

BLODGETT, DOUGLAS RANDOLPH

Name: Douglas Randolph Blodgett
Rank/Branch: Sergeant First Class/US Army
Unit: Company A,
228th Aviation Battalion (Assault Support Helicopter),
11th Aviation Group, 1st Cavalry Division
Date of Birth: 01 May 1947
Home of Record: Alexandria, VA
Date of Loss: 19 April 1968
Country of Loss: South Vietnam
Loss Coordinates: [162247N 1070658E \(YD290105\)](#)
[Click coordinates to view maps](#)
Status in 1973: Missing in Action
Category: 4
Aircraft/Vehicle/Ground: [CH47A "Chinook"](#)
Other Personnel In Incident: William R. Dennis and Jesus A. Gonzales (missing)



REMARKS:CHOPPER CAUGHT FIRE; CRASHED

SYNOPSIS:The Boeing Vertol CH47 Chinook heavy lift helicopter arrived in Southeast Asia in September 1965 and could carry almost anything. Airlifting troops, supplies, artillery pieces and field equipment were routine tasks for "The Hook." More important, with its two Lycoming T-55-L-7 turboshaft engines offering 4,400shp, it could salvage downed aircraft and return them for repair. Few helicopters were as powerful or as versatile as the Chinook.

The A Shau Valley was one of two vital communist strategic areas in South Vietnam. Surrounded by exceptionally rugged mountains many with sheer cliff faces, the valley was located in western Thua Thien Province approximately 5 miles east of the South Vietnamese/Lao border. The long, narrow 25-mile triangular shaped valley, which was covered in jungle, 15 to 20-foot high elephant grass and bamboo groves was an extension of the Ho Chi Minh Trail funneling troops and supplies into the acknowledged war zone.

Route 548 was a well traveled road that ran nearly dead center through the valley. It was cleverly concealed and had established bridges over the streams as well as Binh Trams - roadside rest stops with overhead cover that were used for vehicle maintenance, supply depots, etc. The NVA had also constructed a gasoline pipeline running adjacent to the road. At the northern end of the valley was the major NVA staging area known as "Base Area 611." Because of the valley's importance to the communists plan for victory, the A Shau was ringed by one of the most sophisticated interlocking anti-aircraft artillery (AAA) battery systems devised to date. Further, at any given time the enemy garrisoned 5,000 to 6,000 troops within their valley stronghold.

Operation Delaware/Lam Son 216 was a joint mission launched to reestablish an American and South Vietnamese presence in the A Shau Valley. To that end on 10 April 1968, a 9-day air campaign to "soften up" the valley in advance of the planned assault began with 21 B-52 air strikes and 209 Air Force and Marine fighter sorties along with artillery barrages that pummeled enemy positions.

At 0930 hours on 19 April 1968, the main assault to establish a series of fire bases in the A Shau Valley lifted off from a marshalling point located just southwest of Camp Evans. All aircraft were forced to climb to 6,000 feet in order to fly over the clouds and descend one at a time into the valley through holes in the overcast. In spite of the heavy bombardment leading up to the assault, each aircraft approaching any of the planned landing zones (LZs) ran a gauntlet of withering ground fire ranging from small arms and automatic weapons to .50 caliber machine guns and radar controlled 37mm AAA fire. Interestingly, the exact location of each of the landing zones/base camps was determined by the placement of bomb craters. Those LZs included Signal Hill, Tiger Upper, Tiger Lower, Vicky, Pepper, A Luoi, Stallion, Goodman and Cecil.

CWO2 Don Winskey, aircraft commander; unidentified pilot; SP5 Gonzales, crew chief; SP4 William Dennis, flight engineer; and then SP4 Blodgett, crewman; comprised the crew of a CH47A (serial #64-13124) that was delivering a load of ammunition to LZ Vicky.

At 1600 hours, CWO2 Winskey found an opening in the clouds and descended below the overcast. The crew of the Command and Control Huey helicopter happened to be watching the Chinook as it began the two mile final approach to the landing zone at an altitude of 2,000 feet when it was struck by intense and accurate AAA fire.

