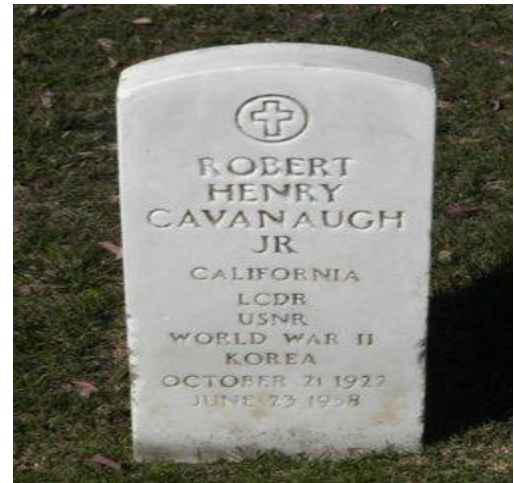


Incident Summary Page for the Smokejumper Line of Duty Death

Name of Smokejumper LODD: Robert “Bob” Carlman (NCSB-57) Alonzo Keith “Gus” Hendrickson (NCSB-47) Gerald “Jerry” Helmer (NCSB-53) Pilot: Robert H Cavanaugh Jr	Incident Name: Eight Mile Ridge Fire Incident Date & Time: June 23, 1958
Smokejumper Base: North Cascades	Incident Location: Winthrop Ranger District, Okanogan National Forest, Washington.
Personal Information	
<p>Robert Carlman, 24, a 2nd year smokejumper, was at the time the Winthrop RD Timber Sales Officer. He was survived by his wife and 2 young sons.</p> <p>Gerald Helmer, 24, was a 4th year smoke jumper, trainee squad leader and US Army Korean War veteran paratrooper. He was survived by his mother and father.</p> <p>Keith Hendrickson, 29, an 11th year smokejumper and squadleader was also a veteran of the US Air Force. He was survived by his wife, who was 9 months pregnant.</p> <p>Robert H Cavanaugh Jr, 35, was a US Navy veteran pilot of World War II and the Korean War.</p>	
Brief description	
<p>Severe lightning hit the North Cascades area June 21st and 22nd, resulting in a small fire on Eight Mile Ridge, 15 miles north of Winthrop. Initial attack was provided by two NCSB smokejumpers. When the fire blew up under windy conditions the response was quickly upgraded to two additional smokejumpers and a “ground pounder” crew consisting of the base “rookies” led by Foreman Elmer Neufeld (CJ-44).</p> <p>Cargo, including food, chain saws, fuel and a tracked fireline digger, was requested by the fire. With Bob Carlman sitting in the co-pilot seat, Gus and Jerry successfully made the first cargo run, putting the supplies down with a “perfect drop” near the base camp. Shortly after the Twin Beech departed a “thud” was heard in the distance and the fire lookout at Sweetgrass tower confirmed to Neufeld the aircraft had gone down. A rescue team from the fire set out immediately for the crash area, a couple miles away, there were no survivors. With thunderstorms in the area it is thought that the Twin Beech was caught in a severe downdraft.</p>	
Links to more information on this incident:	
https://wlfalwaysremember.net/1958/06/23/1958-eight-mile-ridge-sj-beechcraft/ https://lessons.wildfire.gov/incident/eight-mile-ridge-fire-smokejumper-aircraft-accident-fatalities-1958 https://smokejumpers.com/magazine/eight-mile-ridge-fire/ https://smokejumpers.com/magazine/8-mile-ridge-crash/	

Incident Summary Page for the Smokejumper Line of Duty Death



Forest Service Plane Crashes Killing 4 Men

WINTHROP (Okanogan County) Wash. (AP) — Four men died Monday in the crash of a twin-engine Forest Service plane flying a supply mission to crews fighting fires in wooded areas north of here.

A ground crew sent to Eight Mile ridge after a Forest Service lookout reported seeing the plane crash and explode found three bodies near the wreckage. A fourth was inside the plane.

The Forest Service said the plane, a Beechcraft, was flown by Bob Cavanaugh, Medford, Ore. Also aboard were Keith (Gus) Hendrickson, Winthrop, foreman of a smoke-jumping crew; Robert Carlmon, Winthrop, assistant timber sales officer for the Winthrop District of the Okanogan National Forest; and Gerald Helmer, Sweet Home, Ore., a smoke-jumper.

The Forest Service said the plane had flown supplies to crews fighting four other small forest fires in the area and was on its fifth flight when the crash occurred.

Cause of the crash was not determined immediately.

The burning plane touched off another small forest fire which was quickly brought under control by crews rushed to the area.