

Wong Jr., Edward Puck Kow
Dates in the 57th – 1971 - 1972
SSgt – Door Gunner
Birth Date: February 25th 1953
Guam

Possible Killed In Action – Missing In Action
Prisoner Of War – Body Never Recovered
Date: March 27th 1972
Near Dak To RVN



Information on U.S. Army helicopter UH-1H tail number 67-17841
The Army purchased this helicopter 1068
Total flight hours at this point: 00002229
Date: 03/27/1972 MIA-POW file reference number: 1806
Incident number: 72032701.TXT
Unit: 57 AHC
South Vietnam
UTM grid coordinates: YB985104
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: 1806 ()
Loss to Inventory

Crew Members:
P CW2 [WOODS LARRY JAMES](#) KIA
P 2LT QUAN NGO BINH RES
CE SP4 HANNON DENNIS A RES
G SSG WONG EDWARD PUCK KOW JR BNR

REFNO Synopsis:

SYNOPSIS: SP4 Edward Wong was a door gunner on a UH1H assigned to the 57th Assault Helicopter Company. On March 27, 1972, he was in his position on a mission to rescue the crew of a downed Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) helicopter which had crashed at a landing zone in Kontum Province, South Vietnam. The other members of the crew were CW2 Larry J. Woods, pilot; 2Lt. Ngo Binh Quan, VNAF co-pilot; and SP4 Dennis A. Hannon, crew chief. Also on board as passengers were Capt. Lyle R. Rhoads, Jr, a U.S. Army advisor; and Capt. Nguyen Duc Phuc, ground commander of the ARVN 3rd Battalion, 47th Regiment. Wong's UH1H was identified as tail #67-17841. Accompanying gunships made an attack pass to suppress enemy fire in the area, and Wong's helicopter descended to make the rescue attempt. As the aircraft was landing, it received heavy automatic weapons fire, crashed and rolled down a hill, coming to rest upside down. The two passengers exited the helicopter. Capt. Rhoads stated that he saw both pilots and the crew chief get out of the helicopter, but did not see SP4 Wong leave the aircraft. SP4 Hannon said that after exiting the helicopter, he had seen SP4 Wong heading uphill and that he had a cut on his head and both legs were bleeding. Capt. Rhoads asked the ARVN ground commander about the other Americans. He indicated the location of the crew chief, and said that the other crewman was down the hill, and the American pilot was still in the area of the aircraft. Later, when the ARVN unit on the LZ was preparing to walk to Fire Support Base Charlie, an estimated 2 kilometers to the east, Capt. Rhoads talked to the crew chief and saw the poncho liner/stretchers on which SP4 Wong allegedly was lying. Capt. Rhoads did not see him, but saw his right hand holding the litter pole. On his right hand was what appeared to be a class ring. The ARVN unit and surviving Americans were joined by a relief company from Fire Support Base Charlie, and proceeded to walk out at about 1600 hours on March 27. At some unspecified point along the trail, the litter bearers and the litter supposedly carrying SP4 Wong were seen by SP4 Hannon to be resting along the trail. This is the last time that this litter was seen by the surviving Americans. At about 1830 hours, back at the LZ, an orbiting gunship saw one individual wearing black clothing standing on the landing zone waving a piece of white cloth. Fifteen feet away from this man were four or five individuals wearing black or dark clothing, and hidden in a bush hedge. The gunship questioned Capt. Rhoads by radio about the location of friendly forces, and after having been assured twice that all friendlies were off the landing zone, opened fire with rockets. The gunship pilot reported that he hit the group. Upon reaching Fire Support Base Charlie, casualties were loaded into two VNAF and one U.S. Army medivac helicopters. At that time, it was reported that SP4 Wong

had been loaded on one of the VNAF helicopters by mistake. Searches were made in the ARVN hospital that had received the wounded and dead from this incident, but Wong was not found. Efforts were made on March 28 and 29 to search the LZ and the trail taken by the survivors, but enemy action prevented this. Wong was never seen again.

This record was last updated on 05/25/1998

Additional information is available on [CD-ROM](#).

Please send additions or corrections to: The VHPA [Webmaster](#) Gary Roush.

KIA [statistics](#)

[Return to the KIA name list](#)

[Return to the KIA panel date index](#)

Date posted on this site: 07/20/2010

WONG, EDWARD PUCK KOW, JR.

