

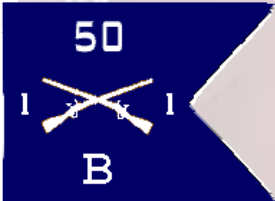


1st
FIELD FORCE
VIETNAM



1st BATTALION
50th INFANTRY

"B" COMPANY



1st PLATOON



SPECIALIST 4th
CLASS



INFANTRYMAN

CHARLES EDWARD "RED" AARON

1st Platoon, "B" Company, 1st Battalion (mechanized), 50th Infantry

Specialist 4th Class, E4, US25368444, MOS 11B20

Home of Record: Forge Village, MA

Date of Birth: December 12, 1948, Age at time of loss: 21, Single

I Field Force Vietnam, Binh Thuan Province, Republic of Vietnam

Start of Tour: July 21, 1969, Date of Casualty: May 5, 1970, Days in Country: 288

Casualty Type A1, MFW, Panel 11W - Row 098

"Red" Aaron (Photo at right) was killed when the Armored Personnel Carrier (APC) he was driving hit a mine near a stream crossing west of Ap Lam-An(2) in Binh Thuan Province.

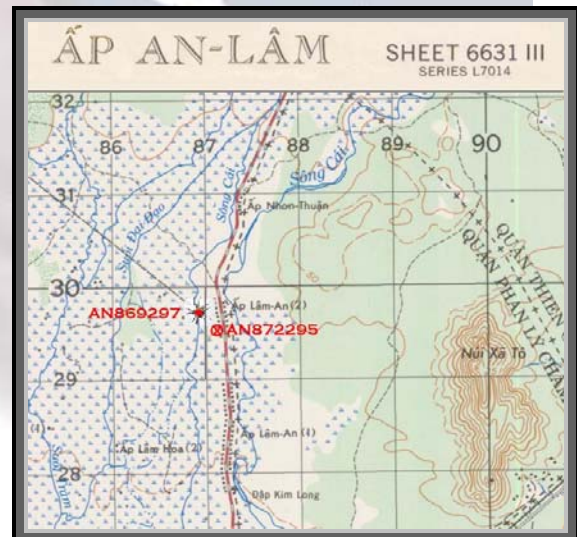
Mike Chisam, former 1st Platoon Leader, "Bravo" Company Remembers:

"On May 5, 1970, we were operating just north of Ap Binh Lam. Company Commander Bob Camors left me in charge of the Company as he had to go back and get ready for some type of inspection. My platoon placed an ambush out on foot during the preceding night that made no contact. I sent two Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs) to pick them up and I was standing up in the Command APC watching them return when, at about 200 meters Northwest of our location, they had to cross a stream with very steep banks. They chose an obvious crossing site and I watched as the first APC hesitated and then proceeded down the embankment. I had always taught my men to stop and check obvious crossing sites as they were prime areas for the enemy to plant mines. I grabbed the microphone to call and stop them but, by that time, the second APC began to descend into the creek bed and there was a tremendous explosion as the 1st Squad's APC was blown in the air and completely flipped over...landing upside-down on one of the creek bed embankments.



We rushed in and were there in just a minute or two. "Red" Aaron was trapped inside & Ramon Grayson had been in the TC hatch and the 50 Cal hit him in the head. The track was burning & sounded like a pop corn popper with all the ammunition cooking off. We were dragging Grayson away from the wreckage when the track exploded. The explosion threw me head over heel... but I was OK. We went in to recover Red's body and we were standing over him when a grenade cooked off. It felt like splinters going into my chest but I was very fortunate. The guy next to me (can't remember who) got two "frag" wounds in the head but fortunately they were minor. a third man, Grady Butler, was also wounded. Aaron and Grayson were killed in the initial blast."

A map of the location (AN869297) is shown to the right, with the position of the Platoon Leader noted at AN872295.



Continued...

Red Aaron pictured below (Left) as a new recruit in Basic Training. Pictured below (center) at the controls of his APC during a stage show at LZ Betty. Sitting above him is 1st Platoon Leader Mike Chisam and in the lower left corner is Ramon Grayson who died in the same blast that claimed "Red" Aaron on May 5th.. Below on the right is a picture of the stream crossing at a date prior to the incident which claimed Aaron and Grayson (Photo taken by Harvey Hummel, "B" Company).



The photos below were taken by Romolo "Rosy" Rosano, "B" Company. They show the aftermath of the mine explosion and the remains of the Armored Personnel Carrier. The blast was devastating and took the two young men's lives instantly.

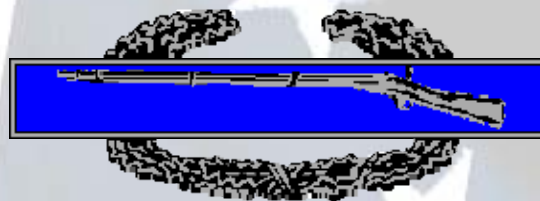


Continued...

Charles Aaron is buried at Fairview Cemetery, Westford, Middlesex County, Massachusetts (Pictured below):



AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF CHARLES AARON:



Combat Infantry Badge



HQ 1ST FIELD FORCE VIETNAM

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 769

10 JULY 1970

FOR DISTINGUISHING HIMSELF BY OUTSTANDING MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD FROM 21 JULY 1969 TO 5 MAY 1970. THROUGH HIS UNTIRING EFFORTS AND PROFESSIONAL ABILITY, HE CONSISTENTLY OBTAINED OUTSTANDING RESULTS. HE WAS QUICK TO GRASP THE IMPLICATIONS OF NEW PROBLEMS WITH WHICH HE WAS FACED AS A RESULT OF THE EVER-CHANGING SITUATIONS INHERENT IN THE COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATION AND TO FIND WAYS AND MEANS TO SOLVE THOSE PROBLEMS. THE ENERGETIC APPLICATION OF THIS EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE HAS MATERIALLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE EFFORTS OF THE UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM TO ASSIST THAT COUNTRY IN RIDDING ITSELF OF THE COMMUNIST THREAT TO ITS FREEDOM. HIS INITIATIVE, ZEAL, SOUND JUDGMENT AND DEVOTION TO DUTY HAVE BEEN IN THE HIGHEST TRADITION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND REFLECT GREAT CREDIT ON HIM AND ON THE MILITARY SERVICE.



Bronze Star

Purple Heart

National Defense

Vietnam Service

Vietnam Campaign