



9TH INFANTRY DIVISION



50TH INFANTRY



"E" COMPANY



SERGEANT



INFANTRYMAN

JOSEPH P. CASTAGNA

"E" Company (Long Range Patrol), 50th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division
Specialist Four, E4, Posthumous Promotion to Sergeant, US52761931, MOS 11B20
Home of Record: New York (Brooklyn), NY

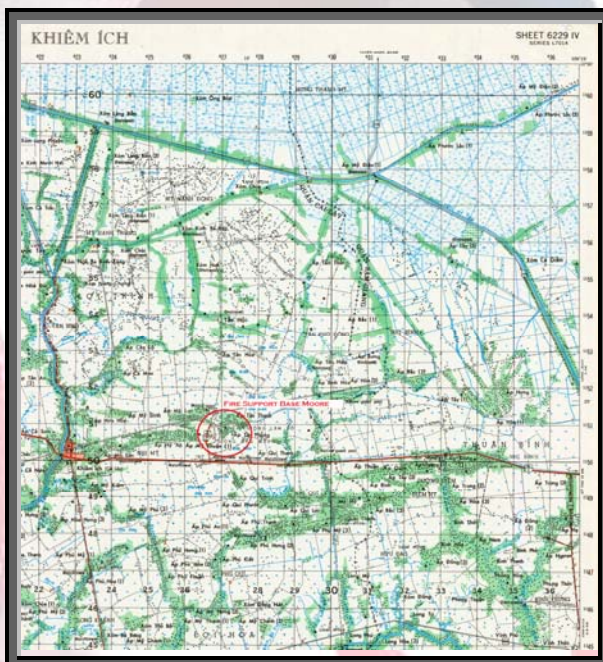
Date of Birth: September 29, 1948, Age at time of loss: 20, Single
9th Infantry Division, Dinh Tuong Province, Republic of Vietnam
Start of Tour: April 19, 1968, Date of Casualty: December 21, 1968, Days in Country: 247
Casualty Type A1, Gun or small arms fire, Panel 36W - Row 056

Sergeant E-5 Castagna started his tour of duty in the Republic of Vietnam on 19 April 1968 and was assigned to Company E 50th Infantry Long Range Patrol, 9th Infantry Division in the Mekong Delta.

On 23 June 1968 Sergeant (then Specialist 4) Joseph P. Castagna while serving as a Team Scout with Company E 50th Infantry (LRP), on a combat mission near Tan An, distinguished himself. When snipers engaged his eight man reconnaissance team, Specialist Four Castagna continually exposed himself as he moved from one casualty to another administering vital first aid and assisting in their evacuation. Specialist Four Castagna's heroic actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the 9th Infantry Division and the United States Army. Sergeant (then Specialist Four) Joseph P. Castagna was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device for heroism for his heroic actions.



For the final weeks of 1968, two recon teams were working with the 1st Brigade out of FSB Moore, 500 meters north of Highway QL4, 3 km East of Cai Lay in Dinh Tuong Province.⁽¹⁾ On 21 December 1968 while

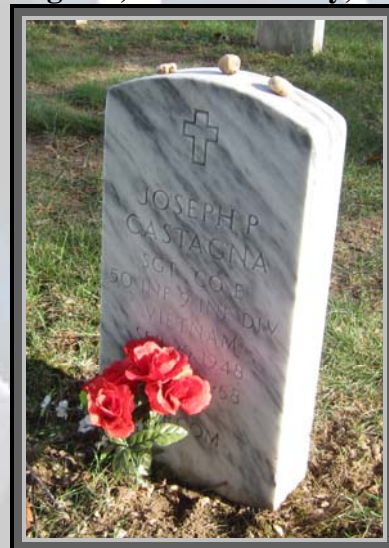


on a reconnaissance with one of these two teams, SGT Castagna was killed in action as a result of being hit by enemy small arms fire. Captain Dale Dickey, Commanding Officer of Company E 50th Infantry (LRP), in corresponding with the parents of Joseph Castagna wrote, "Joe was a forthright, loyal soldier who won the respect and admiration of all who served with him. You can take pride that Joe was an outstanding soldier who was a great credit to his country."

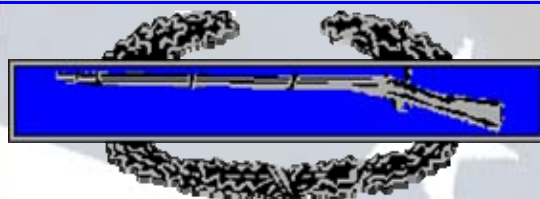
Joseph P. Castagna was posthumously awarded the

Military Merit Medal and the Gallantry Cross with Palm by the Government of the Republic of Vietnam and promoted to the rank of Sergeant E5.

Joseph P. Castagna is buried at the Long Island National Cemetery, Farmingdale, Suffolk County, New York.



AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF JOSEPH CASTAGNA:



Combat Infantry Badge



Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device (For Valor), Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Merit Medal, Vietnam Gallantry Medal with Palm, Vietnam Campaign Medal.

⁽¹⁾ The location of Sergeant Castagna's recon team at FSB Moore at the time of his death was obtained from the book "Rangers At War" by Shelby Stanton, ISBN 0-517-58590-1 Hardcover Edition, page 129.