



**4TH
INFANTRY
DIVISION**



**1ST BATTALION
50TH INFANTRY**



"A" COMPANY



SERGEANT



INFANTRYMAN

STEVEN DALE BURTON

2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon, "A" Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry
Specialist 4th Class, E4, Posthumous Promotion to SGT, US55853600, MOS 11B20
Home of Record: Columbus, IN

Date of Birth: June 16, 1947, Age at time of loss: 20, Single
4th Infantry Division, Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam
Start of Tour: September 1, 1967, Date of Casualty: March 31, 1968, Days in Country: 212
Casualty Type A1, Gun, small arms fire, Panel 47E - Row 020

Steve Burton was killed as "A" Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry operated in the Coastal Central Highlands between Bong Son and Phu My in Binh Dinh Province. Well respected by those with whom he fought...one wrote: "He was the best combat soldier I had ever seen. He saved the lives of many men...only to loose his own."

Toby Jordan of the 2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon of "A" Company, recalls that he sat next to Burton on top of Armored Personnel Carrier #122 when a Sniper's round killed him almost instantly in a small valley near the villages of Phu Ha (2) and Phu Thu.



A map of the area where Steve Burton was killed is shown below:



Steve is buried at Garland Brook Cemetery, Bartholomew County, in his home town of Columbus, Indiana.



Continued...

STEVEN BURTON'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:



Combat Infantry Badge



THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL
WITH "V" DEVICE FOR VALOR

HQ, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 5646

22 JUNE, 1968

FOR HEROISM, NOT INVOLVING PARTICIPATION IN AERIAL FLIGHT, IN CONNECTION WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. SPECIALIST FOUR BURTON DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY EXCEPTIONALLY VALOROUS ACTION ON 23 JANUARY 1968, WHILE SERVING AS A RIFLEMAN WITH COMPANY A, 1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 50TH INFANTRY DURING A SEARCH AND DESTROY MISSION IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. WHEN HIS UNIT BECAME HEAVILY ENGAGED WITH A LARGE ENEMY FORCE, SPECIALIST BURTON EXPOSED HIMSELF TO THE HOSTILE FIRE AS HE CROSSED AN OPEN AREA TO ADMINISTER FIRST AID AND EVACUATE HIS WOUNDED COMRADES TO A MORE SECURE POSITION. HIS ACTIONS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR SAVING THE LIVES OF SEVERAL FELLOW SOLDIERS. SPECIALIST BURTON'S DISPLAY OF PERSONAL BRAVERY AND DEVOTION TO DUTY WAS IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SERVICE AND REFLECTS GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF, HIS UNIT, AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.



THE ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

HEADQUARTERS, 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 1051

18 APRIL 1968

FOR EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS SERVICE AS A RIFLEMAN FOR THE 2ND SQUAD, 2ND PLATOON OF COMPANY A, 1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 50TH INFANTRY, FROM SEPTEMBER 1967 TO MARCH 1968. SERGEANT BURTON'S ACTIONS AND EXAMPLE WERE DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUSTAINMENT OF HIS UNIT AND HIS REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM SUPPORT. HIS CONTINUOUS DETERMINATION TOWARD SELF-SUFFICIENCY ENSURED NOT ONLY MISSION-READINESS BUT THE SURVIVAL OF HIS UNIT. SERGEANT BURTON'S ACTIONS BROUGHT GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF, HIS UNIT, AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY



Bronze
Star
(Valor)



Army
Commendation
Medal



Air
Medal



Purple
Heart



National
Defense



Vietnam
Service



Vietnam
Campaign