

ALBERT R. GUTIERREZ, JR.

1st Platoon, "A" Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry
Private, E2, Posthumous Promotion to PFC, RA01590027, MOS 11B10

Home of Record: San Antonio, TX

Date of Birth: February 23, 1947, Age at time of loss: 21, Married

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

Start of Tour: February 27, 1968, Date of Casualty: August 24, 1968, Days in Country: 179

Casualty Type A1, MFW, Panel 47W - Row 002



173RD AIRBORNE
BRIGADE



1ST BATTALION 50TH
INFANTRY

1ST PLATOON



"A" COMPANY



PRIVATE
FIRST CLASS

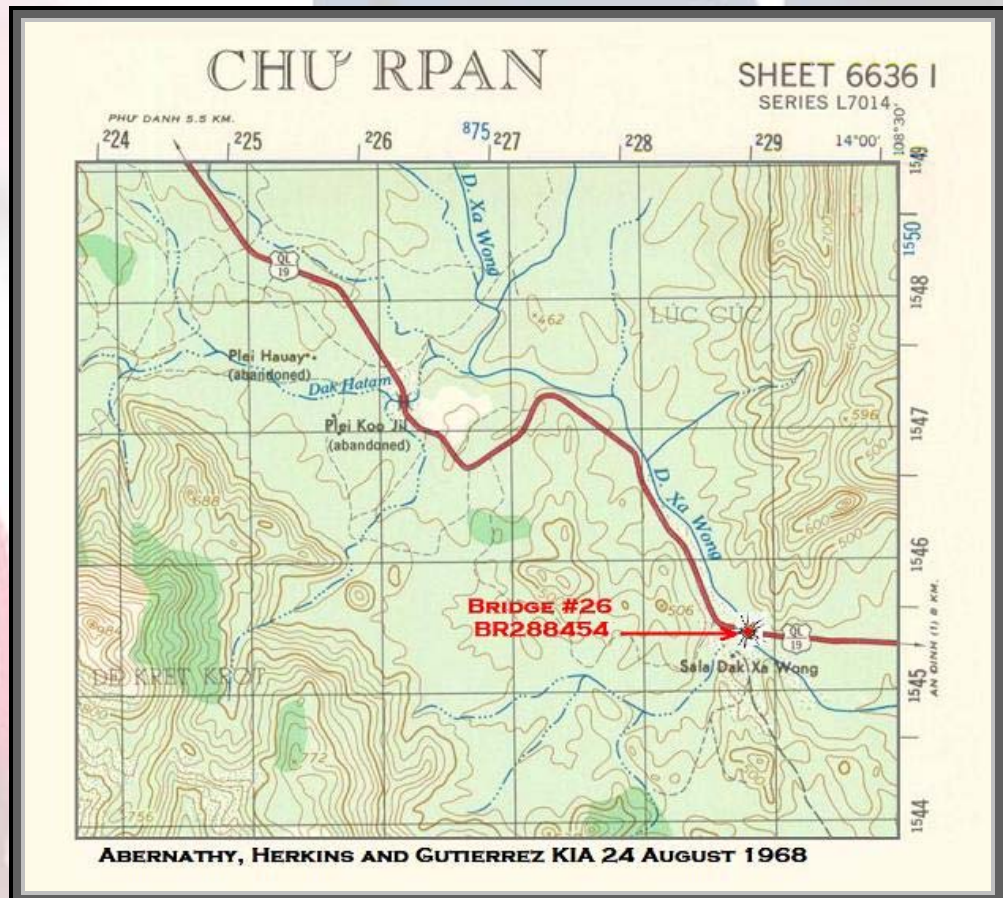


INFANTRYMAN

PFC Al Gutierrez was killed in action when the bridge his platoon was guarding was attacked by a North Vietnamese Army Unit estimated to be a reinforced Platoon. His position was compromised by a direct hit from a B-40 Rocket in the initial volley of enemy fire and he was killed instantly. Also involved in the fighting were elements of the 50th Infantry's Scout Platoon. A portion of the bridge was overrun and the fighting included "hand to hand" combat at times. The Scouts were able to withdrawal carrying 6 men who were wounded. Reinforcements arrived and the bridge was retaken. Also killed in this hostile action were 1LT Dan Abernathy and Sergeant Thomas F. Herkins.



A map of the location of Bridge #26 (BR288454) is shown below,



Continued...

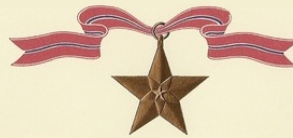
Albert Gutierrez is buried at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas, pictured below:



ALBERT GUTIERREZ'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:



Combat Infantry Badge



THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL
WITH "V" DEVICE FOR VALOR

HQ 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 2240

4 SEPTEMBER 1968

FOR HEROISM IN CONNECTION WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE. PRIVATE GUTIERREZ DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF ON 24 AUGUST 1968 IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. ON THIS DAY PRIVATE GUTIERREZ AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS SQUAD WERE SERVING ON BRIDGE SECURITY DUTY ON HIGHWAY 19, JUST EAST OF THE MANG YANG PASS IN BINH DINH PROVINCE. AT 0245 HOURS, ON THE MOONLESS AND WINDY NIGHT OF 24 AUGUST 1968, AN ESTIMATED REINFORCED ENEMY PLATOON ATTACKED PRIVATE GUTIERREZ' POSITION WITH A HEAVY BARRAGE OF SMALL ARMS AND ROCKET FIRE. AT THE INITIATION OF THE ATTACK, PRIVATE GUTIERREZ MOVED UNHESITATINGLY INTO THE OPEN TO AWAKEN MEMBERS OF HIS SQUAD. HE THEN RETURNED TO HIS BUNKER AND BEGAN TO PLACE A HEAVY VOLUME OF EFFECTIVE FIRE ONTO THE ENEMY. AS ROCKET FIRE INCREASED, PRIVATE GUTIERREZ' BUNKER TOOK A DIRECT HIT AND HE WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED BY SHRAPNEL. HIS UNSELFISH ACTIONS CONTRIBUTED IN SAVING THE LIVES OF MEMBERS OF HIS SQUAD. PRIVATE GUTIERREZ' PERSONAL BRAVERY AND DEVOTION TO DUTY WERE IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SERVICE AND REFLECT GREAT CREDIT ON HIMSELF, HIS UNIT, AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.



Bronze Star
(Valor)



Purple Heart



National Defense



Vietnam Service



Vietnam Campaign