



9TH INFANTRY
DIVISION



50TH INFANTRY



"E" COMPANY



STAFF
SERGEANT



INFANTRYMAN

JOHNSTON DUNLOP

"E" Company (Long Range Patrol), 50th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division
Staff Sergeant, E6, RA51433339, MOS 11B40

Home of Record: Auburn, NY

Date of Birth: October 19, 1938, Age at time of loss: 29, Single
9th Infantry Division, Bien Hoa Province, Republic of Vietnam

Start of Tour: March 19, 1967, Date of Casualty: April 16, 1968, Days in Country: 393
Casualty Type A1, MFW, Panel 50E - Row 013

Staff Sergeant Johnston Dunlop was born on 19 October 1938. He attended school in Auburn, New York and participated on the High School swimming team. At the age of 23, Johnston Dunlop enlisted in the Regular Army and started his career as a soldier. On 19 March 1967, Dunlop commenced his tour in the Republic of South Vietnam. Serving as a Patrol Leader with Company E, 50th Infantry, Long Ranger Patrol, 9th Infantry Division in the Mekong Delta he carried out numerous missions against hostile Viet Cong and North Vietnam Regular Army forces. On his last Long Range Patrol Staff Sergeant Dunlop was Killed In Action on 16 April, 1968 while trying to save 1st Sergeant Joseph Melvin Jones, and as a result of his Gallant Actions while engaging the enemy he was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.



In the book "Bonding of Warriors", author and former LRRP Bob Hernandez chronicled the action that took the lives of Jones and Dunlop:

"On April 16, 1968, a mission was sent down for two teams to set an ambush in an area around the Binh Son Plantation, where in the preceding weeks there was sightings of heavy enemy activity. Team one was made up of First Sergeant 'Top' Joseph Melvin Jones, SSGs Johnston Dunlop and Greg Nizialek, with Specialist Four Phil Katsis, Mattie Mathews and James Counts. Team two consisted of Specialists Four Wayne Fentress, Jack Delaney, Eugene Richardson, Richard 'Little Jonesy' Jones, and George E. Kozach, Jr. filling out the team. The teams hoped to ambush, and disrupt the movement of men and supplies in the area. Initial plans called for a 7:30 AM insertion but unforeseen circumstances delayed them until almost 8:30 AM. Behind schedule, the teams were inserted and quickly moved to the selected position.

Team two was on the left flank of the ambush where Fentress and Richardson began putting the claymores in place as Delaney, 'Little Jonesy,' and Kozach provided flank and rear security. The claymores on the left portion of the kill zone were in place and armed. Simultaneously Katsis was placing the claymores on the right flank of the kill zone, while Dunlop was to insert the blasting caps and arm them. 'Top' Jones, Counts and Nizialek were providing all around security on the right flank. Before the ambush was completely set the VC came into view of the men on the right flank of the ambush.

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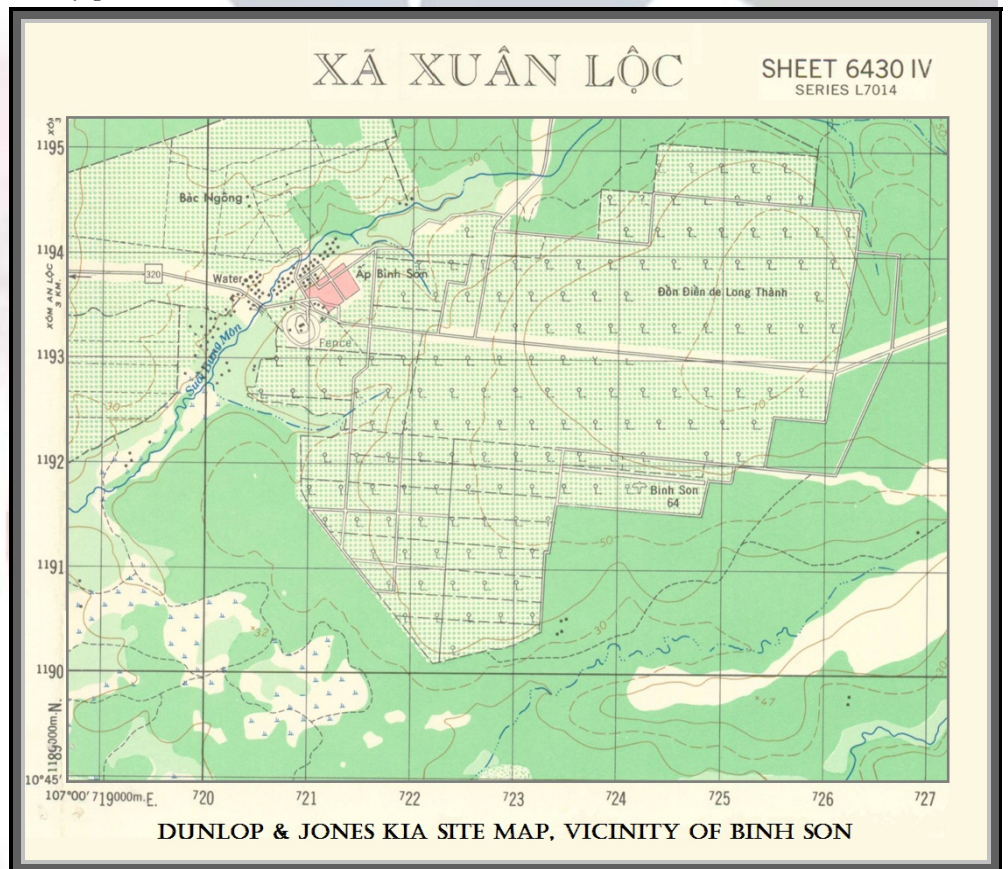
Normally the VC parade down the trails with an 'I own the jungle' attitude...weapons slung over their shoulders...singing and talking loudly. 'Charlie' was alert this day. They came quickly, weapons at the ready, and spotted the LRRPs before entering the kill zone. Automatic weapons fire from both sides broke the quiet of the morning that day and when the smoke cleared 'Top' Jones was dead, SSG Dunlop was seriously wounded, and SP 4 Counts was shot in the forehead.

