

**History
of the
174th Assault Helicopter Company**

Dolphins Sharks

1966-1971

Republic of South Vietnam

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U.S. Army
Military Police of South Vietnam

174th PD.2

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**174th Assault Helicopter Company
Dolphins and Sharks
Viet Nam Service 1966 to 1971**

In Memory of those lost in Viet Nam and Laos

NARRATIVE

CPT Arthur P Wright

17 May 66 Texas

07E78

CPT Wright came on the boat to Vietnam as a member of the the 174th. He was transferred to the 161st AHC and was on an orientation flight in that company, when he was killed by a single bullet that came through the door and passed by the sliding armor plate.

Nick Saunders Sep 1994

LTC Henry W. Rust Jr.

30 Mar 29 27 Nov 66 Batesville AR

12E125

Rust was one of the 23 majors in the 174th. Between 1965 and 1968, aviation units in Vietnam had a high number of field grade officers assigned, due to the increasing requirements for aviators and the shortage of aviators available. Many had short turnarounds between tours. Rust died of a heart attack in Nha Trang, as he was enroute to Cam Rahn to DEROs. He was a newly promoted lieutenant colonel

Source: Dick Overhamm, May 1993

CPT Aaron L. Bram

19 Jun 36 17 Dec 66 Chicago IL

13E49

SP5 William L. Seastrom

6 Jun 38 17 Dec 66 Los Angeles CA

13E56

Bram was an IP giving a checkride to a Korean lieutenant in a UH-1D # 65-09605 on 17 Dec 66, Seastrom was the crew chief. Bram was on his second tour, assigned to the 452d Signal Detachment that was attached to the 174th AHC. The aircraft was in Lane Army Heliport's alternate traffic pattern, that was used for test flights and checkrides. Dolphin 605 was at 500 feet on downwind, when a damper bracket broke, causing the damper to separate and hit a pitch change link. The advancing blade dove into the cockpit, which hit Bram killing him immediately. Seastrom was thrown from the aircraft. The Korean lieutenant was killed when the aircraft incredibly nosed over and dove into the opening of a well. The accident was in full view of many of the 174th and 161st personnel that were working on the flight line. Emergency personnel were on the scene immediatley but there weas little they could do. Bram had been assigned to the 101st Avn Bn in 61-62. Seastrom was a former member of the Special Forces.

Source: Fred Thompson May 1993, from Marty Heuer

SP4 Larry R. Guentzel

28 Nov 47 24 Jun 67 Georgetown, TX

22E57

SP4 Thomas M. Dickinson

10 Nov 42 24 Jun 67

Memphis TN

22E57

Guentzel and Dickinson, members of the 409 TC detachment, died during a mortar attack that hit the 174th area at Duc Pho on 24 Jun 67. 35 total were injured. Jim McDaniel has pictures of the tents filled with shrapnel holes. Unit was still living in tents and more permanent facilities were being built.

Source: Fred Thompson June 1992, 14th CAB unit history for 1971 (Sloniker) July 1992

WO1 Dennis G. Blackmon

30 Jan 44 19 Oct 67 Alberta, AL

28E39

Died in an aircraft crash west of Duc Pho enroute LZ OD; not hostile fire. He was flying with WO1 Alexander who survived the crash, but was thrown out of the aircraft still in his seat.

Source: Jim McDaniel. Occurred while McDaniel was in Saigon (second hand) May 1989

SP5 Carl T. McCoy

01 Aug 50 31 May 68 Memphis TN

63W10

Killed by a direct hit on his quarters. 100 rounds landed in the company area. *Source:* Fred Thompson. June 1991

WO1 James D. Carter

13 Mar 47 13 Jun 68 Clarkston TX

57W10

WO1 Jerry H. Johnson

16 Feb 47 13 Jun 68 Hampton VA

57W10

SP4 Gary A. Milton

20 Mar 47 13 Jun 68 Hartley TX

57W11

PFC Allan R. Weamer

31 Dec 48 13 Jun 68 Tacoma WA

57W15

On 13 Jun 68, UH-1D #66-1018 was dispatched from Duc Pho to fly command and control for the 4th Bn 3d Inf, 11th Light Inf Bde. The aircraft landed at Landing Zone Dottie (VIC BS 622 885) to pickup LTC Barker, Cpt Michles, and 1LT Phillips, 4/3 Inf. The aircraft departed at 0730 to fly a visual reconnaissance in the area of BS 722 818, where a unit from 4/3 INF had reported light contact.

