

Thought you guys might be interested in this. As I recall Paul Riley was the pilot, Clancy Woliver was Co-pilot. I was door gunner. MG J.J. Tolson presented us the DFC. Pilot /Co-pilot got Silver Stars – Frank Forestiere

8 Fliers Hoisted From Red Nest

DA NANG, Vietnam (UPI)—Eight American airmen downed 19 hours in the midst of a Viet Cong stronghold were rescued Sunday in a dramatic, two-hour mission with U.S. planes firing on Communists within 10 yards of their position.

The Americans were aboard two Army "Huey" helicopters shot

down Saturday in the "Happy Valley," about 20 miles southwest of Da Nang.

Both choppers went down several miles from the point where they were hit, and the four-man crew of the aircraft were not located until the following day. None of the crewmen was hurt.

Two Air Force A1E Skyraiders

were first to reach the area. Piloted by Capt. Tommy Stroud, 26, of Waco, Tex., and Capt. Lyn Oberdier, 30, Toledo, Ohio, the planes began firing on Viet Cong positions.

A "Jolly Green Giant" rescue helicopter arrived within a short time. "He started drawing ground fire and he had to pull out while

we worked the area over again," Stroud said.

The helicopter returned about 10 minutes later, but again was unable to take a hovering position because of heavy Communist fire. Then it had to return to Da Nang for refueling.

Army helicopter gunships soon
(Continued on Back Page, Col. 2)

PACIFIC
**STARS
AND
STRIPES**



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8 Rescued—

(Continued From Page 1)
arrived. "They sterilized the area," Stroud said. "Sometimes the strafing fire got to within 10 yards of the downed men." The helicopter gunships and the Skyraiders continued their bombing and strafing passes for 45 minutes, until two more Jolly Green Giants arrived and hovered over the downed men.

The choppers were 50 feet above the treetops. They lowered hoist lines to the ground. Two men at a time were pulled on each line. Each rescue craft took up four men.

Stroud said the two enlisted crewmen of each downed chopper were sent up first. The pilots and copilots were last up.

The downed airmen were not immediately identified.

One of the downed fliers said later that he saw only 15 Viet Cong in the area, but Stroud said the pilots above saw at least twice that number.

