



JOSEPH RALPH FRANCKOWIAK

2nd Squad, 1st Platoon "B" Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry

Private First Class, E3, Posthumous Promotion to CPL, US56701054, MOS 11B10

Home of Record: Huntington Park, CA

Date of Birth: March 11, 1944, Age at time of loss: 24, Married

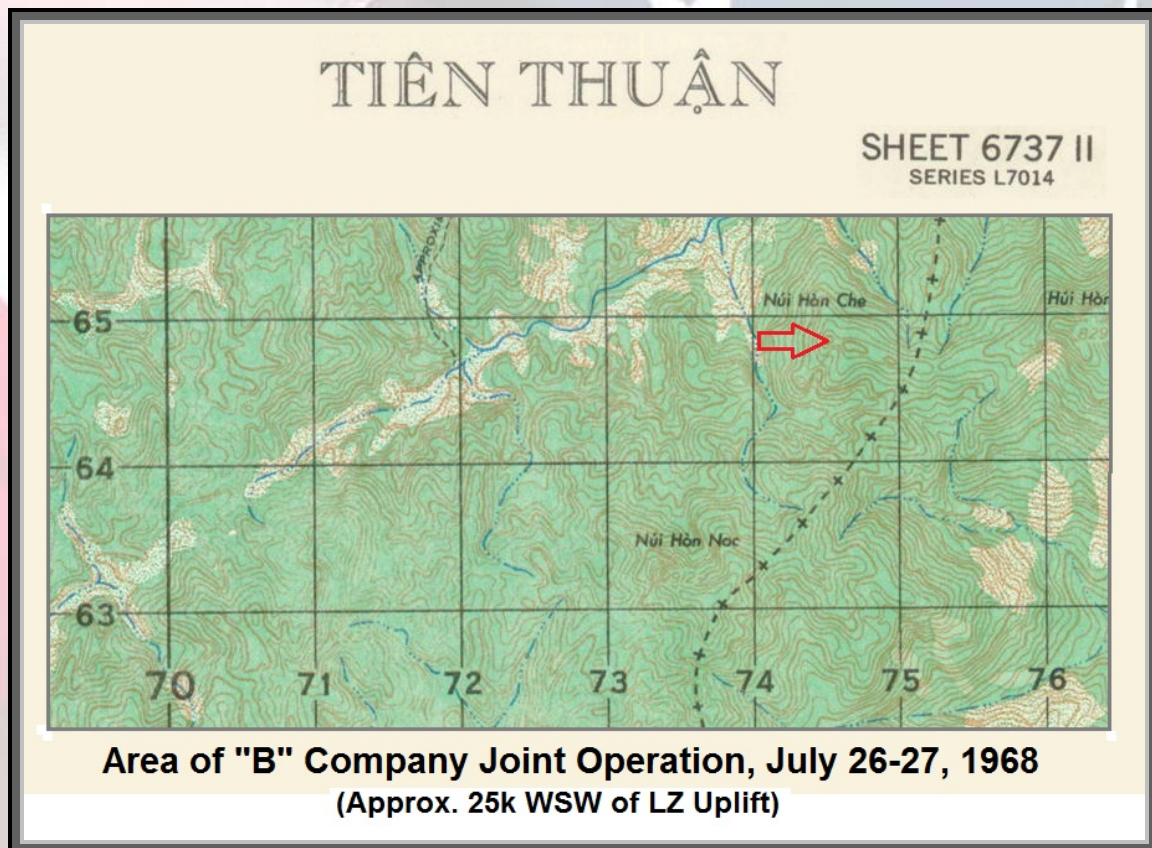
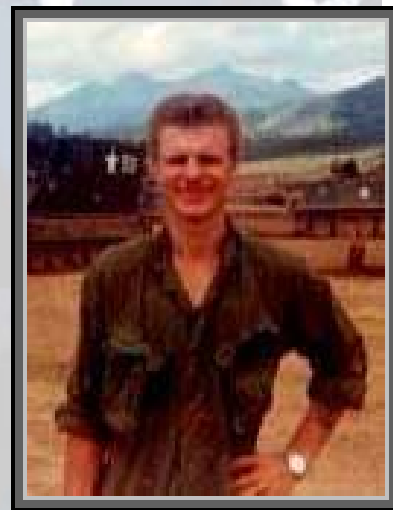
173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate), Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam

Start of Tour: February 28, 1968, Date of Casualty: July 27, 1968, Days in Country: 150

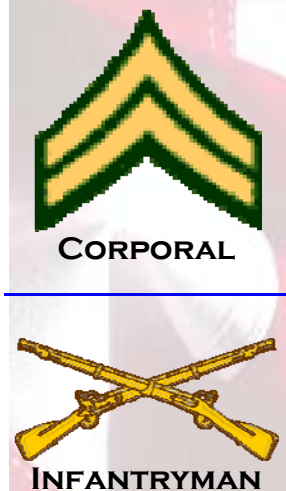
Casualty Type: Non-Hostile Ground Casualty, Accidental Self-Destruction, Panel 50W - Row 018

Shortly after Noon on July 27th, Joseph Franckowiak was killed when a grenade he was carrying exploded. 3 others were wounded in the blast.

At the time, "B" Company was working with "A" Company, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry and the 41st ARVN Regiment (Located well to our South) in a combined operation that began on the 26th of July. Former B Company Squad leader Terry Goodwin remembers: *"On the 26th, "B" Company had entered the area via Helicopter Combat Assault at Map Coordinates BR745648 (See Map Below)....this was late in the morning. I was on the first bird (helicopter) down and the area was covered with elephant grass. Once the LZ was secured, we moved to the East up a ridge toward the top of the mountain. That night we dug in on the ridge. The next day we resumed our march up the mountain and this was the day that Franckowiak's grenade went off. I am pretty sure he was in the 2nd Squad of the 1st Platoon."*



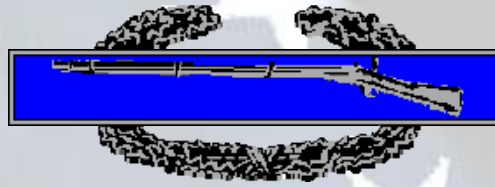
Area of "B" Company Joint Operation, July 26-27, 1968
(Approx. 25k WSW of LZ Uplift)



Joe is buried at New Calvary Catholic Cemetery, 3201 Whittier Blvd, East Los Angeles, California.



JOE FRANCKOWIAK'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:



Combat Infantry Badge



HQ 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 2098

11 AUGUST 1968

CORPORAL JOSEPH FRANCKOWIAK DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY OUTSTANDING MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY , 1968 TO JULY 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. CORPORAL FRANCKOWIAK'S INITIATIVE, ZEAL, SOUND JUDGMENT AND DEVOTION TO DUTY WERE IN THE HIGHEST TRADITION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND REFLECTED GREAT CREDIT ON HIM AND ON THE MILITARY SERVICE