At 0745 hours, the 174th AHC operations center at Duc Pho received a report that WO1 Carter's aircraft was involved in a midair collision at 1000 feet AGL with a USAF 02. The UH-1D crashed at BS 718 802 and burst into flames. The 02 crashed at BS 714 799. Another helicopter crew in the area observed WO1 Carter's aircraft impact with the ground and stated they did not see anyone escape from the crash. An element from A-4/3 Inf was airlifted to both crash sites. They could find no survivors at either crash site. A maintenance aircraft arrived at the UH-1D crash site and assisted in the removal of the five bodies from

the surrounding area. The remains of the O2 pilot, MAJ Brenner were recovered. One additional body, (believed to be WO1 Carter) was still in the wreckage and could not be recovered due to the massive mutilation and burning. The maintenance crew reported no survivors in the area and that helicopter SN 66-1016 was completely destroyed. On subsequent searches on 13, 14, and 15 Jun 68, only portions of mutilated bodies were recovered and evacuated. Of these, none could be identified as the remains of WO1 Carter. On 13 and 14 Jun the Chu Lai Graves Registration shipped a total of six remains involved with the incident to the Danang US Army mortuary. WO1 Carter is carried in the status of dead, body not recovered (BNR).

Source: Defense Intelligence Agency Reference note 1203

SP5 Wayne A. Tice 03 Apr 48 18 Nov 68 Gallup NM 38W13

On 18 November, while reconning an area where a USMC F-4 had been shot down and the pilots were still missing, Dolphin 428 came under enemy fire. The ship took more than 15 hits. Although critically wounded, SP5 Tice, the crewchief, returned fire until the aircraft was out of the area. Tice was medevaced to Chu Lai, but later died of wounds. In recognition of gallantry, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, posthumously. John O'Sullivan was the aircraft commander and the copilot was "Smokey" Grykin.

Source: 174th historical document for Operation Vernon Lake II, 1 November 1968 to 31 Dec 1968 provided to Fred Thompson by John O' Sullivan (May 1991).

CW2 Henry J. Tews

11 Apr 48 29 Dec 68 Shosone ID 35W07

CW2 Tews was a maintenance officer who had gone to recover an UH-1D that had made a precautionary landing west of Ba To at the Special Forces camp at Gia Vuc. The UH-1D's crew had landed the aircraft because of noises from the transmission area. CW2 Tews inspected the aircraft and determined the aircraft could make a one time 30 minute flight to Duc Pho.

CW2 Tews flew alone in the aircraft. Enroute, the transmission seized, and the aircraft crashed.

Source: Jim McDaniel after a phone conversation with Russ Doersam, Jan 90.

MAJ Richard K. Zimmerman

24 Jun 37 20 Jan 69 St Clairsville OH 34W46

Former member of the 174th. Was transferred to the 1st Cav Div to command troop in the 1/9 Cav and was killed while in command as troop commander.

Source: Fred Thompson May 1991

WO1 Ray R. Davis		
06 Jun 47 01 Mar 69	Oakland CA	30W01
WO1 Edward L. Harris		
26 Jul 43 01 Mar 69	Mankato MN	30W03
SP4 Donn P. Zarina		
19 Jul 47 01 Mar 69	Boulder CO	30W09
SP4 David E. Schulze		
02 Jun 48 01 Mar 69	Elmhurst IL	30W07

Aircraft crashed on a pinnacle, crew of four and five infantrymen were lost:

James A. Kraft	11B10
David E. Lovegren	11B10
Thomas L. Gaines III	11B10
Rodney M. Goode	11B20
Jimmy R. Gross	11B20

Source: Jim Towle told Fred Thompson about the crash. The DIA PW/MIA office provided the names. (June 1991)

CPT Charles D. Rogers		
25 Mar 39 11 Mar 69	Monroe NC	29W14
MAJ Richard A. Brown		
23 Jul 34 17 Mar 69	Lakewood CA	29W59

A French 75MM pack howitzer was fired by the NVA into the company area and hit the commanders hooch. Cpt Rogers, who had been in the company 2 days and was going to be the XO was killed immediately. The new company commander, Maj Brown, died of wounds on the 17th. The outgoing company commander, Maj Schmidt was wounded and evacuated.

