

28 August 1990

Mr. Howard Jacobs

Dear Mr. Jacobs,

My name is Bob Popp. I am a retired Navy Commander currently living and working in Hawaii. Several years ago while serving as Executive Officer at Naval Station Guam, I met Commander Jim Walker. Jim was completing his final tour of duty on the Staff of COMNAVMAIRIANAS. Jim was a highly decorated helicopter pilot who served with HA(L)-3. I had mentioned to him that HA(L)-3 Det. pilots had bailed me out on several occasions when I was Commander River Division 533 in 1968/69.

We discussed at length the exploits of the helicopter squadron and the fact that it was not given all the recognition that it and its brave pilots and flight crewmembers deserved. Jim mentioned that he had gathered quite a bit of data from DOD through the Freedom of Information Act. We discussed the idea of co-writing a book that would bring the courage and daring of this unique squadron to the public. I am a published writer specializing in military history subjects and to date had not seen anything published in book form that spotlighted HA(L)-3. It is my understanding that this squadron is the most decorated squadron in the history of Navy aviation.

I am now retired and have the time to write this book and do it well. I tried to contact Jim but my letters to two different addresses were returned to me (copies of letters attached).

I saw your notice in a copy of All Hands magazine by sheer chance and am writing to you for assistance. I want to write a book worthy of HA(L)-3. If you could put me in touch with Jim Walker or provide me with any other assistance, I would be most appreciative.

I have taken the liberty of sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Dan Smiley, whose name was given to me by an active duty officer who knew of my experience with PBRs and HA(L)-3. I look forward to your response. Thanks.

Sincerely,


Bob Popp