

[Clipping of news headline and article]

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4 Missionaries Found Slain

Only a Remote Chance That Fifth Escaped Indians in 'Green Hell'

(Pictures on Back Page)

Quito, Ecuador – (AP) – The bodies of four massacred American missionaries have been found in the “green hell” jungles of eastern Ecuador. There is only a “remote chance” that a fifth survived a savage Indian attack, it was reported Friday.

An unconfirmed radio report from the jungle said at least one of the slain men had been decapitated – recalling the Auka Indian’s grisly practice of shrinking the head of their victims.

Only one of the murdered missionaries has been positively identified so far – Nathaniel Saint of Fullerton, Calif. Saint was the only member of the party who was wearing khaki clothing. Mutilation made it impossible to identify the other three bodies.

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THE MEN who flew into the jungle with Saint Sunday were T. Edward McCully Jr. of Wauwatosa, Wis.; Roger Youderian of Billings, Mont.; Peter Fleming of Seattle, and James Elliot, Portland, Ore.

A U.S. Air Force helicopter piloted by Maj. Malcolm L. Nurnberg sighted the four bodies Thursday in shallow water along the banks of the rain swollen Curacay River [sic]. It appeared likely the fifth body was swept away by the turbulent waters, which also carried away all but a fragment of the fuselage of the missionaries’ stripped plane. Nurnberg made a 10-mile sweep along the river, but found no trace of the missing body.

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ABRAHAM Vanderpoint [sic], an official of the Protestant mission that sent the five men to convert the Aucas, reported by radio from the jungle, “There is a remote chance the fifth missionary is still alive, but hope is fading with the passage of time.”

Two men sighted early Thursday near the scene of the massacre and tentatively identified as survivors turned out later to be friendly Jibaro Indians who guided searchers to the missionaries’ radio set.

(Radio station WMBI, voice of the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, had monitored the shortwave broadcast from Ecuador Tuesday afternoon. A station spokesman interpreted word that a helicopter had landed near two live men as meaning that two of the missionaries had been saved.)

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MEANWHILE, examination of the reports prepared by the missionaries before their last, fatal trip into the jungle indicated they probably were slain by Aucas they had not met on previous trips.

The five men had established friendly relations with the Indians who lived near the river beach they were using as a landing strip for their light plane.

They had won the Indian's confidence to such an extent that a few of the bolder savages came close enough to shake their hands, and one even went for a short hop last week in the mission plane. "The Indian gave yells of happiness while in the air," Saint said in his report of the day's activities.