The Huey's crew reported that there was an explosion in the aft section of the Chinook and it caught fire while in the air. They continued to watch as Don Winskey fought to land the crippled helicopter, but it rolled inverted just before crashing into the dense jungle and exploding a second time upon impact. At that time the entire fuselage was seen to be on fire. Within minutes a third explosion erupted as the load of ammunition blew up leaving twisted and scattered burning wreckage strewn across on the rugged mountainside less than 2 miles northeast of LZ Vicky.

Because of the catastrophic nature of this loss and the location being in dense forest on an extremely rugged mountain slope known to be infested by a large number of enemy troops, no ground search was attempted for the missing aircrew. Dan Winskey, Douglas Blodgett, William Dennis, Jesus Gonzales and the pilot were immediately declared Missing in Action.

During the brief time between the second and third explosions, the aircraft commander and pilot were able to unbuckle their harnesses and exit the Chinook through the right pilot's door and escape into the forest. The two men could hear enemy troops moving through the jungle as they made their way to LZ Vicky by following the sound of the chainsaws employed soldiers clearing fields of fire to secure the area around the new facility. They arrived at 0100 hours on 20 April.

CWO2 Winskey and the pilot had been burned by the fire that swept from rear to front through their aircraft and were immediately medically evacuated to the US military hospital at Phu Bai.

,p>During their debriefings, Don Winskey and the pilot stated that at no time after they exited the aircraft did they see SP5 Gonzales, SP4 Dennis or SP4 Blodgett. They added that they believed the three crewmen probably were not able to get out of the burning hulk.

Beginning in 1993, several joint US/Vietnamese teams under the auspices of the Joint Task Force for Full Accounting (JTFFA) traveled to the A Shau Valley, A Luoi District, Thua Thien Province to investigate several losses, including that of the Chinook. They interviewed several witnesses who possessed firsthand and hearsay information about case. They also traveled to the site of the official loss coordinates in Hong Van Village, but found no evidence of a crash site, remains or personal effect of the aircrew.

If Jesus Gonzales, William Dennis and Douglas Blodgett died in the loss of their helicopter, each man has a right to have his remains returned to his family, friends and country if at all humanly possible. However, if they were able to escape as did the aircraft commander and pilot, the could have been captured by NVA troops openly operating throughout the region and their fate, like that of other Americans who remain unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, could be quite different.

Since the end of the Vietnam War, over 21,000 reports of American prisoners, missing and otherwise unaccounted for have been received by our government. Many of these reports document LIVE American Prisoners of War remaining captive throughout Southeast Asia TODAY.

Military men in Vietnam were called upon to fight in many dangerous circumstances, and were prepared to be wounded, killed or captured. It probably never occurred to them that they could be abandoned by the country they proudly served.

During Operation Delaware/Lam Son 216 enemy gunners damaged 25 helicopters including 10 that were shot down. Of those 10 losses, 4 were lost within 5 kilometers of each other and had aircrews or a passenger declared POW/MIA.

