

DALE WAYNE RICHARDSON

CLASS 3-66

**is honored on Panel 11W, Row 87 of
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial**

Full Name: DALE WAYNE
RICHARDSON
Wall Name: DALE W RICHARDSON
Date of Birth: 5/5/1941
Date of Casualty: 5/2/1970
Home of Record: CASHTON
State: WI
Branch of Service: ARMY
Rank: MAJ
Casualty Country: CAMBODIA
Status: MIA: REMAINS RETURNED
TO U.S ON 4/3/2014
IDENTIFIED ON 1/27/2015



CPT Richardson was one of four passengers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, 25th Infantry Division on a helicopter from Company B, 229th Aviation Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division.

The helicopter departed Tay Ninh, South Vietnam on a logistics mission to Fire Support Base Bruiser, Kontum Province, South Vietnam which was located just south of the Vietnamese/Cambodian border. During the flight, it encountered a heavy rainstorm, and while trying to locate the fire support base in the zero visibility caused by the weather conditions, the Huey crossed the border into Cambodia. It was struck by enemy radar guided .60 caliber anti-aircraft (AAA) machine gun fire which ignited flammable material in the rear of the aircraft. The pilot found a clearing in a rice paddy near the city of Memot, Cambodia - approximately 2 miles north of the Vietnamese/Cambodian border and 30 miles due north of Tay Ninh - to land in.

The crew and passengers exited the aircraft unharmed with four men departing through the pilot's door and the other four through the co-pilot's. The group decided it was best for them to head for Firebase Bruiser to the west, but within 30 to 40 seconds of hitting the ground the group saw that the enemy was approaching. They disbursed in different directions in order to find cover in the elephant grass that grew from the edge of the rice paddy to the tree line. As they scattered, the enemy opened fire from all sides. One of the men was able to escape but the others were killed or captured.

CPT Richardson was posthumously promoted to MAJ and was officially declared as died while missing. His remains were returned on April 3, 2014 and positive identification was made on January 27, 2015. He will be buried August 29, 2015 in Mountain View, Arkansas.

From www.taskforceomegainc.org

RICHARDSON, DALE WAYNE

Name: Dale Wayne Richardson
Rank/Branch: Major/US Army
Unit: Headquarters and
Headquarters Company,
2nd Battalion, 34th Armor,
25th Infantry Division
Date of Birth: 05 May 1941 (Twin Creek,
AR)
Home of Record: Cashton, WI
Date of Loss: 02 May 1970
Country of Loss: Cambodia
Loss Coordinates: 114512N 1060827E
(XU243013)
[Click coordinates to view](#)
[maps](#)
Status in 1973: Missing in Action
Category: 2
Aircraft/Vehicle/Ground: UH1H "Iroquois"
Other Personnel in Incident: Michael Varnado; Bunyan D. Price, Jr.; Rodney L. Griffin;
Robert M. Young (all missing); Frederick H. Crowson;
Daniel F. Maslowski (returned POWs); - PFC Kurecky
(rescued)



REMARKS: HELO FOUND, NO TRACE OF SUBJ

SYNOPSIS: By early 1967, the Bell UH1 Iroquois was already the standard Army assault helicopter, and was used in nearly every "in-country" mission. Better known by its nickname "Huey," the troop carriers were referred to as "Slicks" and the gunships were called "Hogs." It proved itself to be a sturdy, versatile aircraft which was called on to carry out a wide variety of missions including search and rescue, close air support, insertion and extraction, fire support, and resupply to name a few. It usually carried a crew of four.

On 2 May 1970, WO1 Michael B. Varnado, pilot; WO1 Daniel F. Maslowski, co-pilot; SP4 Frederick H. Crowson, crew chief; and Pvt. Tony Karreci, door gunner comprised the crew of a UH1H helicopter assigned to Company B, 229th Aviation Battalion, 1st

Cavalry Division. Also aboard the Huey were passengers Capt. Robert M. Young, Infantry Officer; then Capt. Dale W. Richardson, Armor Officer; and SP4 Rodney Griffin, Armor Reconnaissance Specialist with other duties as a Mail Delivery Clerk; and SP4 Bunyan D. Price, Jr. All the passengers were assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, 25th Infantry Division.

