

SYNOPSIS OF EVENTS PRECIPITATING THE FOLLOWING AWARDS

LT R.W. BURNAND - Navy Cross, Awarded 1 March 1966 by Commandant,  
First Naval District  
LTJG D. G. HEGGIE - Gold Star in lieu of the third Air Medal  
AXC K.W. WHITE - Purple Heart Medal, Gold Star in lieu of the  
third Air Medal  
AX3 R.A. SITKO - Gold Star in lieu of third Air Medal

The helicopter and crew were vectored to an inland area of North Vietnam known to be fortified with emplacements of enemy anti-aircraft batteries and numerous automatic weapons. During their one and one-half hour search, severe enemy ground fire was encountered. While conducting an intense hovering search over the dense jungle foliage, heavy automatic weapons fire riddled the helicopter wounding the port gunner. With full knowledge of the risks involved, the helicopter crew persisted in their attempt to locate and rescue the survivor. During the closing portion of their search, cockpit warning lights indicated an excessively high main transmission oil temperature. Convinced a rescue was still feasible, the helicopter crew continued their search until impending nightfall, low fuel state, and an increase in the number of enemy troops forced their retirement from the area.