

## JOSEPH C SPENCE JR

Class 5-69

is honored on Panel 5W, Row 7 of  
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

**Full Name:** JOSEPH C SPENCE JR  
**Wall Name:** JOSEPH C SPENCE JR  
**Date of Birth:** 4/6/1947  
**Date of Casualty:** 12/24/1970  
**Date of Death:** 12/24/1970  
**Home of Record:** FRANKLIN  
**County of Record:** CITY OF FRANKLIN  
**State:** VA  
**Branch of Service:** ARMY  
**Rank:** 1LT  
**Casualty Country:** SOUTH VIETNAM  
**Casualty Province:** BINH LONG



1LT Spence was serving with Troop A, 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry at the time of his death. The AH-1G Cobra gunship that he was piloting was shot down by small arms fire during a "Night Hawk" mission.



Joseph is buried at Beechwood Cemetery, Boykins, Southampton County, Virginia

**From www.flyarmy.org**

**SPENCE JOSEPH C JR**

Name: 1LT Joseph C. Spence, Jr.

Status: Killed In Action from an incident on 12/24/1970 while performing the duty of Aircraft Commander.

Age at death: 23.7

Date of Birth: 04/06/1947

Home City: Franklin, VA

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

Unit: A/3/17 CAV

Major organization: 1st Aviation Brigade

Flight class: 69-40

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

The Wall location: 05W-007

Aircraft: AH-1G tail number 68-15171

Country: South Vietnam

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

Primary cause: Hostile Fire

Major attributing cause: aircraft connected not at sea

Compliment cause: vehicular accident

Vehicle involved: helicopter

Position in vehicle: aircraft commander

Vehicle ownership: government

Started Tour: 07/18/1970

"Official" listing: helicopter air casualty - other aircrew

The initial status of this person was: no previous report

Length of service: \*

Location: Binh Long Province III Corps.

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 02/21/1994

## **Helicopter AH-1G 68-15171**

Information on U.S. Army helicopter AH-1G tail number 68-15171

The Army purchased this helicopter 0669

Total flight hours at this point: 00001136

Date: 12/24/1970

Incident number: 70122424.KIA

Unit: A/3/17 CAV

This was a Combat incident. This helicopter was LOSS TO INVENTORY for Close Air Support

While in Target Area this helicopter was Attacking at UNK feet and UNK knots.

South Vietnam

UTM grid coordinates: XT780975

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.

Systems damaged were: PERSONNEL

Casualties = 02 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, CASRP, CALTR,

FM385 (Operations Report. Casualty Report. )

Loss to Inventory

Crew Members:

**AC 1LT SPENCE JOSEPH C JR KIA**

P CW3 YOUNT WILLIAM HENRY JR KIA

This record was last updated on 05/25/1998