

TERRY JACK MARTELL**Class 15-69**

**is honored on Panel 3W, Row 98 of
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial**

Full Name: TERRY JACK MARTELL
Wall Name: TERRY J MARTELL
Date of Birth: 7/31/1948
Date of Casualty: 7/3/1971
Home of Record: MCKEESPORT
County of Record: ALLEGHENY COUNTY
State: PA
Branch of Service: ARMY
Rank: CAPT
Casualty Country: SOUTH VIETNAM
Casualty Province: THUA THIEN



CPT Martell was serving with Battery A, 4th Battalion, 77th Artillery (Aerial Rocket). He was the co-pilot of one of two AH-1G Cobra helicopters that had established a night-time circular orbit overhead ground troops in contact. The last radio contact with the flight was the aircraft's pilot's call that he was "Rolling in hot". The ground troops observed rockets being fired and a large flash of light from the lead aircraft's position, then watched as a burning aircraft fell to earth beyond a ridgeline approximately 800 meters distant from them. A second flash of light was observed beyond the ridgeline. A search and rescue team in a UH-1H Huey was launched at once. When the Huey arrived on scene the SAR team found two fires about 200 meters apart. Close observation of the fires revealed that the two AH-1G Cobras had crashed as the direct result of a mid-air collision. Four men died in the incident. The pilot of the aircraft was CPT Phillip R. Bergfield, a graduate of Field Artillery OCS Class 7-67.

Terry is buried at Arlington National Cemetery

Mission Notes

On the night of 3/4 July 1971, A Battery (Aerial Rocket Artillery), 4/77th Arty, had two aircraft on two-minute alert status at Phu Bai. At about 2320 a fire support request was received and the two AH-1G gunships immediately launched. Flight lead was Captain P. R. Bergfield.

The flight arrived in the target area at 2330 in a trail formation. Lead established a circular orbit overhead the ground troops to be supported, an orbit that was decreasing in diameter. The last contact with the flight was Captain Bergfield's call that he was "Rolling in hot" (i.e., commencing an attack run).

The ground troops observed rockets being fired and a large flash of light from the lead aircraft's position, then watched as a burning aircraft fell to earth beyond a ridgeline approximately 800 meters distant from them. A second flash of light was observed beyond the ridgeline. The ground commander advised the 4/77 tactical operations center that one or both AH-1s may have crashed. Another aviator from A/4/77 Arty, Chief Warrant Officer Barry Martens, had observed the incident, arrived at the same conclusion, and so advised the A Battery operations center.

A search and rescue team in a UH-1H Huey was launched at once. When the Huey arrived on scene the SAR team found two fires about 200 meters apart. Close observation of the fires proved that the two AH-1G Cobras had indeed crashed, probably as the direct result of a mid-air collision. Four men died in the incident:

In AH-1G tail number 68-15185
Captain Phillip Rex Bergfield, pilot
Captain Terry Jack Martell, copilot

In AH-1G tail number 67-15760
CW2 Robert Scott Schettig, pilot
1st Lt Gary Preston Tomlinson, copilot



MARTELL TERRY JACK

Name: CPT Terry Jack Martell (posthumously promoted)
Status: Killed In Action from an incident on 07/03/1971 while performing the duty of Pilot.
Age at death: 22.9
Date of Birth: 07/31/1948
Home City: Mc Keesport, PA
Service: AD branch of the reserve component of the U.S. Army.
Unit: A/4/77 ARA 101 ABN
Major organization: 101st Airborne Division
Flight class: 70-18
Service: AD branch of the U.S. Army.
The Wall location: 03W-098
Short Summary: Mid-air of two Cobras south west of Camp Eagle. See Bergfield, Martell, and Tomlinson.
Aircraft: AH-1G tail number 68-15185
Country: South Vietnam
MOS: 61193
Primary cause: Mid-Air?
Major attributing cause: aircraft connected not at sea
Compliment cause: vehicular accident
Vehicle involved: helicopter
Position in vehicle: pilot
Vehicle ownership: government
Started Tour: 10/02/1970
"Official" listing: helicopter air casualty - pilot
The initial status of this person was: non-hostile dead - died while missing
Length of service: *
Location: Thua Thien Province I Corps.
Military grid coordinates of event: YD875014
Reason: aircraft lost or crashed
Casualty type: Hostile - died while missing
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: battle dead Category of personnel: active duty Army Military class: officer
This record was last updated on 11/11/1997

Helicopter AH-1G 68-15185

Information on U.S. Army helicopter AH-1G tail number 68-15185

The Army purchased this helicopter 0769

Total flight hours at this point: 00001139

Date: 07/03/1971

Incident number: 710703011ACD Accident case number: 710703011 Total loss or fatality Accident

Unit: A/4/77 ARA 101 ABN

The station for this helicopter was Phu Bai in South Vietnam

UTM grid coordinates: YD874005

Number killed in accident = 2. . Injured = 0. . Passengers = 0
costing 753033

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 BERGFELD PHILLIP REX KIA

P CPT MARTELL TERRY JACK KIA

Accident Summary:

The aircraft in question were on 2 minute alert status with an aerial rocket artillery battery. They received a contact mission at approximately 2320 hours and were immediately launched. Arriving on station at 2330 hours in trail formation, a circling orbit was set up by the lead aircraft and was observed by ground troops, who indicated the orbit got smaller and smaller. The last radio transmission monitored was that the lead aircraft, flown by CPT Bergfield, was "rolling in hot". At this time the troops on the ground observed a large flash of fire and some rockets being fired. The burning aircraft fell to the ground over a ridge line 800 meters from the ground troops who also reported shortly after the flash of fire in the sky, there was another flash on the ground over the ridge line. The flash of fire in the sky was also observed by CW2 Barry Martens, 310-56-6339, of A Btry, 4/77th Arty, 101st ABN DIV who watched the aircraft launched, and depart the Phu Bai Combat Base to the southwest in trail formation. CW2 Martens observed the aircraft set up their orbit over the contact area and was watching for the section to commence their firing runs. CW2 Martens then observed a large flash in the area of the aircraft and could no longer see the aircraft positions lights. He went to the battery operations center and informed the personnel on duty, who initiated a radio search with negative results. The ground commander also radioed that it was possible that the aircraft had crashed. At this time the 4th Battalion, 77th Artillery Headquarters Tactical Operations Center was notified, who in turn launched a search and rescue team in a UH-1H. Upon arriving on the scene, two fires were observed approximately 200 meters apart and with close observation of the fires, it was determined that both aircraft were totally destroyed with little chance of survivors.