

Leave No Man Behind

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Part IV-9 Indian Summer Navy Late '66

(On 12 August 1966) USS *Kearsarge* arrived on Yankee Station, and Commander Lockwood brought his nomadic advanced CSAR detachment back from *Constellation* to *Kearsarge* and reunion with the squadron. They had flown from four carriers, *Connie*, *Ranger*, *Intrepid*, and back to *Constellation* again in a little over a month, and had rescued 8 men, three from over hostile land, and three under fire, setting the bar for the squadron to follow. In case they were not sufficiently impressed, the next day the SAR detachment made another rescue only a few miles from Haiphong. (Lcdr Nornam Levy, a F-8 Crusader pilot from the Oriskany was hit) and floated down one half mile off Dao Cat Ba, one of the bigger islands close to Haiphong. It is an area familiar to Rick Grant and Gary Smith; this would be their second rescue in three days from among the heavily defended islands. For Grant's HAC, Lieutenant Commander George J. Tarrico, and Smith's junior crewman, ATR2 Arnie E. Hardin, it would be their first. They approached the heavily defended islands, following a path relayed to them by the A-1 RESCORT which was calculated to minimize exposure to the known AA sites, and managed to arrive over the survivor, pick him up, and escape without receiving any hostile fire at all.