



**25TH  
INFANTRY  
DIVISION**



**125TH SIGNAL  
BATTALION**

**INFUSED FROM**



**1ST BATTALION  
50TH INFANTRY**

**3RD PLATOON**



**"C" COMPANY**



**SPECIALIST  
4TH CLASS**



**INFANTRYMAN**

## **RONALD MATHIAS HEINECKE**

**125th Signal Battalion\*\***

**Infused from 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, "C" Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (Mechanized), 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry  
Specialist 4th Class, E4, US56453660, MOS 11B20**

**Home of Record: Theresa, WI**

**Date of Birth: July 23, 1945, Age at time of loss: 23, Single  
25th Infantry Division\*\*, Tay Ninh Province, Republic of Vietnam**

**Start of Tour: September 1, 1967, Date of Casualty: August 18, 1968, Days in Country: 352**

**Casualty Type A1, Gun, small arms fire, Panel 48W - Row 043**

Ron Heinecke was an original member of Charlie Company's 3rd Platoon, serving mostly with the 1st Squad and later with the 3rd Squad. Ron is remembered as that "steady" M-60 Machine Gunner whose accurate fire helped prevent Charlie Company's Night Defensive Position from being overrun on October 31, 1967. Ron received a Valorous Bronze Star for the action.

Ron was transferred to the 25th Infantry Division in the summer of 1968 as part of the "Infusion" program...to slowly transfer members of units that arrived in Vietnam "en masse". Transfers and "swaps" with other units from around Vietnam helped disperse DEROS (End of tour) dates so that the Battalion would not lose a large number of men all at once after the 1st year was complete.



With less than two weeks remaining on his tour and service commitment, Ron was fatally wounded during an attack on the communication outpost atop Nui Ba Den Mountain in Tay Ninh Province. Ron had been part of the 25th Infantry Division's Provisional Signal Company placed with the 125th Signal Battalion on the site.

The need for a permanent infantry presence was given priority by USARV and the 25th Infantry Division after the Communications Relay Site on top of Nui Ba Den Mountain was overrun in an attack in the spring of 1968. In that attack, 25 men were killed and sensitive electronic equipment was nearly captured by the enemy.

On August 18th, the site was attacked again, but the newly established provisional company, composed mainly of Infantry Soldiers, successfully repulsed the enemy. The after action report for the period read:

*"The enemy made a serious attempt to disrupt electronic communications into and out of Tay Ninh City at 0234 hours when an estimated company assaulted the perimeter of the communications relay site on the summit of Nui Ba Den mountain (XT281581) to the northeast of Tay Ninh. Striking with small arms, automatic weapons and rockets against the facility's bunker line manned by A Company, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry, the Provisional Signal Company of the 125th Signal Battalion, and other organic US Soldiers, the enemy was able to breach the perimeter in one location and was successful in blowing up one generator before being pushed back out of the site."*

*All other sectors of the bunker line held fast throughout the night and at approximately 0615 hours, the enemy withdrew down the mountain leaving behind 15 dead, five AK-47 rifles, three rocket launchers, three pistols, 12 hand grenades, 100 satchel charges and 20 RPG rocket rounds. Eight defenders of the mountaintop were killed in the fighting, but the enemy was unable to accomplish his objective of disrupting the flow of vital radio communications for Tay Ninh City and the surrounding area."*

**Read a descriptive story of the mountain where Ron was killed:**

**<http://www.ichiban1.org/pdf/Memorial/NuiBaDen.pdf>**

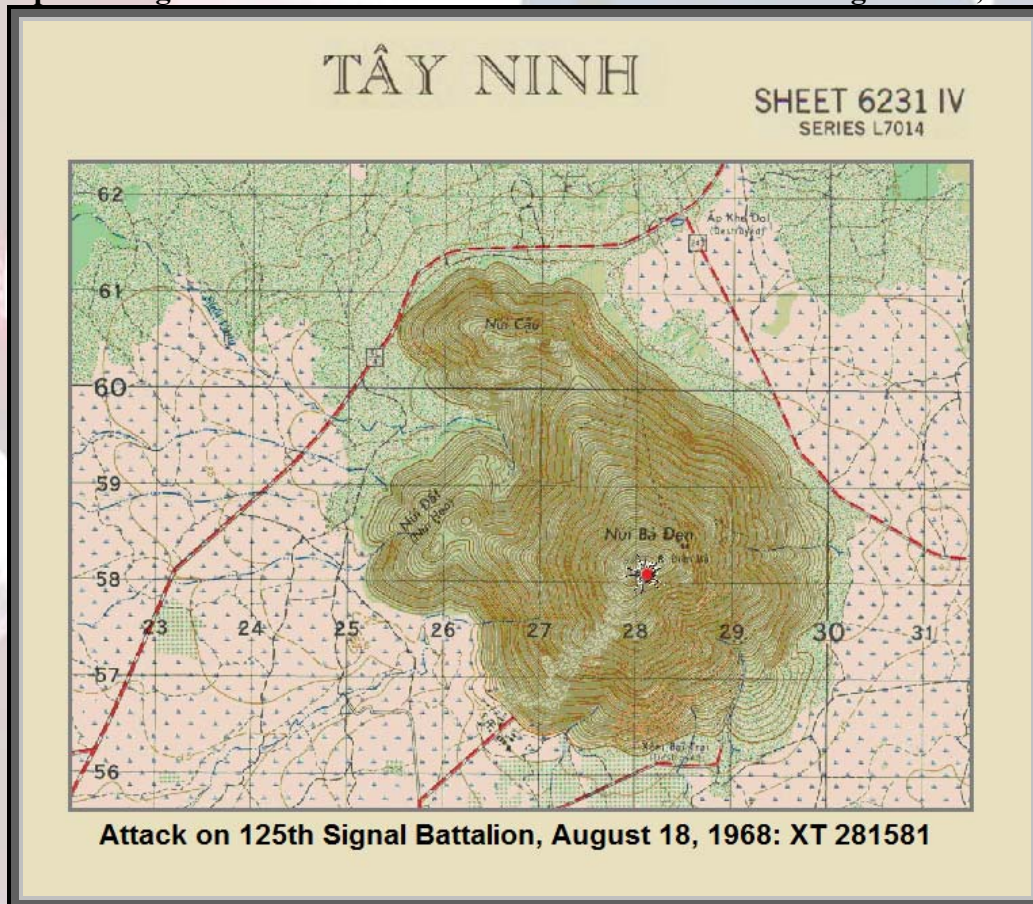
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## Núi BA DEN ~ TAY NINH PROVINCE



