



173RD
AIRBORNE
BRIGADE

"THE ROCK"



4TH BATTALION
(AIRBORNE)
503RD INFANTRY



"A" COMPANY



SERGEANT



INFANTRYMAN

DUANE RICHARD KEIL

"A" Company, 4th Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry
Specialist 4th Class, E4, Posthumous Promotion to SGT, RA371541219, MOS 11B20
Home of Record: Adrian, MI
Date of Birth: August 28, 1948, Age at time of loss: 20, Single
Unk, Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam
Start of Tour: October 23, 1968, Date of Casualty: July 3, 1969, Days in Country: 253
Casualty Type A1, OED, Panel 21W - Row 052

We have determined that Duane Keil was not a member of the 1st Battalion (M), 50th Infantry during our tour in Vietnam.

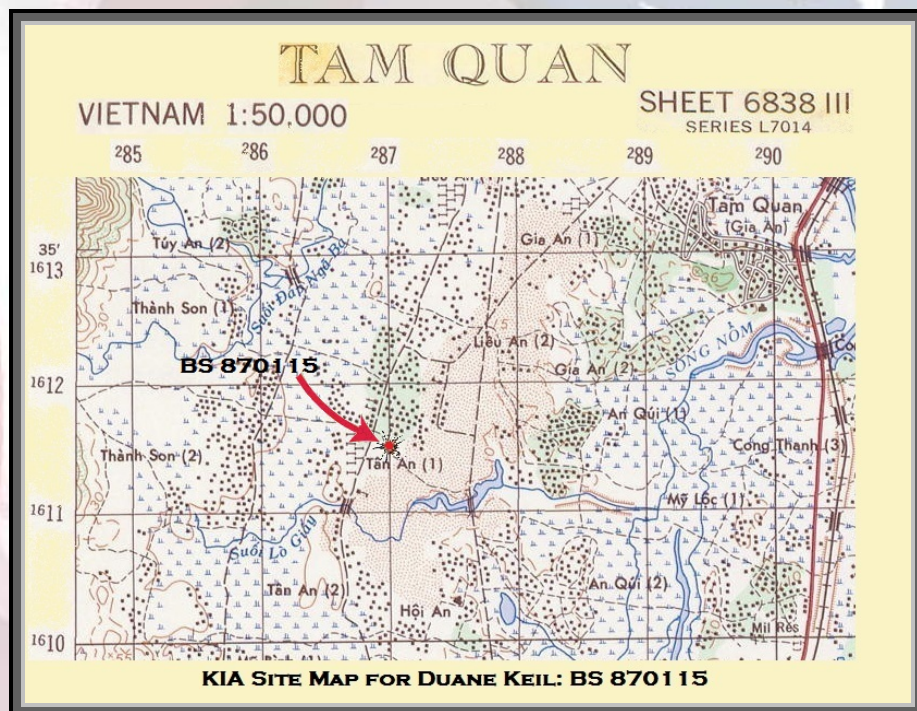
We currently do not have access to the information that reported him as one of our KIAs, but it was indicated in a note on our original "In Memoriam" pages that someone within our Association identified him as such.

A review of the Daily Staff Journal for the 173rd Airborne Brigade for the date of Duane Keil's death shows that he and his ambush team "received small arms fire and grenades" at coordinates BS 870115...the village of Tan An (1) approximately 3 Kilometers Southwest of Tam Quan City in Binh Dinh Province. The enemy tossed Chinese Communist type grenades...one of which killed Duane instantly.



During this same action, another Squad member, Michael Blanchfield, threw himself on one of the enemy grenades...saving the rest of the squad and several civilians from certain harm. Blanchfield was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions. His citations reads slightly different from the Staff Journal. Keil was likely killed when the first grenade was tossed in Blanchfield's Citation text (Link Below):

[Blanchfield Medal of Honor Citation](#)



KIA SITE MAP FOR DUANE KEIL: BS 870115

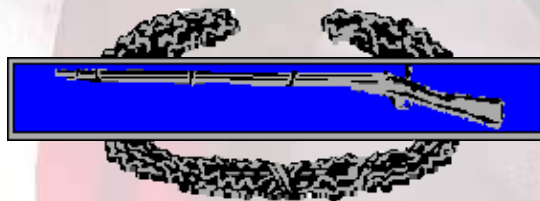
Continued...

Duane's name is inscribed on our 50th Infantry Vietnam Memorial in front of Battalion Headquarters, Fort Benning, Georgia. His name will remain on our memorial.

Duane Keil is buried at Jefferson Cemetery, Clarklake, Jackson County, Michigan (Photos below):



DUANE KEIL'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS



Combat Infantry Badge

