

# Searchers Find Craft In Brush

A crashed Coast Guard helicopter which vanished at the peak of the intense storm at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday night was reached by a ground party at an island point between Trinidad and Big Lagoon at 9 a.m. today. There were no survivors.

It is believed that at least four civilians, all from Ferndale, are among the dead in addition to the crew of three. It is known that Bud Han-



Lt. Donald Prince

son, a dairyman, boarded the aircraft as a spotter for the rescue mission in which the aircraft was engaged before the fatal crash in the darkness. He has not been heard from since.

Also missing after having been airlifted from the flooded Ferndale bottoms are Mrs. Betty Kempf, her 20-month-old daughter Melanie, and Mrs. Marie Bahnsen.

The crew dead are positively identified as pilot Lt. Donald Prince of San Mateo, co-pilot Sub-Lieutenant Allen L. Altree of the Royal Canadian Navy, and crewman James A. Minsinger Jr. of San Francisco.

Two U.S. Navy pilots, identified only as Lieutenants Garrett and Brune, re-located the downed helicopter after several attempts by the ground parties had been turned back



James A. Minsinger, Jr.

by foul weather and gusting terrain, and guided the oster fringe of a 200-man search party to the wreck and the bodies by hovering above the crash point and by means of air-to-ground radio.

Lt. W. Hill of the Humboldt Bay Lifeboat Station of the Coast Guard, who directed the search, was high in his praise of the Navy pilots, and also commended heavily the men of the Humboldt County Sheriff's department, the California Military Reserve and Georgia-Pacific employees who aided in the four-day search on G-P land.

The crashed copter was found lying on its side, with the tail sticking in the air and the fuselage scattered through the thick brush.

Garrett and Brune had spent yesterday on the ground, beating the dense thicket with the search party when the helicopters were grounded by a drenching downpour and zero visibility.

# Eureka Boys Trek From Fort Bragg

Two footsore and weary Eureka High School sophomores arrived in Eureka Christmas Eve after trekking approximately 100 miles over treacherous highways from Fort Bragg, where their car broke down. One of the boys will begin the walk back today.

Nick Nickell, 17, and Jim Sheets, 18, were en route from Bakersfield where Nickell had gone to attend his father's funeral, when their car broke down.

The pair took off walking Tuesday morning because Nickell thought his mother, who had also attended the funeral, had made it through to Eureka. They had only two dollars between them.

The boys reported a trail of devastation all along their route. A 200-yard Highway 101 dropout one half mile north of Leggett forced them to circle through the mountains above the highway to get around it. They found volunteers using wheelbarrows to clear three feet of mud from a store when they reached Piercy that night.

The boys passed three busloads of people stranded at the Terrace Gardens Motel south of Garberville Thursday morning and arrived at Garberville that day after by-passing more washed-out roads and trekking through mud-covered highways near Benbow.

The boys' luck improved at Weott where they hitched a ride on a helicopter to the Rohnerville Airport. A sympathetic truck driver headed for Eureka brought the pair in from there.

But Nickell arrived here to find that his mother was stranded in Napa, so he plans to begin the walk out today in order to join her there.

"I would have left today," he said late Friday, "but my feet were pretty sore."

# Copters Off Carrier In Rescue Here

The first outside help since Monday was reaching isolated outlying areas of Humboldt and Del Norte counties today as fleets of armed forces and private helicopters fanned out with emergency supplies.

Most are from the attack aircraft carrier USS Bernington, which is lying about three miles off Humboldt Bar. About 30 helicopters are estimated to be in action, although bad weather was still hampering some flights this morning.

The first copter, Navy machine, landed at Hoopa at 8:30 a.m., with another landing at Orleans at the same time. The machines are reported to be carrying emergency medical supplies, food and fuel.

Two copters were reported at Willow Creek, with another headed for Klamath where an effort will be made to string a cable across the river to transport emergency supplies.

Lt. Commander Franklin Jones, senior medical officer of the Bennington, dispatched two Navy doctors and two medical corpsmen this morning to Rohnerville airport to render emergency aid in the southern areas, while Jones himself, together with Dr. Ted Loring and Hollis Taylor, a medical specialist, were to fly in to Hoopa and Orleans to assess the situation there.

Twenty Marine Corps helicopters are operating from Murray Field and five from McKinleyville airport, with the others scattered, Civil Defense headquarters here stated.

## Civil Defense Landed

The Helicopter Rescue Control and Coordinating office has been set up in the Grand Jury rooms of the county courthouse here, with about 20 military and civilian personnel working in liaison with Civil Defense headquarters in the basement, where about 100 personnel were at work.

Military officers who performed similar operations in the recent hurricane disasters in the south call the Humboldt Civil Defense operations "the smooth-