



173RD
AIRBORNE
BRIGADE



1ST BATTALION
50TH INFANTRY

1ST PLATOON



"A" COMPANY



CORPORAL



INFANTRYMAN

RONALD ARWED HILLMAN

1st Platoon, "A" Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry
Private First Class, E3, Posthumous Promotion to CPL, US54511287, MOS 11B10
Home of Record: Texas City, TX
Date of Birth: August 27, 1947, Age at time of loss: 20, Married
173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate), Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam
Start of Tour: January 27, 1968, Date of Casualty: May 5, 1968, Days in Country: 99
Casualty Type A1, Burns, Panel 55E - Row 019

Ron Hillman was killed In Action on May 5, 1968, near the villages of An Bao in Binh Dinh Province, "A" Company forces were attacked and outnumbered 10 to 1 by a Regiment of the North Vietnamese Army. "A" Company forces were overrun and took heavy casualties when Charlie Company was called in to reinforce the besieged Alpha Co. Upon arrival, the enemy, who had fallen silent to allow the "C" Company troops to enter the ambush zone, opened fire with an intense and sustained barrage of small arms, automatic weapons and B40 Rocket fire from three sides.

50th Infantry Archive Documentation shows that Ron Hillman was knocked unconscious and severely burned in the initial rocket attack. He died instantly and did not suffer.

Fierce fighting ensued on both 1/50th Companies as additional reinforcements from "B" Company, 1/50th Infantry and "B" Company, 1/69th Armor were called in to battle the huge enemy force.

Read about the Battle of An Bao (Condensed Version):

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

Declassified An Bao After Action Report, Daily Staff Journal and Air Report:

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

A map of the location of the Battle of An Bao in Binh Dinh Province is shown below:



Continued...

Ronald Hillman is buried at Forest Park East Cemetery, 21620 Gulf Freeway, Webster, Harris County, Texas (below left). Ronald Hillman's brothers, Wilson and Clifford, attended our Association's reunion and memorial services in 2013 (Below right).



RONALD HILLMAN'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:



Combat Infantry Badge



HQ 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 1468

27 MAY 1967

FOR DISTINGUISHING HIMSELF BY OUTSTANDING MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY TO MAY, 1968. 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. HIS INITIATIVE, ZEAL, SOUND JUDGMENT AND DEVOTION TO DUTY HAVE BEEN IN THE HIGHEST TRADITION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND REFLECT GREAT CREDIT ON HIM AND ON THE MILITARY SERVICE.



Bronze Star



Purple Heart



Good Conduct



National Defense



Vietnam Service



Vietnam Campaign



Vietnam Gallantry w/palm



Vietnam Merit