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Smokejumper Obituary: Henault, Steve William (Missoula 1946)

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Smokejumper Obituary

Henault, Steve William (Missoula 1946)

Steve, 41, (Major/US Army) died February 19, 1971, in the crash of an Alaska Army National Guard aircraft at the 14,800 foot level of Mt. Sanford, Alaska. It was on a ferry mission to Ft. Richardson, Alaska, from Fresno, California. The plane developed engine problems, declared an emergency, and landed at Whitehorse on the way up. Major Henault was the Pilot in Command conducting a plane transition as well as qualify LTC. Caldwell (another passenger) in the U-8 aircraft.

He jumped in Missoula for seven seasons and was a stand-in for Richard Widmark during the filming of "Red Skies of Montana." Steve flew two tours in Vietnam and was a Major with the Air Medal with 10 oak leaf clusters.

Steve was born January 15, 1928, in Snoqualmie, Washington and graduated from Darby H.S. (MT) in 1947 and Montana State in 1952. He enlisted in the Army in 1953. He jumped at Missoula 1946-52.

Former jumper, Rex Post (MSO-54), a Pan Am Airways Captain on leave, and mountaineer, died during a rescue attempt on this crash.

(end of excerpt)