

Hunsicker, James Edward
Dates in the 57th – 1971 - 1972
1LT - Pilot
Birth Date: November 29th 1946
Denver, PA
Missing In Action - Body Never Recovered
Date: April 24th 1972
Near Dak To RVN



<https://directory.vhpa.org/details.php?m=o9mvXjppShAidYQQat3tOs26Jd%2FRA PZnhD%2FBXOd4xESzrp4G2Ff%2BLXd89KufGE7JguGGFIcVf7Kp1SDzj1IX Q%3D%3D>

James Edward Hunsicker
Military rank: 1LT

Status: KIA - 24 Apr 1972

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

Flight Class(es):
71-14

Call Sign(s):
Gladiator 17

Unit(s):
57 AHC (72)

Branch of Service:

AR

<https://www.vhpa.org/KIA/K10980.HTM>

HUNSICKER JAMES EDWARD

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

Name: 1LT James Edward Hunsicker

Status: Body Not Recovered from an incident on 04/24/1972 while performing the duty of Aircraft Commander.

Age at death: 25.4

Date of Birth: 11/29/1946

Home City: Denver, PA

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

Unit: 57 AHC, 52 CAB

Major organization: 1st Aviation Brigade

Flight class: 71-14

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

The Wall location: 01W-006

Short Summary: Shot down by .51 cal 500 meters from Dak To. See Ellen, J.M. Jones.

Aircraft: UH-1H tail number [69-15715](#)

Call sign: Gladiator 17

Country: South Vietnam

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

Primary cause: SNV-BNR .51 Cal

Major attributing cause: aircraft connected not at sea

Compliment cause: small arms fire

Vehicle involved: helicopter

Position in vehicle: pilot

Vehicle ownership: government

Started Tour: 06/24/1971

"Official" listing: helicopter air casualty - pilot

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

Length of service: *

Location: Kontum Province II Corps.

Military grid coordinates of event: ZB028208

Reason: aircraft lost or crashed
Casualty type: Hostile - died while missing
single male U.S. citizen
Race: Caucasian
Religion: Baptist - other groups
Burial information: PLEASANT VIEW CEM, MANHEIM, PA (IMO)
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 07/28/1990

<https://www.vhpa.org/KIA/incident/72042410KIA.HTM>

Helicopter UH-1H 69-15715

Information on U.S. Army helicopter UH-1H tail number 69-15715

The Army purchased this helicopter 0970
Total flight hours at this point: 00001482
Date: 04/24/72 MIA-POW file reference number: 1833
Incident number: 72042410.KIA
Unit: 57 AHC
South Vietnam
UTM grid coordinates: ZB001219
Casualties = 05 KIA, 05 INJ . .
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: 1833 ()
Loss to Inventory
Crew: CARTER, GEORGE WILLIAMS;

Crew Members:
P WO1 ELLEN WADE LYNN BNR
PP 1LT JONES JOHNNY MACK BNR
C SP5 VOGLE RICKY V RES

C SP4 LEA CHARLES M RES
AC 1LT **HUNSICKER** JAMES EDWARD BNR

Passengers:

MAJ CARTER GEORGE WILLIAM, AR, PX, BNR; SP4 ZOLLICOFFER
FRANKLIN, AR, PX, BNR; MAJ WARMATH JULIUS G, AR PX, RES; CPT
KELLER JOHN P, AR, PX, RES; SGT WARD WALTER H, AR, PX, RES

REFNO Synopsis:

