

## Helicopter 68-15837

Information on US, Army helicopter CH-47C tail number 68-15837

The Army purchased this helicopter 1168

Total flight hours at this point: 00000158

Date: 06/15/69

Unit: 179 ASHC

This was a Combat incident. This helicopter was REPAIRED IN THEATER

This was a Logistics Support mission for Resupply

While on Landing Zone this helicopter was on Take-Off at 0050 feet and 010 knots.

South Vietnam

Helicopter took I hits from:

Small Arms/Automatic Weapons; Gun launched non-explosive ballistic projectiles less than 20 mm in

size. (7.62MM)

The helicopter was hit in the Right Side

Systems damaged were: FUEL SYS

The helicopter made a Forced Landing. Aircraft took off, fully flight capable.

Unknown as to mission impact.

Aircraft inspected and found to be in flyable condition

Original source(s) and document(s) from which the incident was created or updated:

Survivability/Vulnerability Information Analysis Center Helicopter database. Also:

JSIDR (Joint

Services incident Damage Report.)

Information on U.S. Army helicopter CH-47C tail number 68-15837

The Army purchased this helicopter 11 68

Total flight hours at this point: 00000747

Date: 05/13/70

Incident number: 700513251 ACD Accident case number: 700513251 Total loss or fatality Accident

Unit: 180 ASHC

This was a Accident incident.

The station for this helicopter was Phu Hiep in South Vietnam

UTM grid coordinates: YA 881 455

Number Killed in accident 4 injured 25 Passengers 28

costing 1859161

Original source(s) and document(s) from which the incident was created or updated:

Defense

Intelligence Agency Helicopter Loss database. Army Aviation Safety Center database.

Also: OPERA

(Operations Report.)

Loss to inventory

Crew Members:

AC 02 JO MURPHY

P W2 LJ BELL

CE E5 S LEGRAND

G E4 M SPRINGER

Passengers:

ILT BAZINETTI CHARLES A, NOT A; E3 RV PRYCE, PAX, G; SGT RAMOS PAUL LAJADA JR, AR, OG, KIA; E4 G SMITH, PAX, D; E5 LE BASS, PAX, D; E5 MW BASIL, PAX, G; E5 GR MCABEE, OGY, D; E5 T SISSOMS, OGY, D; E4 JJ COX, PAX, D; E4 A BYRD, PAX, D; E6 JJ LASASSE, OGY, D; E3 SD DEAN, PAX D; E4 OBRIEN, OGY, D; E4 D RANDALL, OGY, D; E3 SW BANTNER, PAX G; E4 OJ WILLIAMS, PAX, D; E4 R MOSLEY, PAX, D; E4 A WRIGHT, PAX, D; E3 P CHESTER, PAX, D; SSG COX GARY LEE, AR, 00, KIA; E4 M WRIGHT, PAX, D; 02 DG EVITTS, PAX, G; E3 DM OLSON, PAX, D; E3 DG ARMIJO, OGY, D; E3 W MARTIN, PAX, D; E3 C MOSS, PAX, D; 1LT HUBNER DAVID ERVIN, AR, OG, KIA; E3 J MCKEY, OGY, D;

#### Accident Summary:

THE NUMBER 6815837 WAS DIRECT COMBAT SUPPORT OF A/2/35 AND B/2/35 INFANTRY, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION. TOTAL FLIGHT TIME FOR THE DAY AT THE TIME OF THE ACCIDENT WAS APPROXIMATELY 4 1/2 HOURS. REFUELING HAD TAKEN PLACE FORTY FIVE MINUTES EARLIER AT 1210 HOURS. AFTER PICKING UP THIRTY ONE TROOPS AT A PZ 20MM WEST OF POLIE DJERANG, THE AIRCRAFT PROCEEDED TO POLIE DIETANG WHERE AN APPROACH WAS INITIATED TO THE EASTERN PORTION OF THE AIRFIELD KNOWN AS THE HOOK PAD. RADIO CONTACT WAS ESTABLISHED WITH NIGHT JUMPER 10, AND INSTRUCTIONS WERE RECEIVED TO LAND TO THE LAND TO THE NORTH ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE AREA. A NORMAL APPROACH WAS INITIATED BY THE PILOT ILT JAMES O MURPHY, AND THE APPROACH WAS TERMINATED AT A 15 FT HOVER. A TURN OF FOURTY FIVE DEGREES TO THE LEFT WAS INITIATED AND THE PILOT ATTEMPTED TO SET THE AIRCRAFT ON THE GROUND. EXTREMELY HEAVY DUST ENVELOPED THE AIRCRAFT AND THE RIGHT AFT LANDING GEAR STRUCK THE GROUND. THE AIRCRAFT BOUNCED AND STARTED MOVING TOWARD THE RIGHT, SIDWAYS IN A NORTHWESTERLY DIRECTION. THE PILOT TRIED TO APPLY POWER FOR A VERTICAL LIFT OFF, BUT DUE TO THE HEAVY DUST, LOST SIGHT OF THE GROUND. THE AIRCRAFT MOVED 35 METERS TO THE RIGHT, WITH A RIGHT SIDE LOW ATTITUDE. THE FORWARD RIGHT GEAR STRUCK THE 5 DEGREE UPSLOPE, AND THE AIRCRAFT ROLLED TO THE RIGHT ANOTHER 15 METERS AND CAME TO REST ON A 2 1/2 TON TRUCK, IN AN INVERTED POSITION, FACING TO THE SOUTH. THE IMPACT WITH THE TRUCK FATALLY WOUNDED FOUR PERSONS IN THE BED OF THE TRUCK, AND INJURED FIVE OTHERS. THE FLIGHT ENGINEER AND LEFT DOOR GUNNER ON BOARD THE AIRCRAFT SUSTAINED MINOR INJURIES, WHILE THE RIGHT DOOR GUNNER RECEIVED MODERATE BURNS AS A RESULT OF THE POST CRASH FIRE. THIS FIRE WAS CAUSED BY FUEL LEAKAGE, AND WAS EXTINGUISHED BY ONE OF THE PASSENGERS ON BOARD. FROM TESTIMONY RECEIVED AND LOCATION OF INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN THE ACCIDENT WHO RECEIVED BURNS, THE FIRE OCCURRED ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE AIRCRAFT, AT THE RIGHT DOOR GUNNERS POSITION AND AFT WHEN THE AIRCRAFT WAS RESTING ON THE TRUCK. NEITHER THE PILOT OR CO-PILOT WERE INJURED. \\

This record was last updated on 09/20/98

The following is crew member information for this incident:

Name: ILT Charles A. Bazzinotti  
Status: Killed in Action from an incident on 05/13/70.  
Age at death: 23.2  
Date of Birth: 03/13/47  
Home City: Dorchester, MA  
Service: IN branch of the reserve component of the U.S. Army.  
Unit: 4 INF DIV  
Major organization: 4th Infantry Division  
Service: IN branch of the U.S. Army.  
The Wall location: 10W-031  
Aircraft: CH-47C tail number 68-I 5837  
SSN: 031361773  
Country: South Vietnam  
MOS: 1542 = 15 Infantry Unit Commander  
Compliment cause: weapons  
Started Tour: 11/17/69  
"Official" listing: ground casualty  
Length of service: \*  
Location: Pleiku Province II Corps.  
Reason: vehicle lost or crashed  
Casualty type: Non-hostile - died of other causes  
married male U.S. citizen  
Race: Caucasian  
Religion: Roman Catholic  
The following information secondary, but may help in explaining this incident.  
Category of casualty as defined by the Army: non-battle dead Category of personnel: active duty  
Army Military class: officer  
This record was last updated on 07/30/95

Name: SSG Gary Lee Cox  
Status: Killed In Action from an incident on 05/13/70.  
Age at death: 24.8  
Date of Birth: 08/12/45  
Home City: Rosenberg, TX  
Service: regular component of the U.S. Army.  
Unit: 4 INF DIV  
Major organization: 4th Infantry Division  
Service: U.S. Army.  
The Wall location 10W-031  
Aircraft: CH-47C tail number 68-15837  
SSN: 460743332  
Country: South Vietnam  
MOS: 12B40 = Combat Engineer  
Major attributing cause: aircraft connected not at sea  
Compliment cause: weapons  
Vehicle involved: helicopter  
Position in vehicle: crew member  
Started Tour: 03/15/70

“Official” listing: helicopter air casualty - non-aircrew .