The helicopter departed Tay Ninh, South Vietnam on a logistics mission to Fire Support Base Bruiser, Kontum Province, South Vietnam which was located just south of the Vietnamese/Cambodian border. During the flight, it encountered a heavy rainstorm, and while trying to locate the fire support base in the zero visibility caused by the weather conditions, the Huey crossed the border into Cambodia. It was struck by enemy radar guided .60 caliber anti-aircraft (AAA) machine gun fire which ignited flammable material in the rear of the aircraft. That fire pushed everyone up into the cockpit. WO1 Varnado was injured in the attack forcing WO1 Maslowski to find a flat area to land the damaged aircraft in. He found a clearing in a rice paddy near the city of Memot, Cambodia - approximately 2 miles north of the Vietnamese/Cambodian border and 30 miles due north of Tay Ninh - to land in.

The crew and passengers exited the aircraft unharmed with four men departing through the pilot's door and the other four through the co-pilot's. The group decided it was best for them to head for Firebase Bruiser to the west, but within 30 to 40 seconds of hitting the ground WO1 Varnado warned the group that the enemy was approaching. They disbursed in different directions in order to find cover in the elephant grass that grew from the edge of the rice paddy to the tree line. As they scattered, the enemy opened fire from all sides.

Pvt. Tony Karreci ran, jumped into a ditch, and hid under a bush. From that vantage point he watched as Michael Varnado disappeared from sight into the elephant grass. Dan Maslowski found shelter in a ditch/depression in the rice paddy near Frederick Crowson and Dale Richardson where they were pinned down by the enemy. As he fired his .38 caliber pistol at one VC soldier, another one put the muzzle of his gun to WO1 Maslowski's head and said: "Surrender or die."

The trio surrendered, were searched then led away to an enemy camp located in the treeline about 25 yards from where the aircraft landed in the rice paddy. WO1 Maslowski saw the body of a dead VC soldier in the treeline and believed it was the one he fired at. They were tied and blindfolded, then led through a small village to a larger one where they were held until dark. From there the captured Americans were marched for about 2 hours to their first detention camp.

Pvt. Karreci also recounted that after Dale Richardson, Dan Maslowski and Frederick Crowson surrendered to the VC, he saw some enemy soldiers go over to a clump of bamboo and begin firing into it. Then they dragged the wounded aircraft pilot out and dragged him in the direction of the rest of the captives. The door gunner also stated that an hour after WO1 Varnado was captured, he saw the communists pull the body of an unconscious or dead "blond, heavyset man" from out of the bamboo and left him out in the open. He was not able to identify that man, but based on intelligence analysis, government personnel believe it was possibly Rodney Griffin.

WO1 Varnado joined Capt. Richardson, WO1 Maslowski and SP4 Crowson at the first detention camp. Because of the wounds to his side and leg, Michael Varnado was brought to this camp on a stretcher. The three uninjured POWs were subsequently moved out of this camp while the injured pilot was left behind. Dan Maslowski also stated that while in that first compound, Capt. Richardson was interrogated by their Viet Cong captors about a top secret document they produced. This document was last known to be in Capt. Richardson's possession.

Frederick Crowson and Tony Karreci both reported seeing Robert Young running toward a wood line away from the crash site firing his .45 caliber pistol at the enemy as he ran. Later Capt. Young was brought into the same camp with the rest of the Americans from the downed Huey. Further, SP4 Crowson recounted seeing Rodney Griffin and Bunyan Price firing M16 rifles at the enemy troops before he himself was captured. Although he was never seen in captivity, Dan Maslowski and Frederick Crowson always believed that Bunyan Price had also been captured.

