

WITNESS STATEMENT

For use of this form, see AR 195-10-TB PMG 3; the proponent agency is Office of The Provost Marshal General

PLACE Camp Villarosa	DATE 1 June 71	TIME	FILE NUMBER
LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME REESE COY W	SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NO. [REDACTED]	GRADE	SGT, E-5
ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS USARV, TNG ADV GP (TFLAE), APO S.F. 96349			

SWORN STATEMENT

CHWR Coy W. Reese

WANT TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT UNDER OATH

On 18 May 1971 RTs Krait and HABU, were inserted on a mission to recover the bodies and survivors of RT Alaska and the downed chopper. About 20-40 meters off the LZ we found the bodies of SGT Dehnke, SP5 Hollingsworth, and one SCU. There was no sign of LT Entrican being wounded or whatever. From this location we moved in a southeast direction downhill where we found the downed helicopter lying upside down uphill. We found pieces of the chopper scattered for about 200 meters down the hill to the chopper. We found one crew member in the chopper still alive. He said his name was Parker. He was shot in upper left leg and had a fracture in the same place. The medic moved down and started giving him treatment. While the medic was treating Parker, I was informed there was a body approx. 70 meters to the west uphill. Several people had already seen him and when I saw him, he was completely mutilated and it appeared that some of his limbs had been ripped off while falling through the trees. He was wearing a helicopter flight uniform. I could not see his rank or name tag. He was buried in heavy debris and it would have been almost impossible for us to try to get him out. When the medic had finished treating Parker, we moved him approx 10 meters uphill where SGT McGlothren took his stabo rig off and put it on Parker so he could be extracted. He went out on the first chopper on ladders and SGT McGlothren climbed the ladder to get inside, also going out on the first bird. We then extracted the rest of the team. As we were extracting, another member of the crew was spotted waving his shirt about 200 meter from the downed chopper. I personally did not see the inside of the downed chopper, however, it was brought to my attention that all the medical supplies on the bird had been removed and Parker had no water nor means to treat himself. *CHWR*

EXHIBIT

INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

CHWR

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ADDITIONAL PAGES MUST CONTAIN THE HEADING STATEMENT OF _____ TAKEN AT _____ DATED _____ CONTINUED
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WITNESS STATEMENT

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PLACE	DATE	TIME
Camp Villarosa	4 June 71	
LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME	SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NO.	
HOLMES KENNETH W	236-72-5927	
ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS	GRADE	
USARV TAG (TFLAE), APO S.F. 96349	S/SGT	

SWORN STATEMENT

Kenneth W. Holmes

WANT TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT UNDER OATH

While engaged in an operation on 18 May 1971, to recover the crew of a downed helicopter and bodies of an overrun Recon Team I, S/SGT Kenneth W. Holmes, 236-72-5927, (at that time 11 of RT Habu) observed the following:
 The downed helicopter was laying on it's "nose" at the bottom of a steep ravine. The tail boom was broken off as were both the rotors. The recovery team followed the skid tracks of the "bird" where it has slid down the ravine after hitting the ground it had left a wide (approx 5 meters) trail of masked vegetation and broken pieces of the bird were scattered down this trail (skids, 1/60 MG, maps, papers etc). We located the mutilated body of one crewman approx 60 meters up the slope from the downed bird a few meters into the undergrowth. His body was trapped by dead fall and we couldn't extract him from the debris and trees pinning him without tools. At this time a live crewman (with a broken leg and gun shot wound in leg) was found in the helicopter it self. He was the gunner, (SP5 Parker), speed was imperative or this man could have died so we extracted him by ladder SGT McGlothren gave the man his Stabo rig and assisted the man out. We could find no sign of the pilot. I believe the body we found belonged to the Co-pilot. From the size of the individuals legs and boots I would say he was at least 5'10 or 5'11. (Boot size approx 10D). The straps on the right pilot's seat were torn in two and the armor shield was torn off. The left pilot's straps were unfastened and his armor shield was pushed back. The debris (machine gun, maps, etc.) on the skid trail were dragged to the chopper body and an air strike was called in on the wreckage. As the last extraction helicopter came in a man (later identified as the crewchief) appreared approx 200 meters from the extraction point in a burn area waving his shirt. He too was extracted. This statement covers what I know about this event. *WHD*

EXHIBIT	INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT	
F	KWH	

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PLACE	DATE	TIME	FILE NUMBER
Camp Villerosa	1 June 1971		
LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME	SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NO.		GRADE
COOK ROBERT E	251-84-9656		SSG
ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS			
USARV TAG(TFLAE); APO S.F. 96349			