SYNOPSIS: On the evening of April 23, 1972, Capt. Kenneth J. Yonan accompanied his ARVN counterpart to a water tower located on the northwestern edge of the Tanh Canh base camp compound near Dak To, Kontum Province, South Vietnam. Yonan was an advisor assigned to Advisory Team 22, MACV, and was assisting the ARVN 42nd Regiment based there. At about 0530 hours on April 24, Capt. Yonan was still in the water tower when Viet Cong attacked the camp perimeter. Although tanks fired at and hit the water tower, two other advisors spoke to Capt. Yonan after the firing and Yonan reported that he was not hit and planned to join the other advisors when it was safe to do so. Radio contact was maintained with Yonan until 0730 hours. The other U.S. advisors began escape and evasion operations from the beleaguered compound. Team 22 Advisors Maj. George W. Carter, Maj. Julius G. Warmath, and Capt. John P. Keller, were extracted by helicopter. The aircraft was a UH1H from the 52nd Aviation Battalion, 17th Aviation Group, (serial #69-15715) and was flown by Lt. James E. **Hunsicker**. WO Wade L. Ellen was the co-pilot of the chopper, and SP4 Charles M. Lea, and SP5 Ricky V. Vogle were crewmen. Other persons extracted included 1Lt. Johnny M. Jones, from the 52nd Aviation Battalion; SP4 Franklin Zollicoffer, from the U.S. Army Installation at Pleiku, and Sgt. Walter H. Ward, unit not specified. The helicopter departed to the northwest from Dak To, but was apparently hit by enemy fire, as it crashed and burned on a small island in the Dak Poko River about 500 meters from the end of the dock to the runway. Because of the rolling terrain, personnel at the airfield did not see the aircraft impact. A pilot flying over the wreckage reported that the helicopter was burning, but they could see no survivors. It was later discovered that five people did survive the crash - Warmath, Keller, Vogle, Ward and Lea. According to their statements, **Hunsicker**, Ellen, Zollicoffer, Jones and Carter were all dead. Two other Team 22, MACV Advisors, LtCol. Robert W. Brownlee and Capt. Charles W. Gordon, and their

ARVN interpreter, Sgt. Cao Ky Chi, were in a bunker near the airstrip approximately 4 kilometers to the west of the base camp when they were forced to withdraw under heavy enemy attack. They proceeded south of the compound across the Dak Poko River, but LtCol. Brownlee became separated from the others as they were advancing up a hill. Sgt. Chi and Capt. Gordon called out to him, but received no response. From the top of the hill, Sgt. Chi heard the enemy call out to someone in Vietnamese to halt and raise their hands. Sgt. Chi believed the Viet Cong were speaking to Lt Col. Brownlee. Gordon and Chi evaded capture and eventually made their way to safety. A Vietnamese who was captured and subsequently released reported that he had talked to another prisoner who had witnessed Lt Col. Brownlee's death. He was told that Lt Col. Brownlee had killed himself with his own pistol when communist soldiers told him to raise his hands in an attempt to capture him. Additional hearsay reports of his suicide were reported by another ARVN source. Yonan never caught up with the others. For three days, helicopter searches were made of the area with no success. Ground search, because of the hostile threat in the area, was not practical. In April 1988, the Vietnamese "discovered" the remains of Capt. Kenneth J. Yonan and returned them to the U.S. in a spirit of stepped-up cooperation on the POW/MIA issue. In addition to the reports regarding Brownlee's death, a South Vietnamese soldier reported that he observed the capture of one "big" American from the camp. Another report described the capture of a U.S. Captain stationed at the camp

War Story:

Warmath, Keller, Vogle, Ward and Lea survived the crash and successfully E&E for 13 days. Vogle was featured on the cover of V.V.A. national mag, April issue with the story on the remains recovery at this crash. CW2 Ellen was the only remains found. Remains were returned in April 1993. from Rick Vogel, rickvogel@midmo.net The A/227th, call sign Chickenman, went to Pleiku around April of 71, it stood down around January of 72, with the remaining people and some choppers from this cav unit swung over to the 57th. This particular chopper, 69-15715, was one of those brought from Chickenman to the 57th. Larry Burbridge 57th Gladiators Sep 70- Feb 72, lamarbur@mindspring.com

UPDATE: March 2010... Concerning statement that the remains of Warrant Officer Wade L. Ellen were returned on April 1993. An email from sister of Wade Ellen states that his remains were never found or returned.

<https://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/24750/JAMES-E-HUNSICKER/>

