



**1<sup>ST</sup>  
FIELD FORCE  
VIETNAM**



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



**"HQ" COMPANY**



**SPECIALIST 4<sup>TH</sup>  
CLASS**



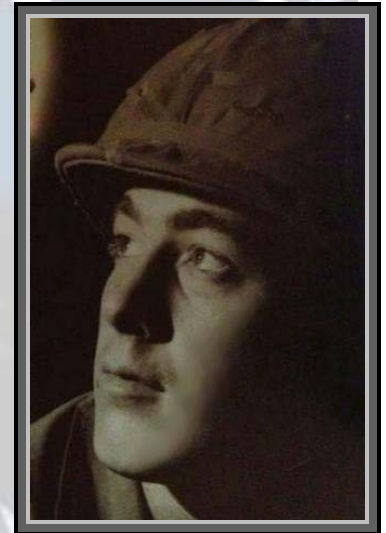
**INFANTRY**

## **ROGER GENE CRAIG**

**"HQ" Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (Mechanized), 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry  
Specialist 4th Class, E4, US234727079, MOS 63C20  
Home of Record: Clear Fork, WV**

**Date of Birth: May 2, 1948, Age at time of loss: 22, Single  
I Field Force Vietnam, Binh Thuan Province, Republic of Vietnam  
Start of Tour: November 9, 1969, Date of Casualty: May 3, 1970, Days in Country: 175  
Casualty Type A1, MFW, Panel 11W - Row 090**

Roger Craig was killed in action when at 1:45 AM the Headquarters base camp for Task Force South, 1st Field Force, Vietnam, LZ Betty, was attacked by a force believed to be the 482B Liberation Front Battalion. The attack consisted of approximately 125 rounds of enemy 60mm and 82mm mortar fire, an unknown number of B40/B41 rocket rounds and "Sapper" probes in at least 4 separate locations of the base perimeter. At several locations, the perimeter was penetrated. One Bunker position was overrun and held for about 1/2 hour and 2 other bunkers were destroyed as well as numerous wheeled vehicles and several helicopter aircraft.



Reaction was hampered by base policy which called for weapons to be secured while forces were in camp, however, once weaponry was obtained, the enemy was counter-attacked and forced to retreat. A large force was spotted at a location Northwest of the perimeter and was fired upon by Artillery and Helicopter Gunships, resulting in 14 enemy killed. Sweeps of the perimeter at dawn revealed numerous blood trails and dozens of drag marks indicating a large number of wounded and dead were dragged away under the cover of darkness.

Roger Craig was awarded the Bronze Star for his actions during the battle. His award citation reads, in part: "Then truck in which Specialist 4 Craig was riding was struck by an enemy rocket and with complete disregard for his own safety, he dismounted the damaged truck and began delivering withering suppressive fire on the enemy until he was mortally wounded by an enemy hand grenade".

Also killed during the contact were 50th Infantry men SSG Fred Denkins, SP4 Bob Haney, SP6 Tom Smith and SP4 Ken Thomas. From the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment was SP5 Perry LeClerc. Also killed was an unidentified US Government Civilian conducting classified business in Binh Thuan Province. 35 other U.S. soldiers were wounded.

