



173<sup>RD</sup>  
AIRBORNE  
BRIGADE



1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION  
50<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY



"HQ" COMPANY



SCOUTS  
PLATOON



SERGEANT



INFANTRYMAN

## VIRGIL VERN HAMILTON

"HQ" Company, Scouts Platoon, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (Mechanized), 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry  
Specialist 4th Class, Posthumous Promotion to Sergeant, US53706121, MOS 11B20

Home of Record: Brooksville, FL

Date of Birth: August 1, 1948, Age at time of loss: 20, Single

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

Start of Tour: November 10, 1968, Date of Casualty: May 30, 1969, Days in Country: 201

Casualty Type A1, Hostile, OED, Panel 23W - Row 021

Virgil Hamilton was killed in an ambush in which an enemy Claymore Mine was detonated as his Scout Platoon, Point Element moved out, heading North, from a small village they had just swept in a search operation. Seven soldiers were dusted off via Med-Evac helicopter, 2 of whom were killed. Hamilton was killed outright and Jerome Collins died of his wounds shortly after. Of the 5 others who were wounded, Steven Owen died the next day of his wounds.



The remaining Scout Platoon elements fired on two Viet Cong to the Southwest, killing one and capturing the 2nd. The 50th Infantry's Short Range Ambush Platoon (SRAP) moved two of their machine gun equipped boats into a blocking position on the nearby Lake Dam Tra O to cut off the lake as an escape route. The SRAP elements received 4 or 5 rounds of sniper fire from the West with no casualties and returned fire with unknown results. A second adult male with no ID was detained and removed for questioning.

A map of the location where Hamilton, Collins and Owen were killed is shown below:



Continued...

Virgil Vern Hamilton is buried at Brooksville Cemetery, Jasmine Dr., Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida:



Although the headstone read's "A" Company, we can only find documentation from when Hamilton was killed in action. At that time he was assigned to the Scout Platoon of Headquarters Company.

### **VIRGIL VERN HAMILTON'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:**



Combat Infantry Badge



Bronze Star



Purple Heart  
with OLC  
(2 Awards)



Army Commendation



National Defense



Vietnam Service



Vietnam Campaign