Only Tony Karreci, the 18 year old door gunner, successfully evaded capture and made his way back to friendly control on 4 May 1970. The other seven passengers and crew were initially listed Missing in Action. Once their true status became known to US authorities, Dan Maslowski's, Frederick Crowson's, Michael Varnado's, Bunyan Price's and Robert Young's status was immediately changed to Prisoner of War. Even though Dale Richardson was known to have been captured, his status, and that of Rodney Griffin, remained Missing in Action.

In October 1971, a former National Liberation Front (VC) soldier identified a photo of Bunyan Price as resembling the American prisoner whom he had seen in June 1970. Further, in June 1971, three ARVN soldiers escaped from the B-7 Detention Camp. They identified a photo of SP4 Price as the American held for a year in the same camp with them. One report from escaped ARVN POWs stated that SP4 Price had been captured by the Khmer Rouge (Communist Cambodians) and the prison camp he was being held in was under their control, not the Viet Cong's. This was in large part because the various communist ethnic groups normally did not cooperate with one another, and it was reasonable to expect the Khmer chose to keep him under their control rather than turn him over to the Vietnamese who had captured the other five Americans.

Both Frederick Crowson and Dan Maslowski were released by the VC at Loc Ninh, South Vietnam with 25 other American POWs on 12 February 1973. In their debriefings, they recounted how they survived under extremely primitive conditions filled with malnutrition, dysentery and no medical attention at the hands of the Viet Cong who moved them between jungle camps in both South Vietnam and Cambodia.

WO1 Maslowski recounted seeing WO1 Varnado two months after capture. The wound in the pilot's side had healed, however, the wounds to his leg and knee were badly infected and he was being transported in a hammock by the communists because he could not walk any distance on his own. Shortly thereafter, the Viet Cong took Michael Varnado to their hospital for medical treatment where he died on 21 September 1970. According to both Dan Maslowski and Frederick Crowson, and substantiated by the

VC's list of prisoners who Died in Captivity, Robert Young died of illness in the presence of the other prisoners, and in Dan Maslowski's arms, on 17 November 1972.

On 27 April 1989, the communists returned Michael Varnado's remains to US control. They were positively identified on 1 August 1989, and he was buried with full military honors the following month in his home state of Louisiana.

From www.flyarmy.org

Helicopter UH-1H 68-16512

Information on U.S. Army helicopter UH-1H tail number 68-16512

The Army purchased this helicopter 1169

Total flight hours at this point: 00000437

Date: 05/02/1970 MIA-POW file reference number: 1610

Incident number: 70050224.KIA

Unit: B/229 AVN

Cambodia

UTM grid coordinates: XU243013

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. Also: 1610 ()

Loss to Inventory

Crew Members:

P CW2 VARNADO MICHAEL BANARD RR

Passengers and/or other participants:

MAJ RICHARDSON DALE WAYNE, AR, PX, BNR

REFNO Synopsis:

Cambodia Dale W. Richardson Rodney D. Price, Jr. Bunyan D. Price Robert M. Young (1610) On May 2, 1970, eight U.S. Army personnel were flying in a UH-1H in northern Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam. They crossed into Cambodia and were shot down by hostile ground fire, crashing southwest of Memot City. One Army Private evaded capture and was rescued. Four were captured. Two of those captured, Warrant Officer Maslowski and Specialist Crowson, were released in February 1973 during Operation Homecoming. Warrant Officer Varnado was wounded in the right side and left leg. He was taken to a hospital after captured and was never seen by U.S. POWs as alive after that time.

