

Dugger Jr., James Dowel
Dates in the 57th - 1972
1LT – Pilot
Birth Date: November 1st 1946
Pottstown, PA
Killed In Action Date: October 16th 1972
Near Kontum, RVN



<https://directory.vhpa.org/details.php?m=aVIC%2FZIUXCOd7CNz3t52O6jradZNwvxhKHjXTj07bmosBMdteUuxQqhU45pUX%2BTu1x5B7wLKM08Cdx02bMYtIg%3D%3D>

James Dowel Dugger Jr.
Military rank: 1LT

Status: KIA - 16 Oct 1972

There is more information about this person on the [VHPA web site](#).

Flight Class(es):
71-50

Call Sign(s):

Unit(s):
57 AHC (72)

Branch of Service:
AR

<https://www.vhpa.org/KIA/K10568.HTM>

DUGGER JAMES DOWEL JR

[Click here](#) for more information about this incident

Name: 1LT James Dowel Dugger, Jr.

Status: Killed In Action from an incident on 10/16/1972 while performing the duty of Pilot.

Age at death: 26.0

Date of Birth: 11/01/1946

Home City: Pottstown, PA

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

Unit: 57 AHC

Major organization: 1st Aviation Brigade

Flight class: 71-50

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

The Wall location: 01W-082

Short Summary: Aircraft hit with 60 mm RR right at the nose.

Aircraft: UH-1H tail number [70-15841](#)

Country: South Vietnam

MOS: 1981 = 19 Rotary Wing Aviator (Unit Commander)

Primary cause: Hostile Fire

Major attributing cause: aircraft connected not at sea

Compliment cause: artillery or mortar

Vehicle involved: helicopter

Position in vehicle: pilot

Vehicle ownership: government

Started Tour: 06/05/1972

"Official" listing: helicopter air casualty - pilot

The initial status of this person was: missing in action - interim

Length of service: *

Location: Pleiku Province II Corps.

Military grid coordinates of event: AR850148

Reason: aircraft lost or crashed

Casualty type: Hostile - died while missing

single male U.S. citizen

Race: Caucasian

Religion: Protestant - no denominational preference

Burial information: HAPPY VALLEY MEMORIAL PARK, ELIZABETHTON, TN

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

Goldbook information on UH-1H 70-15841

Information on U.S. Army helicopter UH-1H tail number 70-15841

The Army purchased this helicopter 0471

Total flight hours at this point: 1066

Date: 10/16/72

Incident number: 72101616.KIA

Unit: 57 AHC

South Vietnam

Original source(s) and document(s) from which the incident was created or updated: Defense Intelligence Agency Helicopter Loss database. Also: VNAF (South Vietnamese Air Force.)

Loss to Inventory

Crew Members:

P 1LT DUGGER JAMES DOWEL JR KIA

This record was last updated on 08/14/99

The following is crew member information for this incident:

Name: 1LT James Dowel Dugger, Jr.

Status: Killed In Action from an incident on 10/16/72 while performing the duty of Pilot.

Age at death: 26.0

Date of Birth: 11/01/46

Home City: Pottstown, PA

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

Unit: 57 AHC

Major organization: 1st Aviation Brigade
Flight class: 71-50
Service: AR branch of the U.S. Army.
The Wall location: 01W-082
Short Summary: Aircraft hit with 60 mm RR.
Aircraft: UH-1H tail number 70-15841
SSN: 194367842
Country: South Vietnam
MOS: 1981 = 19 Rotary Wing Aviator (Unit Commander)
Major attributing cause: aircraft connected not at sea
Compliment cause: artillery or mortar
Vehicle involved: helicopter
Position in vehicle: pilot
Vehicle ownership: government
Started Tour: 06/05/72
"Official" listing: helicopter air casualty - pilot
The initial status of this person was: missing in action - interim
Length of service: *
Location: Pleiku Province II Corps.
Military grid coordinates of event: AR850148
Reason: aircraft lost or crashed
Casualty type: Hostile - died while missing
single male U.S. citizen
Race: Caucasian
Religion: Protestant - no denominational preference
The following information is 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 08/20/95



Recent guests

[Phil Glasser \(MAJ, USA, ret.\)](#)

All...I am looking for info on the events of 10-16-72 when 1LT Dugger and another man, SP5 Craig from the Log Sup Activity at Pleiku were KIA... SP5 Craig's grave is next to that of a f... [more](#)

Dec 27 2015

- We Remember

Posted on 10/20/13 - by Robert Sage

James is buried at Happy Valley Memorial Park, 2708 Elizabethton Hwy, Johnson City, Carter Co, TN.