MEMO FOR	<input type="checkbox"/> ACIS TAGCEN	COVER SHEET			
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	<input type="checkbox"/> TAG				
<input type="checkbox"/> ADCSPER	ACTION OFFICER	DATE	TELEPHONE NO. OF OFFICER	PER#Aff	
<input type="checkbox"/> DCSPER	MSG#Tommy 40, Gary		36452	WD Dir	
SUBJECT: Change of Status of SSG Douglas R. Blodgett--DECISION MEMORANDUM					
<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE <input type="checkbox"/> INITIALS					
TAGO	DCSPER	DAS	ASA	OSA	DSD
COMMENTS: PURPOSE: To obtain TAG approval for status change pertaining to Staff Sergeant Douglas R. Blodgett. DATA DISCUSSION: A summary of the MIA status of Sergeant Blodgett is attached at Tab B. In accordance with the provisions of AR 600-10, the primary next of kin of the above servicemember, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence R. Blodgett, (parents) requested and attended a hearing. The hearing was convened at 0930 hours, 27 September 1978. The hearing summary and letter that was presented at the hearing by parents are at Tab C. Mr. and Mrs. Blodgett were informed by certified letter of the Hearing Officer's recommendation and given the opportunity to submit objections for inclusion in the records. A copy of Hearing Officer's letter dated 29 Sep 78 is attached at Tab D. Mr. and Mrs. Blodgett's Election of Right form is attached at Tab E. Board Report pertaining to Sergeant Blodgett is attached at Tab F. SSG Blodgett was selected for promotion by the DA E-7 Promotion Selection Board which adjourned 10 Feb 79. Individual promotions will commence approx Jan 79. His Sequence Number is 15485. RESOURCE IMPLICATION: None.					

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COMMENTS: RECOMMENDATION: That TAG approve status change from MIA to PFOD and initial DA Form 2496 attached at Tab A.																																																											
<table border="1"> <tr> <th>COORDINATION</th> <th>APPROVAL</th> <th>INITIALS</th> <th>DATE</th> <th>ACTION TAKEN</th> <th>CONCUR</th> <th>APPROVE</th> <th>NOTED</th> <th>SEE ME</th> </tr> <tr> <td>DIA</td> <td>DCSPER</td> <td>Wife</td> <td>30 Oct 78</td> <td>CG RCAC</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>JCRC</td> <td>DIR</td> <td>S</td> <td>31 Oct 78</td> <td>ADTAG</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>MILPERCEN</td> <td>ACIS TAGCEN</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>TAG</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>ADCOR TAGCEN</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>ADCSPER</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>AXO</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>DCSPER</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>						COORDINATION	APPROVAL	INITIALS	DATE	ACTION TAKEN	CONCUR	APPROVE	NOTED	SEE ME	DIA	DCSPER	Wife	30 Oct 78	CG RCAC					JCRC	DIR	S	31 Oct 78	ADTAG					MILPERCEN	ACIS TAGCEN			TAG						ADCOR TAGCEN			ADCSPER						AXO			DCSPER				
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TAGO Form 14-1 Sep 78 PREVIOUS EDITION IS OBSOLETE																																																											

(Additional info)

On 3 Apr indiv rept to
Quang Tri hosp with sprained right
ankle which took place on 2 Apr
(nonhostile). Cast was put on and
indiv placed on light duty. On 17
Apr indiv returned to Quang Tri where
cast was removed and indiv was sent
back for full duty

