



1ST
FIELD FORCE
VIETNAM

CHARLES R. JONES

"C" Company, 3rd Platoon, 1st Battalion (mechanized), 50th Infantry
Specialist 4th Class, E4, RA170404939, MOS 11B20

Home of Record: Parryville, PA

Date of Birth: August 22, 1950, Age at time of loss: 19, Single

I Field Force Vietnam, Binh Thuan Province, Republic of Vietnam

Start of Tour: July 15, 1969, Date of Casualty: December 4, 1969, Days in Country: 142

Casualty Type A1, Ground Casualty, OED, Panel 15W - Row 024

Charlie Jones (Photo at right) was killed when elements of Charlie Company's 3rd Platoon tripped a booby trapped 105mm Artillery shell 11 Kilometers Northwest of Phan Thiet City.

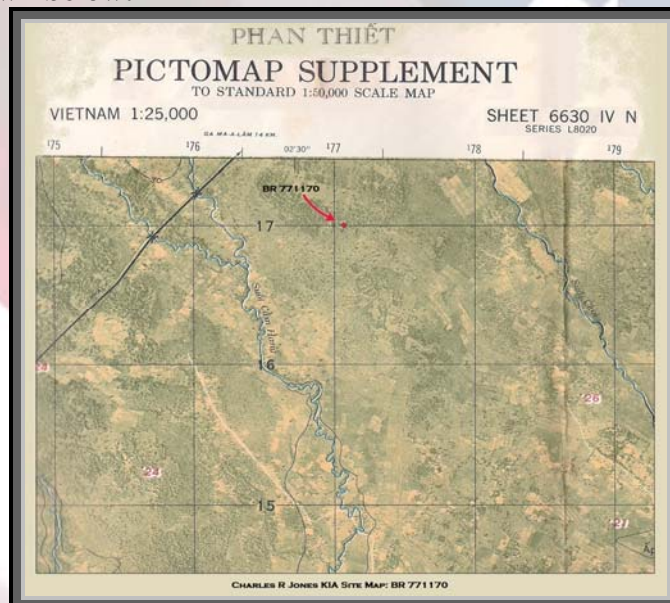


Charlie's Platoon Leader, Stephen Leonard, commented:

"He was a brave and fearless soldier...coming to the 50th Infantry from duty in Korea, where he had gotten himself into some minor troubles. I made him my RTO (Radio Telephone Operator) and APC (Armored Personnel Carrier) Driver and he thrived with those responsibilities and was definitely an asset to the 3rd Platoon. On the day of his death, the Platoon was to enter an area we had discovered which was saturated

with booby traps. It was quite a complex of Bunkers and fighting positions. Just prior to entering the area, an Air Strike was called in....but I knew they wouldn't get all those booby traps. I thought Specialist Jones was back with the Radio as we entered the area, but he had moved forward with us and entered a bunker too quickly. The booby trapped 105 round severely wounded him in the chest. He died quickly and did not suffer. He was one of the best soldiers in my Platoon"

A Med-evac Helicopter dusted off within 20 minutes...Jones was already dead...having died nearly instantly from his wounds and 2 others were injured. A map of the location (AN771170) is shown below:

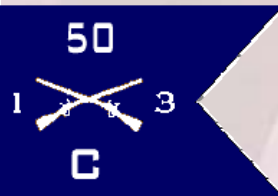


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1ST BATTALION
50TH INFANTRY

3RD PLATOON



"C" COMPANY



SPECIALIST 4TH
CLASS

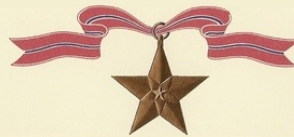


INFANTRYMAN

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF CHARLES JONES:



Combat Infantry Badge



THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL
WITH "V" DEVICE FOR VALOR

HQ, 1ST FIELD FORCE VIETNAM

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 1122

27 DECEMBER, 1969

SPECIALIST FOUR CHARLES R. JONES DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY HEROISM WHILE ENGAGED IN MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST AN ARMED HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ON 4 DECEMBER 1969, WHILE SERVING AS A RIFLEMAN WITH COMPANY C, 1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 50TH INFANTRY. ON THAT DATE, SPECIALIST JONES' COMPANY DISCOVERED AN ENEMY BASE CAMP WHICH HAD BEEN ABANDONED ONLY MINUTES EARLIER. SPECIALIST JONES FOUND SEVERAL ENEMY DOCUMENTS, AND, FURTHER INVESTIGATING THE AREA, ENCOUNTERED NUMEROUS HOLES LEADING INTO A TUNNEL SYSTEM. VOLUNTEERING TO ENTER THE TUNNELS, SPECIALIST JONES DISCOVERED A WELL CONCEALED BOOBY TRAP. WHILE CONTINUING HIS SEARCH OF THE TUNNEL COMPLEX, HE DETONATED ANOTHER LARGE BOOBY TRAP, KILLING HIM INSTANTLY. HIS COMPLETE DISREGARD FOR HIS OWN SAFETY WAS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR SPARING THE LIVES OF HIS FELLOW SOLDIERS, AND WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE CAPTURE OF SEVERAL ENEMY DOCUMENTS. SPECIALIST FOUR CHARLES R. JONES' HEROIC ACTIONS WERE IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SERVICE AND REFLECT GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF, HIS UNIT, AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.



Bronze
Star



Purple
Heart



National
Defense



Vietnam
Service



Vietnam
Campaign