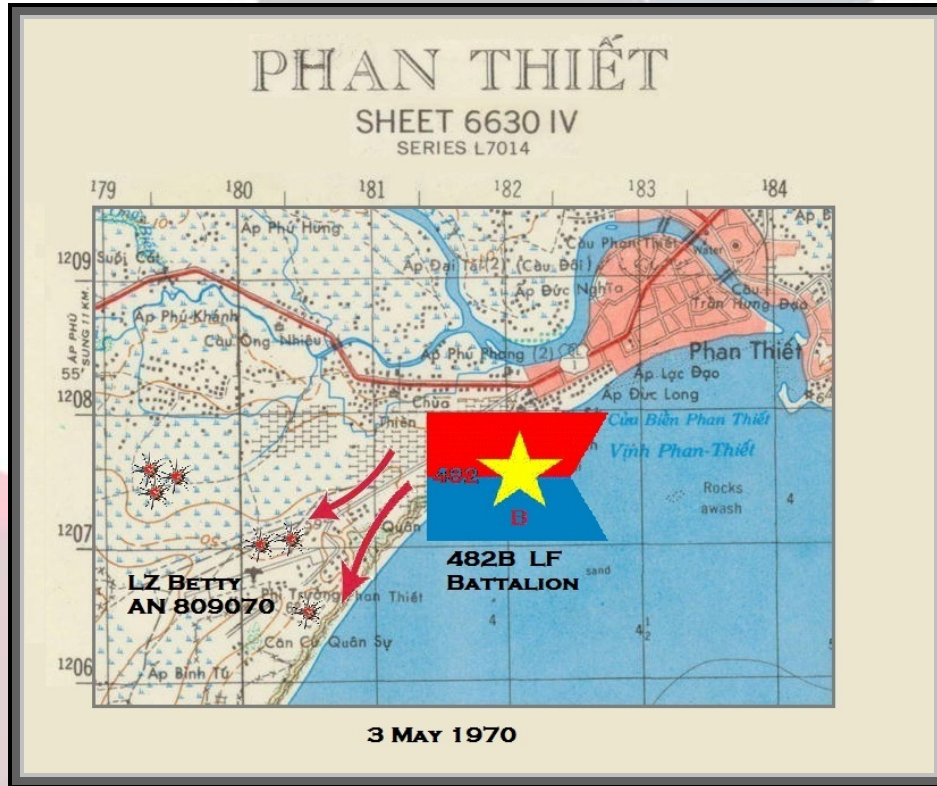
Although the fact that the weaponry of most base camp units being locked has been "cause for question" for years, command considered the war was far from their home base and allowed the lack of casualties and major contacts for the first 4 months of 1970 to influence their judgment towards a more "stateside" frame of mind.

Enemy losses were 14 Killed (By Body Count) and 1 POW captured who confirmed that the 482B LF was responsible for the attack.

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Six U.S. soldiers were killed, 7 U.S. Helicopters were destroyed and 6 more seriously damaged. Two 3/4 ton trucks, One 5 Ton Truck and One Jeep were destroyed as well as numerous buildings and structures being damaged, including the HQ of "D" Company, 50th Infantry and the Graves and Registration Quonset Hut.

A map of the location (AN809070) is shown below, with the position of the Attacking Force Main Body at AN795075.



A Bridge, located between Lillyhaven and Lillydale in Wyoming County, West Virginia was named: The "Roger Gene Craig Bridge".



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## AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF ROGER CRAIG:



THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL  
WITH "V" DEVICE FOR VALOR

HEADQUARTERS I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 635

30 MAY, 1970

FOR HEROISM IN CONNECTION WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM: SPECIALIST FOUR CRAIG DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY VALOROUS ACTIONS ON 3 MAY 1970, WHILE SERVING AT LANDING ZONE BETTY. DURING THE EARLY MORNING HOURS ON THAT DATE, ENEMY TROOPS PENETRATED THE PERIMETER, OVERRUNNING ONE OF THE BUNKERS. AS THE HOSTILE FORCE ADVANCED, THEY FIRED ROCKETS, AUTOMATIC WEAPONS, AND SMALL ARMS AT THE OUTMANNED DEFENDERS. AS THE ACTION INTENSIFIED, SPECIALIST CRAIG VOLUNTEERED TO JOIN A REACTION FORCE, WHICH HAD BEEN HASTILY ORGANIZED TO COMBAT THE CRITICAL SITUATION. AS THE VEHICLE IN WHICH HE RODE APPROACHED THE BESIEGED PERIMETER, IT WAS STRUCK BY AN ENEMY ROCKET. WITH COMPLETE DISREGARD FOR HIS SAFETY, SPECIALIST CRAIG DISMOUNTED THE BADLY DAMAGED TRUCK AND BEGAN DELIVERING WITHERING SUPPRESSIVE FIRE ON THE ENEMY UNTIL HE WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED BY AN ENEMY THROWN GRENADE. SPECIALIST FOUR CRAIG'S HEROISM WAS IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SERVICE AND REFLECTS GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF, HIS UNIT, AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.



Bronze  
Star  
(Valor)



Purple  
Heart



National  
Defense



Vietnam  
Service



Vietnam  
Campaign