

# Helicopter UH-1H 68-16441

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Information on U.S. Army helicopter UH-1H tail number 68-16441

The Army purchased this helicopter 1169

Total flight hours at this point: 00000182

Date: 02/05/1970 MIA-POW file reference number: 1556

Incident number: 70020524.KIA

Unit: 2 BDE 101 ABN

South Vietnam

UTM grid coordinates: YD494093 (To see this location on a map, go to <https://legallandconverter.com/p50.html> and search on Grid Reference 48QYD494093)

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: 1556 ()

Loss to Inventory

## Crew Members:

P CPT [LYON JAMES MICHAEL](#) BNR

P CPT PARSELS JOHN W POW

G SP4 HEFEL DANIEL HENRY POW

CE SP5 KOBASHIGAWA TOM Y POW

## REFNO Synopsis:

HEFEL, DANIEL HENRY Name: Daniel Henry Hefel Rank/Branch: E4/US Army Unit: HHC, 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division Date of Birth: Home City of Record: Guttenberg IA Date of Loss: 05 February 1970 Country of Loss: South Vietnam Loss Coordinates: 163045N 1072824E (YD494093) Status (in 1973): Returned POW Category: Aircraft/Vehicle/Ground: UH1H Other Personnel in Incident: Tom Y. Kobashigawa, John W. Parsels (returned POWs); James M. Lyon (missing) REMARKS: 730327 RELSD BY PRG SYNOPSIS: At 1530 hours on February 5, 1970, Capt. James M. Lyon, pilot, Capt. John W. Parsels, copilot, SP5 Tom Y. Kobashigawa, crew chief, and SP4 Daniel Hefel, door gunner, were flying a UH1H helicopter (serial #68-16441) on a maintenance mission from Hue to Phy Bai, South Vietnam. When the aircraft was about 18 miles northwest of Hue City, the helicopter caught fire and crashed (due to a malfunction). Capt. Lyon was thrown clear of the aircraft and was burned extensively over his body and part of his right leg. His leg was severed four inches below the knee. The other crew members were also injured and could not take evasive action. They were captured at 1630 hours by NVA troops and spent the night near the crash site. Throughout the night, the crew members heard their pilot yelling and moaning in pain. At 0600 hours, Capt. Lyon moaned and then a shot was heard from his position about 30 feet from the aircraft wreckage. No other outcry from Capt. Lyon was heard, and the others believed that he had been killed by the guard. Two weeks later, Capt. Parsels was told by 1Lt. Lee Van Mac (an NVA commander at "Camp Farnsworth") that Capt. Lyon died from his wounds and was buried at the crash site. 1Lt. Lee Van Mac gave Capt. Parsels the personal effects of Capt. Lyon, including his ID card and several photos which appeared to be of Lyon's wife. In late March, 1973, Parsels, Hefel and Kobashigawa were released from prisons in North Vietnam. In their debriefings, all three concurred on the story that Lyon had apparently been shot. They considered it a mercy killing, because their pilot had been so seriously injured that they doubted that he could survive.

This record was last updated on 05/25/1998

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Date posted on this site: 05/25/2020

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