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Smokejumper Obituary: Montgomery, Malcolm Crostin "Mac" (Missoula 1956)

National Smokejumper Association

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Smokejumper Obituary

Montgomery, Malcolm Crostin "Mac" (Missoula 1956)

Malcolm Crostin "Mac" Montgomery born December 29, 1936, in Ft. Collins, CO and died March 17, 1959.

Mac was born and raised in Colorado. He graduated from Cache La Poudre High School at La Porte, CO in 1954. He spent two years attending CO State University (1954-56), then immediately after jumping during the summer of 1956, entered the USN as a naval air cadet. He then attended Naval flying school at Pensacola, FL and received his Ensign Commission in May of 1958 at Kingsville, TX Naval Air Station. In the fall he was assigned to the photo reconnaissance squadron at Hickman AFB near Honolulu, HI.

On March 17, 1959, about 4:00 p.m. and he was flying a training mission over the Pacific about thirty miles south of Barber Point. He was piloting a F9F Cougar fighter jet and working with the destroyer escort, USS Ramsden. He was practicing dives over the ocean while the ship were tracking him with radar. Investigators later believed he swerved at the last minute to avoid hitting the ship. His plane went into a steep dive and into the ocean. Neither his body nor the aircraft were recovered.

(end of excerpt)