Length of service: \*

Location: Pleiku Province II Corps.

Reason: aircraft lost or crashed

Casualty type: Non-hostile - died of other causes

married male U.S. citizen

Race: Caucasian

Religion: Methodist (Evangelical United Brethren)

The following information secondary, but may help in explaining this incident.

Category of casualty as defined by the Army: non-battle dead Category of personnel: active duty

Army Military class: enlisted personnel

This record was last updated on 07/30/95

Name: ILT David Ervin Hubner

Status: Killed In Action from an incident on 05/13/70.

Age at death: 23.3

Date of Birth: 01/13/47

Home City: Ferndale, CA

Service: EN branch of the reserve component of the U.S. Army.

Unit: 4 INF DIV

Major organization: 4th Infantry Division

Service: EN branch of the U.S. Army.

The Wall location: 10W-033

Aircraft: CH-47C tail number 68-15837

SSN: 567648302

Country: South Vietnam

MOS: 1331 = 1.3 Combat Engineer Unit Commander

Major contributing cause: aircraft connected not at sea

Compliment cause: weapons

Vehicle involved: helicopter

Position in vehicle: crew member

Started Tour: 01/29/70.

“Official” listing: helicopter air casualty - non-aircrew

Length of service: \*

Location: Pleiku Province II Corps.

Reason: aircraft lost or crashed

Casualty type: Non-hostile - died of other causes

married male U.S. citizen

Race: Caucasian

Religion: Lutheran (Missouri Synod)

The following information secondary, but may help in explaining this incident.

Category of casualty as defined by the Army: non-battle dead Category of personnel: active duty

Army Military class: officer

This record was last updated on 07/30/95

Name: SGT Paul Lajada Ramos, Jr. (posthumously promoted)

Status: Killed in Action from an incident on 05/13/70.

Age at death: 20.4

Date of Birth: 01/05/50

Home City: Ft Bragg, NC

Service: regular component of the U.S. Army.

Unit: 4 INF DIV

Major organization: 4th Infantry Division

Service: U.S. Army.

The Wall location: 10W-036

Aircraft: CH-47C tail number 68-1583 7

SSN: 216527247

Country: South Vietnam

MOS: 11B20 = Infantryman

Major attributing cause: aircraft connected not at sea

Compliment cause: weapons

Vehicle involved: helicopter

Position in vehicle: crew member

Started Tour: 06/05169

“Official” listing: helicopter air casualty - non-aircrew

Length of service: \*

Location: Pleiku Province II Corps.

Reason: aircraft lost or crashed

Casualty type: Non-hostile - died of other causes

single male U.S. citizen

Race: Malayan

Religion: Roman Catholic

The following information secondary, but may help in explaining this incident.

Category of casualty as defined by the Army: non-battle dead Category of personnel: active duty

Army Military class: enlisted personnel

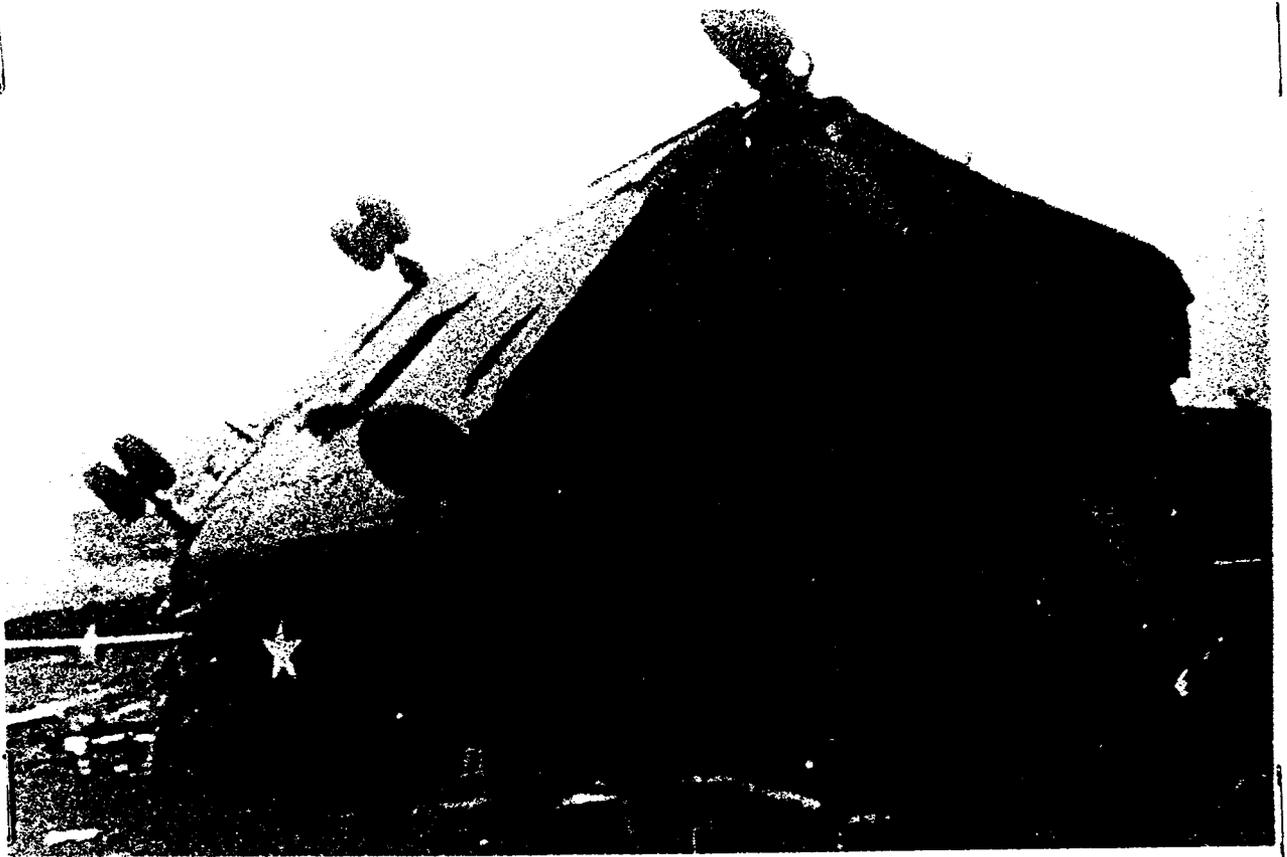
This record was last updated on 07/30/95

The following is Goldbook information on US Army helicopter CH-47C tail number 68-15837  
It is provided here as an ESTIMATE of the history of this helicopter and is not intended to be the  
final authority.

