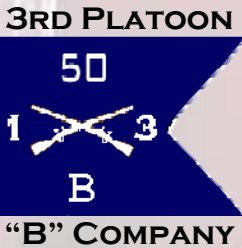




1ST
AIR CAVALRY
DIVISION



1ST BATTALION
50TH INFANTRY



"B" COMPANY



SECOND
LIEUTENANT



INFANTRY

DENNIS EDWARD BURKE

3rd Platoon, "B" Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry

Second Lieutenant, O1, O5341393, MOS 1542

Home of Record: Woonsocket, RI

Date of Birth: January 16, 1943, Age at time of loss: 25, Single

1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam

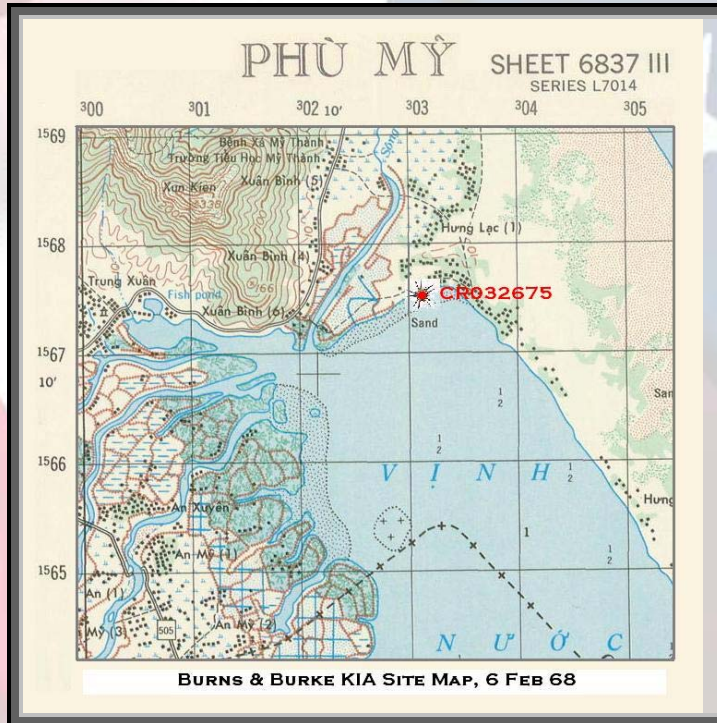
Start of Tour: December 21, 1967, Date of Casualty: February 6, 1968, Days in Country: 47

Casualty Type A1, OED, Panel 37E – Row 050

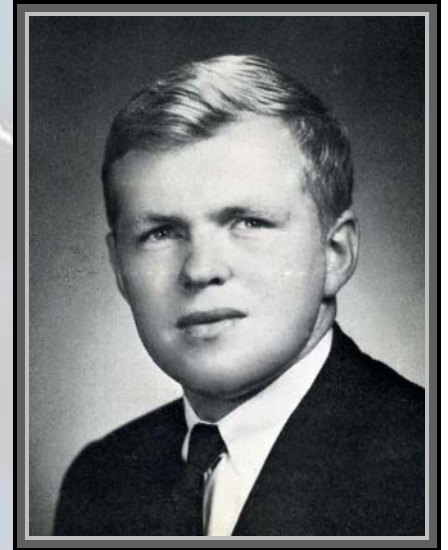
Lieutenant Dennis Burke was killed while "B" Company worked on a combined operation with the 41st ARVN Regiment in the eastern Nui Mieu Mountains of Binh Dinh Province on February 6th, 1968. Also killed was Specialist Bernard "Butch" Burns.

The men were killed when the Lead Armored Personnel Carrier on which they rode hit a mine estimated at 500 pounds. Aside from the two men killed, 4 others from the 3rd platoon were seriously wounded, but survived. Death was swift and the two men who died did not suffer.

A map of the location of the incident is shown below.



BURNS & BURKE KIA SITE MAP, 6 FEB 68



Lieutenant Burke was the Platoon Leader for Bravo Company's 2nd Platoon. In addition to the award of the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and various Vietnam service and campaign medals, he was the recipient of a letter of appreciation from the Commanding Officer of the Korean Troops his Platoon briefly supported prior to his death.

Major General Chung Soon Min commended LT. Burke for his support of their Division "in the face of every difficulty and danger"

A 1960 graduate of Mount St. Charles Academy, he received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Providence College in 1964. Before entering the service, Burke was a member of the Peace Corps and served 22 months as a mathematics teacher in Eahah, Somolia. After his service with the Peace Corps, he entered the Army in July of 1966.

Continued...

Lieutenant Burke was commissioned an Army Second Lieutenant after graduating from the Infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia, on May 18, 1967. Burke had a brother who also served as an officer in the Army: 1st LT J. Burke, III was stationed at Fort Sam Houston in Texas.

Records show that LT. Burke had also been wounded in two previous battles...all within a week prior to his death. He received his first Purple heart for a minor wound during the outbreak of the TET offensive in Phu My on January 1st, 1968 and was wounded again on February 3rd during the action near Vinh Nhon in which his fellow Bravo Company Officer, Bob Ballard was killed.



Paul Buckholdt - 2007

Former Bravo Company Enlisted man Paul Buckholdt (Pictured on the left at our 2007 Reunion) describes the incident on February 6th: *"I don't remember much about that day because of the explosion. but I will tell you what I do remember and what I have learned from others who were present. I believe LT. Burke was just hitching a ride on the front of my track (Armored Personnel Carrier). It was not usual for him to be there. Our Platoon Leader, Jim Wonsick, was leading the "B" Company column down the road when he got a radio call and pulled out of line. My track took point at that time. The VC had placed one of our unexploded 500 or 750 pound bombs in a drain culvert under the roadway and detonated the device as my track passed over the spot."*

Second Lieutenant Dennis Edward Burke is buried at Saint Charles Cemetery, Farm Street, Blackstone, Worcester County, Massachusetts (Pictures below)



The Association of the 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry wishes to thank the administration at Providence College, Providence, Rhode Island, for providing the portrait photo and other information on Dennis Burke.

Continued...

DENNIS BURKE'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS



Combat Infantry Badge



THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

HQ 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE) GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 1365, 9 MARCH 1968

FOR DISTINGUISHING HIMSELF BY OUTSTANDING MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD 21 DECEMBER 1967 TO 6 FEBRUARY 1968. 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
(3 Awards)



National
Defense



Vietnam
Service



Vietnam
Campaign