Posted on 2/7/13 - by enapresnell@

This is my cousin, my great uncle's only son. As the story has been told to me this was his last mission. His bags were packed and he was ready to come home after completion of this flight. As you can tell he was the pilot of the Medi Vac helicopter and was shot down as he was landing to retrieve wounded ground soldiers. At least that was told to his parents, we never knew what an effort was put into retrieving his body. Thank you to you and your team's courage in bringing him back to us. Also, for sharing this story. Both his parents are now deceased (as of 3 years ago) but I will pass this onto his sister. Heroes are ordinary people who have extraordinary hearts...you sir are a hero. Thank you!

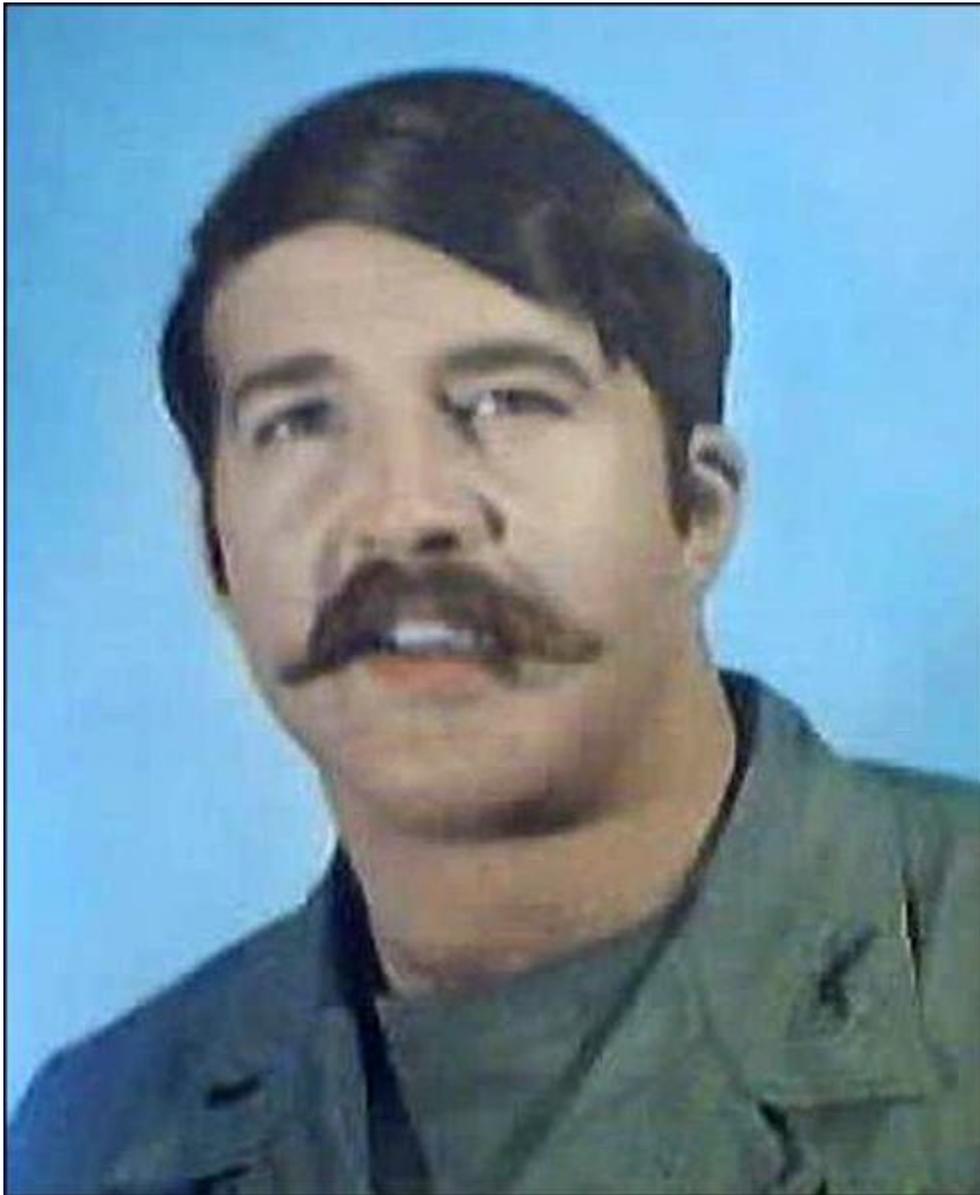
Account of Attempted Retrieval of SP5 James L. Craig Jr. and 1LT James D. Dugger Jr.

