

The communications between flight 19 (call sign: FT28), Fort Lauderdale, Port Everglades and Lieutenant Cox (call sign: FT74). Flight 19 messages in bold.

15:45 FT74: Fox Tare seven four, Fox Tare 74 to Nan How Able One , Nan How Able One, there seems to be either a boat or plane lost and is calling Powers. Suggest you inform tower of it. Over.

Fort Lauderdale: Nan How Able One, Roger.

FT74: This is Fox Tare 74, plane or boat calling Powers, please identify yourself so someone can help you.

Fort Lauderdale: Nan How Able One to FT-74. Tower asks if they have any recognition or identification . . .do they have any recognition?

FT74: Negative. Not as yet known.

16.11 Unknown: Does anyone have any suggestions?. I think we must be over the Keys.

FT74: This is FT-74 calling lost plane or boats. Please identify yourself? Over.

Unknown: Roger, this is MT-28

FT74: MT-28, this is FT-74, what is your trouble?

MT28: Both my compasses are out and I am trying to find Fort Lauderdale, Florida. I am over land, but it's broken. I'm sure I'm in the Keys, but I don't know how far down and I don't know how to get to Fort Lauderdale

FT74: MT-28, this is FT-74. Put the sun on your port wing if you are in the Keys and fly up the coast until you get to Miami, then Fort Lauderdale is 20 miles further, your first port after Miami. The air station is directly on your left from the port. What is your present altitude? I will south and meet you?

MT28: I know where I am at now. I'm at 2,300 feet. Don't come after me

FT74: MT-28, roger. I'm coming up to meet you anyhow

Fort Lauderdale: FT-74, this is Nan How Able One. Is the call sign of your contact MT-28 or FT-28?

FT74: MT-28 this is FT-74. Please verify. Are you MT-28 or FT-28? Over

FT28: Roger, that's FT-28. FT-74, can you have Miami or someone turn on their radar gear and pick us up? We don't seem to be getting far. We were out on a navigational hop and on the second leg I thought they were going wrong so I took over and was flying them back to the right position, but I'm sure now that neither one of my compasses are working.

FT74: FT-28, You can't expect to get here in ten minutes. You have a 30 to 35 knot head or cross wind. Turn on your emergency IFF gear, or do you have it on?

FT28: Negative

FT74: Nan How Able One, this is FT-74. Flight of 5 planes leader is FT-28. He has his emergency IFF equipment on. Requests if he can be picked up on Fort Lauderdale radar gear.

Fort Lauderdale: FT-74, Nan How Able One. Negative. He cannot be picked up on Fort Lauderdale radar gear

16.22 FT74: Roger. Standby

FT74: FT-28, this is FT-74. Turn on your ZBX . FT-28, do you read? Turn on your ZBX

Fort Lauderdale: FT-74, this is Nan How Able One, tell FT-28 to have a pilot with a good compass take over lead. Over

FT74: Roger. FT-28, this is FT-74. Have a wingman with a good compass take over lead of flight. Over.

FT28: radar.....

FT74: FT-28, your transmissions are fading. Something is wrong. What is your altitude

FT28: I am at 4,500 feet

FT74: 'Nan How Able One, this is FT-74. He is now on a new heading. Angles 4.5 and climbing.

Port Everglades: Nan How Able Three to FT-28: This is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country. Can you read us?

16.25 FT28: Affirmative. We have just passed over small island. We have no other land in sight. Visibility is 10 to 12 miles.

16.26 FT28: I am at angels 3.5. Have on Emergency IFF. Does anybody in the area have a radar screen that could pick us up?

Port Everglades: FT-28, this is Nan How Able Three. Suggest you have another plane in your flight with a good compass take over the lead and guide you back to the mainland.

FT28: Roger

Unknown: If we would just fly west we would get home

Unknown: Dammit, if we would just fly west we would get home

FT28: FT-28 to Nan How Able Three, one of the planes in the flight thinks if we went 270 we could hit land.

16.40 FT28: we went out on a heading of 120. On the second leg of the hop I took over because I thought they were going wrong, but now I know it's my compasses that were wrong.....