The initial volley of small arms fire hit Katsis's rucksack and set off a yellow smoke grenade. The blast of the claymores knocked Delaney into a tree. He turned and began to fire into the smoke on the right flank of the ambush. A VC near 'Top' was looking directly at him and Delaney saw him and fired. 'Five tracers in a horse shoe shape came at me, I knew I was dead, all I heard was 'Pop, Pop, Pop, Pop'!' 'To my surprise, I was still standing' said Delaney. Loading his fourth magazine into his M-16 he continued to fire as the smoke was starting to clear. There were six to eight dead VC laying on the trail.

Delaney was checking the trail to make sure all the VC were dead as the rest of the team was moving Counts and Dunlop to the LZ. Fentress, Nizialek and Delaney then pulled Top's body down into the riverbed. About that time all hell broke loose! It sounded like 100 VC were on line shooting at them. Bullets were flying everywhere. Trees were cut down by the heavy volume of small arms fire, RPGs, and grenades! The only thing between them and the VC was the riverbed. They dragged 'Top's body down the riverbed, placed him under some overhanging brush, then camouflaged and booby trapped his body. They were unable to bring "top" out, but would return later to retrieve him. They low crawled for over 100 yards to the LZ.

At the LZ, Fentress had them consolidate their magazines into a pile. Two were loading and shooting into the wood line. Delaney carried 31 High Explosive (HE) rounds for his M-79 grenade launcher, using it as a mortar with the rounds hitting 50 to 100 yards into the wood line. Specialist Fentress applied a field dressing to Dunlop's wounds and administered morphine as they moved to the LZ for extraction. Delaney carried Dunlop to the chopper. Once aboard the chopper Dunlop succumbed to his wounds. A door gunner shot three VC that ran out onto the LZ. As the gunships rolled in, the team marked the enemy positions with tracer rounds. Rockets devastated the wood line and the pick-up chopper came in at tree top level, swooped down, and successfully extracted most of the patrol. Fentress and Mathews waited on the LZ for the second pick up chopper.

Unaware that there were two LRRPs left on the ground the VC emerged onto the LZ to scrounge any equipment or supplies that may have been left behind. Fentress and Mathews were able to direct the gunships and called in effective fire on the unsuspecting VC. Once back at Bearcat the choppers were refueled, while a reaction force made up from an Aero Rifle Platoon assembled on the helipad. They were guided back to the 'combat zone' by Fentress. Two additional VC were killed while 'Top's remains were recovered. Delaney was hit in the leg with shrapnel."



A map showing the area around Binh Son & the Rubber Plantation where Dunlop's Patrol engaged an Enemy Platoon is shown above.

Johnston Dunlop is buried at Fort Hill Cemetery, Auburn, Cayuga County, New York



AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF JOHNSTON DUNLOP:



Combat Infantry Badge



THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

General Orders: Headquarters, U.S. Army, Vietnam, General Orders No. 3337 (1968)

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918 (amended by act of July 25, 1963), takes pride in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) to Staff Sergeant Johnston Dunlop (ASN: 51433339), United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company E (LRRP), 50th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division. Staff Sergeant Dunlop distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 16 April 1968 as a leader of a ten-man long range reconnaissance ambush team operating near Binh Son. Sergeant Dunlop deployed his team along a main Viet Cong supply route and triggered a claymore mine ambush on a heavily armed enemy platoon which was walking down the trail. During the ensuing battle, he fearlessly exposed himself to enemy weapons to deliver a devastating volume of fire which inflicted many casualties on the numerically superior insurgent force. Seeing a wounded comrade close to the enemy positions, Sergeant Dunlop unhesitatingly ran to the man's aid. During this maneuver, he was struck in the legs by a burst of automatic weapons fire and knocked to the ground. Continuing to fire, he crawled the last twenty meters to his wounded teammate, all the while shouting commands for fire support to his men. Finding his comrade dead, Sergeant Dunlop directed his team to continue its covering fire while he extracted the body. As he neared safety, Sergeant Dunlop was again struck by enemy fire and mortally wounded. Staff Sergeant Dunlop's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, at the cost of his life, was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.



Distinguished Service Cross

Purple Heart

Good Conduct

National Defense

Vietnam Service

Vietnam Campaign

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The 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry, of the United States Army Infantry School's 198th Infantry Brigade, Fort Benning, Georgia, honored Staff Sergeant Johnston Dunlop by renaming the Echo Company barracks "Dunlop Barracks" in ceremonies on May 2nd, 2013. The Dunlop family was represented by Johnston's niece, Cindy Gallagher and her two sons...one of which was named after his uncle. Photos of the event and the building are pictured below.