Name: Edward Puck Kow Wong, Jr.

Rank/Branch: E4/US Army

Unit: 57th Assault Helicopter Company, 17th Aviation Group, 1st Aviation Brigade

Date of Birth: 25 February 1953 (Guam)

Home City of Record: Oakland CA

Date of Loss: 27 March 1972

Country of Loss: South Vietnam

Loss Coordinates: 162127N 1074739E

Status (in 1973): Missing in Action

Category: 2

Aircraft/Vehicle/Ground: UH1H

Refno: 1806

Source: Compiled 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 in 1998.

Other Personnel in Incident: (none missing)

REMARKS:

SYNOPSIS: SP4 Edward Wong was a door gunner on a UH1H assigned to the 57th

Assault Helicopter Company. On March 27, 1972, he was in his position on a mission to rescue the crew of a downed Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) helicopter which had crashed at a landing zone in Kontum Province, South Vietnam. The other members of the crew were CW2 Larry J. Woods, pilot; 2Lt. Ngo Binh Quan, VNAF co-pilot; and SP4 Dennis A. Hannon, crew chief. Also on board as passengers were Capt. Lyle R. Rhoads, Jr, a U.S. Army advisor; and Capt. Nguyen Duc Phuc, ground commander of the ARVN 3rd Battalion, 47th Regiment. Wong's UH1H was identified as tail #67-17841.

Accompanying gunships made an attack pass to suppress enemy fire in the area, and Wong's helicopter descended to make the rescue attempt. As the aircraft was landing, it received heavy automatic weapons fire, crashed and rolled down a hill, coming to rest upside down.

The two passengers exited the helicopter. Capt. Rhoads stated that he saw both pilots and the crew chief get out of the helicopter, but did not see SP4 Wong leave the aircraft. SP4 Hannon said that after exiting the helicopter, he had seen SP4 Wong heading uphill and that he had a cut on his head and both legs were bleeding. Capt. Rhoads asked the ARVN ground commander about the other Americans. He indicated the location of the crew chief, and said that the other crewman was down the hill, and the American pilot was still in the area of the aircraft.

Later, when the ARVN unit on the LZ was preparing to walk to Fire Support Base Charlie, an estimated 2 kilometers to the east, Capt. Rhoads talked to the crew chief and saw the poncho liner/stretchers on which SP4 Wong allegedly was lying. Capt. Rhoads did not see him, but saw his right hand holding the litter pole. On his right hand was what appeared to be a class ring.

The ARVN unit and surviving Americans were joined by a relief company from Fire Support Base Charlie, and proceeded to walk out at about 1600 hours on March 27. At some unspecified point along the trail, the litter bearers and the litter supposedly carrying SP4 Wong were seen by SP4 Hannon to be resting along the trail. This is the last time that this litter was seen by the surviving Americans.

At about 1830 hours, back at the LZ, an orbiting gunship saw one individual wearing black clothing standing on the landing zone waving a piece of white cloth. Fifteen feet away from this man were four or five individuals wearing

black or dark clothing, and hidden in a bush hedge. The gunship questioned Capt. Rhoads by radio about the location of friendly forces, and after having been assured twice that all friendlies were off the landing zone, opened fire with rockets. The gunship pilot reported that he hit the group.

Upon reaching Fire Support Base Charlie, casualties were loaded into two VNAF and one U.S. Army medivac helicopters. At that time, it was reported that SP4 Wong had been loaded on one of the VNAF helicopters by mistake. Searches were made in the ARVN hospital that had received the wounded and dead from this incident, but Wong was not found. Efforts were made on March 28 and 29 to search the LZ and the trail taken by the survivors, but enemy action prevented this. Wong was never seen again.

There is no doubt that Wong survived the crash of his helicopter, although injured. Apparently, he became considerably worse, as it was necessary to transport him by litter to the fire support base. The story clouds from here, leaving open several possibilities as to the fate of Edward Wong, including those of death, accidental loss of a living person, capture by the enemy, and even death from friendly fire on the LZ.

Thousands of reports of Americans still held prisoner in Southeast Asia have poured in since the war ended. Wong's family cannot be sure if he lived or died. They must wonder if he is one of the hundreds of Americans thought to be still alive. They wait.

