

WITNESS STATEMENT

For use of this form, see AR 195-10 - TB PMG 3; the proponent agency is Office of the P. 3st Marshal General.

PLACE Dong Ha, RVN	DATE 2 MAY 71	TIME 2300 HRS	FILE NUMBER
LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME Bunting, Willis R.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NO.	GRADE 11A0	
ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS 1st AVN Bn, APO 96495			

SWORN STATEMENT

Willis R. Bunting

WANT TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT UNDER OATH:

On 20 February 1971, aircraft UH-1C 66-00700 was shot down in the Kingdom of Laos. The following crew members were on board the aircraft, 1LT David W. Hay, 1ST JON E. REID, SP4 ROBERT J. ACALOTTO and SP5 RANDOLPH L. JOHNSON. The aircraft was engaging a target when shot down. The lead aircraft of the light fire team made several attempts to rescue the downed crew but was driven off by heavy 51 cal fire. In their attempts to rescue the downed crew, two members were wounded. Dust off was immediately notified along with air cavalry troops to assist in the rescue. Again on each approach into the area heavy fire caused the rescue team to abort. For the next several days air cavalry units attempted to go into the area and each time heavy fire prohibited the rescue. In addition I was present when LTC Kirk-Bligher reported from the CG, 1st AVN Division to assist in the rescue. The CG agreed to sweep the area with one of his battalions that was in close proximity to the downed aircraft. Before the infantry could reach the area, the tactical situation changed and the unit moved out of the area. I also know that aviators in my company tried to navigate over that location every day to try and locate them. On every attempt the fire in the area was too heavy.

EXHIBIT	INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT <i>W.R.B.</i>	PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES
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ADDITIONAL PAGES MUST CONTAIN THE HEADING "STATEMENT OF \_\_\_ TAKEN AT \_\_\_ DATED \_\_\_ CONTINUED." THE BOTTOM OF EACH ADDITIONAL PAGE MUST BEAR THE INITIALS OF THE PERSON MAKING THE STATEMENT AND BE INITIALED AS "PAGE \_\_\_ OF \_\_\_ PAGES." WHEN ADDITIONAL PAGES ARE UTILIZED, THE BACK OF PAGE 1 WILL BE LINED OUT, AND THE STATEMENT WILL BE CONCLUDED ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF ANOTHER COPY OF THIS FORM.