

= Cliff Burton =

Clifford Lee " Cliff " Burton ( February 10 , 1962 ? September 27 , 1986 ) was an American musician , best known as the second bass guitarist for the American thrash metal band Metallica from December 1982 until his death in September 1986 .

Burton joined Metallica in 1982 and performed on the band 's first three studio albums : Kill ' Em All , Ride the Lightning and Master of Puppets . He also received a posthumous writing credit for the song " To Live Is to Die " from the band 's fourth studio album , ... And Justice for All .

On September 27 , 1986 , Burton was killed in a bus accident in Kronoberg County , a rural area of southern Sweden , as the band was touring in support of the Master of Puppets album . Burton was replaced by bassist Jason Newsted the following month . He was also posthumously inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame with Metallica on April 4 , 2009 . He was selected as the ninth greatest bassist of all time in an online reader poll organized by Rolling Stone magazine in 2011 .

= = Biography = =

= = = Early life = = =

Clifford Lee Burton was born in Castro Valley , California , to Ray and Jan Burton . He had two elder siblings , Scott and Connie , and a niece , Nicole . Burton 's interest in music began when his father introduced him to classical music and he began taking piano lessons .

In his teenage years , Burton had an interest in rock , classical , and eventually heavy metal . He began playing the bass at age 13 , after the death of his brother . His parents quoted him as saying , " I 'm going to be the best bassist for my brother . " He practiced up to six hours per day ( even after he joined Metallica ) . Along with classical and jazz , Burton 's other early influences varied from southern rock and country to the blues .

Burton cited Geddy Lee , Geezer Butler , Stanley Clarke , Lemmy Kilmister and Phil Lynott as major influences on his style of bass playing .

= = = Career = = =

While still a student at Castro Valley High School , Burton formed his first band called EZ @-@ Street . The band took its name from a Bay Area topless bar . Other members of EZ Street included future Faith No More guitarist " Big " Jim Martin as well as Faith No More and Ozzy Osbourne drummer Mike Bordin . Burton and Martin continued their musical collaboration after becoming students at Chabot College in Hayward , California . Their second band , Agents of Misfortune , entered the Hayward Area Recreation Department 's Battle of the Bands contest in 1981 . Their audition was recorded on video and features some of the earliest footage of Burton 's trademark playing style . The video also shows Burton playing parts of what would soon be two Metallica songs : his signature bass solo , " ( Anesthesia ) - Pulling Teeth " , and the chromatic intro to " For Whom the Bell Tolls " . Burton joined his first major band , Trauma , in 1982 . Burton recorded the track " Such a Shame " with the band on the second Metal massacre compilation .

In 1982 , Trauma traveled to Los Angeles to perform at the Whisky a Go Go . Among those in attendance were James Hetfield and Lars Ulrich , both members of Metallica , which had formed the previous year . Upon hearing , as Hetfield described it , " this amazing shredding " ( which later became " ( Anesthesia ) - Pulling Teeth " ) , the two went in search of what they thought was an amazing guitar player . When they learned that what they had heard was a bass solo by Burton , they decided to recruit him for their own band . They asked him to replace departed bassist Ron McGovney , and since Burton thought that Trauma was " starting to get a little commercial " , he agreed . The idea of having to move to Los Angeles did not sit well with him , and said he would join only if the band would relocate from Los Angeles to his native San Francisco Bay Area . Metallica , eager to have Burton in the band , left their origin of Los Angeles to make a home in El Cerrito , a

town located across the bay from San Francisco .

Burton 's first recording with Metallica was the Megaforce demo . A demo tape the band had made prior to Burton 's joining , No Life ' til Leather , managed to come into the hands of John Zazula , owner of Megaforce Records . The band relocated to Old Bridge , New Jersey and quickly secured a recording contract with Zazula 's label . Its debut album , Kill ' Em All , features Burton 's famous solo piece , " ( Anesthesia ) - Pulling Teeth " , which showcased his use of effects , such as a wah @-@ wah pedal , not commonly used by bass guitarists .

Metallica 's debut album , Kill ' Em All , was originally intended to inherit the name of one of their earlier demo releases ( predating Burton 's participation ) , which was Metal Up Your Ass , but the record company did not like the title and insisted on changing it . After the band learned of the change , Burton said " We should just kill ' em all , man , " which gave the band members an idea for the new title . The album was released on July 25 , 1983 through Megaforce Records .

The band 's second studio album , Ride the Lightning , showcased the band 's increasing musical growth . Burton 's songwriting abilities were growing , and he received credit on six of the album 's eight songs . Burton 's playing style and use of effects is showcased on two tracks : the chromatic intro to " For Whom the Bell Tolls " , and the " lead bass " on " The Call of Ktulu " .

The increase of musicianship on Ride the Lightning caught the attention of major record labels . Metallica was signed to Elektra Records , and began working on its third album , Master of Puppets , which is considered by most critics to be a landmark album in heavy metal . Burton is featured heavily on a number of tracks , most notably the instrumental " Orion " , which again featured Burton 's lead bass playing style . The album also contained Burton 's favorite Metallica song " Master of Puppets " . Master of Puppets was the band 's commercial breakthrough , but it would be Burton 's final album with Metallica .

