



9TH INFANTRY DIVISION



50TH INFANTRY



"E" COMPANY



SPECIALIST 4TH CLASS



INFANTRYMAN

RICHARD ROY BELLWOOD

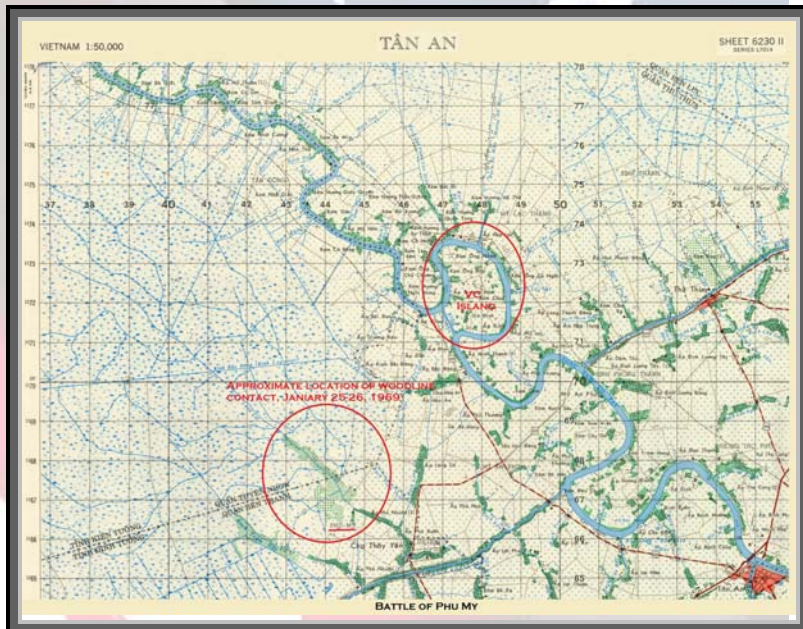
"E" Company (Long Range Patrol), 50th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division
Specialist Four, E4, US52772490, MOS 11B20
Home of Record: New York, NY

Date of Birth: January 18, 1949, Age at time of loss: 20, Single
9th Infantry Division, Kien Tuong Province, Republic of Vietnam
Start of Tour: August 11, 1968, Date of Casualty: January 25, 1969,
Days in Country: 167, Casualty Type A1, Gun, small arms fire, Panel 34W - Row 073

On 11 August 1968 Richard Bellwood started his tour in the Republic of Vietnam and volunteered for and was assigned to Co E, 50th Infantry (Long Range Patrol), 9th Infantry Division, conducting Long Range Patrol combat operations against hostile enemy forces in the Mekong Delta. During his time with Co E, 50th Infantry (LRP), Richard Bellwood attained the Rank of Specialist Four and was actively involved in conducting aggressive actions against numerically superior hostile enemy forces in the 9th Division area of operations in the Mekong Delta. Specialist Four Richard R. Bellwood distinguished himself on numerous occasions.

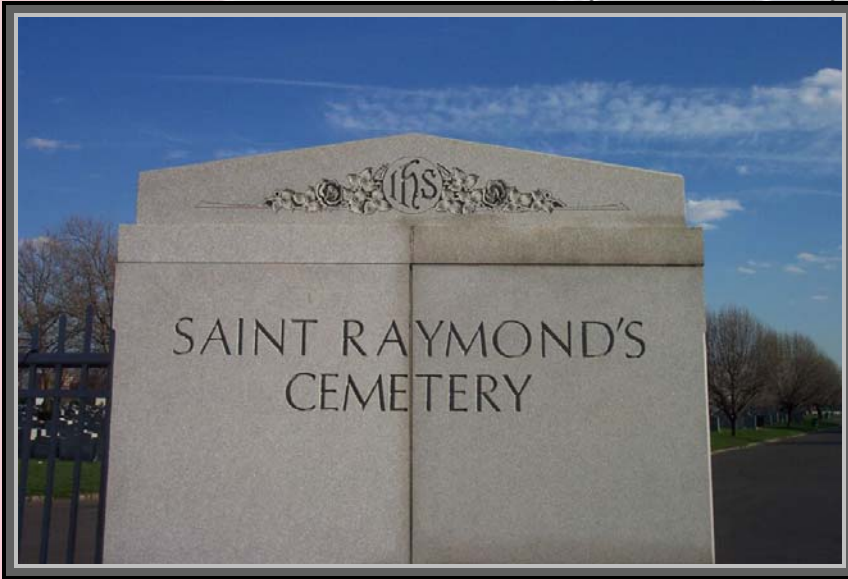


Specialist Bellwood was killed in action when his Long Range Patrol element was ambushed in Kien Tuong Province, Northwest of My Tho in the IV Corps Tactical Zone (Map below). The event was described in great detail by Gary Linderer in his book "Phantom Warriors II". An excerpt is available by clicking this link. <http://ichiban1.org/pdf/Memorial/PhantomWarriorsII.pdf>. Linderer located the site of the incident as 12 Km North of Tan An, which subsequent documentation shows is in error. Within a recommendation for a Presidential Unit Citation for the 9th Infantry Division, the incident was noted as being 5 KM Southwest of "VC Island". After some difficulty locating this spot at the coordinates given, further research revealed that the ensuing firefight by several Infantry units on the 25th and 26th dealt a devastating blow to the K6 Bn. of the 1st NVA Regiment. 78 enemy bodies were found left on the battlefield and the contact was labeled "The Battle of Phu My" after the village near the location which was pinpointed at a location 7 miles west of Tan An...which matched the location given by the unit citation documentation.



continued...

Richard Bellwood is buried at Saint Raymond's Cemetery, Bronx, Bronx County, New York



AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF RICHARD BELLWOOD:



Combat Infantry Badge



Specialist Bellwood received the following awards: The Silver Star Medal for Gallantry In Action, the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device for Heroism, the Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Service, the Purple Heart with 1 bronze oak leaf cluster, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with 1 bronze service star, the Republic Of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon with Device (1960), Vietnam Military Merit Medal, Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, Civil Action Honor Medal First Class Unit Citation, Republic Of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation, New York State Conspicuous Service Cross, Combat Infantryman Badge 1st Award and the Expert Badge with rifle bar and Marksman Badge with machinegun and automatic rifle bars.

Some of the information used in this memorial effort was obtained from the US Mountain Ranger Association Website: <http://www.usmountainranger.org/memorial/2004/bellwood.htm>