Posted on 11/5/12 - by wkillian@

I hope you guys don't mind reading this, there just something about the idea of 30 years. If someone asked me what I was doing 10 years ago, I wouldn't know, or even a year ago. But thirty years ago, I cannot only tell you what I was doing on this day, but what I was feeling and thinking. This day actually started the day before, Oct.16. Two men from the 57th were killed at a firebase close to Kontum. It was overrun and their bodies remained there. A pilot and a radioman their bodies right in the middle of the firebase with no one around. It was decided from higher up the Cav. would go in and retrieve the men. CAPT Artiglier was the operations officer so he would get an all-volunteer crew. He told me just a couple of years ago how much he was against it. It was an obvious, trap everyone knew they were waiting for us. They told him if he didn't get a crew, they would. He said he couldn't ask someone else to do something he wouldn't, so he volunteered. A WO2 volunteered, I can't remember his name but he was an IP before coming to Nam. We had a crew chief, myself, and two blues. One, an E- 4, and SGT Jim Ohs, who is a current member of our group here, put the plan together: land in the firebase, a safe distance from the bodies. Bring two body bags and a long rope. We knew that they would be booby trapped. We were to lighten the load the best we could on the slick. A half box of ammo and only what we absolutely needed. On Oct.18, early in the morning the six of us were off. On the way there we went over and over again what we were going to do: circle above the firebase until we were certain no one was around, land in the firebase, the crew chief and I were to shoot anything that moved, and Sgt.Ohs and the other man were to tie the rope around the legs of the two men, pull them away and then put them in the bags. All we had to do was hope it all went according to plan. After what seemed like an eternity of circling and not seeing anything, the WO took the controls. We made the fastest descent in the smallest circles I've ever experienced. I would of sworn we were going to crash. As we got closer, we could see the bodies of SP5 James L. Craig Jr. and 1LT James D. Dugger Jr. laying there. We had our guns ready to shoot at anything that moved. Then all of sudden it felt like someone was locking all the brakes. When we were a couple of hundred feet from landing, the WO changed plans and landed outside the firebase on the road leading up to it. Just then the whole firebase lit up

with more explosions than I had ever seen. We got out of there quick. As we were leaving, we asked why the change of plans. The WO said a strange eerie feeling came over him and he thought he'd land outside, then fly in. If we would have went according to the original plan, then surely there would have been six more bodies in that fire base. We got back to Holloway where it was decided to get some SF guys, drop them off at the bottom of the hill, and they would walk up get the men and carry them back down to bring them back. Now when I think of this day, I think of the two men on the Wall and how we're not on the Wall with them because of a strange eerie feeling. (Submitted by Vic H.) [Taken from vhp.org]

<https://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/14118/JAMES-D-DUGGER-JR/>



HONORED ON PANEL 1W, LINE 82 OF THE WALL

JAMES DOWEL DUGGER JR

WALL NAME

JAMES D DUGGER JR

PANEL / LINE

1W/82

DATE OF BIRTH

11/01/1946

CASUALTY PROVINCE

PLEIKU

DATE OF CASUALTY

10/16/1972

HOME OF RECORD

POTTSTOWN

COUNTY OF RECORD

Montgomery County

STATE

PA

BRANCH OF SERVICE

ARMY

RANK

1LT



Do not stand at my grave and weep

Posted on 11/12/05 - by Bob Ross

Do not stand at my grave and weep.
I am not there; I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond glints on snow,
I am the sun on ripened grain,
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry,
I am not there; I did not die.

Mary Frye – 1932

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/12917/happy-valley-memorial-park#view-photo=4059000>



<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/77186668/james-dowel-dugger>

Lieut James Dowel Dugger, Jr

BIRTH	1 Nov 1946 Pennsylvania, USA
DEATH	16 Oct 1972 (aged 25) Vietnam
BURIAL	Happy Valley Memorial Park Elizabethton, Carter County, Tennessee, USA
MEMORIAL ID	77186668 · View Source

Vietnam War Army veteran
1LT James D. Dugger, Jr.
Vietnam tour start: 05 June 1972

Hostile, Died While Missing, Air Loss, Crash - Land, Helicopter - Pilot, Body recovered

Pleiku, South Vietnam

1ST Aviation Brigade, 17TH Aviation Group, 52ND Aviation Battalion, 57TH Aviation Company

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall

Panel 01W - Line 82

home of record: Pottstown PA

