

HEADQUARTERS
52D AVIATION BATTALION
APO 95, San Francisco, California

ASK-00

28 July 1964

Mrs Earlene G. Cawthorne
[REDACTED]
Marietta, Georgia

Dear Mrs Cawthorne,

I believe you will appreciate the following additional information concerning the death of your husband in the service of our country.

On the morning of the 30th day of June, Bill was aircraft commander on an armed UH-1B helicopter. He was providing protection for unarmed helicopters which were resupplying ground troops near a little grass-hut village called Phoun San, which is about thirty-five miles south and west of Danang, Vietnam. Bill was hit through the right shoulder and chest by an enemy bullet. The aircraft then crashed. He was not further injured in the crash and he assisted one other crew member, who had been injured, from the aircraft. A fourth crew member did not survive the crash. Bill then sat down, collapsed and was pronounced dead upon arrival at the United States Marine Corps, Medical Dispensary at Danang. The evacuation of Bill and the two surviving crew members was accomplished within minutes after the crash, by a Marine Corps helicopter, which was in the near vicinity.

Bill's personal effects were forwarded from Danang on July 14, 1964.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to write me.

Sincerely,

DANIEL C. PRESCOTT
1st Colonel, Infantry
Commanding