<https://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/57124/EDWARD-P-WONG-JR/>



HONORED ON PANEL 2W, LINE 120 OF THE WALL
EDWARD PUCK KOW WONG JR

WALL NAME
EDWARD P WONG JR

PANEL / LINE
2W/120

DATE OF BIRTH
02/25/1953

CASUALTY PROVINCE
KONTUM

DATE OF CASUALTY
03/27/1972

HOME OF RECORD
OAKLAND

COUNTY OF RECORD
Alameda County

STATE
CA

BRANCH OF SERVICE
ARMY

RANK
SSGT

STATUS
MIA

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/62728273/edward-puck_kow-wong

In Memory of SSGT. Edward Puck Kow Wong, Jr.

*** Staff Sergeant Wong was a member of 57th Aviation Company, 52nd Aviation Battalion, 17th Aviation Group, 1st Aviation Brigade. On March 27, 1972, he was the door gunner of a Bell Iroquois Utility Helicopter (UH-1H) trying to rescue the crew of a downed Vietnamese Air Force helicopter at a landing zone in Kontum Province, South Vietnam. As his aircraft was landing it received heavy automatic gun fire, crashed and rolled down a hill. His remains were not recovered. His name is inscribed on the Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial.

You may be gone, no longer living on this earth; but you will live on - in the memories of your family and friends. There will always be a part of you living in those who knew you. You will live on because we remember you!

EDWARD PUCK KOW WONG - Army SSGT E6 1st AVN BDE

Age: 25

Race: Mongolian

Date of Birth Feb 25, 1953 (Guam)

Home City of Record: OAKLAND, CA

Marital Status: Single - Parents: Father, Edward Puck Kow Wong, Sr., Born est.1913 and Mother, Annabell Weed Wong.

***** Not a day goes by that I don't think of you. This Xmas has really been tough.I'm in the V.A. hospital working on my P.T.S.D. I'm really sorry we couldn't rescue you. Thank you for your friendship. I'm glad we had March 26,1972 together.

You will always live in my heart

Danny L. Bandy

Chickman and Gladiator

***** Edward Puck Kow Wong (YOUR DAD)

Hawaii, Honolulu Index to Passengers, Not Including Filipinos

Name: Edward Puck Kow Wong

Event Type: Immigration

Event Date: 1933

Event Place: Honolulu, Honolulu, Hawaii, United States

Gender: Male

Age: 20

Birthplace: United States

Ship Name: President Coolidge

Birth Year (Estimated): 1913

***** Edward P K Wong

United States Census, 1940

Name: Edward P K Wong

Event Type: Census

Event Date: 1940

Event Place: Tract 9, Honolulu Judicial District, Honolulu, Hawaii Territory, United States

Gender: Male

Age: 27
Marital Status: Single
Race: Chinese
Relationship to Head of Household: Lodger
Birthplace: Hawaii
Birth Year (Estimated): 1913

His tour began on Mar 27, 1972
Casualty was on Aug 22, 1978
In KONTUM, SOUTH VIETNAM
Hostile, died while missing, HELICOPTER - CREW
AIR LOSS, CRASH ON LAND

Name: Edward Puck Kow Wong, Jr.

Rank/Branch: Staff Sergeant/US Army

Unit: 57th Assault Helicopter Company,
17th Aviation Group, 1st Aviation Brigade

Date of Birth: 25 February 1953 (Guam)

Home of Record: Oakland, CA

Date of Loss: 27 March 1972

Country of Loss: South Vietnam

Loss Coordinates: .162127N 1074739E (YB985104)

** The correct loss coordinates for Specialist Wong are: 14°33'95"E 107°46'13"E.

Warm regards, Robert J. Destatte

Information on U.S. Army helicopter UH-1H tail number 67-17841

The Army purchased this helicopter 1068

Total flight hours at this point: 00002229

Date: 03/27/72 MIA-POW file reference number: 1806

Incident number: 72032701.TXT

Unit: 57 AHC

South Vietnam

Loss to Inventory: Crew: WONG, EDWARD PUCK KOW JR; SP4 Edward Wong
was a door gunner on a UH1H assigned to the 57th Assault Helicopter Company.

