

Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log [Form DA 1594]

S-3 9th Avn Bn, Dong Tam = [9th]

S-3 & Commo 15th Eng Bn = [15th]

0001 - 2400 5 Feb 1969:

- 1730 LOH departed DT for Moc Hoa; mission bridge recon; Pilot Burkhardt, with 3 passengers. [9th]
- 1745 A/C South of Moc Hoa position reported working in vicinity of XS 075852 position [9th]
- 1815 Position report was due; none received. ACT tried to make contact, unable to do so. LT Clay notified at 1840 no contact with A/C. ACT contacted Delta center who started search and rescue operations. LNO ship diverted to last known location for search and rescue mission. Scrambled one more search and rescue ship to area of operations. Reports came in 2 of the crew OK. WO Burkhardt and SGT O'Steen were missing. The A/C had landed in the river which was app. 30 ft deep. Search and rescue continues. [9th]
- 1910 MAJ Green, G-3 Ops, recon flight to Moc Hoa down, Vietnamese on scene, no further information. [15th]
- 1915 MAJ Green, ref #10 (1910 report), 2 people may be drowned, still no further information [15th]
- 1925 MAJ Green, G-3, US troops at scene. Two US personnel alive, 2 other personnel may still be in chopper or dead. No identification. [15th]
- 1945 LTC Jester called, CPT Perry and LT Herschlip are alright and in route to Moc Hoa. SGT O'Steen was last seen helping the pilot from the chopper. Neither can be found. [15th]
- 2040 CPT O'Conner, G-3, CPT Perry and LT Herschlip are now at Moc Hoa. CPT Perry is OK, LT Herschlip has slight back injury. No word on SGT O'Steen or the pilot except that they did get out of the chopper. [15th]
- 2125 Call from AAE saying CPT Perry will stay at Moc Hoa tonight. LT Herschlip has a wrenched back and is coming into 3d Surg. They will notify us when he is coming. SGT O'Steen and the pilot are still missing. [15th]
- 2135 LT Herschlip is in chopper about 5 minutes from 3d Surg. [15th]

No more in either log until 0001 - 2400 6 Feb 1969:

- 1100 The missing LOH from 5 Feb was found at XS 086846. The pilot WO-1 Burkhardt and passenger O'Steen were still missing. Search operations are still continuing. Status of pilot and passenger of LOH still remains MIA. [9th]
- 2358 Status of Pilot and passenger of LOH still remains MIA, search and rescue continuing. [9th]

No more in either log until 0001- 2400 7 Feb 1969:

- 1100 One of the missing persons from the LOH accident body was found. [9th]
- 1400 The second and final body from LOH was discovered. [9th]
- 1530 Both bodies recovered and taken to Tan Son Nhut for autopsy and identification. [9th]