3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, (Rein)

3rd Marine Division

Fleet Marine Force Pacific

United States Marine Corps

Operating in the A Shau Valley, Republic of Vietnam
1 August to August 3, 1967

Reconnaissance patrol Partyline One was attacked by NVA forces during an emergency extraction of the patrol from the Southern A Shau Valley on 3 August, 1967. Three patrol members, James P. McGrath, John B. Nahan III and Jack Wolpe, and a crewman, Thomas A Gopp, from the CH-46 were killed when a rocket propelled grenade exploded inside the helicopter as it was hovering in the landing zone while attempting the extract.

The surviving patrol members and air crew were subsequently extracted by the back-up helicopter.

The enemy situation in and around the landing zone prevented the recovery of the three KIA's bodies.
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Operating South of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), Republic of Vietnam
11 June 1967

Reconnaissance patrol Somersail One was scheduled for insertion by a CH-46 into a position on the southern border of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) four kilometers north of Hill 208 and 900 meters west of Hill 174, both well known NVA positions.

As the CH-46 approached the LZ it snapped up vertically and then rolled inverted tumbling end over end and crashed. It was seen spiraling out of control and the rear blades were seen separating. The helicopter crashed then burst into flames with the loss of all seven Somersail - One patrol members; Jim E Moshier, James E Kooi, Michael W Havranek, John J Foley, Dennis R Christie, Charles D Chomel, James E Widener, and all the CH -46's crewmen; John S Oldham, Curtis R Bolscheid, Jose J Gonzales, Thomas M. Hanratty

The enemy presence in the area prohibited recovery of the bodies at the time.
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This page is dedicated to the memory of all the members of Partyline One and airman lost on 3 August 1967; and all the members of Somersail One and the airmen lost on 11 June 1967, with a special remembrance to three friends:

From Partyline One, 2nd Platoon Alpha Company

Lance Corporal John B. Nahan III, USMC – Panel 24E Line 073

Lance Corporal Jack Wolpe, USMC – Panel 24E Line 075

From Somersail One, 3rd Force Recon Company

Private First Class James E Widener, USMC – Panel 21E Line 093

Semper Fidelis, Bill Stussie