



173RD
AIRBORNE
BRIGADE

"THE ROCK"



4TH BATTALION
(AIRBORNE)
503RD INFANTRY



"D" COMPANY



1ST
LIEUTENANT



ARMOR

LAWRENCE DOUGLASS GREENE

2nd Platoon, "D" Company, 4th Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry
Commanded "C" Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry Prior to Vietnam
First Lieutenant, O2, O5233403, MOS 1542, Home of Record: Fort Knox, KY
Date of Birth: January 25, 1943, Age at time of loss: 25, Single
173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate), Phu Yen Province, Republic of Vietnam
Start of Tour: August 10, 1967, Date of Casualty: January 30, 1968, Days in Country: 172
Casualty Type: Hostile, died outright, Ground Casualty, Small Arms Fire, Panel 35E - Row 071

Lieutenant Lawrence D. Greene had commanded our Charlie Company in late 1966 and early 1967 before finally getting orders for Vietnam...an assignment he had been seeking for some time.

An Armor Officer's Candidate School Graduate and very popular with his men, as would be his forte throughout his short military career, LT Greene managed to "pull off" being just "one of the guys" while still commanding the respect due a commanding officer.

He was killed during what became know as the Battle of Cemetery Hill near Tuy Hoa City in Phu Yen Province, while with Dog Company of the 4th Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade. Read the "After Action Interviews" for the action in which LT Greene was killed:

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



Retired Command Sergeant Major Ted G. Arthurs mentions the action in his book "Land With No Sun". LT Greene was killed as his Company was pinned down by an element of NVA Soldiers on a high shoulder of ground to their left. His obituary stated: "While leading forward elements of his command in an airborne operation near Tuy Hoa, he went to the aid of a wounded radio man and was killed instantly by a sniper's bullet".

LT Green's citation for a posthumously awarded Bronze Star with "V" Device reads:

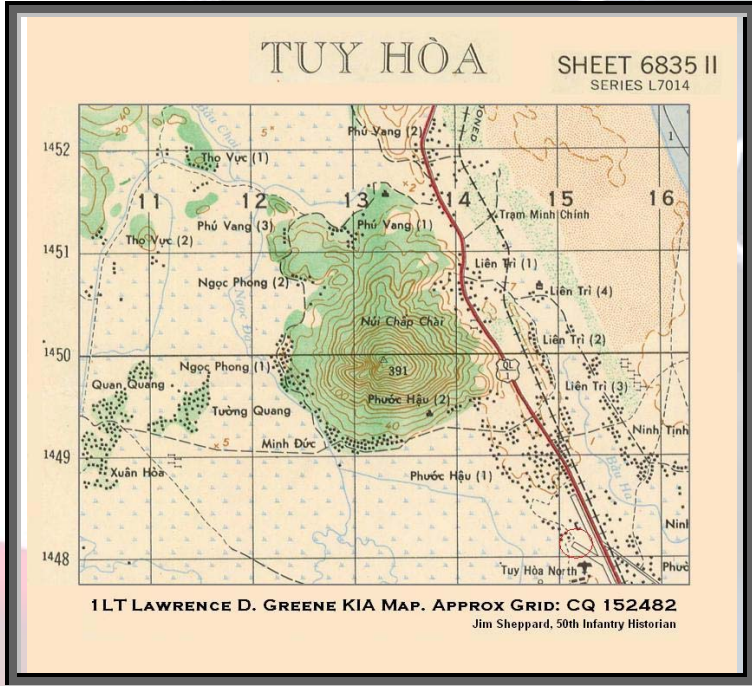
"For heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force: First Lieutenant Greene distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 30 January 1968 in the Republic of Vietnam. On this day, Company D, 4th Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry, made a heliborne assault against a fire support base which had been overrun by a North Vietnamese Army battalion. Lieutenant Greene immediately led his platoon in an assault against the enemy positions in the compound, resulting in 3 enemy soldiers being killed. As the enemy force began to retreat, Lieutenant Green and his platoon followed in pursuit. As they reached the edge of a small nearby village, it was discovered the entire enemy battalion was concealed in well dug in and fortified positions. The enemy force, making a last stand, placed an extremely heavy amount of fire against the assaulting platoon. At this time Lieutenant Green's radio telephone operator was critically wounded. As Lieutenant Greene exposed himself to the enemy fire to save the wounded trooper, he was mortally wounded. First Lieutenant Greene's outstanding display of aggressiveness, devotion to duty and personal bravery were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army".

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CSM Arthurs related to the Historian for the 50th Infantry Association:

"Lieutenant Greene once told me, just prior to our assault and the last I saw him alive, "Call me 'Larry' when we're by ourselves, please". I said "Yes Sir".

The Incident took place near the end of an air strip at approximately CQ 152482 in the general vicinity of Tuy Hoa North, in Phu Yen Province (See map below).



Because of Lieutenant Greene's Service with the 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry prior to deployment to Vietnam, his name was added to our 50th Infantry Vietnam Memorial in front of Battalion Headquarters, Fort Benning, Georgia, on April 30th of 2015.

The Association is grateful to Larry Greene's cousin, Michael Greene, for most of the information gleaned in this memorial. Lawrence D. Green is shown below (left) having his 2nd Lieutenant bars pinned on by his mother Margaret and father Brigadier General Lawrence V. Greene. Michael named his son, Lawrence D. Greene, after our former Lieutenant. He is shown below (Right) receiving his Marine Officer 2nd Lieutenant Bars. The resemblance is stunning.



Continued...

Lawrence Douglass Greene is buried at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Arlington County, Virginia. His grave is pictured below:



LAWRENCE D. GREENE'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS*



Combat Infantry Badge



**Bronze Star
For Valor
2nd Oak Leaf Cluster**

Air Medal*

Purple Heart

National Defense

Vietnam Service

Vietnam Campaign

*No documentation exists in our 50th infantry files to substantiate the award of the Air Medal. We enter this here since we know the high amount of Heliborne Combat Assaults experienced by the 173rd Airborne Brigade would have qualified LT Greene within approximately 2 months. We suspect there were more medals awarded LT Greene. We invite Family members to submit evidence of awards and decorations not displayed here. Contact Historian Jim Sheppard: 50thInfantryAssociation@gmail.com