



173RD AIRBORNE
BRIGADE



1ST BATTALION
50TH INFANTRY

2ND PLATOON



"A" COMPANY



PRIVATE
1ST CLASS



INFANTRYMAN

BOBBY LEE GENTRY

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

PFC, E3, RA406661106, MOS 11B10

Home of Record: Winchester, KY

Date of Birth: March 29, 1950, Age at time of loss: 19, Single

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

Start of Tour: March 8, 1969, Date of Incident: May 28, 1969, Days in Country: 122

Date of Death: July 8, 1969, Casualty Type A1, OED, Panel 21W - Row 083

Bobby Gentry was severely wounded when he and 5 others from the 2nd Platoon of "A" Company were hit by shrapnel from a command detonated Claymore Mine.

Medic SP5 John Kirkwood witnessed the event:

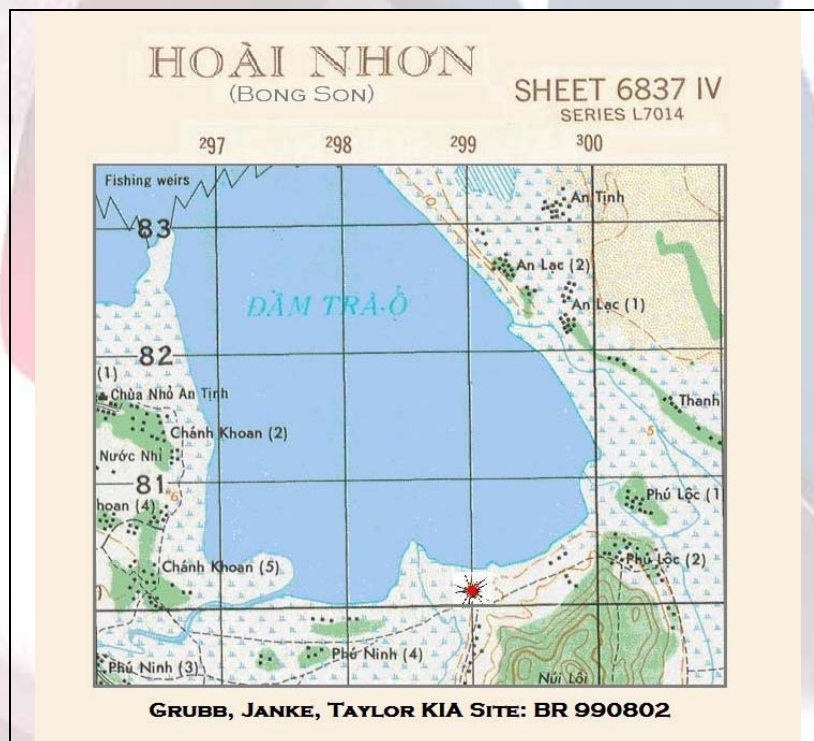
"We were on a foot patrol that day and after searching and finding nothing in a village near lake Dam Tra O, we moved out with Sergeant Janke on point. About 500 feet beyond the village the VC triggered a Claymore Mine just as it came into view on the trail we were following. Janke and Clarence Taylor were killed outright and several others were wounded with Steve Grubb being the worst(He died shortly after). Also wounded was Bobby Gentry who died from a severe infection on July 8th."



A map of the location (BR990802) is shown below.

Gentry's Casualty Report, DA Form 2496, states: "Individual died as the result of peritonitis and general sepsis secondary to wounds previously received. while on a combat operation when a booby trap **detonated**. He was admitted to a military medical facility, placed on the Seriously Injured list and then on the Very Seriously Injured list, and later expired."

Location information on the event from May 28th for Bobby Lee Gentry. (See Map Below)



Continued...

Bobby Lee Gentry is buried at Bush Cemetery in Midway, KY. Historian Jim Sheppard visited the site with Gentry's Father Ernest in June of 2012 (Photo Below left). Below Center is Bobby Lee as he looked in Training sometime in late 1968 or early 1969.



BOBBY LEE GENTRY'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:



Combat Infantry Badge



HQ 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS BOBBY GENTRY DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY OUTSTANDING MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD FROM MARCH 1969 TO JULY 1969. 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. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS GENTRY'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.

