



USARV



1ST AVIATION BRIGADE



16TH CAVALRY

TRANSFER FROM



"F" COMPANY RIFLE SECURITY 50TH INFANTRY



SPECIALIST 4TH CLASS



INFANTRYMAN

ROGER RIDGELY CHAMBLISS

C Troop, 16th Cavalry - transferring from "F" Company (Rifle Security), 50th Infantry Specialist Four, E4, 460 82 9614, MOS 11B20

Home of Record: Birmingham, MI

Date of Birth: June 10, 1952, Age at time of loss: 20, Single

1st Aviation Brigade, USARV, Dinh Tuong Province, Republic of Vietnam

Start of Tour: March 14, 1972, Date of Casualty: October 31, 1972, Days in Country: 231

Casualty Type Hostile, Air Loss or Crash over Land - Helicopter - Non-crew,

Panel 01W - Row 086

Roger Chambliss arrived in Vietnam on March 14th, 1972, and over the next 4 months was assigned as an infantryman to Company C and Company B, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry of the 196th (Light) Infantry Brigade. When that unit began its withdrawal from Vietnam, he was again transferred to Company F (Rifle Security), 50th Infantry at DaNang, guarding the various port installations in that area of operations. His fellow 50th Infantry Comrade, John Ryan remembers:

"I have fond memories, of the Risk games, that Roger and James, David Brown and myself along, with the cook, with the Hitler moustache, would play, at the service club, at Camp Horn, DaNang, RVN.. that would break the monotony, of pulling guard, every day. I remember the day, coming back, to the company area, after we had stood, down and there were, still some people cleaning weapons, when we got the news, of the Chinook, being shot down, with Roger and Brown, on-board. Many, of your friends, were, still there and they were, very somber and heart broken, the two of you, were, very well liked. God Bless and Keep You!"



The Vietnamization Program of withdrawing American Troops from combat roles was again cause for a transfer as his 50th Infantry unit was deactivated...and Brown was transferred to C Troop, 16th Cav, 164th Aviation Group, 1st Aviation Brigade. While "En-Route" to their new assignment, the Chinook Helicopter in which they were riding crashed...killing all on board.⁽¹⁾ The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association shows the Map Grid Coordinates of the crash as XS 321 413 (See Map)

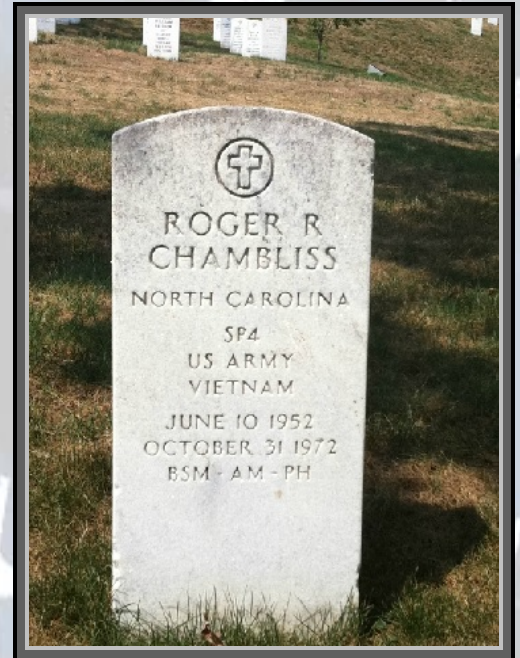
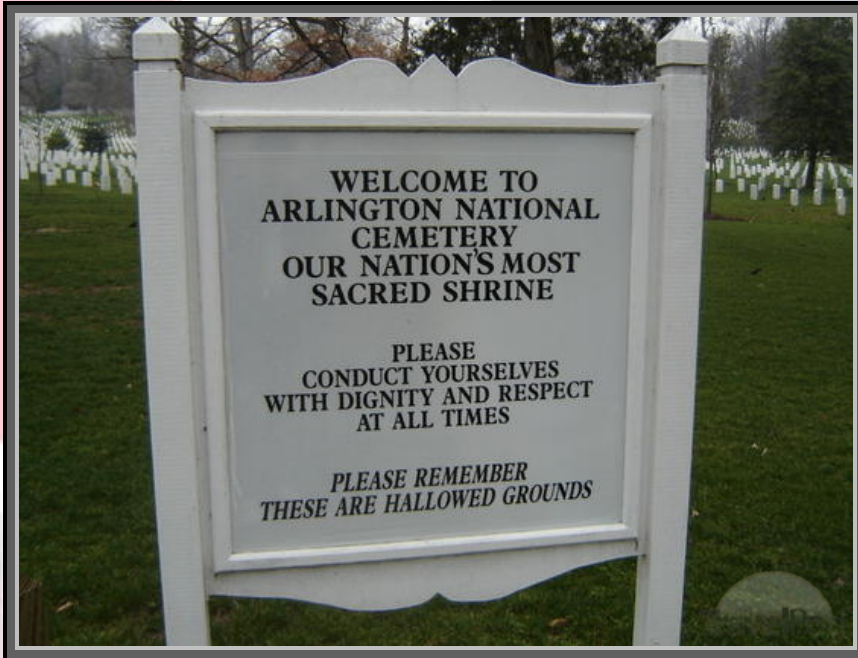
While operating in the Dinh Tuong Province with a crew of five and 17 passengers on board, Chinook Helicopter CH-47: 69-17119, was struck in flight by a SA-7 'Strella' shoulder launched heat seeking missile. The aircraft crashed into a flooded rice field in the Mekong Delta, southwest of Saigon, and was destroyed. There were no survivors. The helicopter was on a courier run from Saigon to Can Tho when it was hit near My Tho, about 35 miles from Saigon. The SA-7 rocket, new to the arsenal of the Communist soldiers in South Vietnam was a deadly heat seeking weapon which caused a major design change in the widely used CH-47 "Chinook" helicopter. The heat from the jet turbines was redirected to be flushed by the rotor blade "prop wash" after this incident.



Continued...

Other 50th Infantry men killed along with SP4 Chambliss while en-route to the 16th Cavalry were SP4 James D. Brown, SP4 Milton Hunter, SP4 Charles Stewart and SP4 Delbert Wood.

Roger Chambliss is buried at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Arlington County, Virginia: Section 37, Grave 1833 (Pictured below):



AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF ROGER R CHAMBLISS



Combat Infantry Badge

