1 ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)





"B" COMPANY 1ST PLATOON MONGOOSE BRAVO





SERGEANT

TERRY WAYNE BIRMINGHAM

1st Platoon, "B" Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Specialist 4th Class, E4, Posthumous Promotion to SGT, US54387706, MOS 11B20 Home of Record: Trumann, AR

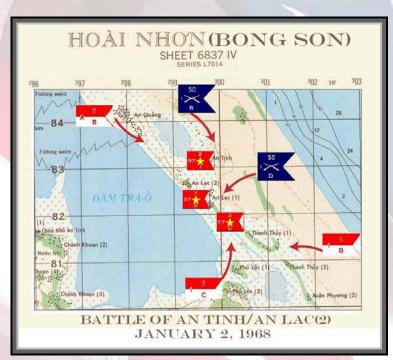
Date of Birth: June 16, 1948, Age at time of loss: 19, Married 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam Start of Tour: February 19, 1967, Date of Casualty: January 2, 1968, Days in Country: 317 Casualty Type A1, Gun, small arms fire, Panel 33E - Row 016

We have determined that Terry Birmingham was not a member of the 1st Battalion (M), 50th Infantry during our tour in Vietnam. We currently do not have access to the information that reported him as one of our KIAs, but it was indicated in a note on our original "In Memoriam" pages that someone within our Association identified him as such. Since our After Action Report for the Battle of An Tinh indicated 6 men lost in action, we believe the assumption was that they were all 50th infantry, in error. In fact, 3 men were lost from the 50th Infantry and 3 from the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry. Also lost was a Forward Observer working with the 1st Bn, 5th Cav. From "B" Battery, 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery.



Sergeant Birmingham was mortally wounded on the sandy beach near An Lac/Thanh Thuy and he died there in spite of heroic efforts to retrieve him led by SGT Tommy "Smokey" Stover...who braved enemy fire in a vain attempt and was killed by fire from the same enemy position that killed Birmingham. They died together as did Forward Observer Fred Manly who was providing supporting fire from nearby. The scene was described to the 50th Infantry Association by former "Mongoose Bravo" soldier Hugh Foster.

Below is a map showing the position of and the forces involved in the Battle of An Tinh, more commonly known as the Battle of An Lac(2), January 2, 1968.



Terry Birmingham is buried at Jonesboro Memorial Park Cemetery, Harrisburg Road, Jonesboro, Craighead County, Arkansas.



TERRY BIRMINGHAM'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:





HQ, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 1465

12 MARCH 1968

FOR GALLANTRY IN ACTION WHILE ENGAGED IN MILITARY OPERATIONS INVOLVING CONFLICT WITH AN ARMED HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. SPECIALIST FOUR BIRMINGHAM DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY EXCEPTIONALLY VALOROUS ACTION ON 2 JANUARY 1968, WHILE SERVING AS A TEAM LEADER WITH COMPANY B, 1ST BATTALION, 5TH CAVALRY DURING A SEARCH AND DESTROY MISSION NEAR THE SOUTH CHINA SEA, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. UPON DETECTING AN ENEMY POSITION TO HIS FRONT, SPECIALIST BIRMINGHAM, DISREGARDING HIS OWN SAFETY, ASSAULTED THE HOSTILE EMPLACEMENT. AT THIS TIME HE WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED, BUT HIS ACTION ENABLED HIS COMRADES TO SAFELY REACH COVERED POSITIONS AND NEUTRALIZE THE ENEMY FORTIFICATION. SPECIALIST BIRMINGHAM'S GALLANT ACTION WAS IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SERVICE, AND REFLECTS GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF, HIS UNIT, AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

