

LARRY FRANKLIN MATTINGLY**Class 508-68**

is honored on Panel 11W, Row 96 of
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Full Name: LARRY FRANKLIN
MATTINGLY
Wall Name: LARRY F MATTINGLY
Date of Birth: 5/31/1942
Date of Casualty: 5/4/1970
Home of Record: INDIANAPOLIS
County of Record: INDIANAPOLIS AND
MARION COUNTY
State: IN
Branch of Service: ARMY
Rank: 1LT
Casualty Country: SOUTH VIETNAM
Casualty Province: THUA THIEN



1LT Mattingly served with Company A, 101st Aviation Battalion, 101 Airborne Division. He had previously served a tour in Vietnam as an NCO with Advisory Team #2, Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV), before attending OCS and flight school. During a nighttime flare drop mission a flare malfunction caused a fire in the UH-1H helicopter that he was flying. During decent, a mid-air collision occurred with an AH-1G Cobra gunship. LT Mattingly's aircraft crashed and burned after losing the main rotor. There were no survivors. The pilot of the AH-1G was CPT Douglas Nelson Winfrey, a graduate of FAOCS Class 32-67.

I'm sorry I was late saying so

Lieutenant Larry F. Mattingly and I served together on MACV Advisory Team 2 in Tam Ky, Vietnam during 1965-1966. Larry was a Staff Sergeant at the time. Myself an SFC. He was our Team Commo SGT. and an all around outstanding NCO. Highly dedicated and motivated. My last letter from him was from Ozark, AL, right after he finished flight school becoming a Huey Pilot. He would leave Travis for Vietnam on Jun 27 1969. It made me sad that there were no remembrances for him at this site. I have never forgotten this fine man and I apologize for being late in saying so. I'm sorry we never had our last WHING-DING. MSG James F. Kenyon US Army Retired

Posted by: MSG James F. Kenyon RET
Relationship: We served together
January 1, 2003



Paver at the 101st Airborne Division Monument - Fort Campbell, KY

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

MATTINGLY LARRY FRANKLIN

Name: 1LT Larry Franklin Mattingly
Status: Killed In Action from an incident on 05/04/1970 while performing the duty of Aircraft Commander.
Age at death: 27.9
Date of Birth: 05/31/1942
Home City: Indianapolis, IN
Service: FA branch of the reserve component of the U.S. Army.
Unit: A/101 AVN 101 ABN
Major organization: 101st Airborne Division
Flight class: 69-12
Service: FA branch of the U.S. Army.
The Wall location: 11W-096
Aircraft: UH-1H tail number 68-16244
Country: South Vietnam
MOS: 1981 = 19 Rotary Wing Aviator (Unit Commander)
Primary cause: A/C Accident
Major attributing cause: aircraft connected not at sea
Compliment cause: fire or burns
Vehicle involved: helicopter
Position in vehicle: aircraft commander
Started Tour: 06/27/1969
"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
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: non-battle dead Category of personnel: active
duty Army Military class: officer
This record was last updated on 07/29/1995

Helicopter UH-1H 68-16244

Information on U.S. Army helicopter UH-1H tail number 68-16244

The Army purchased this helicopter 0969

Total flight hours at this point: 00000474

Date: 05/04/1970

Incident number: 700504351ACD Accident case number: 700504351 Total loss or fatality Accident