This helicopter was purchased by the US Army in 1168.

Please provide any additional information on this helicopter to the VHPA.

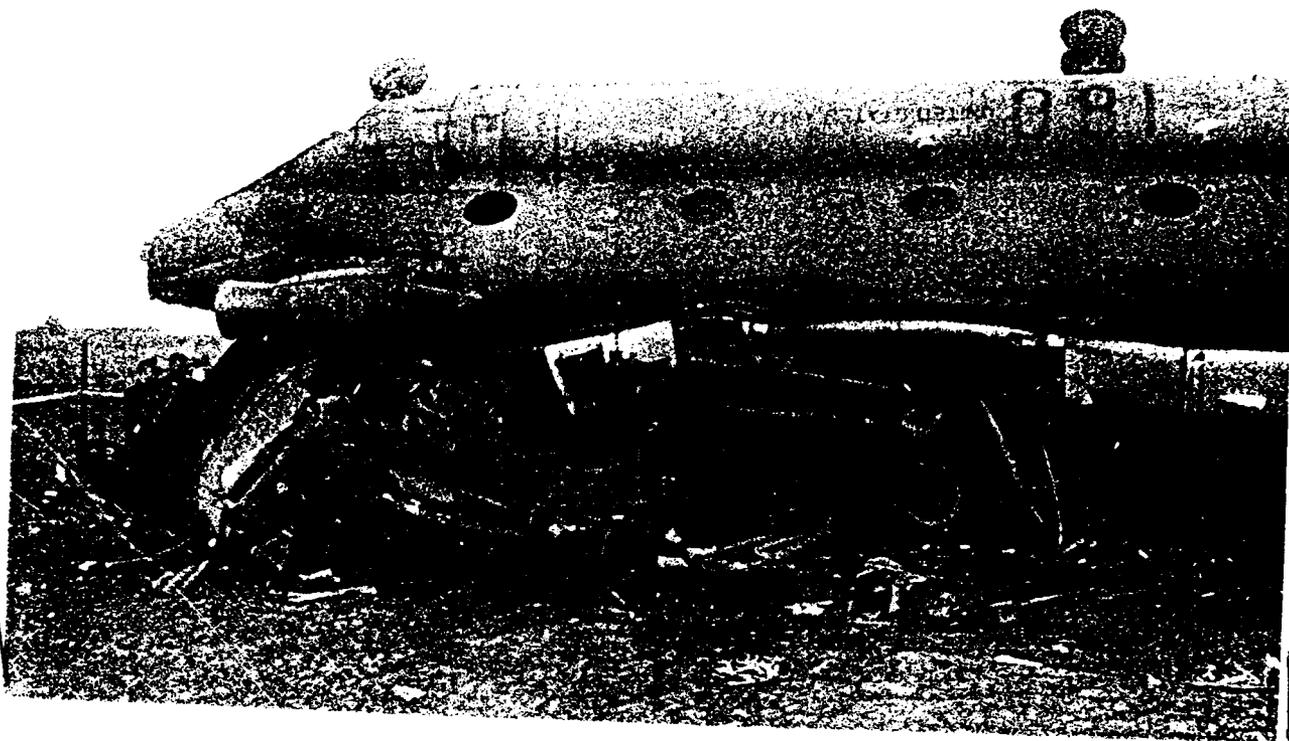
(Following was the general history of the aircraft’s flight hour history by month)



Left rear view showing slope of area

Photograph # 1

Major Accident CH-47C SN 68-15837 Polei Djerang RVN 131255 May 70



Left front view of aircraft depicting damage to aircraft and front portion of truck. Flatbed trailers with barrels of penoprine in left background.

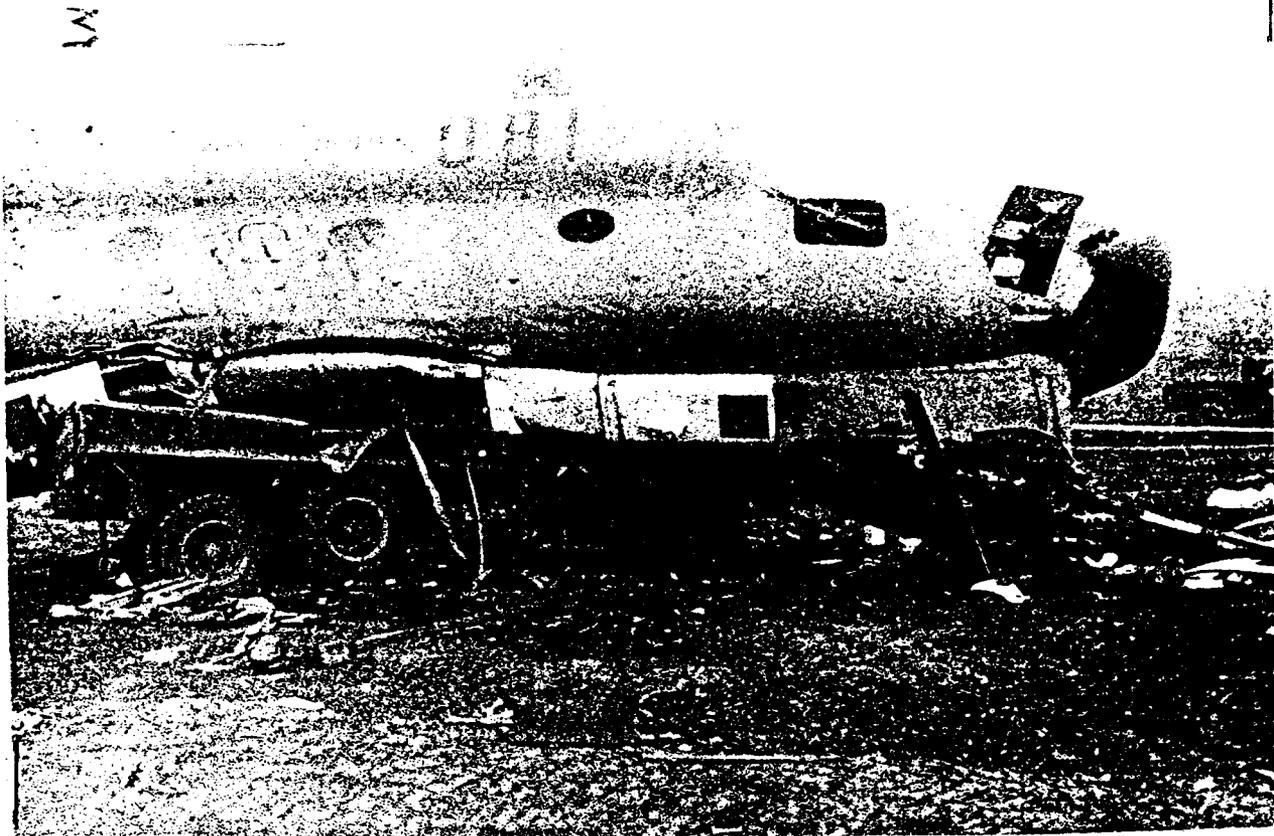
Photograph # 2

Major accident CH-47C SN 68-15837, Polei Djereng RVN 131259 May 70



Right front view depicting damage to forward pylon and rotor system,  
and bed of truck.

Photograph # 3  
Major Accident OH-47C, SN 68-1837, Polci Djereng RVN 131255 May 70.