A wartime report was received describing an American POW who died at Hospital K-21 on 26 August 1970, wounded in the left thigh during a helicopter crash in June 1970. The unit which shot down the helicopter was Z26 Company, 75th Artillery Group. In January 1973, the Provisional Revolutionary Government acknowledged the death in captivity of Captain Young and Warrant Officer Michael B. Varnado. Varnado's remains were repatriated on April 27, 1989. The death of Captain Young was witnessed by nine U.S. POWs who were repatriated during Operation Homecoming. In February 1975, a Viet Cong defector who had served as a guard at prison camp TB.22 described Captain

Young's death and located his burial site. In April 1970, a Viet Cong defector reported having seen an American in Kampong Cham Province in April 1970. This report was believed associated with Specialist Price.

In 1981 three South Vietnamese Army escapees from prison B-7 in Kratie Province reported an American POW there in 1971 who had reportedly been there for one year. During their only one hour interview they identified one of two photographs of Price as similar to the individual imprisoned at their camp. This identification led to a reclassification of Price from missing in action to POW. Specialist Griffin and Captain Richardson were last seen alive after their crash and prior to the capture of Captain Young and the three others. Although those surviving into captivity were kept together and joined other U.S. POWs then in custody inside Cambodia, returning U.S. POWs never saw Richardson, Price or Griffin alive in captivity.

A classified document last believed in the possession of Captain Richardson was shown to Captain Young. Captain Richardson was last seen alive and firing his pistol at enemy forces and was then hit by hostile fire while running. After the end of hostilities, all unaccounted for crewmen were eventually declared dead/body not recovered. This record was last updated on 05/25/1998

RICHARDSON, DALE WAYNE

Name: Dale Wayne Richardson

Rank/Branch: O3/US Army

Unit: HHC, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, 25th Infantry Division

Date of Birth: 05 May 1941 (Twin Creek AR)

Home City of Record: Cashton WI

Date of Loss: 02 May 1970

Country of Loss: Cambodia

Loss Coordinates: 114512N 1060827E (XU243013)

Status (in 1973): Missing In Action

Category: 2

Acft/Vehicle/Ground: UH1H

Other Personnel In Incident: Michael Varnado; Robert M. Young; Bunyan D. Price; Rodney L. Griffin (all missing); Frederick H. Crowson; Daniel F. Maslowski (returned POWs); - Tommy Karreci (evaded and escaped)

Source: Compiled by Homecoming II Project with the assistance of one or more of the following: raw data from U.S. Government agency sources, correspondence with POW/MIA families, published sources, interviews. Date Compiled: 01 January 1990. Updated by the P.O.W. NETWORK 2000.

REMARKS: HELO FOUND, NO TRACE OF SUBJ

SYNOPSIS: On May 2, 1970 a UH1H helicopter from Company B, 229th Aviation Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division flown by WO1 Michael B. Varnado was hit by ground fire and forced to land just over the border of South Vietnam near the city of Memot, Cambodia. The aircraft was transporting members of HHC, 34th Armor, 25th Infantry Division, SP4 Rodney L. Griffin; SP4 Bunyan D. Price, Jr.; WO1 Daniel F. Maslowski; Capt. Dale W. Richardson; and Capt. Robert M. Young. Also aboard were Tommy Karreci, SP4 Frederick H. Crowson, and CW2 Daniel F. Maslowski, crew members of the aircraft.

The men were part of an attempt to stop North Vietnamese forces from gaining strongholds in Cambodia. President Nixon announced the request by Cambodia for American assistance on April 30. Had we not assisted, the North Vietnamese, in addition to having an effective sanctuary to which they could retreat without retaliation, would also have South Vietnam completely outflanked.

The crew all survived the crash, and had only 30-40 seconds on the ground to decide what to do. They all attempted to evade, each in different directions. Only 18-year-old Karreci managed to make it back to U.S. lines in 2 or 3 days. Crowson, Maslowski, Varnado and Young went in one direction and were all captured by North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces. Price, according to Defense Department records, was also captured. Griffin and Richardson took off in another direction and were never seen again. Crowson and Maslowski were released in 1973 and in their debriefings stated that WO1 Varnado and Capt. Young had died in captivity, while detained in Cambodia. The Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam (PRG) officially acknowledged their deaths, listing Varnado's death as 21 September 1970, and Young's death as 17 November 1972.