REPORT OF CASUALTY		REPORT NUMBER AND CASUALTY CODE	DATE PREPARED	
1. SERVICE IDENTIFICATION (Name, Service Number, Grade or Rate, Component, Branch and Organization)		PUNCH 12001	22 Apr 68	
BLODGETT, DOUGLAS RANDOLPH, RA 11 932 381; SPl; RA; 228th Avn Co, 228th Avn Bn, 1st Cav Div, APO SF 96180				
2. CASUALTY STATUS		4. CIRCUMSTANCES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BATTLE <input type="checkbox"/> NON-BATTLE		
He was last seen as door gunner on military aircraft enroute to landing zone when aircraft was hit by hostile ground fire, crashed and burned. Search is in progress. In order to protect etc.				
QUANG TRI pl I CTZ				
3. PLACE MISSING	5. DATE	6. TIME	7. RACE	
Vietnam	19 Apr 68	1600	Cau	
8. RELIGION	9. COMMENCED TOUR DATE			
Baptist	1 May 1947, Ft. Belvoir, Virginia			
10. DATE AND PLACE OF LAST ENTRY ON ACTIVE DUTY IN CURRENT STATUS AND HOME OF RECORD AT TIME				
31 October 1966, Richmond, Virginia Alexandria, Virginia				
11. SOCIAL SECURITY NO., PAY GRADE, LENGTH OF SERVICE FOR PAY, BASIC PAY, INCENTIVE PAY				
- DATA Lt Under 2 years \$177.90				
12. CHECK IF APPLICABLE <input type="checkbox"/> CREW <input type="checkbox"/> NON-CREW				
13. SELECTIVE SERVICE NO., LOCAL BOARD, AND LOCATION (If unknown, enter date and place of first entry in Armed Services)				
44 39 47 1162 39, Fairfax, Virginia				
14. PRIMARY NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP, AND ADDRESS (include ZIP Code)				
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence R. Blodgett (Parents)				
DATA				
15. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO BE OBTAINED				
a. <input type="checkbox"/> CUSTODY				
b. <input type="checkbox"/> MARITAL STATUS				
c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADDRESS OF: Verify address of parents and zip code number				
d. <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:				
16. ORIGINATOR		17. RECEIVED BY	18. DATE	
Vietnam		PNU - Rents	22 Apr 68	
SECTION II - NOTIFICATION ACTIONS				
ACTION		NAMES OF PERSONS PASSING AND RECEIVING THE ACTION (and msg No.)	ZULU TIME	ZULU DATE
19. ITEMS 1 THROUGH 4 PASSED FOR NOTIFICATION TO HQ: NEW		Mrs. Annis Smith	1515	29 APR 68
20. PRIMARY NEXT OF KIN NOTIFIED PERSONALLY BY:		P. Robinson	1605	22 APR 68
21. COMPLETION OF NOTIFICATION PASSED TO DA CASUALTY DIVISION OR ORIGINATOR		1st Fleming	2100	23 APR 68
22. CONFIRMATION WESTERN UNION MESSAGE DISPATCHED TO PRIMARY NEXT OF KIN		MAJ. CHESTER	2245	23 APR 68
23. WESTERN UNION MESSAGE DISPATCHED TO SECONDARY NEXT OF KIN		SF J D J	0445	24 APR 68
24. DEATH GRATUITY PAYMENT MESSAGE DISPATCHED TO SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE OFFICER BY:		NA		
25. DATA ENTERED ON INFORMATION MESSAGE NO. 107 BY DA CASUALTY DIVISION		NA		
26. ADDRESS FOR GRATUITY PAY		Weight	2800	25 APR 68
27. Individual (has) (has not) BEEN POSTHUMOUSLY PROMOTED TO WITH EFFECTIVE DATE		1st Lt		
28. RECEIVED FROM		AND DATE OF COMMISSION	29. RECEIVED BY	30. DATE

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM		INTERNATIONAL SERVICE	
W. F. MARSHALL Chairman of the Board		D. W. SULLIVAN President	
NO. OF THE MESSAGE	TO WHAT OFFICE	CLASS BY	CHARGE TO THE ACCOUNT OF
			SIG - GOVT TO CAS SMO WASH DC PHZ

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to:
 DON'T DELY UNTIL 9:00 AM, 24 Apr 68
 Mrs/Mrs Clarence R. Blodgett, DATA

The Secretary of the Army has asked me to express his deep regret that your son, Specialist Four Douglas R. Blodgett, has been missing in Vietnam since 19 Apr 68. He was last seen as door gunner on military aircraft enroute to aircraft landing zone when aircraft was hit by hostile automatic weapons fire, crashed and burned. Search is in progress. You will be advised promptly when further information is received. In order to protect any information that might be used to your son's detriment, your cooperation is requested in making public only information concerning his name, rank, service number and date of birth. This confirms personal notification made by a representative of the Secretary of the Army.

KENNETH C. WICKHAM, MAJOR GENERAL, USA, P 27 THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

CASUALTY DIVISION
 APR 24 1 49 AM '68
 DISPATCHED
 HOSTILE MISSING (P) (R)

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
 COMPANY A, 228TH AVIATION BATTALION
 1st Cavalry Division (Air-Mobile)
 APO San Francisco 96490

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence R. Blodgett

DATA

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Blodgett,

You have undoubtedly been informed that your son, Specialist Four Douglas R. Blodgett has been reported as missing in action.

