



RODNEY ALLEN CRANDALL

"B" Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry
Specialist 4th Class, E4, US54959072, MOS 11B20
Home of Record: Detroit, MI

Date of Birth: February 15, 1947, Age at time of loss: 21, Single
173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate), Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam
Start of Tour: September 1, 1967, Date of Casualty: May 6, 1968, Days in Country: 248
Casualty Type A1, MFW, Panel 56E - Row 004



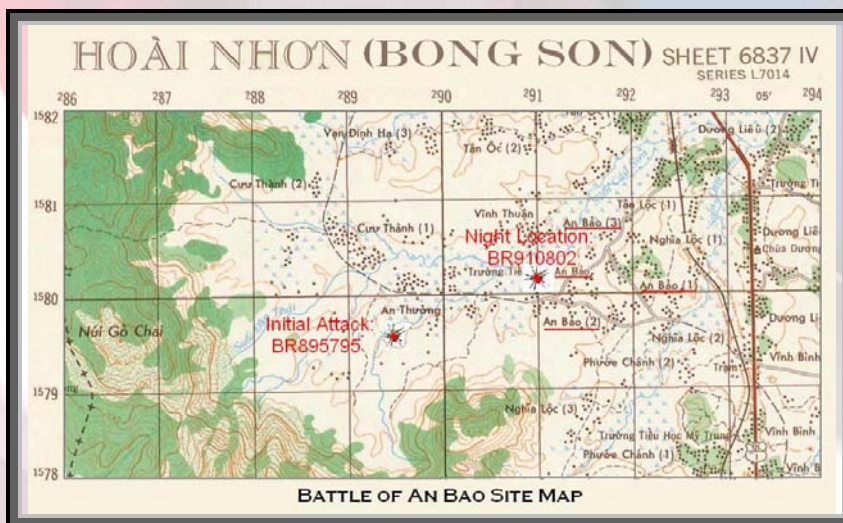
At noon, on May 5, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry, "A" Company forces were attacked and by a regiment of the North Vietnamese Army. The 99th NVA "Black Star" Rocket Regiment had sent 3 Battalions armed with B40, RPG2 and RPG7 rockets as their primary weapons. Outnumbered 10 to 1, "A" Company forces were overrun and took heavy casualties. Charlie Company was called in to reinforce the besieged Alpha Company. Upon arrival, the enemy, who had ceased fire to allow the "C" Company troops to enter the ambush zone, opened fire with an intense and sustained barrage of small arms, automatic weapons and B40 Rocket fire from three sides. Fierce fighting ensued on both 1/50th Companies and additional reinforcements from "B" Company, 1/50th Infantry and "B" Company, 1/69th Armor were called in to battle the huge enemy force. American forces withdrew while Air strikes and Artillery fire was called in on enemy positions. A Night position was established approximately 1500 meters from the initial contact. On May 6th, At 3:30 AM the enemy forces attacked the night location with at least 200 Mortar and Anti-Tank rounds as well as small arms fire from 4 locations. Rodney Crandall was killed instantly by a mortar round during this attack. Also killed from "B" Company during the Rocket and Mortar attack was Craig Rood. The enemy was eventually silenced and contact was broken at approximately 5:00 AM. Although sweeps and counter attacks took place all day on the 6th and into the 7th of May, no more enemy elements could be found. Read a brief account of the Battle of An Bao:

<http://www.ichiban1.org/pdf/Memorial/AnBaoCondensed.pdf>

Declassified An Bao After Action Report, Daily Staff Journal and Air Report:

<http://www.ichiban1.org/pdf/Memorial/AnBaoExpanded.pdf>

A map of the location of the Battle of An Bao in Binh Dinh Province is shown below with the night location where Rodney Crandall was killed indicated:



Continued...

Rodney is buried at Forest Lawn Cemetery, 11851 Van Dyke Street, Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan 48234-4190 (Photo below).



RODNEY CRANDALL'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:



Combat Infantry Badge



HQ 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 1564

8 JUNE 1968

SPECIALIST RODNEY A. CRANDALL DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY OUTSTANDING MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER, 1967, TO MAY, 1968. THROUGH HIS UNTIRING EFFORTS AND PROFESSIONAL ABILITY, HE CONSISTENTLY OBTAINED OUTSTANDING RESULTS. HE WAS QUICK TO GRASP THE IMPLICATIONS OF NEW PROBLEMS WITH WHICH HE WAS FACED AS A RESULT OF THE EVER-CHANGING SITUATIONS INHERENT IN THE COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATION AND TO FIND WAYS AND MEANS TO SOLVE THOSE PROBLEMS. THE ENERGETIC APPLICATION OF THIS EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE HAS MATERIALLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE EFFORTS OF THE UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM TO ASSIST THAT COUNTRY IN RIDDING ITSELF OF THE COMMUNIST THREAT TO ITS FREEDOM. SPECIALIST CRANDALL'S INITIATIVE, ZEAL, SOUND JUDGMENT AND DEVOTION TO DUTY HAVE BEEN IN THE HIGHEST TRADITION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND REFLECT GREAT CREDIT ON HIM AND ON THE MILITARY SERVICE.



Bronze Star

Purple Heart

National Defense

Vietnam Service

Vietnam Campaign