

MICHAEL DENNIS BRIGHTMAN**Class 46A-67**

MICHAEL DENNIS BRIGHTMAN
is honored on Panel 16W, Row 7 of
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Full Name: MICHAEL DENNIS BRIGHTMAN
Wall Name: MICHAEL D BRIGHTMAN
Date of Birth: 7/18/1941
Date of Casualty: 10/31/1969
Home of Record: MORRISON
County of Record: WHITESIDE COUNTY
State: IL
Branch of Service: ARMY
Rank: CAPT
Casualty Country: SOUTH VIETNAM
Casualty Province: TAY NINH



CPT Brightman served with Headquarters and Service Battery, 2nd Battalion, 19th Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division. He was the Artillery Observer on a Command and Control mission for the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry. Witnesses reported seeing the rotor blades of the helicopter stopped due to transmission failure at between 300-500 feet above ground level. The helicopter exploded on impact killing all ten on board, including the Battalion Commander and his immediate staff.

Prost

Mike, my favorite toast is yours From O'gau: "Prooooooost". Think of you often and toast to your memory. You are living in my memory forever. Sam.

Posted by: Sam Alitto
Relationship: We served together
March 26, 2005

From the Virtual Wall

Mike was a kind, intelligent, and gifted forward observer. Once, when we were lost, he called in a "willie pete" marking round, and it was directly overhead!

From his medic,
Super Doc
3121 Chinaberry Dr., Columbia, SC 29204-3664
14 Apr 2003

Notes from The Virtual Wall

On 31 Oct 1969 a UH-1H (tail number 66-16650) of B Company, 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion, was tasked with a command and control mission for a battalion-sized operation. The aircraft, Spade 650, returned to base at about 0830 for refueling. When it departed, it carried the 1st Bn, 12th Cavalry, command group and two artillery forward observers as passengers. At about 0930, other aircraft in the operations area heard a "MAYDAY" call from Spade 650 and watched helplessly as the Huey went into a steep descent, crashed, and burned. Ten men died in the crash, which was determined to be due to transmission failure:

B/229 AHB aircrew:

WO Michael D. Rosenthal, pilot
CPT Murray J. Wyman, copilot
SP4 Steve L. Escallier, gunner
SP4 Larry J. McGraw, crew chief

Command group, 1/12th Cavalry:

LTC Robert L. Alexander, HHC
CPT Adamo E. De Angelis, HHC
SGM Edward E. See, HHC
CPT Paul E. Reaume, D Co

Artillery FOs from 2/19th Artillery:

CPT Michael D. Brightman
Sgt Brian J. Morrow

Gone But Not Forgotten

I met Michael in Oberammergau, Germany while stationed there. We only met a couple of times, but he left a lasting impression on me as his image of a classy soldier and officer. I was saddened to learn of his tragic accident. I have thought of him often over the years. My condolences and prayers go to his family for their loss.

Bill Kingman
Stationed in Germany with Mike
85 Thompson Street Halifax MA 02338 USA
Aug 22, 2009

Michael is buried at Erie Cemetery, Erie, Whiteside County, Illinois

Helicopter UH-1H 66-16650

Information on U.S. Army helicopter UH-1H tail number 66-16650

The Army purchased this helicopter 0767

Total flight hours at this point: 00001469

Date: 10/31/1969

Incident number: 691031201ACD Accident case number: 691031201 Total loss or fatality Accident

Unit: B/229 AVN

The station for this helicopter was Dau Tieng in South Vietnam

UTM grid coordinates: XT254659

Number killed in accident = 10. . Injured = 0. . Passengers = 6 costing 725945

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:

AC CPT WYMAN MURRAY JOHN KIA

P WO1 ROSENTHAL MICHAEL D JR KIA

CE SP4 MC GRAW LARRY JOE KIA

G SP4 ESCALLIER STEVE LOUIS KIA

OB CPT BRIGHTMAN MICHAEL DENNIS KIA

Passengers and/or other participants:

CPT DE ANGELIS ADAMO ERMINO, NOT, A

LTC ALEXANDER ROBERT LEE, AR, PX, KIA

SGT MORROW BRIAN JOHN, AR, PX, KIA

SGM SEE EDWARD EUGENE, AR, PX, KIA

CPT REAUME PAUL EDMUND, AR, PX, KIA

Accident Summary:

Aircraft was on a command and control mission for a battalion of the 1st Brigade, 1st Cav Div (AM). The aircraft had been on the mission all that morning and had shut down at the Tay Ninh VIP pad at approximately 0830 to await its full complement of passengers. Details of the flight that followed are at best sketchy. The next contact with spade 650 was between 0930-0945 hours when he made a Mayday call. A Gun Bird and two Scout Birds flying in the area monitored the call and witnessed the aircraft impact with the ground. All the witnesses stated that the main rotor blades of 650 had stopped when they first established visual contact. The UH-1H was between 300-500 feet AGL at this time. The aircraft impacted in an angle close to a steep approach and exploded on impact. The Scouts moved into the crash area in search of survivors while the Gun Bird relayed coordinates and information concerning the crash. The aircraft continued to burn after the explosion and most of the aircraft was consumed in the fire.

This record was last updated on 11/27/2005