

MISSING MAN RUN MISSION

The POW/MIA Missing Man Run's mission is to bring awareness to the need for correct identification of remains. Each year we will highlight a case in which there is a controversial finding.

In the case of Spectre 17, Col Hart widow learned that the identification of his remains was based on was based on 5 pieces of bone no larger than a quarter.

The Defense POW/MIA Office (DPMO) considers SPECTRE 17 to be "remains returned and identified." None of the recovered remains could be scientifically identified as either Thomas Hart or George MacDonald.

The identifications of others, on this aircraft is also questionable. Information provided by the League of POW/MIA Families pertains to only the Hart and MacDonald family's who were more vocal and refused to accept the remains based on the identification.

The identifications of Hart and MacDonald were eventually 'Rescinded' based on family pressure. An independent examination the identifications of Hart and MacDonald by the Department of Defense. Of the Hart identification, one forensic expert stated: "it could not be scientifically supported." The MacDonald identification, based on two teeth, was equally unsupportable.

Ride with us to show your support of those who are still MIA and to call for a correct accounting of those missing. Funds raised through this ride will be used for American Legion Post 295's Wounded Warrior Program and other community programs. Visit Guidestar.com for financial information on our activities.

Going to DELMARVA Bike Week?

Join

THE AMERICAN LEGION
"VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL" RIDERS
CHAPTER 295

FOR OUR

2ND ANNUAL

POW/MIA

'MISSING MAN RUN'

IN HONOR & REMEMBRANCE OF

SPECTRE 17

MIA, December 21, 1972, LAOS

*Registration is \$30 per person

Pre-registration closes on September 5th.

Riders should attempt to raise at least \$100 in pledges to support Post 295's Wounded Warriors Program.

Ride departs from

Depart: Battley Harley-Davidson at 1000

Arrive: DELMARVA Bike Week 1430

American Legion Riders Chapter 295

PO Box 690

Germantown, MD 20875

www.AmLegionPost295.org

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POW/MIA
MISSING MAN RUN

IN HONOR & REMEMBRANCE OF
SPECTRE 17

September 14th, 2013

A 200 MILE POLICE ESCORTED
PLEDGE RUN FROM
GAITHERSBURG
TO
DELMARVA BIKE WEEK

REGISTRATION \$30*

**AMERICAN LEGION
RIDERS CHAPTER 295**

SEARCH AND RESCUE

(EDITED FOR SPACE PURPOSES)

Air/Ground Search

On 22 December, 1972, friendly Royal Laotian forces entered the area of the crash site in order to search for survivors. They were unable to get close to the wreckage due to the intensity of the fires from the burning fuel and exploding ammunition. The friendly forces did locate the partial remains of the Electronic Warfare Officer, Capt Joel Birch before they were forced to leave the area due to enemy fire. After the recovery effort was completed, the crash site was napalmed in order to prevent any sensitive items from falling into enemy hands. FACs continued to search the area until all search and rescue activities were terminated at noon on 24 Dec 1972.

A Pathet Lao soldier was captured the year following the downing of Spectre 17. According to the Pathet Lao soldier, there was a Pathet Lao battalion headquarters located approximately 3 km from the crash site. Upon their arrival at the crash site they did not locate any survivors and that based on the degree of damage to the aircraft, it was unlikely that anyone survived the impact.

The Dig: In February, 1985, soldiers from the Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii (CIL-HI) were allowed to return to the crash site in order to attempt to recover any remains. From 10-22 February 1985 CIL-HI personnel recovered teeth, small bone fragments, and dog tags from the crash site. The excavation of the Spectre 17 crash site was one of the first excavations allowed by the Laotian government.

WHY WE RIDE - THE AFTERMATH

(EDITED FOR SPACE PURPOSES)

Identification Controversy: The remains that were recovered in Feb 1985 were very small pieces of bone, teeth, and some personal effects such as dog tags. These pieces of bone had been subjected to a violent impact with the ground, intense heat and explosions from the burning fuel and munitions, intense heat from napalm, and years spent buried in the jungle. The bones ranged from a few inches long to the size of a dime. Needless to say, identification would be difficult to impossible without the benefit of modern DNA testing.

In July 1985, in only 5 months CIL-HI announced that it had identified 13 out of 13 crew members from the remains that were recovered. Even with today's technology, this seems highly improbable.

Ann Hart, wife of Capt. Thomas Hart, contested the identification in federal court after learning that her husband identification was based on 5 pieces of bone no larger than a quarter. At one point, the government rescinded their positive identification of Capt. Hart and 2Lt. Macdonald.

In 1990, a federal appeals court overturned the lower court ruling that rescinded the identification. The concerns of the Hart family and others have never been fully resolved. The controversy over the identification has continued to further the aura of conspiracy and mystery that surrounds the downing of Spectre 17.

The complete story may be found at www.spectre17.org

RIDER REGISTRATION

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

As with other pledge rides, I am aware that I am being asked to raise at least \$100 to support American Legion Post 295's Wounded Warrior programs and will make a

I pledge to raise at least _____ to support the program.

For demographic purposes please answer

I am a(n)

- American Legion Member Post _____
- American Legion Auxiliary Unit _____
- Sons of the American Legion Squadron _____
- Veteran or currently Active Duty, Guard or Reserves
- Family member of an Armed Forces
- Supporter (Club if any: _____)

Method of Payment enclosed:

- Check
- Visa
- MasterCard
- American Express
- Discover Expiration _____
- Cash CVV _____

Card Number _____

Signature _____