Aircraft/Vehicle/Ground: UH1H "Iroquois"

UTM grid coordinates: YB985104

Original source(s) and document(s) from which the incident was created or
updated: Defense Intelligence Agency Reference Notes. Defense Intelligence

Agency Helicopter Status in 1973: Missing in Action

Body was not recovered
Panel 02W - Line 120

Crew Members:

P CW2 WOODS LARRY JAMES KIA
P 2LT QUAN NGO BINH RES
CE SP4 HANNON DENNIS A RES
G SSG WONG EDWARD PUCK KOW JR BNR

Other Personnel In Incident: (none missing)

On 27 March 1972, CW2 Larry J. Woods, pilot; 2nd Lt. Ngo Quan, co-pilot; SP4 Dennis A. Hannon, crew chief; and then SP4 Edward P. K. Wong, door gunner; comprised the crew of a UH1H helicopter (tail #67-17841).

Their mission was to rescue the crew of a downed Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) helicopter that had crashed at a landing zone (LZ) in the hotly contested forested mountains approximately 6 miles south-southwest of Dak To, Kontum Province, South Vietnam. Also on board were Capt. Lyle R. Rhoads, Jr, a US Army advisor; and Capt. Nguyen Duc Phuc, ground commander of the ARVN 3rd Battalion, 47th Regiment.

As the rescue helicopter descended to make the pickup, accompanying Huey gunships initiated an attack pass to suppress enemy ground fire. As the aircraft was landing, it received heavy and accurate enemy automatic weapons fire, crashed, rolled down a hill, and came to rest upside down.

The two passengers exited the helicopter immediately. Capt. Rhoads stated that he saw both pilots and the crew chief get out of the helicopter, but did not see SP4 Wong leave it.

SP4 Hannon reported that after exiting the helicopter, he saw SP4 Wong as he moved uphill; that the door gunner had a cut on his head and both legs were bleeding.

A short time later, Capt. Rhoads asked the ARVN ground commander about the whereabouts of the other Americans. He indicated the location of the crew chief downhill, that the American pilot was still in the area of the aircraft, and that the other crewman was up the hill from the crash site.

Later, when the survivors were preparing to walk to Fire Support Base Charlie, an estimated 2 kilometers to the east of the LZ, Capt. Rhoads saw a poncho liner/stretchers on which SP4 Wong allegedly was lying. Capt. Rhoads did not see his face, but saw his right hand holding the litter pole. On his right hand was what appeared to be a high school class ring.

At 1600 hours, the ARVN unit and surviving Americans joined a relief company from Fire Support Base Charlie, and departed the crash site/LZ.

At some unspecified point along the trail, the litter bearers and the litter carrying SP4 Wong were seen by SP4 Hannon as they were resting along the trail. This is the last time the litter was seen by any of the surviving Americans.

At about 1830 hours, an orbiting gunship saw one individual wearing black clothing standing on the landing zone waving a piece of white cloth. Fifteen feet away from this man were four or five more individuals hiding in a bush hedge. They were also wearing black or dark clothing. The gunship pilot questioned Capt. Rhoads by radio about the location of friendly forces. After being assured twice that all friendlies were off the LZ, the pilot opened fire with rockets hitting the group.

Upon reaching Fire Support Base Charlie, the American and ARVN casualties were loaded aboard one US Army and two VNAF medivac helicopters.

It was reported at that time that Edward Wong had been loaded on one of the VNAF helicopters instead of the US helicopter by mistake.

Searches were made in the ARVN hospital where the wounded and dead from this incident were taken; however, SP4 Wong was not found.

Efforts were made on 28 and 29 March to conduct a ground search of the LZ, surrounding area and the trail taken by the survivors as they moved toward Fire Support Base Charlie.

A thorough search of these locations was not possible due to the continuing enemy

presence in the area.

At the time the formal search effort was terminated, Edward P. K. Wong was listed Missing in Action.

