, Andre was assigned to the Air Commando CCT at England AFB, LA for duty.

A 3-man CCT departed England AFB TDY as ADVON to project "Lucky Tiger" in April 1966. Meanwhile a PCS team was forming and was in "Swamp Rat" training at Hurlburt Field, A1C Guillet was one of these men selected for TDY to Nakhon Phanom (NKP) Thailand; then a remote outward location near the border of Laos, and as the crow flies, 59 miles from North Vietnam.

During this period the North Vietnamese were circumventing the nearly impenetrable DMZ by passing through Laos via the Ho Chi Minh Trail to get supplies and reinforcements to the Viet-Cong in South Vietnam. A1C Guillet's duties included flying backseat on O-1E spotter aircraft as a forward observer and radio operator. On 18 May '66, he was part of a 2-ship O-1E formation flying road-watch; looking for enemy movement to South

high-bird was passing BDA reports when the transmissions stopped abruptly, alarming the low-bird so they turned around to look for him and attempted to make radio contact. They were not able to raise Andre and the pilot on the radio. Upon reaching the target area Jim spotted the other aircraft which had made a crash landing in an open area. The aircraft had flipped up on its nose in a near vertical position but was otherwise intact; however, white smoke was coming from the rockets on its wings. Jim and his pilot immediately came under heavy ground fire and while taking evasive action, called for tactical air support and air rescue.

The first to arrive was a flight of F-4's, but on their run-in one of the fighters took a severe hit and the crew ejected. The rescue choppers with their support A-1E aircraft arrived and picked up the F-4 crew. By this time Jim's O-1E, which had taken over 50 hits from enemy ground fire, was minimum fuel and had to return to NKP. As the rescue effort continued one of the A-1E aircraft was hit on his run-in and flew into the ground and blew up on impact — no survivors. One of the rescue choppers attempted a run-in to the O-1E, but came under heavy ground fire and had to pull off with a critically injured F-4 crew aboard and intense ground fire in the area, the choppers diverted to DaNang, South Vietnam and as darkness fell the rescue efforts were called off for the day.

The operation resumed at first-light the following morning. But the situation had changed

Jones (who were now operating inside Laos with project 404) sought information that would hopefully lead to the status of A1C Guillet. "Information obtained from indigenous personnel on the ground was evaluated and used," said Jim, "but we were never able to find any trace of Andre."