In the afternoon of 19 April 1968, Douglas was flying as a door gunner on a CH-47 helicopter from this unit participating on an ammunition re-supply mission to a landing zone in the A Shau Valley, Vietnam. The helicopter received enemy ground fire about two miles from the intended landing area and crashed in densely wooded jungle. American infantry soldiers are attempting to reach the crash site, but have been hampered by the jungle and mountainous terrain. You may be assured that all possible effort is being made to reach the crash site and to determine the status of your son and his fellow crew members.

I extend personally my sincere sympathy in this difficult period and I will insure you that all details will be forwarded to you as soon as I have additional information.

Sincerely yours,

Donald H. Yehliu
 DONALD H. YEHLIU
 Major, Transportation Corps
 Commanding

dew

31

158

WU 1SCS

ARMY CAS WSH B

000752C029 0404EST
001 XV GOVT PD WASHINGTON DC 29 JAN 73
PMS MR AND MRS CLARENCE R BLODGETT, DLR DONT PHONE IF MOVED FWD ALSO
WIRE COLL NEW ADD. DATA

DEAR MR AND MRS CLARENCE R BLODGETT:
ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, IT IS MY UNPLEASANT DUTY
TO INFORM YOU THAT THE NAME OF YOUR SON, STAFF SERGEANT DOUGLAS R
BLODGETT, LISTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY AS MISSING IN ACTION
HAS NOT APPEARED ON A LIST OF CAPTURED US SERVICEMEN AND CIVILIANS
PRESENTED TO THE PARIS NEGOTIATORS. I REGRET THAT THIS INFORMATION
WHICH I MUST PROVIDE TO YOU AT THIS TIME ADDS TO YOUR STRESS AND
EMOTIONAL STRAIN. PLEASE BE ASSURED THAT EVERY EFFORT IS CONTINUING
TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING HIS STATUS. YOU
WILL BE ADVISED PROMPTLY WHEN ANY ADDITIONAL FACTUAL INFORMATION IS
RECEIVED OR A CHANGE IN STATUS IS MADE. THIS MESSAGE CONFIRMS THE
PRIOR PERSONAL NOTIFICATION WHICH WAS MADE TO YOU.
VERNE L BOWERS MAJOR GENERAL USA THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY WASHINGTON DC

ACCEPTED.
00001
1-PC

REPRODUCED AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE

REPORT FORM 37 (REV. 6-63)

The use of this form, and AR 240-15, the proponent agency is The Adjutant General's Office.

OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL SUBJECT

AGSDP-18-S Crash Site Search in Support of JMWG 18-18-1.

TO AGSDP-18-X FROM AGSDP-18-S DATE 21 Sep 73

1. Aircraft crash sites Acc Nos 0017, 0027, 0034, 0093, 0130, 0167, 0423, 5294, 5450, 5463, 5650, 0228, 0514, 1892 and 5573 were searched on following missions with results as indicated.

ITEM 1: Acc Nos 0017, 0027, 0034, 0093, 0130, 0167, 0423, 5294, 5450 and 5650. MSN 3372, 25 Sep 73, INT: P C HC P. RMK: No evidence of aircraft crash.

ITEM 2: Acc No 0228, or 3305, 14 Sep 71. IMR: 78-93 PAN. INT: G C SC P. RMK: No evidence of aircraft crash.

ITEM 3: Acc No 0514, or 3357, 17 Aug 71. IMR 125-140 PAN. INT: G C CL W. RMK: Just missed given coords. Of site.

ITEM 4: Acc No 1892, UEYT 5300, 3 Oct 71. IMR: 258-266 PAN. INT: G C CL W. RMK: No evidence of aircraft crash.

ITEM 5: Acc No 5573, or 3305, 14 Sep 71. IMR: 78-93 PAN. INT: G C SC P. RMK: No evidence of aircraft crash.

