



9TH INFANTRY DIVISION



50TH INFANTRY



"E" COMPANY



STAFF SERGEANT



INFANTRYMAN

HERBERT POK DONG CHO

"E" Company (Long Range Patrol), 50th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division
Staff Sergeant, E6, US56705602, MOS 11B40

Home of Record: Lynwood, CA, Born: Honolulu, HI.

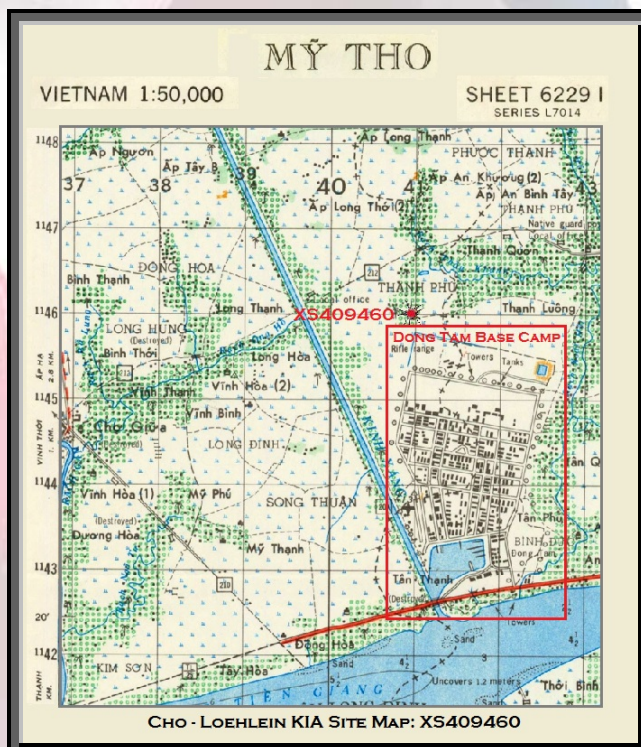
Date of Birth: February 10, 1944, Age at time of loss: 24, Single
9th Infantry Division, Dinh Tuong Province, Republic of Vietnam

Start of Tour: April 5, 1968, Date of Casualty: September 25, 1968, Days in Country: 174
Casualty Type A1, Hostile OED, Ground Casualty, Panel 42W - Row 013

Staff Sergeant Herb Cho was drafted when his exempt status was not renewed by the Los Angeles Police and Probation departments in error. Although he could have opted out of military service, he chose to enter the service when he received his Selective Service Draft notice. An exceptional soldier, he had taught martial arts to the LAPD and was quick to gain rank in the US Army...reaching the E-6 level in less than 2 years.

On 16 December, 1967, he graduated from the NCOC Course at Fort Benning, Georgia, Class 4-67, and deployed to South Vietnam where he joined Company E (Long Range Patrol), 50th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division.

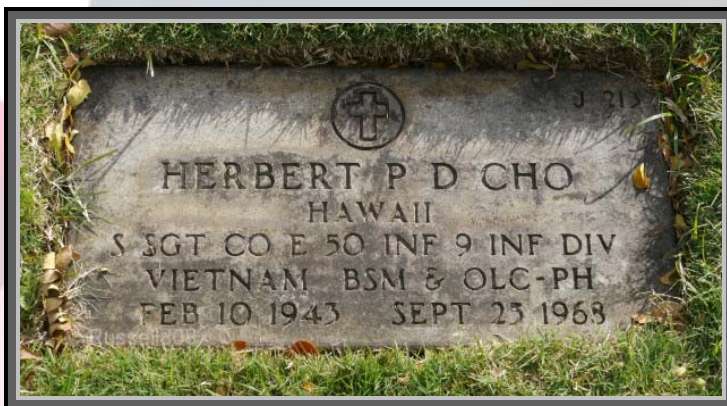
During the period from August through October, SSG Cho's 8-man LRP team was working out of Dong Tam and often teamed with the Provincial Reconnaissance Units (PRU). The PRU troops contained personnel from the Central Intelligence Agency's Project Phoenix program. The PRU were hardened anticommunist troops dedicated to destroying the Viet Cong infrastructure and generally possessed very high esprit and great knowledge of Viet Cong operating methods.⁽¹⁾



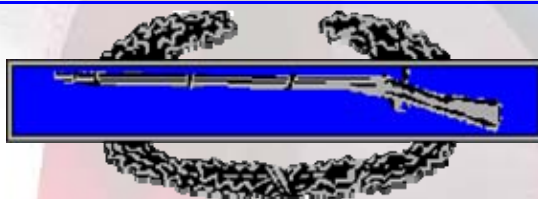
At approximately 9:00 AM on the morning of 25 September 1968, SSG Cho's LRP team and a PRU team were moving near the large Dong Tam Base Camp when a booby trapped Claymore Mine was detonated, killing Cho and severely wounding 3 other LRP and 1 PRU men. One of those wounded, PFC Robert Loehlein died later that day of his wounds. Loehlein was posthumously promoted to Corporal.⁽²⁾

A map showing the location of the incident is shown on the left.

Herbert Cho is buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, 2177 Puowaina Drive. Honolulu, Honolulu County, Hawaii. Plot: Section J, Site 213



AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF HERBERT POK PONG CHO:



Combat Infantry Badge



Bronze Star
w/olc

Purple Heart

National Defense

Vietnam Service

Vietnam Campaign

(1) Rangers at War, Combat Recon in Vietnam, Shelby L. Stanton. ISBN 0-517-58590-1, Chapter 6, pp 123-130.

(2) 9th Inf Div Intel Spot Report, 25 Sep 68; DA Form 1594 Daily Staff Journal, 9th Inf Div G2/G3 25 Sep 68, page 1, Line 38.