Burton 's final performance was in Stockholm , Sweden , at the Solnahallen Arena on September 26 , 1986 , one day before his death .

= = = Death = = =

During the European leg of the Damage Inc. tour in support of Master of Puppets , the band complained that the sleeping cubicles on their tour bus were unsatisfactory and uncomfortable . To decide who received pick of the bunks , Kirk Hammett and Burton drew cards . On the evening of September 26 , 1986 , Burton won the game with an ace of spades , thereby getting the first choice of bunk and pointed at Hammett and exclaimed , " I want your bunk ! " Hammett replied , " Fine , take my bunk , I 'll sleep up front , it 's probably better up there anyway . " Burton was sleeping shortly before 7 am on September 27 when , according to the driver , the bus skidded off the road ( the E4 , 12 miles north of Ljungby ) , and flipped onto the grass in Kronoberg County . Burton was thrown through the window of the bus , which fell on top of him , resulting in his death .

James Hetfield later stated that he first believed the bus flipped because the driver was drunk . Hetfield stated that he walked long distances down the road looking for black ice and found none . Local freelance photographer Lennart Wennberg ( who attended the crash scene the following morning ) , later asked in an interview about the likelihood that black ice caused the accident , said it was ' out of the question ' because the road was dry and the temperature around 2 ° C ( 36 ° F ) . This was confirmed by police who found no ice on the road . Ljungby detective Arne Pettersson was reported in a local newspaper to have said the tracks at the accident site were exactly like ones seen when drivers fall asleep at the wheel . However , the driver stated under oath that he had slept during the day and was fully rested ; his testimony was confirmed by the driver of a second tour bus that was carrying the band 's crew and equipment . The driver was determined not at fault for the accident and no charges were brought against him .

= = Legacy = =

Burton 's body was cremated and the ashes scattered at the Maxwell Ranch . At the ceremony , the song " Orion " was played . The lyrics " ... cannot the Kingdom of Salvation take me home " from "

To Live Is to Die " are written on Burton 's memorial stone . Shortly after Burton 's death , Jason Newsted from Flotsam and Jetsam became Metallica 's new bassist , a position he held until his resignation in 2001 . The role has since been filled by producer and studio musician Bob Rock and by the former bassist of Suicidal Tendencies and Ozzy Osbourne , Robert Trujillo .

Metallica wrote a tribute to Burton titled " To Live Is to Die " for ... And Justice for All . Burton also received a writing credit for the lyrics and bass parts that were taken from unused bass recordings done by Burton which were re @-@ recorded by Jason Newsted . A non @-@ Metallica tribute to Burton is the song " In My Darkest Hour " by thrash metal band Megadeth . According to Dave Mustaine , due to hearing of Burton 's death , he sat down and wrote the music for the song in one sitting . The lyrics , however , are unrelated to Burton 's death . Mustaine was Metallica 's lead guitarist in the early days and was a close friend of Burton at the time .

On October 3 , 2006 , a memorial stone was unveiled in Sweden near the scene of the fatal crash . It is located by the parking lot to Gyllene Rasten .

Thrash metal band Anthrax dedicated its album Among the Living to him , as did Metal Church with The Dark .

On April 4 , 2009 , Burton was posthumously inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame , with fellow Metallica bandmates James Hetfield , Lars Ulrich and Kirk Hammett . Future bassists Jason Newsted and Robert Trujillo were inducted as well . During the ceremony , the induction was accepted by his father Ray Burton , who shared the stage with the band and mentioned that Cliff 's mother was actually Metallica 's biggest fan .

A biography , To Live Is to Die : The Life and Death of Metallica 's Cliff Burton , written by Joel McIver , was published by Jawbone Press in June 2009 . Hammett provided the book 's foreword .

= = Equipment = =

= = Cliff Burton Signature Bass = =

In January 2013 , guitar manufacturer Aria revealed through Metallica 's official website that they would be releasing a replica of Burton 's bass , called the Aria Pro II Cliff Burton Signature Bass . They had received permission from Burton 's family and former bandmates from Metallica to authorize the production of the instrument . The bass guitar was officially unveiled at Winter NAMM in Anaheim , California . On January 25 , 2013 , Burton 's father Ray attended the press conference where he signed autographs and talked about Burton and the instrument . Current Metallica bassist Robert Trujillo was also present and was the first to try out the bass , playing parts of " ( Anesthesia ) - Pulling Teeth " . It is unknown whether any other members of Metallica attended the event . Ray Burton was quoted as saying , ' " What a beautiful instrument and a wonderful tribute to Cliff . "

Specifications

= = Discography = =

= = Studio albums = = =

Kill ' Em All ( 1983 )

Ride the Lightning ( 1984 )

Master of Puppets ( 1986 )

... And Justice for All ( 1988 ) ( Posthumous writing credit on " To Live Is to Die " )

Garage Inc . ( 1998 ) ( Featured on " Am I Evil ? " & " Blitzkrieg " only )

= = Demos = = =

No Life ' til Leather ( 1982 ) ( credited but does not play )

Megaforce ( 1983 )

Ride the Lightning ( 1983 )

Master of Puppets ( 1985 )

= = = Compilations = = =

Metal Massacre Vol.II ( with Trauma )