Unit: A/101 AVN

The station for this helicopter was Camp Eagle in South Vietnam

Number killed in accident = 5 . . Injured = 0. . Passengers = 1

costing 622545

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 CW2 KEARSLEY TOMMY L KIA

AC 1LT MATTINGLY LARRY FRANKLIN KIA

CE SGT AHLBERG THOMAS OLIVER KIA

G SGT TAYLOR RODNEY ALAN KIA

OB SGT AITKEN DEAN L KIA

Accident Summary: ON 4 MAY 1970, UH-1H, SN 68-16244, FROM COMPANY A, 101ST AHB, WAS ASSIGNED FLARE STANDBY FOR NIGHT ILLUMINATION MISSIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE 1ST INFANTRY BDE, 101ST ABN DIV (AMBL). AT APPROXIMATELY 1930 HOURS COMPANY A OPERATIONS RECEIVED A MISSION REQUEST FROM THE S-3 AIR OF THE 1ST BDE TO PROVIDE ILLUMINATION FOR A PRACTICE RED ALERT AT FSB KATHRYN. AT APPROXIMATELY 1955 HOURS UH-1H SN 68-16244, COMANCHERO 20, DEPARTED COMPANY A HELIPAD ENROUTE TO FSB KATHRYN AND ARRIVED AT THAT LOCATION AT APPROXIMATELY 2020 HOURS. AT APPROXIMATELY 2030 HOURS TWO AH-1G AIRCRAFT FROM BATTERY B, 4/77TH ARTY DEPARTED CAMP EAGLE ENROUTE TO FSB KATHRYN FOR A PRACTICE RED ALERT. THE WING SHIP OF THE FLIGHT OF TWO AH-1G AIRCRAFT WAS 67-15620, CALL SIGN TORO 91D. TORO 91D WAS HAVING DIFFICULTY MAINTAINING VISUAL CONTACT WITH THE LEAD AIRCRAFT (CALL SIGN TORO 93) DUE TO THE FACT THAT TORO 93'S ANTI-COLLISION LIGHT AND AFT NAVIGATION LIGHTS WERE INOPERATIVE. TORO 93 INFORMED 91D THAT HE HAD HIM INSIGHT AND THAT THEY WOULD HEAD FROM THEIR PRESENT POSITION DIRECT TO THE FLARES OVER FSB KATHRYN AT 5500 FEET. THE FLIGHT OF TWO AH-1G AIRCRAFT ARRIVED ON STATION AT FSB KATHRYN AT APPROXIMATELY 2045 HOURS. TORO 93 MADE VISUAL CONTACT WITH THE FLAESHIP (COMANCHERO 20) AND CONTACTED JULIET 3 (FORWARD OBSERVER FOR C 1/501 INF) ON THE ARTILLERY FREQUENCY. AT THIS TIME THE FORWARD OBSERVER IDENTIFIED THE TARGET AND REQUESTED THE ARA MAKE THE FIRING PASSES FROM NORTH TO SOUTH. AFTER OBTAINING THE GENERAL LOCATION OF FRIENDLY ELEMENTS IN THE VICINITY OF FSB KATHRYN, TORO 93 ELECTED TO MAKE HIS FIRING RUNS FROM EAST TO WEST TO PRECLUDE OVERFLYING THE FRIENDLY POSITIONS AND SO INFORMED JULIET 3. DURING THIS PERIOD OF TIME COMANCHERO 20 WAS IN A LEFT HAND ORBIT AROUND FSB KATHRYN DROPPING FLARES AS DIRECTED BY C 1/501ST COMPANY COMMANDER.

COMANCHERO 20 THEN REQUESTED THAT C1/501ST COMPANY COMMANDER HAVE THE ARA AIRCRAFT COME UP ON UHF FREQUENCY E33. AT THIS TIME THE FLARES WERE IN SOME WAY GETTING TANGLED UP (REF CPT KOBINAR'S STATEMENT). SOON THERE AFTER COMANCHERO 20 COMPLETES DROPPING THE FLARES FROM THE LEFT DOOR, HE THEN CALLED TORO 91D AND TOLD HIM THAT HE WAS GOING INTO A RIGHT HAND ORBIT. TORO 91D AT THIS TIME WAS FLYING THE RIGHT WING POSITION OF TORO 93. TORO 93 WAS MAKING HIS INITIAL FIRING RUN FROM EAST TO WEST WITH HIS WING MAN FOLLOWING HIM. TORO 91D DID NOT ACKNOWLEDGE THIS TRANSMISSION. FIVE MINUTES AND FORTY-FIVE SECONDS LATER THE GROUND ELEMENT, PLANTER 63, NOTIFIED COMANCHERO CONTROL THAT THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY A MIDAIR COLLISION HAD OCCURRED. AT THIS TIME THE BOARD FEELS THAT THE FOLLOWING EVENTS TOOK PLACE AFTER CONSIDERING THE EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS: THE UH-1H WAS ENGULFED BY FIRE APPARENTLY CAUSED BY A FLARE MALFUNCTION. AT THIS TIME THE UH-1H STARTED A DESCENT TO THE GROUND AND IN THE PROCESS MADE CONTACT WITH THE AH-1G. THIS CONTACT RESULTED IN THE LOSS OF THE UH-1H'S ROTOR SYSTEM WHILE DAMAGING THE AH-1G. THE AH-1G CAUGHT FIRE AND THE TWO AIRCRAFT SEPARATED, THE UH-1H FELL TO THE GROUND IN FLAMES WHILE THE AH-1G PROCEEDED IN WHAT APPEARED TO BE AN AUTOROTATIVE GLIDE AND CRASHED IN HEAVILY WOODED AND MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN.

COMANCHERO CONTROL THEN LAUNCHED ANOTHER FLAESHIP TO FSB KATHRYN AND NOTIFIED HIGHER HEADQUARTERS OF THE POSSIBLE MIDAIR COLLISION. MAJOR PEASE, LATER TO BECOME PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD, TRAVELLED TO THE SITE AFTER BEING INFORMED OF THE POSSIBLE MIDAIR COLLISION, AND OBSERVED THREE SEPERATE FIRES ON THE GROUND ONE INVOLVING THREE SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS OVER A PERIOD OF FIVE MINUTES. THE FIRE, LATER DETERMINED TO BE THAT OF THE UH-1H, WAS DESCRIBED BY MAJOR PEASE AS CONTAINING GREEN FLAMES WITH THE SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS BEING WHITE.

This record was last updated on 05/25/1998



Larry is buried at Stafford Cemetery, Greene County, Indiana