

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 4 June 71	TIME	FILE NUMBER
LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME HOLMES KENNETH W	SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NO. [REDACTED]	GRADE S/SGT	
ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS USARV TAG (TF1AE), APO S.F. 96349			

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, [REDACTED], (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) appeared 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. *fw*

EXHIBIT

INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

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.