HONORED ON PANEL 1W, LINE 6 OF THE WALL

JAMES EDWARD HUNSICKER

WALL NAME

JAMES E HUNSICKER

PANEL / LINE

1W/6

DATE OF BIRTH

11/29/1946

CASUALTY PROVINCE

KONTUM

DATE OF CASUALTY

04/24/1972

HOME OF RECORD

DENVER

COUNTY OF RECORD

Lancaster County

STATE

PA

BRANCH OF SERVICE

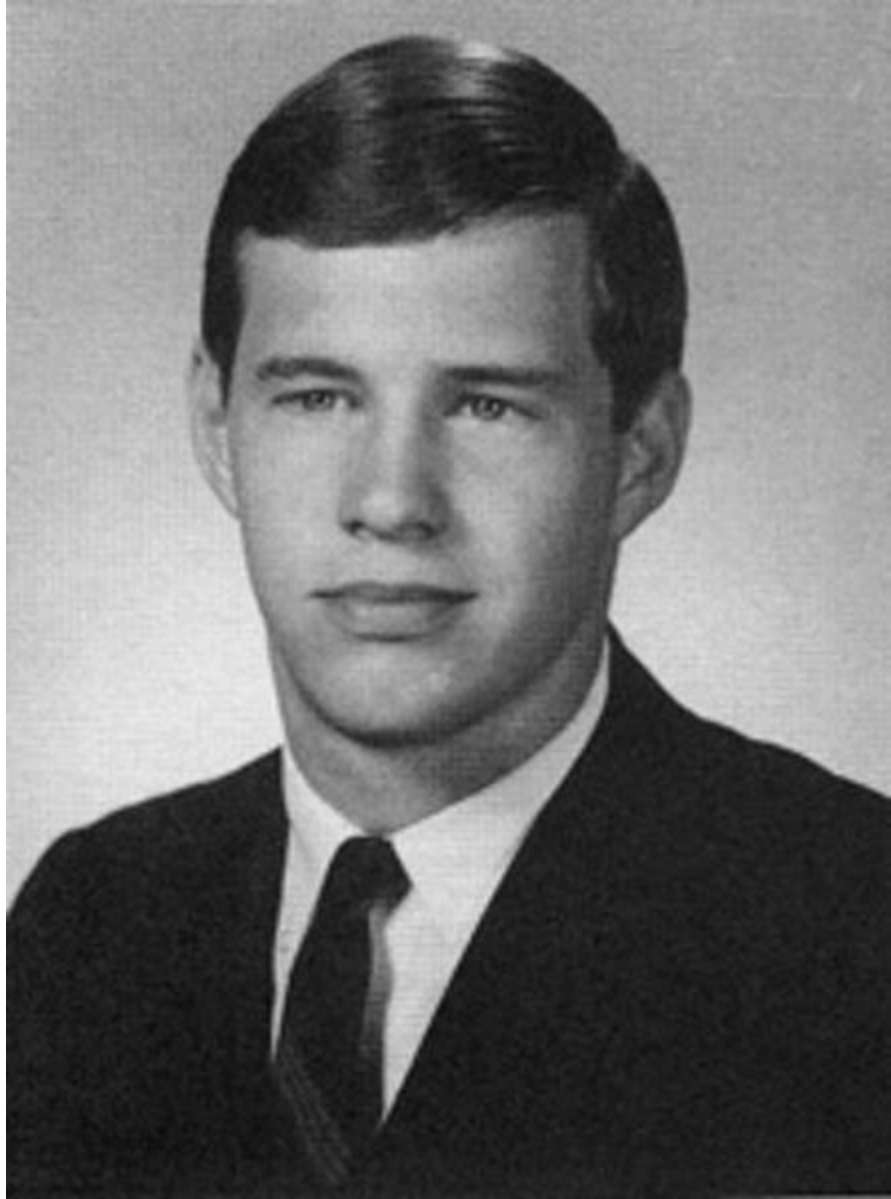
ARMY

RANK

1LT

STATUS

MIA





<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/45799/pleasant-view-cemetery>



<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/69005744/james-edward-hunsicker>

1LT James Edward Hunsicker

BIRTH	29 Nov 1946 Pennsylvania, USA
DEATH	24 Apr 1972 (aged 25) Kon Tum, Kon Tum, Vietnam
BURIAL	<u>Pleasant View Cemetery</u> Sinking Spring, Berks County, Pennsylvania, USA
MEMORIAL ID	69005744 · <u>View Source</u>

Vietnam War Army veteran
1LT James E. Hunsicker
service date start: 30 June 1969
Vietnam tour start: 24 June 1971
Hostile, Died While Missing, Air Loss, Crash - Land, Helicopter - Pilot
1ST Aviation Brigade, 17TH Aviation Group, 52ND Aviation Battalion, 57TH
Assault Helicopter Company
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall
Panel 01W - Line 06

