



1<sup>ST</sup>  
AIR CAVALRY  
DIVISION



1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION  
50<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY

2<sup>ND</sup> PLATOON



"A" COMPANY



STAFF SERGEANT



INFANTRY

## TOMMY LEE CARPENTER

2nd Platoon, 3rd Squad, "A" Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (Mechanized), 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry  
Staff Sergeant, E6, RA22975822, MOS 11B40  
Home of Record: Anderson, IN

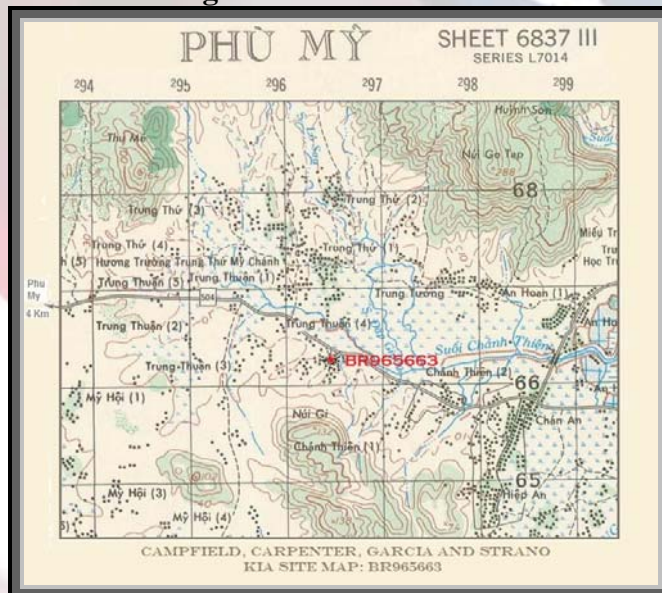
Date of Birth: January 18, 1939, Age at time of loss: 29, Married  
1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam  
Start of Tour: September 1, 1967, Date of Casualty: January 23, 1968, Days in Country: 144  
Casualty Type A1, Gun, small arms fire, Panel 35E - Row 014

During the weeks prior to the 1968 Tet Offensive, the 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry began to "bump heads" with various North Vietnamese Army units...most notably in December with the Battle of Tam Quan. January saw this trend continue with more major contacts at An Tinh /An Lac (2) and Trung Thuan.

Tommy Lee Carpenter, Albert Campfield, Emilio Garcia and James Strano were killed as our "A" Company moved to counter-attack the elements of the 95th Battalion, 2nd VC/NVA Regiment, 3rd NVA Division who were attacking the Popular Force outpost at Chan An. A captured enemy soldier revealed that the main force of the enemy Battalion lay in Ambush on the approaches to Chan An on Highway 504. "A" Company made immediate contact on the highway as they closed on Trung Thuan...just west of the Popular Forces outpost.

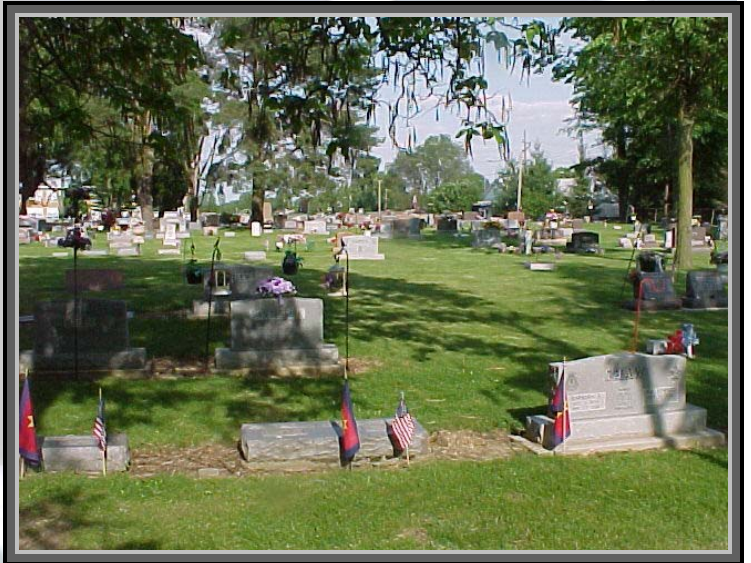
The enemy took very heavy casualties throughout the day long battle. Even after having the cover of darkness to secret away dead bodies, 137 NVA/VC bodies were found left on the battlefield in the morning of January 24th. In addition, 33 weapons were captured.

Tommy Lee Carpenter was awarded the Bronze Star with "V" Device (For Valor) for his bravery in battle at Trung Thuan.



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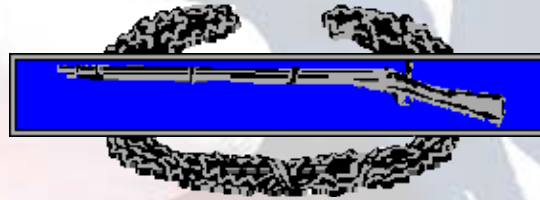
Tommy Lee is buried at Pleasant Walk Cemetery (Also known as Waggy Cemetery), Madison Ave, Anderson, Madison County, Indiana.



## TOMMY LEE CARPENTER'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS



Army Aircrew Badge



Combat Infantry Badge



THE SILVER STAR

HQ, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 1068

20 FEBRUARY 1968

FOR GALLANTRY IN ACTION WHILE ENGAGED IN MILITARY OPERATIONS INVOLVING CONFLICT WITH AN ARMED HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. STAFF SERGEANT CARPENTER DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY EXCEPTIONALLY VALOROUS ACTION ON 7 DECEMBER 1967, WHILE SERVING AS A SQUAD LEADER WITH COMPANY A, 1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 50TH INFANTRY DURING A COMBAT MISSION NEAR BONG SON, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. WHEN HIS UNIT CAME UNDER INTENSE HOSTILE FIRE, SERGEANT CARPENTER EXPOSED HIMSELF TO THE ENEMY FIRE AS HE PLACED SUPPRESSIVE FIRE ON THE ENEMY POSITIONS AND DIRECTED HIS ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER TO WITHIN TEN METERS OF THE HOSTILE BUNKERS. HE THEN ENGAGED AND DESTROYED SEVERAL ENEMY FORTIFICATIONS WITH HAND GRENADES. HIS ACTION CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF HIS UNIT'S MISSION. SERGEANT CARPENTER'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.

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**THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL  
WITH "V" DEVICE FOR VALOR**

**HQ, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)**

**GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 1493**

**14 MARCH, 1968**

FOR HEROISM, NOT INVOLVING PARTICIPATION IN AERIAL FLIGHT, IN CONNECTION WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. STAFF SERGEANT CARPENTER DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY EXCEPTIONALLY VALOROUS ACTION ON 23 JANUARY 1968, WHILE SERVING AS A SQUAD LEADER WITH COMPANY A, 1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 50TH INFANTRY DURING A COMBAT MISSION IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. WHEN HIS UNIT CAME UNDER INTENSE HOSTILE FIRE, SERGEANT CARPENTER ORGANIZED HIS SQUAD AND LED AN ASSAULT AGAINST THE HOSTILE EMPLACEMENTS. UPON NEUTRALIZING AN ENEMY FORTIFICATION, SERGEANT CARPENTER WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED. HIS 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.



**Silver  
Star**



**Bronze  
Star**



**Air  
Medal**



**Purple  
Heart**



**Good  
Conduct**



**National  
Defense**



**Vietnam  
Service**



**Vietnam  
Campaign**