According to Dan Maslowski, Bob Young died of illness in Dan's arms in the fall of 1972. Maslowski saw Varnado about two months after capture. "Vito" had been shot in the leg and in the side when he was captured, and according to Dan, "looked like hell". His side wound had healed, but the wound in his leg, in the kneecap, was badly infected. He could not walk, and told Maslowski that the Viet Cong had been transporting him in a hammock. The Viet Cong had told Varnado that he was to be taken to a hospital to have his leg taken care of. The Vietnamese state that he died two months after Dan saw him in camp (about 4 months after capture).

On August 1, 1989, it was announced that the Vietnamese had "discovered" the remains of Michael Varnado, returned them to the U.S. His remains were positively identified, much to the relief of family and surviving comrades, and Michael Varnado could finally be buried with the honor he deserved. The remains identification did not contradict that Vietnamese' statement that Varnado died four months after capture.

The fate of Price is uncertain. Maslowski always believed Price had been captured, but never saw him in camps he was held in. One report from escaped ARVN POWs stated that he was captured by the Khmer and because the ethnic groups normally did not cooperate, the Khmer would not likely have given Price over to the Vietnamese, who had captured the other four.

March 9, 2000

I have obtained copies of the battalion daily journal for my unit 1/5 (Mech) Infantry, 25th Inf Div. My copies cover the period 27 Feb through 31 May, 1970. Our unit was the group that found the wreckage of this helicopter in Cambodia on May 17th.

Doug Huffman

The journals relate:

Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log

1st Bn 5th Inf (Mech)

25th Inf Div

Location: WT261033

From Hour: 0001

Date: 17 May 70

To: 2400

Date: May 17 70

Item

68 cont: Chopper & will send 2 fc to ck out

69 1450: BB: UT 237001 Believed saw sniper in a tree, fired & saw something fell/Will ck out. // Also have 2 pc's stick and 1 piece threw track

70 1452 Ref 69 - Neg findings

71 1453 Dustoff 160 complete Dest Med T.N.

72 1520 A1/5 at chopper

73 1521 B1/5 Moving to S again Fm 237007

74 1550 A1/5 spot report at downed chopper: 24009. Tail number 16542, found neg - bodies, neg bones Believed was shot down by 51 cal - 51 cal hole in blade - both front seat belts were unfastened and armour plates

74 cont pushed back - found numerous FT prints (NVA type) around area - 2 rm attempts had been made to conceal the aircraft - Also found 2 sets of burned fatigues but was able to distinguish laundry mark (XA/12/c) // Tail section was abt 50' fm aircraft intact 10' fm tail section was an American Express banking statement w/name, rank & serial number awaiting rtn of A1/5 for ID.

NETWORK NOTE:

Item 89 1940

American Express ID -- HARTKE, James L PFC HHC 2/34 Armor

Account number (shown in record)

All records indicate Hartke returned alive from Vietnam.

From 1992 through 2008, joint U.S. / Kingdom of Cambodia (K.O.C.) teams investigated the site without success. On Feb. 18, 2009, a joint team interviewed witnesses in the Memot District of Cambodia who claimed to have information on the loss. The witnesses identified a possible burial site for the unaccounted for servicemen. The team excavated the burial site but was unsuccessful locating the remains.

From Jan. 16, 2010 to March 11, 2011, joint U.S. / K.O.C. teams excavated the area, but were unsuccessful recovering the crewman's remains.

In February 2012, another joint U.S. / K.O.C. team re-interviewed two of the witnesses. The witnesses identified a secondary burial site near the previously excavated site. The team excavated the secondary burial site and recovered human remains and military gear from a single grave.

In the identification of Richardson, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) analyzed circumstantial evidence and used forensic identification tools, to include mitochondrial DNA, which matched his sister.

