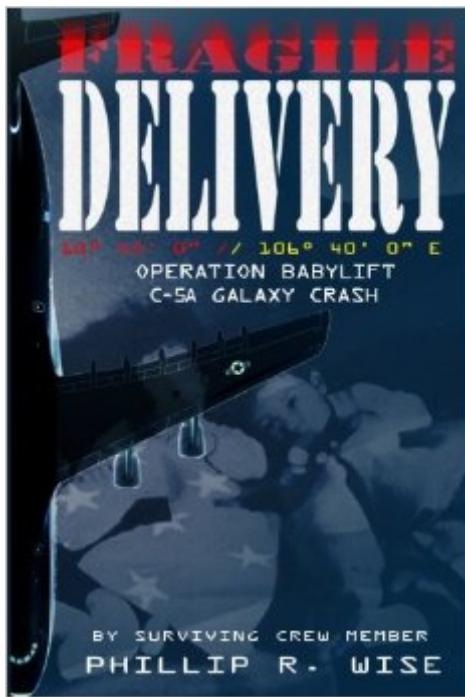


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# Fragile Delivery



## **Synopsis**

Fragile Delivery: The Operation Babylift Crash is about the horrible C-5A Galaxy Crash as it was attempting to airlift orphans out of Vietnam on April 4, 1975. It is the story of the life of surviving Crew Member Phillip R. Wise and how he stopped asking why and concentrated on meeting and fellow shipping with the adult Babylift orphans.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This is one of those books that you will not want to put down. Mr Wise gives a first hand account of the maiden flight of Operation Babylift, an evacuation of Vietnamese infants and children authorized by then President Gerald Ford at the close of the Vietnam War. The author gives a heartfelt account of the tragedy, the miracles and the sacrifices made by the many who participated in this humanitarian event. The author brings us along with him, touching on the events that led up to his own personal involvement as a crew member on the ill fated C-5 Galaxy crash to the tragedy and trauma he endured following it's fall from the sky. The book is an easy read, filled with feeling and as I said, you won't be able to put it down! --"Doc" Bernie Duff

I just finished reading this book and it was a nice piece of work. Although I am an Operation Baby Lift baby, I was not on the crash (I was supposed to be on that plane but fortunately for me, I came to the States on April 15th, 1975) I think Phil did a good job of capturing the event without over dramatization. The way he weaved his journal into it was nice too; it was great to get to know him and his life experiences through reading it. There is always a Reason that we were/are given life - it is great to read and know people like Phil who understand that and who are trying to make the most

of it. I am sure on our death beds, we won't be whining about "why was I on that plane" or "why was I adopted" - I think in my dying breath I want to be able to think and say, "Thank You for life (to my family and God)" one more time...

I'll never forget where I was standing when news of the 'C-5 crash' blew through the clinic at McChord AFB, Washington all those years ago. As a young USAF medic stationed there, the information seemed to have far more effect than one would associate with an aircraft accident *per se*. Being medically related, it somehow reached close to home. Despite the sketchy details available that afternoon, some of which were likely speculative, the news came as a morbid revelation, leaving in its wake a sense of helplessness borne out of the realization that nothing could be done. The news imposed a somber intrusion into the collective mood throughout the facility that day. Fast forward a few months and by October 1975 I was assigned to the 9th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron at Clark AB in the Philippines and billeted in the same dorm with at least one of the other technicians who had survived the C-5 Crash. Those were fast 'rough and tumble' days, for me the golden days of Air Evac. Now, decades later, meeting 'Phil' at Aeromedical reunions and reading *Fragile Delivery* I can say with assurance this is a great book. It's one thing to read a book from the standpoint of having to make presumptions based upon one's assessment of apparent authorship alone. It's quite another to find yourself taken down a corridor, door after door thrown open, illuminating memories of experiences long past, yet made anew by the recounts of someone who could not possibly unlock such recollections based upon sterile research. Author Phillip Wise has written a book which not merely records an intense catastrophic event in detail, but also paints a picture of the 'life' we lived, setting the events in a cinematic context which puts me 'back there' with a clarity I'd forgotten for going on nearly forty years. It's like reliving those days through the pages themselves. This book also furnishes autobiographical insights into the man himself, his standards, principles, ethics, and character. Such insights, woven through the narrative prompts the reader to consider the very real possibility that providence, if not divine intent determined the crew selection for that fateful mission on that fateful day. For such a story to be told well demands an author in possession of such qualities as to ensure absolute integrity in the treatment of the subject. Every bit as much so as the love and care invested in the welfare of the orphans who survived the crash by many others who were also drawn into the aftermath of this intense event. Despite the difficulty of dealing with such a complex multi-faceted topic, the book is an easy read. I found it hard to put down, but then again I must admit being somewhat biased. After all, I was there 'living the life' within months after the event. Many of us from the old days still keep in touch, as we are indeed

'family'. I never thought those special, precious days (as demanding as they were at times) would be so well preserved so many years later. Phillip Wise has written a great book and continues to be a distinguished representative for the historical preservation of Operation Babylift. Dan

What Phil Wise has done with "Fragile Delivery" is nothing short of impressive. An honest, brave, and at times self-deprecating account of a life well lived. From his humble beginnings in Michigan to the event that changed everything over the South China Sea, Mr. Wise gives the reader a front row seat and unparalleled access to how a military career shaped his life. As one of the orphans on the ill-fated C-5 Galaxy flight, all I can write is: Thank you for your service, Mr. Wise -- And thank you for this book! If you have any interest in the Vietnam War or Operation Babylift, do yourself a favor and read this book immediately. -Dan Bischoff (b. Tran Mong Viet)

I know the writer personally and know that everything he has said in this book definitely happened. My husband was THERE. Read this to gain insight into events at the end of the Vietnam War. It is worth reading.

I enjoyed this first person story of the Baby Lift story and accident and what happened to others. It was a little disjointed as his story starts and stops, when he inserts other stories in between. But a very good read.

Excellent true account by a super tech. I worked with Phil at Lackland AFB many years ago. He was admired and loved by staff and patients.

Very Inspirational, very good book, what a hero!!! I was amaze of how he survived the accident and yet to tell about it.

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