

Dye, Melvin Carnills
Dates in the 57th – 1967 - 1968
SSgt – Crew Chief
Birth Date: April 22nd 1947
City, ST
Killed In Action Date: February 19th 1968
LAOS



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remains of lost servicemen. Two years ago, government officials took DNA samples from family members and, evidently, the DNA matched the remains of Sgt. Dye.

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Mr. Thompson's mother is Betty Ball, Sgt. Dye's sister. She was living in Carleton when Sgt. Dye came to live with her in the 1960s. He was 14 at the time and arrived from West Virginia. After graduating from Airport, he got a job in a factory before being drafted. On March 23, 1967, he was sent to Vietnam.

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He suffered a broken back, broken ribs and burns. But he managed to save the pilot and also pulled the co-pilot from the wreckage, although he later died. For his heroic deeds that day, Sgt. First Class Zabitosky in 1969 received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the United States military's highest decoration. Mr. Thompson said the story about his uncle intrigued him and throughout his life, he has researched the events that occurred that day. He said he spoke to SFC. Zabitosky in 1993 about his uncle. SFC. Zabitosky died in 1996.

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Burial:

[Arlington National Cemetery](#)

Arlington

Arlington County

Virginia, USA

Created by: [Karen](#)

Record added: Aug 13, 2009

Find A Grave Memorial# 40637220

DYE, MELVIN CARNILS
22 May 1947 – 19 Feb 1968

Buried in Arlington National Cemetery 26 Apr 2011

Name: Melvin Carnils Dye
Rank/Branch: E5/US Army
Unit: 57th Assault Helicopter Co., 52nd Aviation Battalion
Date of Birth: 22 May 1947
Home City of Record: Carleton MI
Date of Loss: 19 February 1968
Country of Loss: Laos
Loss Coordinates: 145430N 1072800E (YB665498)
Status (in 1973): Missing In Action
Category: 4
Acft/Vehicle/Ground: UH1H
Refno: 1054

Other Personnel In Incident: Douglas J. Glover; Robert S. Griffith (still missing)

Source: Compiled by Homecoming II Project 01 April 1991 from one or more of the following: raw data from U.S. Government agency sources, correspondence with POW/MIA families, published sources, interviews. Updated by the P.O.W. NETWORK 1998.

REMARKS:

SYNOPSIS: Melvin Dye was the engineer and Robert Griffith the door gunner aboard a UH1H helicopter performing an emergency extraction mission in Laos. They were extracting a reconnaissance patrol team consisting of three U.S. Army Special Forces personnel and 3 indigenous personnel. The aircraft carried a crew of four. Douglas Glover was one of the Special Forces personnel aboard.

As the helicopter picked up the team 4 miles inside Laos west of Dak Sut, it received a heavy volume of small arms fire. It is not known whether the aircraft was hit by hostile fire or hit a tree, but it nosed over, impacted the ground and exploded, bursting into flames.

The pilot, co-pilot and one passenger managed to leave the aircraft. Because of the fire and exploding small arms ammunition, rescue attempts for the others were futile.

There were six U.S. and 3 indigenous personnel aboard the helicopter. When search teams reached the site the same day, they could not account for the other U.S. personnel. Five were accounted for, but could not be recovered because of intense heat.

Dye, Glover and Griffith were classified as Missing In Action. They did not return when the general prisoner release occurred in 1973. Since the war ended, evidence mounts that Americans were left behind in enemy prison camps and that hundreds of them could be alive today. They deserve better than the abandonment they received from the country they proudly served.

Obit: Sgt Melvin C Dye - (22 May 1947 - 19 Feb 1968)

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<https://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/14409/MELVIN-C-DYE/>

HONORED ON PANEL 40E, LINE 19 OF THE WALL

MELVIN CARNILLS DYE

WALL NAME

MELVIN C DYE

PANEL / LINE

40E/19

DATE OF BIRTH

05/22/1947

CASUALTY PROVINCE

LZ

DATE OF CASUALTY

02/19/1968

HOME OF RECORD

CARLETON

COUNTY OF RECORD

Monroe County

STATE

MI

BRANCH OF SERVICE

ARMY

RANK

SSGT



<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/40637220/melvin-carnills-dye>

Sgt Melvin Carnills Dye

BIRTH	22 May 1947
DEATH	19 Feb 1968 (aged 20)
BURIAL	<u>Arlington National Cemetery</u> Arlington, Arlington County, Virginia, USA
PLOT	Section 60, Site 9781
MEMORIAL ID	40637220 · <u>View Source</u>

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<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/157100290/melvin-carnils-dye#view-photo=134402396>

SGT	DORITY RICHARD C	ME
	329 TRANS CO	
SGT	DRIVER DALLAS A	VA
	12 INF 199 INF BDE	
ILT	DUBBELD ORIE J JR	RI
	ADV TM 21 MACV	
CPT	DUGAN JOHN F	NJ
	101 ABN DIV	
SFC	DUNCAN JAMES E	WV
	ADV TM 21 MAVC	
CW3	DUNLAP WILLIAM C	AZ
	129 AVN CO	
SSG	DYE MELVIN C	MI
	57 AVN CO	
SGT	DYER IRBY III	TX
	5 SF GP	
CW2	EADS DENNIS K	IL
	8 CAV 23 INF DIV	
SGM	ECHEVARRIA RAYMOND L	NY
	5 SF GP	
CPT	ECKLUND ARTHUR G	AZ
	183 AVN CO	
SP4	EDWARDS HARRY J	SC
	3 SO 5 CAV	
SGT	EISENBERGER GEORGE J B	OK
	2 INF 1 INF DIV	
CPT	EISENBRAUN WILLIAM F	CA
	HQ MACV	

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/49269/arlinton-national-cemetery#view-photo=554759>





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