Sources: Jim Towle, Fred Thompson, John O'Sullivan, and Jim McDaniel May and June 1991

SGT Lawrence R. Shepard		
22 Jul 49 12 May 69	Napa CA	25W84
PFC James E. Isaac JR		
04 Nov 49 12 May 69	Daleville AL	25W72

Enlisted crewmen lost on Russ Doersam's UH-1C Shark aircraft (64-13663) that was shot down near OD lake.

Source: Jim McDaniel to Russ Doersam conversation on June 7, 1991 provided the date. The two names listed are the only two aviation MOS' listed as killed on May 12, 19969

SP4 Donald A. Contarino

30 Aug 49 14 Aug 69 Beverly Farms MA 19W37

WO1 Bob Buchanan AC, 1LT McGue CP, SP4 Donald Contarino, and Gnr UNK, were assigned a MACV support, starting at the MACV compound at Quang Ngai, that flew resupply and some command and control missions. Just before 1400, they landed at Special Forces camp at Tra Bong, and shut down. On approach to Tra Bong the Dolphin aircraft took fire near the ridge to the southeast. After the aircraft was shutdown, everyone but the gunner, went into the Special Forces compound to eat, when they were caught in a mortar attack on the camp. All were hit by shrapnel, Contarino died of his wounds, Buchanan and McGue were wounded and medevaced. The gunner and the aircraft were untouched. The passenger, a major who was a MACV advisor, also died of wounds.

Source: Bob Buchanan Jul 92 VHPA reunion.

WO1 Robert H. Shields II

19 Jun 43	15 Aug 69	Kensington MD	19W47
WO1 John M. Bozinski			
14 Jul 47	15 Aug 69	Superior WI	19W43
SP4 Sanchez A. Del Valle			
02 Nov 48	15 Aug 69	Baya Mon PR	19W44
PFC Johnnie Graham Jr.			
03 Dec 49	15 Aug 69	New York, NY	19W44

The aircraft was trail flying in 515 valley in a combat assault when hit by a heavy caliber anti-aircraft gun. The fire was intense and concentrated; so concentrated that it cut off the tail boom, causing mast bumping and main rotor separation. The helicopter hit on a side of a hill and burned. Besides the crew of four, there were 6 infantrymen on board.

Source: Ben Kennedy, June 1991

WO1 Adam Wilson

01 May 48	15 Nov 69	San Diego CA	16W82
WO1 Ricardo W. Regaldo			
01 Dec 49	15 Nov 69	Everett WA	16W81
SP4 Ronald L. Ducommun			
02 Jan 50	15 Nov 69	San Francisco CA	16W78
SP4 Forest C. Hodgkin			
12 Oct 47	15 Nov 69	Lewiston ME	16W80

Aircraft was resupplying artillery fire bases on a very windy day. Due to wind conditions and aircraft cargo, the crew had to make their approach in the same direction, four times in a row. On the fifth approach, the aircraft was shot down with all souls lost; the crew of four and a single artilleryman from the S-4 section.

Source: Beetle Bailey to Fred Thompson-May 90, Ben Kennedy June 92

SP4 Donald A. Selkey Jr.

02 Jul 50 22 Dec 69 Mt Clemens MI 15W84

He worked in vehicle maintenance as the vehicle dispatcher. He died one year after the death of his girlfriend. They were in an automobile accident, where she was the only fatality.

