



**25TH INFANTRY
DIVISION**



50TH INFANTRY



"F" COMPANY



SERGEANT



INFANTRYMAN

STEVEN EDWARD COLLIER

**"F" Company (Long Range Patrol), 50th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division
Sergeant, E5, RA11801325, MOS 11F4D, Home of Record: Branford, CT
Date of Birth: December 19, 1948, Age at time of loss: 19, Single
25th Infantry Division, Binh Duong Province, Republic of Vietnam
Start of Tour: July 24, 1967, Date of Casualty: October 27, 1968, Days in Country: 460
Casualty Type A1, Gun, small arms fire, Panel 40W - Row 042**

Sergeant Steven Collier was reported to have served in several capacities as a member of Company F (Long Range Patrol), 50th Infantry.

Former Cobra 1-5 Team Leader Staff Sergeant Michael Soetaert reports Collier as his Assistant Team Leader (Likely Summer/Fall of 1967)...while After Action Reports from the period show Collier as Assistant Team Leader for Team Cobra 2-1 in early 1968 and as Team Leader in July of 1968.

A passage in the book "Rangers at War" by Shelby Stanton, describes the tactical SOP for the period between August and November of 1968:

"In August of 1968, Major General Ellis W. Williamson took over the 25th Infantry Division. He redirected Company F operations toward gathering information about, and then harassing, the Viet Cong "Third Offensive" (The third phase of the Tet Offensive of 1968) outside Tay Ninh. The VC attacks were broken and Cobra Lightning teams resumed normal patrolling patterns in the territory around Trang Bang, inside the Ho Bo Woods and Boi Loi Woods, and along the upper Saigon River. Special emphasis was placed on the Viet Cong occupied "Mush- room" river bend. Virtually every patrol in this region made significant contact or observations during this period."

Sergeant Collier was killed by small arms fire during a combat mission in Binh Duong Province. The "Mushroom" River Bend area is located in Binh Duong Province where the Saigon River takes the shape of an inverted mushroom. The infamous Cu Chi Tunnels are located just to the Southeast of the area. Fellow Team Leader SGT Tom Besser gave the following account of the action involving Collier's death:

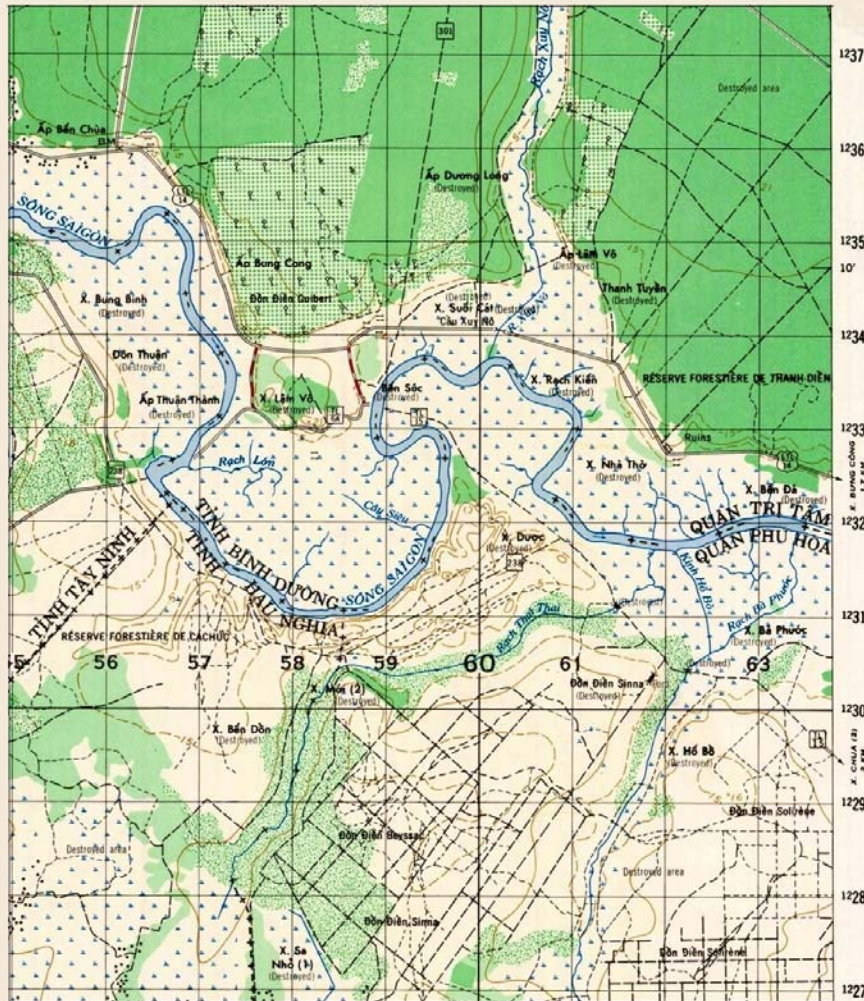
"Dusk was a risky time for the Long Range Patrol teams. We had to assume that the VC knew where we were...and if we lingered too long, we were likely to be hit by the enemy in force. To avoid this...just as it was getting dark, we would move to another location for the night. On October 27th, 1968, both my Team 2-2 and Collier's Team 2-1 were operating on opposite sides of the Saigon River...with probably less than a click (1000 meters) between us. Just as my team was moving into our night position, we heard a brief, maybe 10 second, eruption of small arms and automatic weapons fire....then silence. I was hoping this was simply an enemy "recon by fire" where they would suspect a team was located nearby and just open fire...hoping the LRP Team would return fire and reveal their positions. Unfortunately, this was not the case...as my friend Collier's team was ambushed and I heard the call come over the Company frequency that he was KIA."



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Below is a map of the "Mushroom" area...both as it appeared in 1968 and as it appeared in 2013

VIETNAM 1:50,000 HIẾU THIÊN (PARTIAL) SHEET 6231 II
SERIES L7014



"THE MUSHROOM": XT 58-32



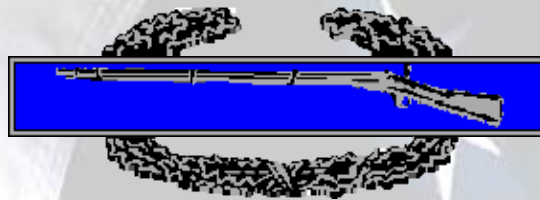
← 1968

Steven Collier is buried at Beaverdale Memorial Park, 90 Pine Rock Avenue, New Haven, CT.



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AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF STEVEN E. COLLIER:



Combat Infantry Badge



**Bronze
Star**



**Purple
Heart**



**National
Defense**



**Vietnam
Service**



**Vietnam
Campaign**

