

ROBERT ALAN DALTON
is honored on Panel 29W, Row 97 of
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Full Name: ROBERT ALAN DALTON
Wall Name: ROBERT A DALTON
Date of Birth: 3/6/1947
Date of Casualty: 3/21/1969
Home of Record: PARMA
County of Record: CUYAHOGA COUNTY
State: OH
Branch of Service: ARMY
Rank: 1LT
Casualty Country: SOUTH VIETNAM
Casualty Province: BINH DINH



1LT Dalton served with the 61st Assault Helicopter Company, 1st Aviation Brigade. He was killed when the UH-1C helicopter he was piloting suffered a main rotor seizure and separation from the aircraft while departing LZ English.

From the wall-usa.com

Friendship

I met Robert while attending OCS at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. In fact, he was my cube mate for six months. I found Robert to be the best of us in his attitude, commitment, and dedication to his service. A better man, compatriot, and friend than Robert is very difficult to find. May he rest in peace and know he is missed.

Stephen Miller
Friend
May 27, 2009

A Friend, Not Forgotten

I lived with LT Dalton the few months before that fatal day of the crash. I was in the gunship that took off ahead of him as team lead. I will never forget that day as long as I live. We were all proud soldiers and pilots. I will always remember him as real gentleman. We flew combat missions together almost every day and we lived in the same tent. I also remember how much it hurt me to lose my good friends after we had been so close. I often think and pray for him. I hope that God will bless him and his family. He is one of the heroes of Vietnam that will never be forgotten.

Colonel, (Retired) Charles B. Jones.
Dec 24, 2008

From www.flyarmy.org

DALTON ROBERT ALAN

Name: 1LT Robert Alan Dalton

Status: Killed In Action from an incident on 03/21/1969 while performing the duty of Pilot.

Age at death: 22.0

Date of Birth: 03/06/1947

Home City: Parma, OH

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

Unit: 61 AHC

Major organization: 1st Aviation Brigade

Flight class: 68-18

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

The Wall location: 29W-097

Short Summary: Main rotor seizure and separation from aircraft departing LZ English with CPT Richard C. Benicewicz (aircraft commander)

Aircraft: UH-1C tail number 66-15130

Call sign: Starblazers

Service number: O5429518

Country: South Vietnam

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

Primary cause: Main Rotor Loss

Major attributing cause: aircraft connected not at sea

Compliment cause: unknown or not reported

Vehicle involved: helicopter

Position in vehicle: co-pilot

Started Tour: 12/14/1968

"Official" listing: helicopter air casualty - other aircrew

Length of service: 02

Location: Binh Dinh Province II Corps.

Reason: aircraft lost or crashed

Casualty type: Non-hostile - died of other causes

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: non-battle dead Category of personnel:

active duty Army Military class: officer

This record was last updated on 07/24/1994

Helicopter UH-1C 66-15130

Information on U.S. Army helicopter UH-1C tail number 66-15130

The Army purchased this helicopter 0567

Total flight hours at this point: 00001021

Date: 03/21/1969

Incident number: 690321321ACD Accident case number: 690321321 Total loss or fatality Accident

Unit: 61 AHC

The station for this helicopter was English in South Vietnam

Number killed in accident = 4 . . Injured = 0 . . Passengers = 1

costing 510415

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:

P CPT BENICEWICZ RICHARD C KIA

P 1LT DALTON ROBERT ALAN KIA

CE SP5 SANTOS RENE ANTHONY KIA

G SP4 STOCK DALE LOUIS KIA

Passengers and/or other participants:

UNK UNK, MS, G

Accident Summary: Helicopter UH-1C, 66-15130 was scheduled as an alert aircraft for the night of 21 March 1969. The aircraft had been located at the Craptable (helipad) and readied for the mission. At approximately 1900 hours a scramble was called. Helicopter UH-1C 66-15130 was the second of two aircraft that made up a Light Fire team. The mission was to support elements of the 173rd Airborne Brigade that had come in contact. After starting the aircraft and preparing the aircraft for take-off, the lead ship called #66-15130 and asked if they were up. The crew replied by radio transmission that there would be a delay as the transmission oil pressure was reading zero and they could not get the light off, and that they were going to have to get it checked. No maintenance personnel were called to the aircraft or notified of the conditions. Approximately two minutes later 66-15130 hovered into take-off position. After calling the tower for instructions, the lead ship departed. The second aircraft, 66-15130, departed behind the lead ship. After take-off, 66-15130 flew for approximately 30 seconds before crashing. Witnesses stated that they heard what seemed to be an engine over-rev, and then a whooshing sound as the main rotor blade and mast separated from the aircraft. Some witnesses stated that the aircraft blew up in flight. It is believed by this board that they saw the exhaust of the aircraft as it was flying south going away from the witnesses. The aircraft impacted approximately one quarter mile from the helipad. The appearance of the wreckage indicated that the aircraft skids scraped a dike and that it was in a nose low attitude, leaning on its right side when it hit. It also appeared to have burst into flames upon impact. The main rotor blades and a portion of the mast were found approximately 300 meters east of the aircraft. This record was last updated on 09/20/1998



Robert is buried at Brooklyn Heights Cemetery Cuyahoga County, Ohio