

“An extraordinary story, superbly told. I predict that *The Rescue of Streetcar 304* will become an instant military aviation classic.” —STEPHEN COONTS

## THE RESCUE OF STREETCAR 304

A Navy Pilot's Forty Hours on the Run in Laos

By *Kenny Wayne Fields*

On 31 May 1968, Lt. Kenny Fields catapulted off USS *America* in his A-7 for his first combat mission. His target was in Laos, which at the time was “officially” off-limits for U.S. attacks. What the planners did not know was that Fields and his wingman were en route to a massive concentration of AAA gun sites amidst an entire North Vietnamese division.

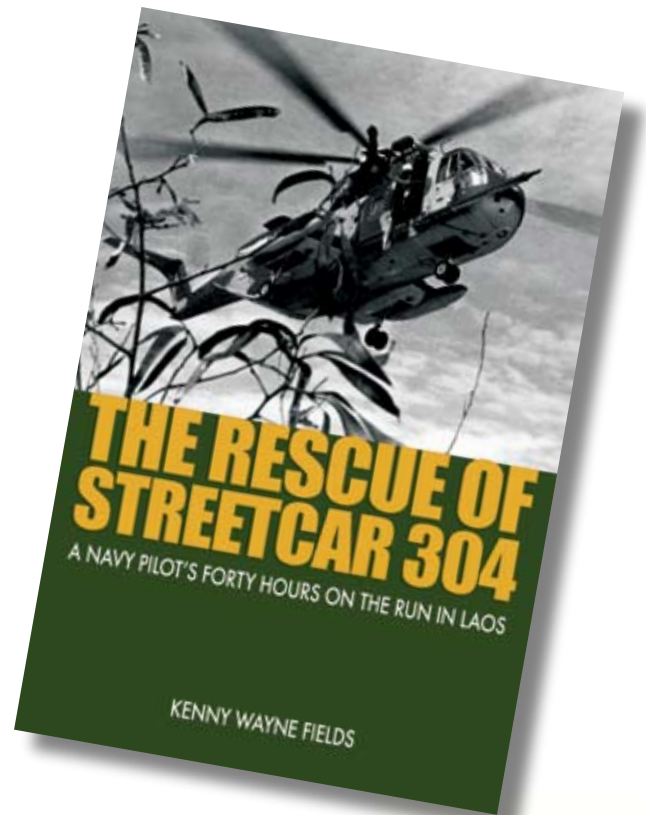
Fields—call sign Streetcar 304—was the first to roll in and destroyed the target with a direct hit. Three AAA guns began to fire, but, following his wingman, he rolled in again. This time many more AAA guns opened up and Fields was shot down.

*The Rescue of Streetcar 304* is Fields' exhilarating narrative of the 40-hour ordeal that followed, and what turned out to be one of the largest air rescues of the Vietnam War. Fields recounts close encounters with Pathet Lao guerillas and nearly being killed time and again by friendly bombs. He describes in riveting detail the radio chatter between participants and the stress effects of coping with fear, no food, the jungle heat, wild animals, and sleep deprivation. Before it was over, the U.S. Air Force had flown 189 sorties to rescue Fields, and in the process four pilots had ejected, seven planes were lost or heavily damaged, and one pilot became a POW for five years.

Fields draws on Air Force radio logs, after-action reports, and extensive interviews with all participants—including the wives at home—to tell the story from all perspectives. The result is a gripping tale of courage and brotherhood on both battlefield and home front.

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**KENNY FIELDS** was a Bombardier/Navigator in the A-3B for several years and then piloted A-4C and A-7A “attack” jets. During two combat tours to Vietnam he flew 139 combat missions in the A-7 over Laos, Cambodia, South Vietnam, and North Vietnam. He later served as a jet flight instructor. He retired after 22 years, 3,350 flight hours, and 475 carrier landings. He lives in Mooresville, North Carolina.



**MAY**

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“Kenny Fields is the ultimate survivor. For forty hours he evaded the enemy as we Sandy A-1 Skyraider pilots tried to pluck him from the hostile jungle. Here is the riveting account of his escape from Laos . . . fasten your seatbelt!”

—GEORGE MARRETT