



25TH INFANTRY
DIVISION



4TH CAVALRY



50TH INFANTRY



"F" COMPANY



SPECIALIST FOUR



INFANTRYMAN

GREGORY RICHARD KELLY

"B" Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry (On Paper Only)
Duty Unit was: "F" Company (Long Range Patrol), 50th Infantry****
Specialist Four, E4, RA12745987, MOS 71H20, SMOS 11B20*
Home of Record: North East, PA

Date of Birth: December 10, 1947, Age at time of loss: 20, Single
25th Infantry Division, Binh Duong Province, Republic of Vietnam
Start of Tour: November 6, 1966, Date of Casualty: April 6, 1968, Days in Country: 517
Casualty Type A1, Gun, Small Arms Fire, Panel 48E - Row 028

Specialist Greg "Shotgun" Kelly was a Team Leader with Cobra Team 17, Company F (Long Range Patrol), 50th Infantry.

A description of the action in which Specialist Kelly was killed is found in the book "Rangers at War" by Shelby L. Stanton. In his book Stanton expands on the After Action Report of the event:

Following the Tet offensive of January/February, 1968, the Cobra Lightning patrollers of Company F, 50th Infantry, became involved in a sustained campaign to weaken Viet Cong regrouping and replenishment attempts northeast of Saigon.

On October 5th, 1968, Specialist Kelly lead his 5-man recon team, Cobra 17, on a surveillance mission to the northeast of the Filhol Rubber Plantation...just across the Saigon River. On the first night, the team observed a female Viet Cong nurse carrying a medical aid bag as she met with a squad of VC Soldiers further up the trail.

Later that night, the team members heard several boat engines from the direction of a nearby canal that connected to the River. At daylight on the 6th, the patrol moved to a new location and established another overnight surveillance position. There was American communications wire strewn around the area, but the patrollers disregarded the abandoned lines.

At about 6:35 in the evening, three Viet Cong Soldiers approached the team position. The enemy trio were checking the discarded commo wire circuits and followed the wire until they were directly in front of the team's position. When the VC soldiers spotted one of the teams M18 claymore mines and began following it's line, The patrollers detonated two claymores and engaged the enemy.

Two Viet Cong were killed, but the third sprayed the jungle with automatic rifle fire as he fell wounded. The bullets struck Specialist Kelly in the chest and lower right side and hit another team member in the arm.

Assistant team leader Sergeant Hernandez radioed for extraction, and the team was lifted out by helicopter at 7:09 P.M.

Specialist Kelly died of his wounds at the 12th Evacuation Hospital in Cu Chi."

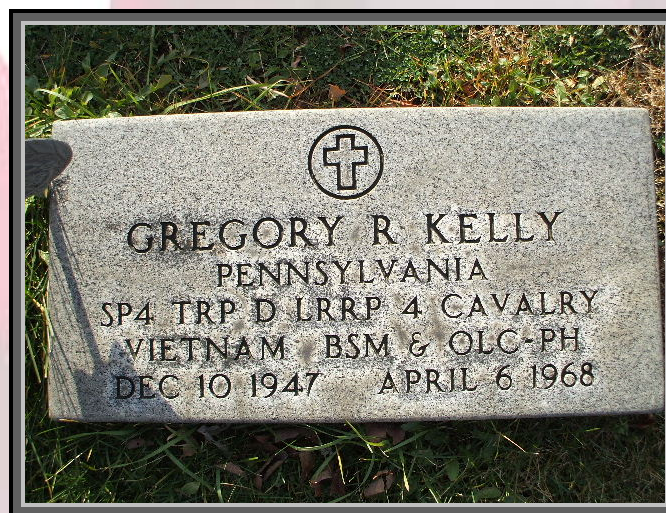


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Below is a map of the location of Specialist Kelly's combat mission.



Greg Kelly is buried at St Gregory's Cemetery, W Main Road (Route 20), North East, Erie County, PA



Note: The unit inscribed on the stone is in error.

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AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF GREGORY KELLY:



Combat Infantry Badge*



**Bronze
Star
(Valor)**

**Purple
Heart**

**Good
Conduct**

**National
Defense**

**Vietnam
Service**

**Vietnam
Campaign**

* 25th Infantry Division Special Orders Number 315, 11 November 1967, shows Gregory R. Kelly as 11B20.