SWEORN STATEMENT

Robert E. Cook

WANT TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT UNDER OATH

On 18 May 71, I, Robert E. Cook, 251-84-9656, inserted on an operation with other members of this command. We found two U.S. KIA on, or near, the LZ. There was also one SCU, KIA on the LZ, all were members of this unit. We moved approx 300 meters from the LZ and found one helicopter destroyed, at the bottom of a very steep hill. There was wreckage scattered apprx. 200 meters from where the chopper had crashed and then rolled down the hill. We found one body in flight fatigues approx. 70 meters west, up the hill, from the chopper. This body was American, but was very badly mutilated and recognition, and/or recovery was impossible. I went to the body and tried to discover any identify. From waist up the body was totally mutilated and beyond recognition. From waist down I would judge that the size of the man was average - 5'11" and 180 lbs. Without tools recovery was impossible because it was buried in dirty, trees, brush, and aircraft debris. I believe I saw one pilot seat and a harness. At this we also found a wounded man, crewman, in the chopper and concentrated our efforts on extracting him. First aid was given by our medic and the man was or seemed to be in shock from the wound in his leg. My 10 gave the crewman his stabo rig for extraction by ladder. I did not see the inside of the chopper. I did notice, tho', that the M-60 on the left side was still on its gun mount. We then extracted our team. As we were being extracted by ladder, another member of the crew was found about 200 meters from the chopper. He directed attention to him-self by waving his shirt at the other choppers in the air. This statement covers all I know about the operation. It is correct to the best of my knowledge. *REC*

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PLACE	DATE	TIME
Camp Villarosa	01 June 71	
LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME	SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NO.	
McGLOTHREN LEMUEL D	261-04-8154	
ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS	GRADE	
USARV TNG ADV GP (TFLAE), APO S.F. 96349	SGT	

SWORN STATEMENT

Pls. sign Lemuel D. McGlothren

WANT TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT UNDER OATH:

On 18 May 71 RTs Habu & Krait were inserted on a recovery operation. About 10 or 15 meters off our LZ we found the bodies of SGT Dehnke and one SCU from RT Alaska, also the body of one NVA soldier. We moved about 10 more meters and found the body of SGT Hollingsworth we then moved about 100 meters and began to find parts of the downed helicopter. We moved about 130 meters more and I saw a body. My 11, SSG Cook, moved to the body and pulled the body up. He past the word to me that the body was mutilated beyond recognition from the waist up. 70 meters down the hill we found the cargo compartment of the aircraft. We moved down and found the crewchief, SP5 Parker, he said that the gunner and A/C had taken the survival kits and E&E'd. SP5 Parker's wounds were bandaged and the team was extracted. As the last chopper was pulling out, the crew spotted the gunner of the downed chopper on a ridge line waving his shirt about 200 meters from the downed chopper. He was picked up, and taken to 18th Surg. For gun shot wounds. *PL 25*

EXHIBIT

INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

D.L. 95

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PLACE Camp Villarosa	DATE 14 June 71	TIME	FILE NUMBER
LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME Richard A. Hendrick	SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NO. 265-06-3371		GRADE Sgt E-5
ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS			

SWORN STATEMENT

fm Richard A. Hendrick

WANT TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT UNDER OATH

On 18 May 1971 along with the team members of RT Krait and RT Habu was inserted into the AO to determine the status of RT Alaska and an aircraft belonging to C CO., 158th Avn. Bn. Upon inserting we discovered 3 dead team members of RT Alaska and 1 dead NVA soldier. After extracting the bodies we were instructed to move to the crash site. Enroute to the crash site we found numerous parts belonging to the downed aircraft: 2 skids, 1 M-60 machine gun, 1 tail boom, 1 main rotor, numerous maps and chart charts and pieces of plexiglass. We also found one freshly mutilated body that was a crew member(wearing nomex). The body was in numerous pieces and no identification was made. We then moved down to the crash site. We found the aircraft to be upside down. One crew member(SP5 Parker) was inside of the aircraft. He had received a gun shot wound and compound fracture of the leg. He stated that he did not know what had happened during the crash and did not know the status of the other crewmembers. He said that he did not bandage himself because someone had removed the aid kits. He also stated that the emergency radio was gone also. I then searched the aircraft and this to be true. The A/C UHF radio was switched to 243.00 megacycles, however; the radio was inoperative. The right side of the aircraft was badly damaged and the seat was almost completely removed from the aircraft. The safety belts had been torn out. The left side of the aircraft and the one on the left side, were intact. The armor plate on the left side was pulled back and no blood was found in the pilot's seat. All indications were that the pilot had exited the aircraft under his own power. Also there were footprints in the mud on the left side of the aircraft where someone had entered and exited the passenger's compartment. We searched the immediate area and hollered numerous times with negative results. We then called FAC and directed a slick in and extracted the wounded crew chief by ladder with no incidents. FAC then directed us to be extracted. In the process of extracting the recovery team, one other crew member was located approximately 1000 meters from the crash site. He was wounded and waving his clothing trying to hail the recovery aircraft. He also was extracted without incident. This statement is factual to the best of my knowledge. *fm*

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