

7 Bodies Removed From Helicopter

Seven badly crashed bodies, including that of Ferndale dairyman Arnold (Bud) Hansen, were recovered yesterday when searchers reached the wreckage of a U. S. Coast Guard helicopter which crashed Tuesday night in heavy timber several miles inland between Trinidad and Big Lagoon.

County Coroner W. Lloyd Wallace last night confirmed the death of Hansen, as well as that of two Ferndale mothers, a 26-month-old baby and the three-man crew, all of whom were earlier reported missing by the Coast Guard.

The six, in addition to Hansen, are Mrs. Betty Kampf; her daughter, Melanie; Mrs. Marie Bahsen; pilot Lt. Donald Prince, of San Mateo; copilot Sub. Lt. Allen L. Allfree, of the Royal Canadian Navy, and crewman James A. Malmger Jr., of South San Francisco.

The helicopter crashed about 6:30 p.m. Tuesday while under radar guidance in a storm and darkness as it was attempting to make a landing approach to Arcata Airport, Coast Guard headquarters in San Francisco said Friday.

The husbands of the two women said that the helicopter earlier had picked up their wives and the baby in the Eel River bottoms area.

Bud Hansen was believed to have boarded the craft as a spotter for rescue operations.

The outer fringe of a recovery party of 200 reached the crashed helicopter at about 8:30 a.m. yesterday after it was guided in by a hovering helicopter off the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Bennington.

The mangled craft lay in

thick brush. It was on its side with its tail bent upwards.

William Hoyer, deputy coroner, said that all seven bodies were found in a badly crushed heap inside the helicopter. Amongst them were gear and parts of instruments which had broken on impact.

Hoyer said it took from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to extract all the bodies.

Others of the recovery team, who saw the wreckage, said that it appears as if most, if not all, the victims were killed on impact.

Success in finding the wreck came after three days of searching frustrated by weather so poor that no aircraft could be used to guide in the search party.

34 Helicopters Take Aid To Stricken Areas

Northern California's confirmed death toll rose to 14 yesterday with the discovery of seven victims in the wreckage of a U. S. Coast Guard helicopter which crashed Tuesday east of Trinidad and the report that a caterpillar tractor operator trying to clear a road was buried alive under a huge slide on the Smith River in Del Norte County.

Additionally, four persons are missing and feared dead after a Marine helicopter crashed into the Eel River near McCans while on a photographic mission in the disaster area. The pilot is the only known survivor. One civilian may be among the missing.

Elsewhere in Humboldt County, a total of 34 military and private choppers were in the air, delivering supplies and manpower to aid flood-isolated areas and continuing evacuations as well.

For the first time since widespread flooding began Tuesday, aid reached the cut-off towns of Hoopa and Orleans in northeastern Humboldt.

Four helicopters are due to fly to Crescent City today.

Paul Bent, directing the helicopter operations from the Humboldt County courthouse, said the choppers flew hundreds of missions beginning at daybreak Saturday.

Bent estimated 1,000 persons are marooned in the three-county area inundated by rampaging floodwaters earlier in the week.

Among the earliest rescue missions were pickups of a man with a broken back near Alderpoint and two expectant mothers in Willow Creek.

Another chopper took a doctor to the bedside of an expectant mother requiring a Caesarian operation.

These were some of the priority cases, Bent said. But he added:

"All cases are emergency cases. These people out there have lost everything and they need everything—food, shelter, clothing, medicine."

Damages reports were still coming in, but preliminary estimates placed losses in the many millions of dollars.

Early yesterday, the threat of a new storm moving southward from the coast of British Columbia delayed return of refugees to communities where flood waters had begun to recede.

The beleaguered area will receive more showers today and Monday, the weather bureau predicted, with small craft warnings of 25 to 40 mile an hour winds. Some parts received moderate to heavy rain Saturday but there was little increase in river levels.

Highway access to many sections was non-existent. U. S. 101—the principal north-south coastal arterial—was closed between Willits and Crescent City.

Civil Defense officials expressed fear for the welfare of an unknown number of persons believed isolated in private camps in rugged sections of Mendocino and Del Norte counties.

Helicopters from the Sixth Army reported evacuation of some 400 persons in the stricken Eel River areas south of Eureka. Included were patients in small hospitals in Shively and Scotia.

The Pacific Gas and Electric Co. sent 150 trouble-shooters and 20 tons of wire and materials into the Humboldt County area, but the weather hampered repair work.