

**ALVIE JUNIOR LEDFORD JR****Class 13-67**

is honored on Panel 27W, Row 75 of  
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

**Full Name:** ALVIE JUNIOR LEDFORD JR  
**Wall Name:** ALVIE J LEDFORD JR  
**Date of Birth:** 8/7/1945  
**Date of Casualty:** 4/13/1969  
**Date of Death:** 4/13/1969  
**Home of Record:** AFTON  
**County of Record:** OTTAWA COUNTY  
**State:** OK  
**Branch of Service:** ARMY  
**Rank:** CAPT  
**Casualty Country:** SOUTH VIETNAM  
**Casualty Province:** QUANG NAM



On April 13, 1969, CPT Ledford was the pilot of an AH-1G Cobra helicopter making an attack run on an enemy gun position in Quang Nam Province. While at an approximate altitude of 500 feet and in a 45 degree dive, an accompanying aircraft pilot saw the Cobra hit by hostile ground fire. He also described seeing the pilot's compartment separate from the aircraft and disintegrate as it fell. Both crewmen were initially reported missing in action. CPT Ledford's remains were recovered on April 20, 1969. The other crew member, CW3 William C. Pierson was declared dead/body not recovered. He was serving with Troop D, 2nd Battalion, 17th Cavalry, 101st Airborne Division at the time of his death.

He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross

***From thewall-usa.com***

Alvie and I shared a trailer in Newton Alabama (we were the Figs of) during the last phase of flight school in 68. Remember one time of not having any milk for cereal one mourning so we used the next best thing - beer. Wasn't all that bad.

Martin Dahl  
Friend - Flight Class 68-4  
Friday, June 14, 2002

**Alvie is buried at Hickory Grove Cemetery, Delaware Co, Oklahoma.**

**From www.flyarmy.org**

**LEDFORD ALVIE JUNIOR JR**

Name: CPT Alvie Junior Ledford, Jr.

Status: Killed In Action from an incident on 04/13/1969 while performing the duty of Pilot.

Age at death: 23.7

Date of Birth: 08/07/1945

Home City: Afton, OK

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

Unit: D/1/1 CAV, 23 INF

Major organization: 101st Airborne Division

Flight class: 68-4

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

The Wall location: 27W-075

Short Summary: Exploded at 2500 ft NW of fire support base Brigham. only Ledford's chest cavity found. see Pierson & refno 1425.

Aircraft: AH-1G tail number 67-15677

Service number: O5426616

Country: South Vietnam

MOS: 0198

Primary cause: Hostile Fire

Major attributing cause: aircraft connected not at sea

Compliment cause: weapons

Vehicle involved: helicopter

Position in vehicle: pilot

Started Tour: 07/20/1968

"Official" listing: helicopter air casualty - pilot

Length of service: 02

Location: Quang Nam Province I Corps.

Military grid coordinates of event: YC750640

Reason: aircraft lost or crashed

Casualty type: Hostile - killed

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: battle dead Category of personnel: active duty Army Military class: officer

This record was last updated on 08/20/1995

## **Helicopter AH-1G 67-15677**

Information on U.S. Army helicopter AH-1G tail number 67-15677

The Army purchased this helicopter 0768

Total flight hours at this point: 00000333

Date: 04/13/1969 MIA-POW file reference number: 1425

Incident number: 69041310.KIA

Unit: D/1/1 CAV

This was a Combat incident. This helicopter was LOSS TO INVENTORY

This was a Recon mission for Armed Recon

While in Target Area this helicopter was Attacking at 0500 feet and UNK knots.

South Vietnam

UTM grid coordinates: YC500930

Count of hits was not possible because the helicopter burned or exploded.

causing an Explosion.

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 Reference Notes. Defense Intelligence Agency Helicopter

Loss database. Survivability/Vulnerability Information Analysis Center Helicopter

database. Also: 1425, LNOF, 90192, CRAFX, CASRP (Lindenmuth Old Format Data

Base. Crash Facts Message. Casualty Report. )

Loss to Inventory

Crew Members:

P CW3 PIERSON WILLIAM C III BNR

**P CPT LEDFORD ALVIE JUNIOR JR KIA**

REFNO Synopsis:

South Vietnam William C. Pierson, III (1425) On April 13, 1969, Warrant Officer Pierson and Captain Alvie J. Ledford were crewmen on an AH-1G aircraft making an attack run on an enemy gun position in Quang Nam Province. While at an approximate altitude of 500 feet and in a 45 degree dive, an accompanying aircraft pilot saw their aircraft hit by hostile ground fire. He also described seeing the pilot's compartment separate from the aircraft and disintegrate as it fell. Both crewmen were initially reported missing in action. Captain Ledford's remains were recovered on April 20, 1969. Warrant Officer Pierson was declared dead/body not recovered, in October 1978. U.S. POWs returned alive during Operation Homecoming were unable to provide any information on the fate of Warrant Officer Pierson.

This record was last updated on 05/25/1998