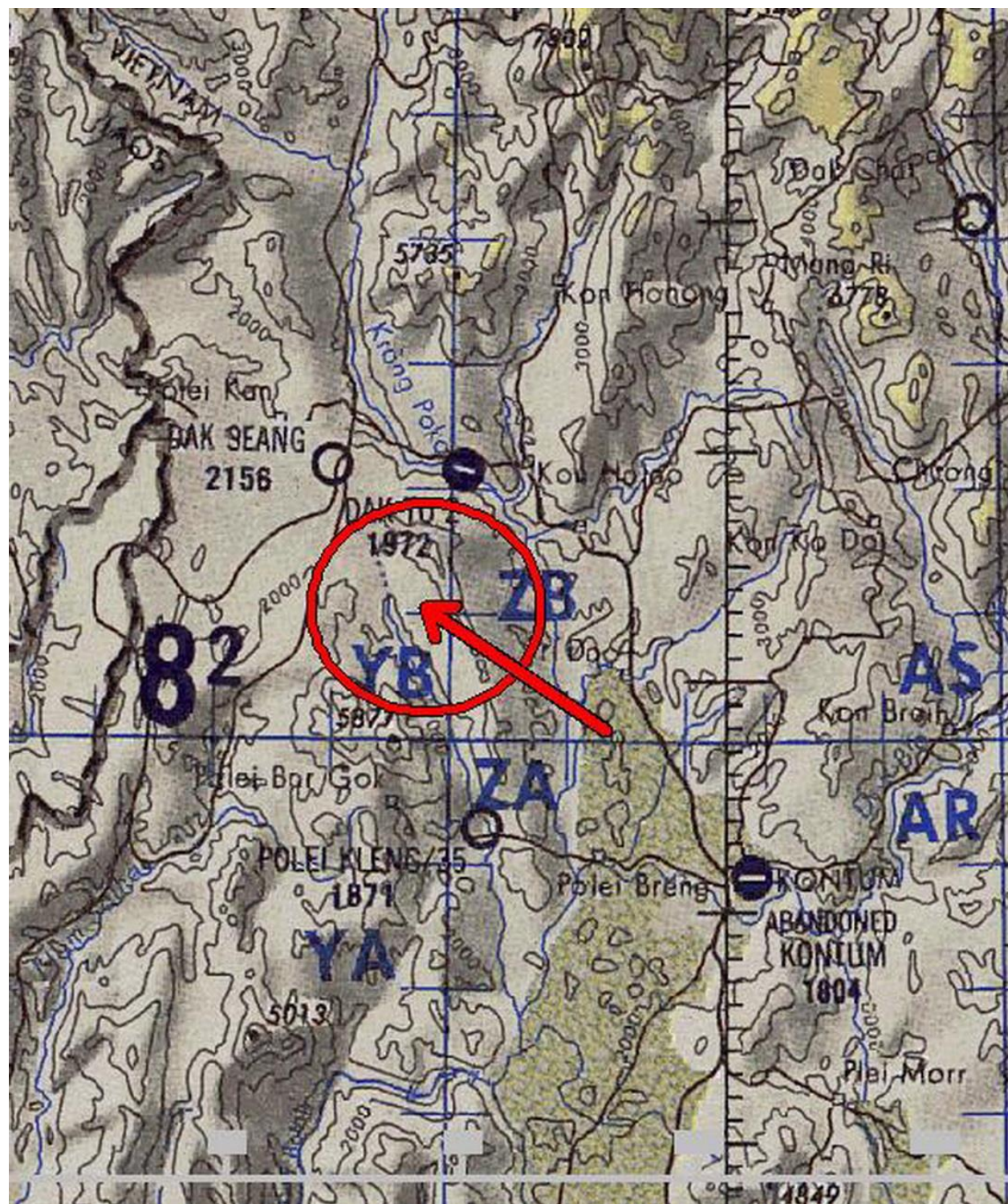
"Living with the face of the enemy" is a fact of life that Asian Americans faced in World War II and Korea, as well as in Vietnam. Above all else, these men and women were proud to be Americans. They served their country with the same honor and courage as Americans of other nationalities, but they did so under more difficult circumstances because of their appearance.

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/1990395/honolulu-memorial#view-photo=10840308>



https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/62728273/edward-puck_kow-wong#view-photo=67700340





H SCHELLING • ALBERTO
DDY Jr • SAMMY L WEAVER
RONALD S ANDERSON
RAYMOND J CROW Jr • R
+ EDWARD P K WONG Jr
RICHARD CASTILLO • OL
N • EDWIN J PEARCE • DE
RD D SMITH Jr • HOWAR
L III • BARCLAY B YOUNG