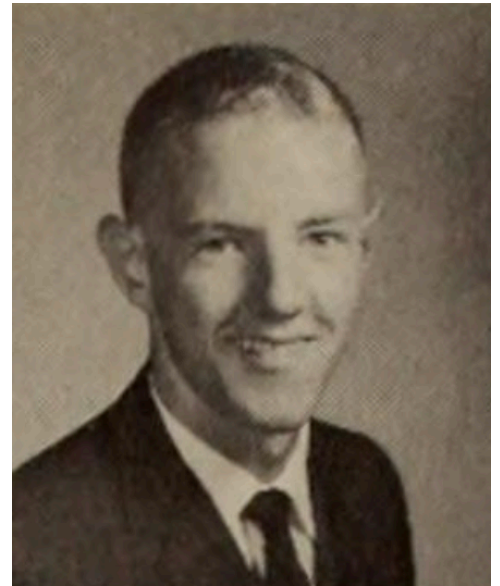


Artillery Liaison Officer

Unlike other Army divisions that were activated in the United States, the Americal Division was formed overseas in 1942. It was assembled from existing American units on the island of New Caledonia, which is how the division came up with its name: Ameri-Cal. The Americal was deactivated after World War II, but in 1967, it was placed back into service, once again formed and activated overseas, this time in Vietnam. In 1968, James Michael Barbare, Clemson Class of 1964 joined the division as an artillery officer.

Barbare was a native of Greenville where he attended St. Mary's Catholic School before graduating from Greenville Senior High School. An engineering major, he attended Clemson for two years and was then employed by Shedd-Bartush Foods, manufacturers of Country Crock margarine and other spreads and dressings.



In 1965, Barbare attended Field Artillery Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, graduating as a second lieutenant. He was subsequently assigned to Fort Jackson as a training company commander. He arrived in Vietnam in June 1968 and was assigned to the 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery. Barbare's battalion provided artillery support to the Americal's 11th Light Infantry Brigade.

The Americal became the largest infantry division in the Vietnam War, operating in heavily contested areas in Quang Ngai and Quang Tin provinces. It fought in diverse terrain from dense jungle to open coastal plains. The mission of the 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery was to provide indirect fire support to the 11th Light Infantry Brigade's soldiers fighting in these areas. One of the keys to putting artillery rounds where they were needed, when they were needed was



maintaining "eyes" on the battlefield. Aerial observers flying above the fighting could respond quickly to calls for support, directing the battalion's howitzers to fire on rapidly developing targets.

On September 5, 1968, Captain Barbare was flying in a command-and-control helicopter as an artillery liaison officer in support of an infantry battalion operating near Ha Than Special Forces Camp west of Quang Ngai City. At 1617 hours, the

helicopter attempted to assist with the medevac of wounded soldiers. As it approached the landing zone, the helicopter, from the 174th Assault Helicopter Company, was hit by enemy small arms fire. Barbare was wounded and the helicopter crashed. Gunships from the 174th

arrived about thirty minutes later followed at 1700 hours by a medevac flight, but Captain Barbare died from his wounds.

James Michael Barbare was survived by his wife, Evelyn, their daughter Tanya, three sisters, and six brothers. He was awarded the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster and V Device for Valor, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm, and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. He is buried in Greenville's Woodlawn Memorial Park.



174th Assault Helicopter photo courtesy <http://www.174ahc.org/174ahc7.php>.