2. Wreckage of a L-19 acft observed at NY 433854 on mission RHQ A-077, 13 Sep 73. IMR: 582-583 PAN. INT: G C CL W. RMK: Wreckage of destroyed acft included partial wing sections and nose section.

Robert F. Nease, Jr.
ROBERT F. NEASE, JR.
Liaison Element

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL AND THE ADJUTANT GENERAL CENTER WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314			
REPORT OF CASUALTY		1. REPORT NUMBER AND TYPE A-1273 FINDING OF DEATH RVN 30227	2. DATE PREPARED 10 NOV 1978
3. SERVICE IDENTIFICATION (Name, Social Security Number, Grade or Rate, Component, Branch and Organization), (MOS/ NJC) BLODGETT, DOUGLAS RANDOLPH; DATA ; SFC; RA; 228TH AVN CO, 228TH AVN BN, 1ST CAV DIV, VIETNAM 67U40			
4. CASUALTY STATUS a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BATTLE <input type="checkbox"/> NON-BATTLE b. COMMENCED TOUR DATE: 10 Dec 67			
c. STATUS: <input type="checkbox"/> DEATH <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KIA <input type="checkbox"/> MISSING <input type="checkbox"/> MISSING IN ACTION <input type="checkbox"/> CAPTURED <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Specify)			
d. DATE: 19 November 1978		e. PLACE: Vietnam	
f. CAUSE & CIRCUMSTANCES: See item 13.			
5. a. DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH 1 May 1947; Fort Belvoir, VA		b. RACE Caucasian	c. SEX Male
d. RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE Baptist			
6. DATE AND PLACE OF LAST ENTRY ON ACTIVE DUTY IN CURRENT STATUS AND HOME OF RECORD AT TIME 31 October 1966; Richmond, VA Alexandria, VA			
7a. PAY GRADE E-6	b. BASIC PAY \$830.10	c. INCENTIVE/ADDITIONAL PAY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	d. CHECK IF APPLICABLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CREW <input type="checkbox"/> PASSENGER
8. DUTY STATUS ACTIVE: ON DUTY			
9. INTERESTED PERSONS (Name, Address, Relationship) DATE OF RECORD OF EMERGENCY DATA FORM: 14 Dec 67			
Clarence R. Blodgett, DATA Father 1,2(50) 3(50)			
Elizabeth F. Blodgett, address same as above, Mother 2(50) 3(50)			
10. REPORT FOR VA TO FOLLOW <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		11. REPORTING COMMAND AGENCY AND DATE REPORT RECEIVED IN DEPARTMENT TAGCEN, WASHINGTON, D.C. 19 Nov 78	
12. PRIOR SERVICE DATA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO RA 11 932 381			
13. REMARKS Ref 4f: Under the provisions of Sections 555 & 556, Title 37, United States Code, and upon direction and delegation of authority by the Secretary of the Army, The Adjutant General finds SFC Douglas R. Blodgett, to be dead. He was officially reported as missing in action on 19 April 1968, while the door gunner on military aircraft enroute to combat landing zone when aircraft was hit by hostile weapons fire, crashed and burned. As provided by, and for the purposes of Sections 551-558, Title 37, United States Code, death is presumed to have occurred on 19 November 1978. Remains not recovered. SSG Douglas R. Blodgett was promoted posthumously to grade of SFC E-7, AUS, as of 19 November 1978, under provisions of PL 680, 77th Congress, as amended. Pay grade shown in item 7a is that of E-6 since additional pay is not involved. Replaces 2d Corrected Missing In Action Report issued 13 Dec 71. EM was SP4 E-4 when he became missing with base pay of \$177.90. QUANG TRI (01) I MR			
FOOTNOTES: 1. Adult next of kin. 2. Beneficiary for gratuity pay in event there is no surviving wife or child-as designated on record of emergency data. 3. Beneficiary for unpaid pay and allowances-as designated on record of emergency data.			
14. DISTRIBUTION B-2-4-6 MDW		15. SIGNATURE ELEMENT BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY: W. L. England Adjutant General	

DD FORM 1300
FEB 73

REPLACES DD FORM 1300, 1 MAR 60, WHICH IS OBSOLETE.

