

**The promise to every Marine—
You will not be left behind and *you will be remembered.***

**1/Lt Michael F. Hendrickson
25 July 1968
Hq/Hq/1st MarDiv
AO...VMO-2 MAG-16**



OCS E-4



**TBS D-2
0100317
0302**



TBS Field Exercise, February 1967



“Mike Hendrickson was my roommate at Basic School. He was killed in the crash of an OV 10 south of Danang. He was an air observer. They were putting in a fixed-wing attack when the observation plane was shot down. I happened to be monitoring the attack but did not know Mike was in the plane. The wreckage was located by elements of the 7th Marines.”

(Dave Johnson to Chuck Patterson 5/21/11)

Pop-A-Smoke Website incident report:

http://www.popasmoke.com/kia/incidents.php?incident_id=177&conflict_id=

A Note from The Virtual Wall

Friday, May 4, 2007

In May of 1968 I took my R&R in Sydney, Australia. I was a draftee assigned to HHC S2 of the 4/39th in the 9th Division, Mekong Delta. One night touring the Kings Cross bars I was thrilled to see Mike in a bar. Mike! Great to see you! Small world! We had been schoolmates in Great Falls, and I had known Mike for at least six years. We weren't close, but he was great friends with a guy who was great friends with my twin sister, so we often exchanged friendly hellos.

Now in Sydney Mike gave me a greeting to match my own, but was slightly

distracted: He couldn't place my face. He cited a series of names, probably Marine base camps or battle sites in the north of South Vietnam. He seemed to see me as a fellow Marine, showing no sign of our high school and college context. We both had had some drinks, Mike swirling his small glass cheerfully, but I had a sense his confusion was not from the booze; that his battle experiences had sent all his youth to a netherworld. Naturally I could be wrong; just a sense I had. I couldn't bring myself to say: Mike! It's me! Keith from Great Falls! I just eased away, and hoped some Orpheus would bring him back to the world we knew.

On return to the States I was discharged in Oakland, then called a cousin, who took me to a local bar. I saw a former high schoolmate. Mick! Great to see you!

Small world! Since small-world encounters were becoming a remarkable norm (I had also seen Glenn Fish, another Great Falls boy, in Bearcat just before leaving Vietnam), I mentioned seeing Mike Hendrickson in Sydney. And hey! he should be home now too. No, said Mick, he was killed just before his expected return; shot down in a plane while serving as forward observer. I think of you often Mike, honoring your memory as one who died ever faithful, never counting the days when he could easily have opted out, seeing only a chance to serve his fellow Marines.

From a schoolmate,
Keith Fahey

A Note from The Virtual Wall

The first OV-10A *BRONCO* lost in combat in Vietnam was Bureau Number 155412, assigned to VMO-2 and flown by Captain Alfred L. Tripp, Warwick, Rhode Island. His observer was an infantry officer, 1stLt Michael F. Hendrickson, assigned to Headquarters, 1st MarDiv. The two men were marking a target in the vicinity of Binh Son, about 25 miles south of Danang, for an air strike when their aircraft was hit by small arms fire, failed to pull out of its dive, and crashed. Both men were killed in the incident.

Notes from The Virtual Wall

Ruth Hendrickson (little sister)

Heroes are never forgotten. It will be 44 years tomorrow that you gave your life for your country. It is always a sad day for us for we loved you so much. Rest in peace my dear brother. Jul 24, 2012

Tom Hendrickson (Brother)

My Hero. My wonderful brother who was the the ROCK of our family! Still sorely missed after all these years. Our hearts still ache for your sacrifice. May 4, 2011

John Sandoval Jr. (Fellow AO and guitar player)

**Henderson NV 89012 .It was with great sadness when we launched to search for you. We found you and brought you home. John Disney (*passed away 23 Sept 2005*) took care of your guitar. We were not the best 'git pickers' but we had fun on our time off. Take care Mike. John Sandoval Jr. Captain
USMC Retired.
May 25, 2009**

Art Ferguson (Friend & Member of his platoon)

GONE BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN

**Montana Mike, I can still see your smiling face giving me the thumbs up sign. You were one of the true heroes of this conflict. God bless you Marine Semper Fi my friend!
Wednesday, October 27, 2004**



The first North American Rockwell OV-10A Bronco loss in combat in Vietnam was on July 25, 1968, aircraft number 155412, assigned to Marine Observation Squadron 2 (VMO-2), Marine Aircraft Group 16 (MAG-16), and flown by CAPT Alfred L. Tripp. His observer was an infantry officer 1LT Michael F. Hendrickson, assigned to Headquarters, 1st Marine Division. The two Marines were marking a target near Binh Son, about 25 miles south of Da Nang, Quang Nam Province, RVN, for an air strike when their aircraft was hit by small arms fire, failed to pull out of its dive, and crashed (aviation-safety.net). A second account of the incident reported the aircraft was shot down while making repeated runs on an automatic weapons position to take fire off pinned down USMC troops (vhpa.org). The same account states that Tripp's first tour in Vietnam was as a UH-34 helicopter pilot (MOS 7335). Both crewmen were killed in the incident. [Taken from aviation-safety.net and vhpa.org]