**Map showing Grid Coordinates of Ron Heinecke's death on August 18th, 1968:**



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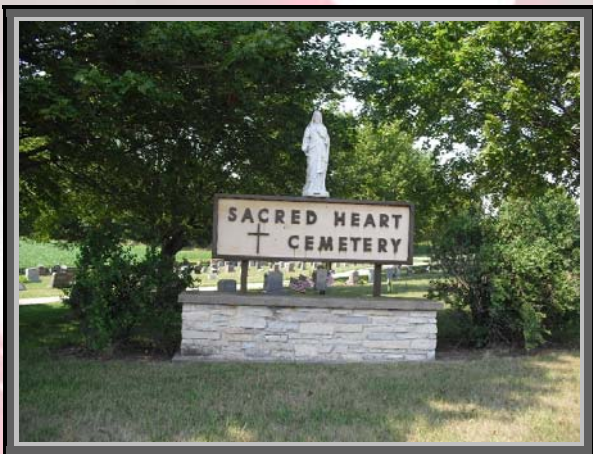


**Below are three photos of Ron contributed by Jim Sheppard and Norm Poage...former 3rd platoon men.**



**Jim Sheppard took the photo of Ron (Above top left) riding on top of our 1st Squad Armored Personnel Carrier. The photo on the top right is of (Back row) Ron Heinecke, Norm Poage and Matt Morrison...and (Front) Bruce Backes and Tim Voncina.**

**Ron Heinecke is buried at Sacred Heart Cemetery, just East of the Allenton & Route 41, 5826 SR33, Washington County, Wisconsin 53090**

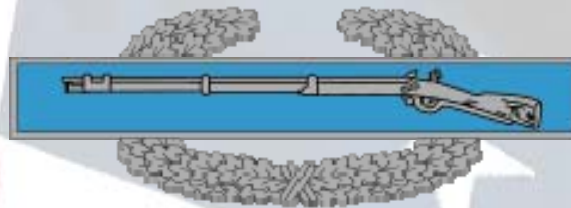


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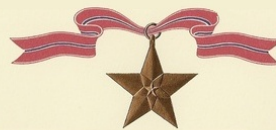
## RON HEINECKE'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:



In the photo above (Left), CPT Herb Randall looks on as LTC Bertholf presents the Silver Star to Ron Heinecke (on the right). Ron Heinecke (Right) after receiving the award of the Bronze Star for heroism on October 31, 1967.



Combat Infantry Badge



THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL  
WITH "V" DEVICE FOR VALOR

HQ, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 7640

28 DECEMBER, 1967

FOR HEROISM, NOT INVOLVING PARTICIPATION IN AERIAL FLIGHT, IN CONNECTION WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. SPECIALIST FOUR HEINECKE DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY EXCEPTIONALLY VALOROUS ACTION ON 31 OCTOBER 1967, WHILE SERVING AS A FIRE TEAM LEADER WITH COMPANY C, 1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 50TH INFANTRY DURING A NIGHT PERIMETER DEFENSE NEAR QUANG NHIEM, THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. WHEN HIS UNIT CAME UNDER ENEMY ATTACK, SPECIALIST HEINECKE IMMEDIATELY STARTED TO POSITION HIS MEN TO FORM A SECURE LINE OF DEFENSE. DISREGARDING HIS OWN SAFETY, HE DIRECTED A HEAVY VOLUME OF SUPPRESSIVE FIRE ON THE ENEMY POSITIONS. DESPITE A SERIOUS WOUND WHICH HE SUSTAINED IN THE FIRE FIGHT, SPECIALIST HEINECKE EXPOSED HIMSELF TO THE HEAVY HOSTILE FIRE AS HE ASSISTED HIS WOUNDED COMRADES. HIS COURAGEOUS ACTION CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO THE SUCCESSFUL REPULSION OF THE ENEMY ATTACK. SPECIALIST HEINECKE'S DISPLAY OF PERSONAL BRAVERY AND DEVOTION TO DUTY WAS IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SERVICE AND REFLECTS GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF, HIS UNIT, AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.



Bronze Star  
(For Valor)



Air Medal



Purple Heart  
(3 awards)



National Defense



Vietnam Service



Vietnam Campaign