

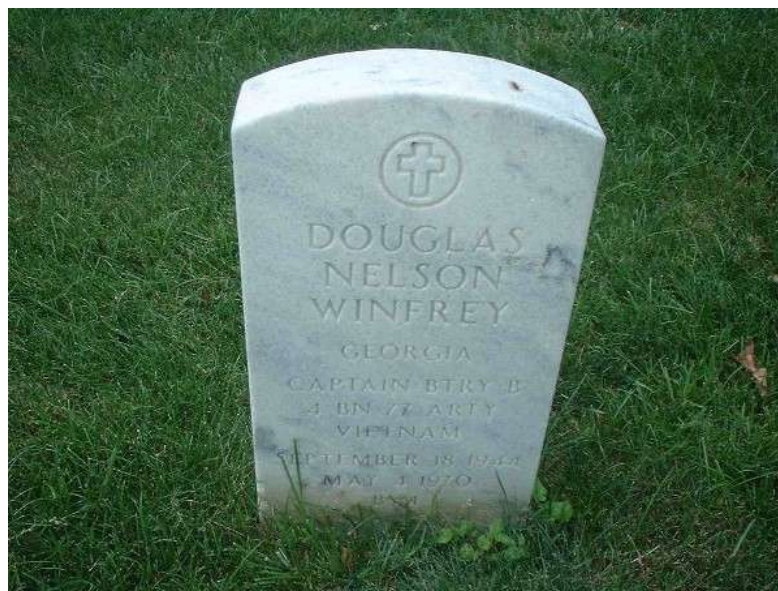
DOUGLAS NELSON WINFREY**Class 32-67**

is honored on Panel 11W, Row 98 of
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Full Name: DOUGLAS NELSON WINFREY
Wall Name: DOUGLAS N WINFREY
Date of Birth: 9/18/1944
Date of Casualty: 5/4/1970
Home of Record: SMYRNA
County of Record: COBB COUNTY
State: GA
Branch of Service: ARMY
Rank: CAPT
Casualty Country: SOUTH VIETNAM
Casualty Province: THUA THIEN



CPT Winfrey served with Battery B, 4th Battalion 77th Aerial Rocket Artillery. He was killed when the AH-1G Cobra gunship that he was flying, was involved in a mid-air collision with a UH-1H helicopter during a nighttime flare drop mission. A flare malfunction caused a fire in the other aircraft. While it was descending a collision occurred and both helicopters crashed and burned. The pilot of the UH-1H was 1LT Larry Franklin Mattingly, a graduate of FAOCS Class 508-68.



Douglas is buried at Marietta National Cemetery, Marietta Cobb County Georgia

From the Virtual Wall

The Mission

On 4 May 1970, UH-1H SN 68-16244, A Co, 101st AHB, was assigned flare standby for night illumination missions in support of the 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div. At approximately 1930 hours Company Ops received a mission request from S-3 (Air), 1st Bde, to provide illumination for a practice red alert at FSB Kathryn. At approximately 1955 hours UH-1H SN 68-16244, call sign COMANCHERO 20, departed for FSB Kathryn, arriving overhead at approximately 2020 hours.

Two AH-1G aircraft from Battery B, 4/77th Arty, departed Camp Eagle at about 2030 hours enroute to FSB Kathryn for the practice red alert. Lead was TORO 93; wing was TORO 91D. TORO 93's anti-collision light and aft navigation lights were inoperative, and TORO 91D had difficulty maintaining visual contact and position on TORO 93. TORO 93 advised TORO 91D that he held visual on 91D that they would head from their present position direct to the flares over FSB Kathryn at 5500 feet. The two AH-1G aircraft arrived on station at FSB Kathryn at approximately 2045 hours. TORO 93 made visual contact with the flare ship (COMANCHERO 20) and contacted JULIET 3 (Forward Observer for C/1/501 INF) to coordinate the firing runs.

COMANCHERO 20 was in a left hand orbit around FSB Kathryn, dropping flares as directed by C/1/501. COMANCHERO 20 requested that C/1/501ST have the TORO flight aircraft come up on UHF frequency E33. Shortly thereafter COMANCHERO 20 completed the portside flare drops and converted to a right-hand orbit. COMANCHERO 20 made a radio call to the TORO flight advising them of the orbital change, but TORO did not acknowledge the transmission. About 6 minutes later C/1/501 notified COMANCHERO Control that a midair collision may have occurred.

The post-accident investigation concluded that a flare ignited aboard COMANCHERO 20 and that the aircraft then went into a descent, colliding with one of the AH-1Gs. COMANCHERO 20 descended in flames to impact, while the TORO aircraft, also in flames, proceeded in what appeared to be an autorotative glide and crashed in heavily wooded and mountainous terrain.

Seven men died in this accident:

From Company A, 101st Aviation Battalion:
1LT Larry Franklin Mattingly, A/C commander
CW2 Tommy L. Kearsley, pilot
SGT Thomas Oliver Ahlberg, crew chief
SGT Dean L. Aitken, observer
SGT Rodney Alan Taylor, gunner

From Company B, 4th Bn, 77th ARA, 101st Airborne (AH-1G 67-15620):
CPT Douglas Nelson Winfrey, pilot
WO1 Dean Louis Bonneau, pilot

From www.flyarmy.org

WINFREY DOUGLAS NELSON

Name: CPT Douglas Nelson Winfrey

Status: Killed In Action from an incident on 05/04/1970 while performing the duty of Pilot.

Age at death: 25.6

Date of Birth: 09/18/1944

Home City: Smyrna, GA

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

Unit: B/4/77 ARA 101 ABN

Major organization: 101st Airborne Division

Flight class: 68-518/68-32

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

The Wall location: 11W-098

Short Summary: Mid-air with flare ship with Dean Bonneau.

Aircraft: AH-1G tail number 67-15620

SSN: 259683934 Service number: O5429720

Country: South Vietnam

MOS: 61193

Primary cause: Mid-Air

Major attributing cause: aircraft connected not at sea

Compliment cause: fire or burns

Vehicle involved: helicopter

Position in vehicle: co-pilot

Started Tour: 03/08/1970

"Official" listing: helicopter air casualty - other aircrew

Length of service: *

Location: Thua Thien Province I Corps.

Reason: aircraft lost or crashed

Casualty type: Non-hostile - died of other causes

single male U.S. citizen

Race: Caucasian

Religion: Baptist - other groups

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 08/20/1995

Helicopter AH-1G 67-15620

Information on U.S. Army helicopter AH-1G tail number 67-15620

The Army purchased this helicopter 0568

Total flight hours at this point: 00001054

Date: 05/04/1970

Incident number: 700504352ACD Accident case number: 700504352 Total loss or fatality Accident

Unit: B/4/77 ARA 101 ABN

This was an Operational Loss caused by an accident by Mid-Air Collision with the mission function of Armed Escort

The station for this helicopter was Camp Eagle in South Vietnam

UTM grid coordinates: YD474108

Casualties = YES . . Number killed in accident = 2. . Injured = 0. . Passengers = 0

Search and rescue operations were Not Required

costing 0

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

Survivability/Vulnerability Information Analysis Center AVDAC database. Defense

Intelligence Agency Helicopter Loss database. Army Aviation Safety Center database.

Also: OPERA (Operations Report.)

Loss to Inventory and Helicopter was not recovered

Crew Members:

P WO1 BONNEAU DEAN LOUIS KIA

P CPT WINFREY DOUGLAS NELSON KIA

This record was last updated on 04/15/2004