

**FRANK WALTER BENGTON**  
is honored on Panel 3W, Row 25 of  
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

**Full Name:** FRANK WALTER BENGTON  
**Wall Name:** FRANK W BENGTON  
**Date of Birth:** 6/12/1949  
**Date of Casualty:** 5/7/1971  
**Home of Record:** MILLBURY  
**County of Record:** WORCESTER COUNTY  
**State:** MA  
**Branch of Service:** ARMY  
**Rank:** 1LT  
**Casualty Country:** CAMBODIA  
**Casualty Province:**



1LT Bengton was flying a OH-6A on an armed reconnaissance mission when he was shot down. He was serving with Troop A, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division at the time of his death.

**A Note from The Virtual Wall**

Three men from A Troop, 1/9th Cavalry, were killed when OH-6A tail number 67-16679 was shot down:

- 1LT Frank W. Bengton, Millbury, MA, pilot;
- WO David P. Meyer, Collinsville, IL, observer; and
- SP4 Larry W. Rothel, Granbury, TX, crew chief.

**Keep Flying 44**

I knew 44 well. He flew every day into everything without any hesitation. I flew with him many times. He was a peaceful content soul that embraced everything around him with goodness. He was a rock, solid as a pilot, an Officer and a Gentleman. He will always be remembered by me. I always try and tell his story. He is a true Hero. Fly far, my friend.

Frank Fleming  
I was, his Air Traffic Controller  
3211 Roman St., Metairie, LA 70001  
Aug 22, 2007

## To a Cav Scout Pilot that Knew No Fear



I flew as an observer many times with Lt. Frank Walter Bengtson in his OH-6A while serving with A Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry. It was an honor to have been his friend. We flew "hunter-killer" teams out of Tay Ninh to the north and west along the Cambodian border, and west into Cambodia to the Chup Rubber Plantation NW of Phum Suong. It was at the Chup Rubber Plantation that this great air cavalry pilot was shot down on May 7, 1971. He typically flew armed reconnaissance missions low and slow.

Lt. Bengtson was a great Scout pilot who loved to fly the OH-6A. He taught me much about the scouts during the time we flew together in A Troop, 1st of 9th Air Cavalry. He had tremendous wit, a great sense of humor and knew no fear. He was definitely a lover, a fighter and a wild horse rider! His memory and the memory of so many other fine cavalymen that gave so very much will never fade.

Posted by: John Nichols  
Relationship: We served together  
June 12, 2005



## *From the Virtual Wall*

I wanted to stop by before Memorial Day to remember an old friend from Apache Troop, 1/9th and pay tribute to this young hero.

He was a great scout pilot. I served as his observer/air crewman on his OH-6 helicopter with A Troop, 1/9th Air Cavalry. We flew pink teams out of Tay Ninh to the north and east along the Cambodian border, and west into Cambodia to the Chup Rubber Plantation and the Mekong River. I always enjoyed spending time with Lt. Frank Walter Bengtson, either on the ground in Tay Ninh or anywhere in the air.

On May 7, 1971, he was shot down in Cambodia near the Chup Rubber Plantation. I am sure that he has been missed by a great number of his friends. I will think of him and the many other Cavalry warriors who made that ultimate sacrifice with thanks for their service.

In the future, we will all meet again at Fiddler's Green. Fiddler's Green is the happy land imagined by cavalryman where there is perpetual mirth, a fiddle that never stops playing and dancers who never tire.

It was featured in old English legend:

When he comes to a pretty little village deep in the country and the people ask him what he is carrying ... he will know that he's found Fiddler's Green. The people give him a seat in the sun outside the Village Inn with a glass of grog that refills itself every time he drains the last drop and a pipe forever smoking with fragrant tobacco. From then onwards he has nothing to do but enjoy his glass and pipe and watch the maidens dancing to the music of a fiddle on Fiddler's Green.

It is also described in a ballad written anonymously for the US Cavalry and published in a 1923 US Cavalry Manual. It is still used in modern cavalry units to memorialize the deceased:

"In a shady meadow green,  
Are the souls of all dead troopers camped  
Near a good old-time canteen  
And this eternal resting place  
Is known as Fiddler's Green."

Rest well in the Mighty Hands of God, Frank Walter Bengtson, and know that you will never be forgotten.

From a comrade,  
John Nichols  
25 May 2007

## **BENGTSON FRANK WALTER**

Name: 1LT Frank Walter Bengtson

Status: Killed In Action from an incident on 05/07/1971 while performing the duty of Pilot.

Age at death: 21.9

Date of Birth: 06/12/1949

Home City: Millbury, MA

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

Unit: A/1/9 CAV 1 CAV

Major organization: 1st Aviation Brigade

Flight class: 70-20

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

The Wall location: 03W-025

Short Summary: Hit with an RPG in Cambodia, with David Meyer.

Aircraft: OH-6A tail number 67-16679

Country: Cambodia

MOS: 1981 = 19 Rotary Wing Aviator (Unit Commander)

Primary cause: Hostile Fire

Major attributing cause: aircraft connected not at sea

Compliment cause: small arms fire

Vehicle involved: helicopter

Position in vehicle: pilot

Vehicle ownership: government

Started Tour: 08/21/1970

"Official" listing: helicopter air casualty - pilot

The initial status of this person was: no previous report

Length of service: \*

Military grid coordinates of event: CLASSIFE

Reason: aircraft lost or crashed

Casualty type: Hostile - killed

single male U.S. citizen

Race: Caucasian

Religion: Protestant - no denominational preference

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

Category of casualty as defined by the Army: battle dead Category of personnel: active duty Army Military class: officer

This record was last updated on 08/20/1995

## Helicopter OH-6A 67-16679

Information on U.S. Army helicopter OH-6A tail number 67-16679

The Army purchased this helicopter 0369

Total flight hours at this point: 00000886

Date: 05/07/1971

Incident number: 71050710.HEL

Unit: A/1/9 CAV

This was a Combat incident. This helicopter was LOSS TO INVENTORY

This was a Recon mission for Armed Recon

While in Operations Area this helicopter was Unknown at 0050 feet and 050 knots.

Classified

UTM grid coordinates: WU599118

Count of hits was not possible because the helicopter burned or exploded.

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

causing Fragmentation Damage.

Systems damaged were: PERSONNEL

Casualties = 02 DOI, 01 KIA. .

The helicopter Crashed. Aircraft Destroyed.

Both mission and flight capability were terminated.

Burned

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

Defense Intelligence Agency Helicopter Loss database. Survivability/Vulnerability

Information Analysis Center Helicopter database. Also: OPERA, LNNF, CASRP

(Operations Report. Lindenmuth New Format Data Base. Casualty Report. )

Loss to Inventory

Crew Members:

**P 1LT BENGTON FRANK WALTER KIA**

PP WO1 MEYER DAVID PAUL KIA

G SP4 ROTHEL LARRY WAYNE KIA

This record was last updated on 05/25/1998