PFOD: 322
NAME: Blodgett, Douglas R.

SSAN:

RANK: SSG

PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE MISSING PERSONS ACT, A REVIEW OF THE MISSING STATUS OF YOUR (INSERT) Son, HAS BEEN COMPLETED. ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION PERTAINING TO HIS STATUS HAS BEEN GIVEN CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. THE CIRCUMSTANCES ATTENDANT TO HIS DISAPPEARANCE, PLUS THE LAPSE OF TIME WITHOUT ANY FURTHER INFORMATION TO SUPPORT A PRESUMPTION OF SURVIVAL CAN LEAD ONLY TO THE CONCLUSION THAT HE IS NO LONGER ALIVE. FURTHER, THE DEBRIEFING OF RETURNED PRISONERS OF WAR FOLLOWING THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT OF 27 JANUARY 1973, HAS REVEALED NO INFORMATION OF HIS FATE. THEREFORE, A DETERMINATION HAS BEEN MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY TO CHANGE HIS STATUS FROM MISSING IN ACTION, 19 Apr 1968 TO PRESUMED DEAD, AS OF 19 Nov 78. AN OFFICIAL FINDING OF DEATH WILL BE RECORDED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 555 AND 556, TITLE 37, UNITED STATES CODE. THE DATE OF 19 Nov 78, IS NOT AN ACTUAL OR PROBABLE DATE OF DEATH, BUT IS A DATE ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATUTE.

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DAILY STAFF JOURNAL COMPANY OFFICERS LOG			PRECEDENCE	NO. OF PAGES
CHRONOLOGICAL INFORMATION			PERIOD COVERED	
FROM	TIME	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.	ACTION TAKEN	REMARKS
NO.	HR	GR		
Blodgett MIA				
1	14 Aug 82	Per call from CPT. DENNIS (FSAO) for parents. Mother wants PFOD date to be on 19th of the month (any month). Reason - Because he became missing 19 Apr 68. Also - CPT Dennis will attend hearing w/ family.		
		J. Worthy 14 Aug		



JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER
LIAISON OFFICE
AMERICAN EMBASSY
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96346

YD253090

Reference: 6D
27 March 1982

FROM: JCRC-LNB

SUBJ: Refugee Report, Burial of American Remains at Quang Tri

TO: Commander, JCRC
Barbers Point, HI 96862

Source: SC / SD interviewed at
SD
Pulau Bidong, Malaysia, on 19 Feb 82; map used NE48-16.

Sometime during January 1977 Source and a friend, SSC also a former SD were collecting scrap iron for resale near the former U.S. base called "McNamara" in Quang Tri Province when they discovered the wreckage of two U.S. helicopters. Source was not able to identify the type of helicopter but stated that they were lying about 150 meters apart. One of the aircraft was on the edge of a stream bank and contained rusted weapons and ammunition but no remains. The other aircraft contained three sets of skeletal remains wearing rotted U.S. type fatigues. One of the remains had U.S. rank insignia of "sergeant" on the sleeves of the jacket. One of the remains had an "Omega" wristwatch which Source's friend SSC removed and used since it was still in good condition. Source and his friend buried the remains in a bomb crater approximately 30 meters from the wreckage. Source stated that the grave was located approximately six hours walking distance west of "McNamara" Base near hill 1228. Location of this hill is unknown. After burying the remains, Source placed a rusted machine gun from the helicopter on top of the grave. Source stated that his friend is still in Vietnam and could easily locate the gravesite. His address: SSC / SSD is residing there with his wife and four children while caring for his elderly parents. Source does not believe SSC has entered refugee channels.

Atch:
Sketch