Source: Fred Thompson May 91, Rick Diamond Jun 91, Bob Jansen Jul 91

CPT John M. Gibbons

16 Feb 46 12 Feb 70 Sayville NY 14W131

Cpt Gibbons was killed by hostile fire as aircraft commander of a UH-1H inserting troops in a hot LZ. Died of head wound; no other injuries in the aircraft. Was very well liked.

Source: Rick Diamond, May 90 and Jack Dotterer Jun 91

WO1 Richard A. Henke

29 Apr 51 13 May 70 Clare IL 10W33

WO1 Frederick W. Sheffield

SP4 Sidney W. Jarrell

15 May 51 13 May 70 Albany GA 10W34

SP4 Ernest L. Johns

25 Aug 44 13 May 70 Brandon FL 10W34

PFC Derek W. Patrick

13 May 70

Entire crew lost in VH-1C #

Entire crew lost in UH-1C #66-0662 south of FSB 411 near Quang Ngai. Aircraft crashed after having hydraulics failure and hardover (Sugar Bear Gambrill identified the remains) Jack Dotterer remembers the aircraft crashed because of the a materiel failure at the collective collar.

Source: Rick Diamond Jun 89, Fred Thompson Jan 90 and Jack Dotterer Jun 91

W01 Lenton E. Mizer

10 Feb 50 15 Jul 70 Eldorado KS 08W20

SP5 Harrison Bell

07 Dec 47 15 Jul 70 Bonwier TX 08W1

SP5 Fred G. Vandiver

WO1 Mizer, who had been in-country for just 6 weeks, was on the controls of Shark, UH-1C #66-00646, which was flying up a steep ravine, low level. The aircraft experienced a loss of power and Mizer attempted to turn down the ravine to regain rpm. The aircraft continued to loose power and fall. Lt. Joseph R. Brandt (Newton IA), the AC and the only survivor, tried to regain control of the aircraft, but it struck the ground, rolled and exploded at BS 546724.

Source: Fred Thompson Jul 89 and Jan 90

CW2 Peter R. Goodnight

01 Jan 50 11 Oct 70

Pacoima CA

07W125

CW2 Goodnight was flying with AC CW2 Dave Rosenthal on a combat assault in the horseshoe area of Quang Ngai. An aircraft in the flight, on the approach to the LZ had a complete engine failure and successfully autorated to safety. One of the infantrymen on that aircraft panicked and jumped from approximately 30-50 feet and sustained compound fractures to one of his legs. The Goodnight/Rosenthal aircraft, being trail, dropped troops, picked up the downed crew and the injured infantryman. They flew to Hill 422 where the aid station there advised them to reload the injured and transport him to the hospital at Chu Lai. While shuffling the wounded/the crew / and the weapons, one of the downed crews M-60's, that was leaning against the back of Goodnight's seat was pulled. The butterfly rod caught on the map case, firing two or three rounds in Pete's neck and back.

Source: Fred Thompson Sep 89, updated Jul 91 and Jack Dotterer Jun 91. Goodnight had a premonition of impending death and wrote a poem about the subject that was read at his memorial service by Maj Searcy. Pete had just returned from his brother's stateside funeral and had brought back a lot of the latest music.

CW2 Charles F. Creamer III

25 Mar 46 28 Nov 70	South Bend IN	06W87
1LT David C. Jauregui		
03 Mar 44 28 Nov 70	Flagstaff AZ	06W87
SP4 James Powell		
25 May 50 28 Nov 70	New Castle IN	06W88
PFC Gary D. Field		
14 Nov 50 28 Nov 70	Columbia NY	06W87

The crew was flying a flare mission and did not return at the end of mission. Aircraft was found crashed on the side of a mountain.

Source: Fred Thompson June 89.

CW2 Robert D. Black

30 Jun 45 11 Jan 71

Tallahassee FL 05W39

"Reverend Mr" Black was a Primo pilot from the 11th Inf Bde, who was lost after dropping off a passenger near the Quang Ngai river, between Quang Ngai and FB 411. Aircraft crashed in the water without being seen by witnesses. Aircraft was found the same day; Mr Black was found the following day downstream.

Source: Fred Thompson and Art Magee Jul 89