

[Clipping of news headline and article]

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Pilots Scan Jungle for 5 Missionaries

QUITO, Ecuador, Jan 11 (AP) — Planes are combing the Amazon jungle today for five Protestant U. S. missionaries believed seized by savage Indians. Air Force reports of a body lying near their plane's ripped skeleton aroused fear for their lives.

A U. S. Army helicopter was dispatched from their Canal Zone today to take part in the hunt for the men, missing in a remote jungle region of northeastern Ecuador. Planes from the zone's U. S. Air Force rescue squadron also jointed [sic] in the growing search.

The five men flew their small Piper Cub into the bush area last week to do mission work among the primitive tribesmen. They were identified as Nate Saint, Huntingdon Valley, Pa., a Philadelphia suburb; Edward McCully, Milwaukee; Peter Fleming, Seattle; James Elliot, Portland, Ore., and Roger Youderian of Billings, Mont.

The Air Force joined the search after another flying missionary, John Keenan, made a reconnaissance flight over the area and reported seeing the stripped Piper Cub. He said he saw no signs of the missionaries but spotted several Indian canoes heading down the river.

RADIO GOES DEAD

Keenan made his investigation after the mission party radioed it had encountered a group of savage Auca Indians, then broke radio contact. Soon after the hunt began, a Quito radio station relayed a message from a U. S. search plane that it had sighted the Piper Cub — stripped of its fabric — and alongside it a body pierced with an Indian lance.

The Aucas, described as the least civilized of Ecuador's Indian tribes, have rarely been seen by white men.

4 FATHERS

All five men have been in mission work in South America from three to 10 years. All were married and had their families with them. Saint has a 10-month-old daughter, Youderian two children, Elliot a 1-year-old daughter and McCully two small sons. The Flemings have no children.

Youderian was a member of the "Gospel Missionary Union" and the others of an organization named "Christian Missions in Many Lands." Saint and Keenan also were with the "Missionary Aviation Fellowship."