Left side of aircraft as viewed from the West. This picture depicts the damage to the truck and center portion of aircraft. Personnel receiving fatal injuries were in the bed of the truck.

Photograph # 4  
Major accident, OH-47C, SN 68-15837, Polesi Djereng RVN 131255 May 70



Left rear of aircraft depicting the damage to the aft pylon section which had broken away from the fuselage section on impact.

Photograph # 5  
Major accident, CH-47C, SN 68-15837, Poley Djereng RVN 131255 May 70

**In the Words of Juan Pena  
Bravo Co. 2/35<sup>th</sup> 1969-70  
June 2001**

**Jim:**

**I do recall the crash of the Chinook. It happened in March of 1970; I don't recall the exact date. We had just come back from 2 weeks of sweeps in Cambodia. The Fourth Infantry Division and various other units were sent into Cambodia to interdict the NVA supply and troop routes and we humped over a very wide area, but we had few contacts; I guess they were expecting us and moved out when we moved in.**

**When we came back from Cambodia, we had units being moved into the staging area so we could be sent back to our base camps to go back into our usual patrol AO's. My friend Ramos from the Philippines had gotten on the truck as had about 30 other troops. I don't know what the shithook was doing, but it kept coming toward the truck, and we tried to wave it off.**

**I guess the pilot didn't see the truck or the troops, because he kept coming about five feet off the ground. He ran right into the truck and toppled over it, killing a lot of the troops in the truck. The shithook was spilling fuel, so I organized some of the grunts to throw dirt over the fuel with their entrenching tools so it wouldn't catch fire, I had others start helping people off the truck and I had two ambulances come over to haul the wounded off.**

**Lt. Mosey recommended me for the Soldiers Medal, and it was given to me along with my bronze star and other medals when we held the final formation of the Fourth Infantry Division at An Khe; I was the most highly decorated soldier in the Fourth Infantry Division in that final formation, and I came home with the colors on November 2, 1970. Because I was so short, I ETS'd after 2 weeks at Fort Lewis, Washington.**

**Atentamente,  
Juan**

**In the Words of Tom Mahon  
Bravo Co. 2/35<sup>th</sup> 1969-70  
June 2001**

**Hey George; (Heidt)**

**Wow, Some great Info. on the crash. Thank you.**

**I was in 3 Plt. Bravo Co. 2/35 Inf. 4th. Inf. Div. Paul Ramos and myself were good buddies and later we were both Squad leaders, we each had half of the Plt. My squad was the first one out that day.**

**We landed and ran for the truck's. We all got in one and then Paul landed and got his guy's in the other one. They had just got in and Paul was doing a head count, as we watched the Shit hook drift to the right, I grabbed the radio to call to the chopper but there was so much noise and then the dust kicked up and I think the Pilot heard me and gave it the gas, so when it drifted in to the truck it was pushing full power. The wheel caught the truck, and I was calling to Paul on the radio. Paul had the radio in his hand and bang it was over.**

**Parts of the rotor blade and truck went flying and it settled on top the truck. My self and three others ran to the crash. It was only 25 yards from us, we started pulling guy's out and fuel was leaking and the fire was going pretty good then. We got ( so I was told after ) 27 guy's out of the wreckage. I did not care about that then, I only wanted to help Paul. That is for the most part the story as I remember it.**

**The Info. will help me put my feelings to rest. Also will help us as a unit to re-cover those lost min. that happened so fast. Thanks again.**

**"Brother in Arms" Tom**

**PS. what unit were you with, and where are you from?**

**Jim and Jim:**

**13 May 70**

**I am sending this with the other file on the chopper; this is from a different perspective. This tells the story and the map that I drew that day, it also tells of how a few men helped save over 30 lives.**

**This Wright up is on me but you can see the names of the other guy's who never received the award they deserve. Maybe we can help them get it. This has bothered me for many years. On the third page of my awardees you will see.**

**Juan Pena**

**Sammy Seagle**

**Joe Ckark**

**Robert Forsyth**

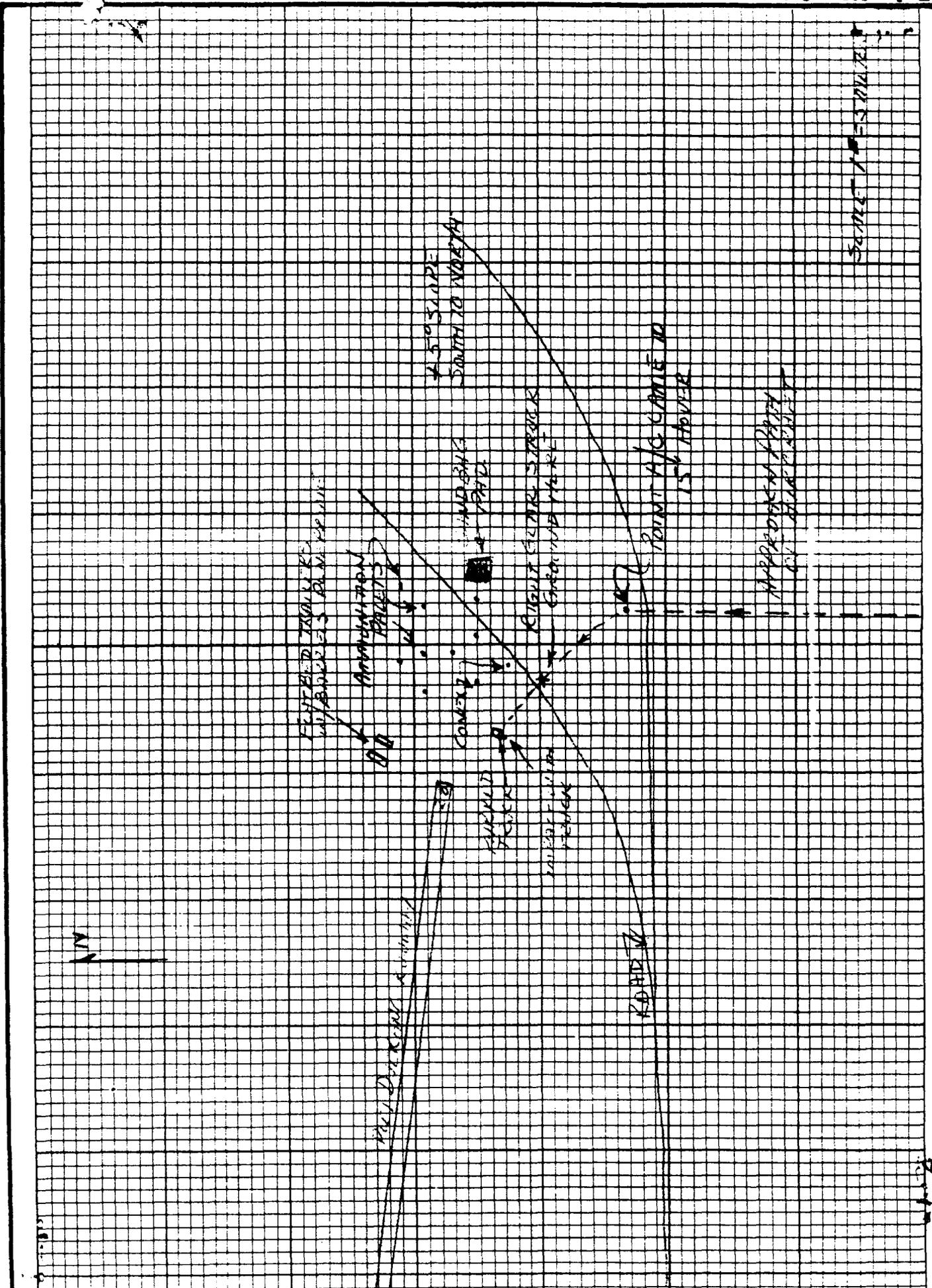
**Kenneth Butterfield**

**Edward Mosey**

**These brave men should be recognize, they have not! This was barrier in the Archives in Suitland, MD**

**Later, regards; Tom**

*a few days from today 10 MAY 01*



SCALE BAR

N

FLIGHT TRACK

LANDING AREA

RIGHT FLANK STRUCK

ROAD

APPROXIMATE DATA

POINT A/C CAME TO  
15 HOURS

SECTION OF HILLS  
SOUTH TO NORTH

FLIGHT TRACK  
W/ BARRIERS PLANNED

CONEX

LANDING AREA

RIGHT FLANK STRUCK  
GROUND MARK

SCALE BAR

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
APO San Francisco 96262

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 4382

24 August 1970

AWARD OF THE SOLDIER'S MEDAL

TC 439. The following AWARD is announced:

MAHON, THOMAS F 191-36-1625 SPECIALIST FOUR United States Army, Co B, 2d Bn, 35th  
Inf, 4th Inf Div, APO 96262

Awarded: Soldier's Medal

Date action: 13 May 1970

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

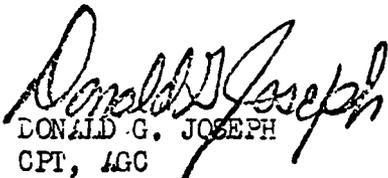
Authority: By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of  
Congress, approved 2 July 1926.

Reason: For heroism not involving actual conflict with an armed enemy in the  
Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Four Mahon distinguished himself while  
serving with Company B, 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division.  
On 13 May 1970, a CH-47 helicopter crashed at New Plei Djerang, landing  
squarely on top of a truck loaded with troops. Occupants of both the  
helicopter and truck were trapped in the wreckage, many unable to move  
because of injuries sustained in the crash. Despite the possibility of  
explosion caused by the leakage of fuel, Specialist Mahon rushed to the  
scene and began pulling victims of the crash to safety, administering  
medical aid where needed most. Specialist Four Mahon's personal bravery,  
selfless actions and exemplary devotion to duty are in keeping with the  
highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon  
himself, his unit and the United States Army.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

HAROLD D. YOW  
Colonel, GS  
Chief of Staff

  
DONALD G. JOSEPH  
CPT, AGC  
Asst AG

DISTRIBUTION:

6 AVDDH-AGD  
2 AVDDH-ASD  
2 AVDDH-IO  
2 Indiv conc  
1 Indiv's 201  
10 S-1, 2d Bn, 35th Inf  
1 CG, USARV, ATTN: AVHAG-DB, APO 96375  
2 USA Pers Svc Support Center  
ATTN: AGPE-F, Fort Benjamin  
Harrison, Indiana 46249

RECOMMENDATION FOR DECORATION FOR VALOR OR MERIT  
(Submit in three copies)

TO: FROM:  
Commanding Officer COMMANDING OFFICER  
2d Brigade, 4th Inf 4th Inf. Div.  
APO SF 96262 APO SF 96262  
2d Bn 35th Inf.  
APO SF 96355

1. NAME: (Last, First, MI) 2. SSAN 3. GRADE 4. BRANCH (MOS)  
MAHON, Thomas F. 191-36-1625 SP4 11B20

5. AGE 6. Category I-Y 7. MONTHS IN VN: 8. POSTHUMOUS  
(Nearest year) Personal (Nearest Month) YES NO  
21 YES NO 11

9. ORGANIZATION AT TIME OF ACTION: 10. ACTION OF FINAL APPROVING AUTHORITY:  
Co. B, 2d Bn, 35th Inf APPROVAL DISAPPROVAL  
UPGRADE DOWNGRADE

11. AWARD INDIVIDUAL RECOMMENDAD FOR:  
( ) DSC ( ) ACM"V"  
( ) SS ( ) LM ( ) SERVICE FOREIGN AWARD  
( ) DFC ( ) BS  
( ) SM ( ) AM ( ) ACHIEVEMENT  
( ) BS"V" ( ) ACM  
( ) AM"V" ( ) PH ( ) OAK LEAF CLUSTER

12. DATES OF SERVICE-MERIT: 13. DEROS: 14. CURRENT ORGANIZATION:  
DATES OF ACTION-VALOR:  
13 May 70 24 Aug 70 Co. B, 2d Bn, 35th Inf

15. PREVIOUS AWARDS (PH AND HIGHER)  
DECORATION DATE OF ACTION OR SERVICE AUTHORITY  
None

16. OTHERS RECOMMENDED FOR AN AWARD FOR THE SAME ACTION (Name and Award)  
PENA, Juan A. SM  
SEAGLE, Sammy J. SM  
CLARK, Joe R. SM  
FORSYTH, Robert C. SM  
BUTTERFIELD, Kenneth J. SM

17. NAMES OF EYEWITNESSES:  
Edward F. Mosey, 1LT, (Also recommender)



RECEIVED  
11 AUG 1970  
AWARDS

18. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION: (For all awards describe in detail what individual did to warrant decoration. For valor awards describe in detail the mission, terrain and weather, enemy conditions and friendly casualties. Use plain bond paper for continuation sheet.)

JOB TITLE:

In compliance with 4th Infantry Division Regulation 672-1, all data contained in this recommendation has been checked and verified with EM's 201 file. This recommendation is not in contravention with AR 600-31.

On 13 May 1970, a CH-47 Chinook helicopter was engaged in transporting troops from LZ Conquest, Republic of Cambodia, to New Plei Djerang and hovered in preparation to set down. Weather conditions were extremely dry causing a great volume of dust to be raised by the churning blades of the aircraft. suddenly the helicopter began to shift laterally directly toward a group of trucks parked just off the pad. As the aircraft tilted, its blades struck the ground and it was only a fraction of a second until all who were standing on the pad knew the ship would crash. When the dust cleared, the helicopter was seen to have landed on its side, squarely on top of a truck which was waiting to transport troops to another area of the camp. Injured soldiers were strewn in the dust around the wreckage which was by now spewing JP4 fuel from its ruptured tanks. Cries for help came from those soldiers pinned in and under the truck as well as those who were passengers aboard the ill-fated helicopter. SP4 Mahon was among those few men who rushed to the scene despite immediate danger of fire and explosion aboard the helicopter which was by now partially in flames. With complete disregard for his own safety, he helped pull the dead and injured from the wreckage and aided in administering their wounds and carrying them to medivac helicopters and ambulances.

19. INCLOSURES:		20. INDIVIDUAL INITIATING RECOMMENDATION:	
1 Incl Proposed Citation		NAME, GRADE & POSITION EDWARD F. MOSEY 1LT, Infantry	SIGNATURE & DATE <i>Edward F. Mosey</i> 14 July 1970
21. RECOMMENDATION OF THRU COMMAND:			
RECOMMEND: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> DISAPPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER			
NAME, GRADE, & POSITION: WILLIAMS L. HARRISON JR. LTC, Infantry Commanding		SIGNATURE & DATE <i>Williams L. Harrison Jr.</i>	

# DISPOSITION FORM

(AR 340-15)

REFERENCE OR OFFICE SYMBOL

SUBJECT

AVDDH-AGD

Recommendation for Award

TO

FROM AG Awards Branch

DATE 12 August 70 CMT1  
CPT Lassiter/cjm/ 2314

- 1 AG *off*
- 2 G1
- 3 C/S
- 4 ADC-M
- 5 CG
- 6 AG

(IN TURN - ONLY TO THOSE MARKED)

1. A recommendation for award for the following individual has been received.

NAME: MAHON, Thomas F.	GRADE: SP4
UNIT: Co B 2/35	DEROS: 24 Aug 70
AWARD: SM	PERIOD OF SERVICE: 13 May 70

2. Below is a record of action taken by the initiator, subordinate commanders, and the Awards Board. Request your recommendation/decision be entered in the appropriate block.

RECOMMENDATION/DECISION

Initiator	Soldiers Medal	4382	INITIALS	DATE
Bn Cmdr	Soldiers Medal			
Bde/ <del>DIRTY/DISCO</del>	Soldiers Medal			
G1	SM		DEC	16 Aug 70
CofS	SM		how	16 Aug 70
ADC-M	SM	W/L	17 Aug 70	
Commanding General	SM		NAV	

3. AG Remarks: GROUP AWARD: 6 of 6

*J.F. Lassiter*  
J.F. LASSITER  
CPT, AGC  
Chief, Awards Branch

## P R O P O S E D   C I T A T I O N

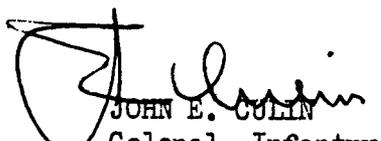
FOR HEROISM NOT INVOLVING ACTUAL CONFLICT WITH AN ENEMY DURING THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM: SPECIALIST FOUR THOMAS F. MAHON DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY VALOROUS ACTIONS ON 13 MAY 1970, AT NEW PLEI LUERANG, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. A CH-47 CHINOOK HELICOPTER BEGAN TO SHIFT LATERALLY, DIRECTLY TOWARD A GROUP OF TRUCKS AS THE AIRCRAFT TILTED, ITS BLADES STRUCK THE GROUND AND IT WAS ONLY A FRACTION OF A SECOND UNTIL ALL WHO WERE ON THE PAD KNEW THE SHIP WOULD CRASH. THE HELICOPTER WAS SEEN TO HAVE LANDED ON ITS SIDE, SQUARELY ON TOP OF A TRUCK WHICH WAS WAITING TO TRANSPORT TROOPS TO ANOTHER AREA OF THE CAMP. INJURED SOLDIERS WERE SCROWN IN THE DUST AROUND THE WRECKAGE, WHICH WAS BY NOW SPENDING JP4 FUEL FROM ITS RUPTURED TANKS. CRIES FOR HELP CAME FROM THOSE SOLDIERS PINNED IN AND UNDER THE TRUCK AS WELL AS THOSE WHO WERE PASSENGERS ABOARD THE HELICOPTER. SPECIALIST FOUR MAHON WAS AMONG THOSE FEW MEN WHO RUSHED TO THE SCENE. WITH COMPLETE DISREGARD FOR HIS OWN SAFETY, HE HELPED PULL THE DEAD AND INJURED FROM THE WRECKAGE AND AIDED IN ADMINISTERING THEIR WOUNDS. SPECIALIST MAHON'S HEROIC ACTIONS ARE IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SERVICE AND REFLECT GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF, HIS UNIT AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

AVDDB-CO MAHON, Thomas F. 1st Ind  
SSAN: 191-36-1625  
SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award

DA, HEADQUARTERS 2D BRIGADE, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION, APO San Francisco 96262  
28 July 1970

TO: Commanding General, 4th Infantry Division, ATTN: AVDDH-AGD, APO San  
Francisco 96262

Recommend Approval.

  
JOHN E. COLLIN  
Colonel, Infantry  
Commanding

GO 4159 Hqs, 4th Inf Div, APO San Francisco 96262 7 August 1970

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:



J. F. LASSITER  
CPT, AGC  
Asst AG

HAROLD D. YOW  
Colonel, GS  
Chief of Staff

DISTRIBUTION:

150 AVDDH-AGD  
2 AVDDH-ASD  
2 Indiv conc  
1 Indiv's 201  
10 2d Bn, 35th Inf  
1 TAGO, DA, ATTN: AGPF-F  
25 USA Pers Svc Support Center  
ATTN: AGPE-F, Fort Benjamin  
Harrison, Indiana 46249  
1 CG, USARV, ATTN: AVHAG-DB,  
APO 96375

WE WITNESSED THE RESULT OF THIS CRASH ON  
THE WAY BACK FROM CAMBODIA 5-13-70.

## Helicopter 68-15837

Information on U.S. Army helicopter CH-47C tail number 68-15837

The Army purchased this helicopter 1168

Total flight hours at this point: 00000158

Date: 06/15/69

Unit: 179 ASHC

This was a Combat incident. This helicopter was REPAIRED IN THEATER

This was a Logistics Support mission for Resupply

While on Landing Zone this helicopter was on Take-Off at 0050 feet and 010 knots.

South Vietnam

Helicopter took 1 hits from:

Small Arms/Automatic Weapons; Gun launched non-explosive ballistic projectiles less than 20 mm in size. (7.62MM)

The helicopter was hit in the Right Side

Systems damaged were: FUEL SYS

The helicopter made a Forced Landing. Aircraft took off, fully flight capable.

Unknown as to mission impact.

Aircraft inspected and found to be in flyable condition

Original source(s) and document(s) from which the incident was created or updated:

Survivability/Vulnerability Information Analysis Center Helicopter database. Also: JSIDR (Joint Services Incident Damage Report. )

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Information on U.S. Army helicopter CH-47C tail number 68-15837

The Army purchased this helicopter 1168

Total flight hours at this point: 00000747

Date: 05/13/70

Incident number: 700513251ACD Accident case number: 700513251 Total loss or fatality Accident

Unit: 180 ASHC

This was a Accident incident.

The station for this helicopter was Phu Hiep in South Vietnam

UTM grid coordinates: YA881455

Number killed in accident = 4 . . Injured = 25 . . Passengers = 28

costing 1859161

Original source(s) and document(s) from which the incident was created or updated: Defense

Intelligence Agency Helicopter Loss database. Army Aviation Safety Center database. Also: OPERA (Operations Report. )

Loss to Inventory

Crew Members:

AC O2 JO MURPHY

P W2 LJ BELL

CE E5 S LEGRAND

G E4 M SPRINGER

Passengers:

□ 1LT BAZINETTI CHARLES A, NOT, A; E3 RV PRYCE, PAX, G; SGT RAMOS PAUL LAJADA JR, AR, OG, KIA; E4 G SMITH, PAX, D; E5 LE BASS, PAX, D; E5 MW BASIL, PAX, G; E5 GR MCABEE, OGY, D; E5 T SISSOMS, OGY, D; E4 JJ COX, PAX, D; E4 A BYRD, PAX, D; E6 JJ LASASSE, OGY, D; E3 SD DEAN, PAX, D; E4 OBRIEN, OGY, D; E4 D RANDALL, OGY, D; E3 SW BANTNER, PAX, G; E4 OJ WILLIAMS, PAX, D; E4 R MOSLEY, PAX, D; E4 A WRIGHT, PAX, D; E3 P CHESTER, PAX, D; SSG COX GARY LEE, AR, OG, KIA; E4 M WRIGHT, PAX, D; O2 DG EVITTS, PAX, G; E3 DM OLSON, PAX, D; E3 DG ARMIJO, OGY, D; E3 W MARTIN, PAX, D; E3 C MOSS, PAX, D; 1LT HUBNER DAVID ERVIN, AR, OG, KIA; E3 J MCKEY, OGY, D;

#### Accident Summary:

□ THE NUMBER 6815837 WAS DIRECT COMBAT SUPPORT OF A/2/35 AND B/2/35 INFANTRY, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION. TOTAL FLIGHT TIME FOR THE DAY AT THE TIME OF THE ACCIDENT WAS APPROXIMATELY 4 1/2 HOURS. REFUELING HAD TAKEN PLACE FORTY FIVE MINUTES EARLIER AT 1210 HOURS. AFTER PICKING UP THIRTY ONE TROOPS AT A PZ 20MM WEST OF POLIE DJERANG, THE AIRCRAFT PROCEEDED TO POLIE DIETANG WHERE AN APPROACH WAS INITATED TO THE EASTERN PORTION OF THE AIRFIELD KNOWN AS THE HOOK PAD. RADIO CONTACT WAS ESTABLISHED WITH NIGHT JUMPER 10, AND INSTRUCTIONS WERE RECEIVED TO LAND TO THE LAND TO THE NORTH ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE AREA. A NORMAL APPROACH WAS INITATED BY THE PILOT 1LT JAMES O MURPHY, AND THE APPROACH WAS TERMINATED AT A 15FT HOVER. A TURN OF FOURTY FIVE DEGREES TO THE LEFT WAS INITIATED AND THE PILOT ATTEMPTED TO SET THE AIRCRAFT ON THE GROUND. EXTREMELY HEAVY DUST ENVELOPED THE AIRCRAFT AND THE RIGHT AFT LANDING GEAR STRUCK THE GROUND. THE AIRCRAFT BOUNCED AND STARTED MOVING TOWARD THE RIGHT, SIDEWAYS IN A NORTHWESTERLY DIRECTION. THE PILOT TRIED TO APPLY POWER FOR A VERTICAL LIFT OFF, BUT DUE TO THE HEAVY DUST, LOST SIGHT OF THE GROUND. THE AIRCRAFT MOVED 35 METERS TO THE RIGHT, WITH A RIGHT SIDE LOW ATTITUDE. THE FORWARD RIGHT GEAR STRUCK THE 5 DEGREE UPSLOPE, AND THE AIRCRAFT ROLLED TO THE RIGHT ANOTHER 15 METERS AND CAME TO REST ON A 2 1/2 TON TRUCK, IN AN INVERTED POSITION, FACING TO THE SOUTH. THE IMPACT WITH THE TRUCK FATALY WOUNDED FOUR PERSONS IN THE BED OF THE TRUCK, AND INJURED FIVE OTHERS. THE FLIGHT ENGINEER AND LEFT DOOR GUNNER ON BOARD THE AIRCRAFT SUSTAINED MINOR INJURIES, WHILE THE RIGHT DOOR GUNNER RECEIVED MODERATE BURNS AS A RESULT OF THE POST CRASH FIRE. THIS FIRE WAS CAUSED BY FUEL LEAKAGE, AND WAS EXTINGUISHED BY ONE OF THE PASSENGERS ON BOARD. FROM TESTIMONY RECEIVED AND LOCATION OF INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN THE ACCIDENT WHO RECEIVED BURNS, THE FIR EOCCURRED ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE AIRCRAFT, AT THE RIGHT DOOR GUNNERS POSITION AND AFT WHEN THE AIRCRAFT WAS RESTING ON THE TRUCK. NEITHER THE PILOT OR CO-PILOT WERE INJURED.\\

This record was last updated on 09/20/98

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The following is crew member information for this incident:

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Name: 1LT Charles A. Bazzinotti  
Status: Killed In Action from an incident on 05/13/70.  
Age at death: 23.2  
Date of Birth: 03/13/47  
Home City: Dorchester, MA  
Service: IN branch of the reserve component of the U.S. Army.  
Unit: 4 INF DIV  
Major organization: 4th Infantry Division  
Service: IN branch of the U.S. Army.  
The Wall location: 10W-031  
Aircraft: CH-47C tail number 68-15837  
SSN: 031361773  
Country: South Vietnam  
MOS: 1542 = 15 Infantry Unit Commander  
Compliment cause: weapons  
Started Tour: 11/17/69  
"Official" listing: ground casualty  
Length of service: \*  
Location: Pleiku Province II Corps.  
Reason: vehicle lost or crashed  
Casualty type: Non-hostile - died of other causes  
married male U.S. citizen  
Race: Caucasian  
Religion: Roman Catholic  
The following information secondary, but may help in explaining this incident.  
Category of casualty as defined by the Army: non-battle dead Category of personnel: active duty  
Army Military class: officer  
This record was last updated on 07/30/95

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Name: SSG Gary Lee Cox  
Status: Killed In Action from an incident on 05/13/70.  
Age at death: 24.8  
Date of Birth: 08/12/45  
Home City: Rosenberg, TX  
Service: regular component of the U.S. Army.  
Unit: 4 INF DIV  
Major organization: 4th Infantry Division  
Service: U.S. Army.  
The Wall location: 10W-031  
Aircraft: CH-47C tail number 68-15837  
SSN: 460743332  
Country: South Vietnam  
MOS: 12B40 = Combat Engineer  
Major attributing cause: aircraft connected not at sea  
Compliment cause: weapons  
Vehicle involved: helicopter  
Position in vehicle: crew member  
Started Tour: 03/15/70

"Official" listing: helicopter air casualty - non-aircrew

Length of service: \*

Location: Pleiku Province II Corps.

Reason: aircraft lost or crashed

Casualty type: Non-hostile - died of other causes

married male U.S. citizen

Race: Caucasian

Religion: Methodist (Evangelical United Brethren)

The following information secondary, but may help in explaining this incident.

Category of casualty as defined by the Army: non-battle dead Category of personnel: active duty

Army Military class: enlisted personnel

This record was last updated on 07/30/95

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Name: 1LT David Ervin Hubner

Status: Killed In Action from an incident on 05/13/70.

Age at death: 23.3

Date of Birth: 01/13/47

Home City: Ferndale, CA

Service: EN branch of the reserve component of the U.S. Army.

Unit: 4 INF DIV

Major organization: 4th Infantry Division

Service: EN branch of the U.S. Army.

The Wall location: 10W-033

Aircraft: CH-47C tail number 68-15837

SSN: 567648302

Country: South Vietnam

MOS: 1331 = 13 Combat Engineer Unit Commander

Major attributing cause: aircraft connected not at sea

Compliment cause: weapons

Vehicle involved: helicopter

Position in vehicle: crew member

Started Tour: 01/29/70

"Official" listing: helicopter air casualty - non-aircrew

Length of service: \*

Location: Pleiku Province II Corps.

Reason: aircraft lost or crashed

Casualty type: Non-hostile - died of other causes

married male U.S. citizen

Race: Caucasian

Religion: Lutheran (Missouri Synod)

The following information secondary, but may help in explaining this incident.

Category of casualty as defined by the Army: non-battle dead Category of personnel: active duty

Army Military class: officer

This record was last updated on 07/30/95

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Name: SGT Paul Lajada Ramos, Jr. (posthumously promoted)

Status: Killed In Action from an incident on 05/13/70.

Age at death: 20.4

Date of Birth: 01/05/50

Home City: Ft Bragg, NC

Service: regular component of the U.S. Army.

Unit: 4 INF DIV

Major organization: 4th Infantry Division

Service: U.S. Army.

The Wall location: 10W-036

Aircraft: CH-47C tail number 68-15837

SSN: 216527247

Country: South Vietnam

MOS: 11B20 = Infantryman

Major attributing cause: aircraft connected not at sea

Compliment cause: weapons

Vehicle involved: helicopter

Position in vehicle: crew member

Started Tour: 06/05/69

"Official" listing: helicopter air casualty - non-aircrew

Length of service: \*

Location: Pleiku Province II Corps.

Reason: aircraft lost or crashed

Casualty type: Non-hostile - died of other causes

single male U.S. citizen

Race: Malayan

Religion: Roman Catholic

The following information secondary, but may help in explaining this incident.

Category of casualty as defined by the Army: non-battle dead Category of personnel: active duty

Army Military class: enlisted personnel

This record was last updated on 07/30/95

The following is Goldbook information on US Army helicopter CH-47C tail number 68-15837  
It is provided here as an ESTIMATE of the history of this helicopter and is not intended to be the final authority.

This helicopter was purchased by the US Army in 1168.

Please provide any additional information on this helicopter to the VHPA.

DATE	FLT	HRS	UIC	UNIT	AREA	POST	COUNTRY
6812	1	1	WOMAAA	DIR FOR MAINT	1ST ARMY	NEW CUMBERLAND	AVCOM
6901	0	1	WOMAAA	DIR FOR MAINT	1ST ARMY	NEW CUMBERLAND	AVCOM
6902	0	1	WOMAAA	DIR FOR MAINT	1ST ARMY	NEW CUMBERLAND	AVCOM
6903	0	1	WOMAAA	DIR FOR MAINT	1ST ARMY	NEW CUMBERLAND	AVCOM
6904	28	29	WC5KAA	179 AVN CO	VIETNAM		RVN
6905	62	91	WC5KAA	179 AVN CO	VIETNAM		RVN
6906	67	158	WC5KAA	179 AVN CO	VIETNAM		RVN
6907	33	191	WC5KAA	179 AVN CO	VIETNAM		RVN
6908	39	230	WC5KAA	179 AVN CO	VIETNAM		RVN
6909	59	289	WC5KAA	179 AVN CO	VIETNAM		RVN
6910	64	353	WC5KAA	179 AVN CO	VIETNAM		RVN
6911	99	452	WC5KAA	179 AVN CO	VIETNAM		RVN
6912	77	529	WC5KAA	179 AVN CO	VIETNAM		RVN

# Ivymen Trap NVA, Kill 29 In Two-day Action

CAMP RADCLIFF -- In a two day action 20 miles north of Camp Radcliff, soldiers from the 4th Division's 2nd Brigade trapped a North Vietnamese Army company sized unit, killing 29 enemy soldiers and detaining three.

Company B, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry was engaged in a search and clear operation along the Dak Krong Bung River at the time of the first contact. Eight enemy soldiers were killed within the first hour, and the Regulars quickly formed a rough triangle, trapping the enemy on the face of a rugged mountain. Sporadic contacts continued throughout the day, bringing the total of enemy dead to 19 by nightfall. The remaining enemy within the encirclement probed the friendly positions through the night, trying to find an escape route, and five more were killed. Artillery and gunships also worked the interior of the triangle throughout the day and night.

The next day, in more scattered contacts, five more NVA were killed, bringing the total of enemy dead to 29 at the end of the second day of fighting. Three detainees were also taken, one during the first hours of fighting, and two more during the second day.

Captain Gilbert Tijerina of Yuma, Ariz., Company B's commander, described the initial action. "Initial contact was made by the 3rd Platoon when their scout dog alerted. The lead squad leader moved his men on line after they saw six NVA. They killed one, and the other five turned and ran to the north, up the side of the mountain."

Captain Tijerina continued, "The enemy headed in the general direction of the 2nd Platoon, so I called them and changed their direction slightly to intercept the NVA. They found what they thought was a squad at the top of a knoll, they attacked the knoll and found out that it was more like a platoon sized element up there. But they took the hill."

The 2nd Platoon became heavily engaged as the enemy

tried to hide in the huge rock formations along the mountain face. Captain Tijerina in the meantime positioned his 1st Platoon to cut off enemy escape down the river, and the 1st and 2nd Platoons of Company A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry were combat assaulted into blocking positions to the north.

Specialist 4 Joseph Badger of Brooklyn, N.Y., a member of Company B's 2nd Platoon, described the action at the top of the hill. "The point had just got to the top of the hill when we saw some enemy and opened fire. It was pretty good, because we had worked on the same mountain just over a month ago,

(Continued on Page 8)

Continued From Page 1  
and we knew where to go. We drove the enemy into some rocks and couldn't get them out, but we just kept firing. They are trapped in there and couldn't run."

"We were running low on ammo," he continued, "and the 1st Platoon brought resupply to us all the way from the bottom of the mountain in just over an hour; and it usually takes at least three hours to make that climb--they were really humping."

A company medic, Specialist 4 James McElroy of North Little Rock, Ark., who brought water to the embattled 2nd Platoon by helicopter, further described the scene. "It was just one big rock pile, and we had them in there." He explained, "I was with the CP (command post) group when it all started. The CO wanted to drive them (the enemy) up toward the 2nd Platoon. He did, and we had them inside a box."

Battery C, 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery was called on to close the gaps between the

ground elements, and rained high explosive fire to effectively cut off enemy escape.

The Regular's Kit Carson Scout was called to the mass of rocks where the 2nd Platoon had several enemy trapped, and talked one of the enemy into giving himself up. The young NVA soldier told 2nd Brigade intelligence personnel that he had been in South Vietnam for less than a month, and that when the initial contact was made, all of his element dropped their rucksacks and some of them dropped their weapons and ran, but they ran into more US soldiers and couldn't find a way out.

Sporadic contact continued throughout the day as the enemy searched for an escape route, but found none. After dark, the NVA continued to probe the friendly positions, and five more were killed by

claymore mines when they set off trip flares in two separate areas.

Gunships from the 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry expended their munitions into the center of the area three different times during the day, and artillery from the 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery kept up a steady bombardment through the day and night.

The next day, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry was combat assaulted into the area to aid in the search for the remaining enemy. Scattered contacts resulted in five more enemy dead and two detained. Enemy equipment captured at the end of the second day's fighting included 12 AK47 rifles and 97 rucksacks filled with equipment and personal gear. Fifteen hundred rounds of AK47 ammunition was also captured in action.

## Jim and kay Anderson

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**From:** <GMAitch@aol.com>  
**To:** <nosredna@cnw.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 05, 2001 8:23 PM  
**Attach:** TMP11.ZIP  
**Subject:** Re: 13 May 70

Jim,  
Sorry I scanned these out of order, page 3 is JPG 15, been really busy today with some other Vietnam stuff. I would assume you know Ben Y., as an officer in the 35th Inf Association. Unfortunately, for reasons unbeknownst to me, he tried to make me look like an asshole in the 4th IDs guestbook back on Apr 12 and 13th. I have received many emails in support of my position and hold nothing against my brothers in the 2/35th.  
George Heidt