16.42 Port Everglades: Nan How Able Three to FT-28. Do you have a YG disk for homing DF?

16.44 Fort Lauderdale to Gulf Sea FHFDFN: Monitor 4805 for Plane FT28 - Plane lost on east coast Florida

NAS Pensacola: Roger

Houma: Roger

Jupiter: Roger

Miami: If you hear him or FT74, alert the Net

16.45 FT28: FT-28 to Nan How Able Three. We are heading 030 for 45 minutes, then we will fly north to make sure we are not over the Gulf of Mexico

16.46 Port Everglades: Nan How Able One to FT-28, please turn on your ZBX. Repeat turn on ZBX. Over.

16.52 Port Everglades: Nan How Able Three to FT-28, please turn on your ZBX. Repeat please turn on ZBX.

16.56 Port Everglades: Nan How Able Three to any Fox Tare in flight with Fox Tare Twenty-eight, turn on your ZBX. Over

17.04 FT28: All planes in this flight join up in close formation

FT28: How long have we gone now?

Unknown:

17.05 FT28: Let's turn and fly east 2 degrees. We are going too damn far north instead of east. If there is anything we wouldn't see it.

17.07 FT28: FT-28 to all planes in flight, change course to 090o for 10 minutes

17.11 FT28:You didn't get far enough east. How long have we been going east?

17.12 FT28: Hello Nan How Able three, this is FT-28. Do you read? Over

Port Everglades: Roger. This is Nan How Able Three. Go ahead

Unknown (possibly Powers): I receive you very weak. We are now flying 270o

Port Everglades: Roger

17.16 FT28: We will fly 270o until we hit the beach or run out of gas

17.19 FT28: Planes fly close formation. When first man gets down to 10 gallons of gas, we will all land in the water together. Does everyone understand that?

17.20 Port Everglades: Nan How Able Three to FT-28, If you can change to Yellow Band (3000 kilocycles), please do so and give us a call

17.22 FT28: Nan How Able Three, this is Fox Tare twenty-eight.....

Port Everglades: This is Nan How Able Three, shift to 3000 kilocycles

17.24 FT28: I receive you very weak. How is weather over Lauderdale?

Port Everglades: FT-28, this is Nan How Able Three, Weather over Lauderdale clear. Over Key West CAVU. Over the Bahamas cloudy rather low ceiling, poor visibility

17.30 FT28: Is that a ship on the left?

Unknown (possibly Powers):

17.33 FT28: Nan How Able Three, Can you hear me?

Port Everglades: Hear you strength three, modulation good

17.34 Port Everglades: Nan How Able Three to FT-28, Can you shift to 3000 kcs? Over. FT-28, please change to 3000 kcs, shift to 3000 kcs. Over

17.40 FT28: Nan How Able Three, How do you read?

Port Everglades: Very Weak. Change to 3000 kilocycles

17.50 FT28: Hello Nan How Able Three, this is FT-28. I can hear you very faintly. My transmission is getting weaker

FT28: Hello Nan How Able Three. This is FT-28. Over

Port Everglades: Change to Yellow Band channel 1, 3000 kilocycles and give us a call

FT28: My transmission is getting weaker

17.53 Port Everglades: Change to Yellow Band 3000 kilocycles and say words twice when answering

17.54 Port Everglades: Nan How Able Three to FT-28, Did you receive my last transmission? Change to channel 1 3000 kilocycles

FT28: Repeat once again

17.55 Port Everglades: Change to Channel 1, 3000 kilocycles

FT28: I cannot change frequency. I must keep my planes intact

Unknown: We may have to ditch any minute

18.02 FT28: Hello Powers, do you read me?

18.03 FT28: Hello Powers, this is Taylor. Do you read me? Over.

18.04 Powers: Roger. I read you

FT28: Hello Powers. I have been trying to reach you

Powers: I thought you were calling base

FT28: Negative. What course are we on?

Powers: Holding course 270

FT28: Affirmative. I am pretty sure we are over the Gulf of Mexico. We didn't go far enough east. How long have we been on this course?

Powers: About 45 minutes

18.06 FT28: I suggest we fly due east until we run out of gas. We have a better chance of being picked up close to shore. If we were near land we should be able to see a light or something. Are you listening? We may just as well turn around and go east again.

18.07 Port Everglades: Nan How Able Three to FT-28, do you read me?

18.13 Port Everglades: Nan How Able Three to FT-28, do you read me . . . Ten nine eight seven six five four three two one

18.17 FT28: Hello, Powers?

FT28: Powers, what is your course?

18.37 FT28: What course are we on now?

FT28: Fox Tare Three, Fox Tare Three

18.44 Port Everglades: FT-3, This is Nan How Able Three. Come in please. We are reading you very weak. Come in please

19.04 Port Everglades: Fox Tare Three, Fox Tare Three, Fox Tare Three

Unknown: