



173RD  
AIRBORNE  
BRIGADE



1ST BATTALION  
50TH INFANTRY

1ST PLATOON



"A" COMPANY



SERGEANT



INFANTRY

## ROBERT J. LESKA

1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, "A" Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (Mechanized), 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry  
Sergeant, E5, RA11800756, MOS 11B40

Home of Record: Trumbull, CT

Date of Birth: July 20, 1947, Age at time of loss: 20, Single

173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate), Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam

Start of Tour: March 13, 1968, Date of Casualty: May 5, 1968, Days in Country: 53

Casualty Type A1, Burns, Panel 55E - Row 021

Robert Leska 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 Company. 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.

Sergeant Leska died of his severe burns as he was caught by surprise when the initial enemy Rocket Volley struck and left 5 Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs) Burning.

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.

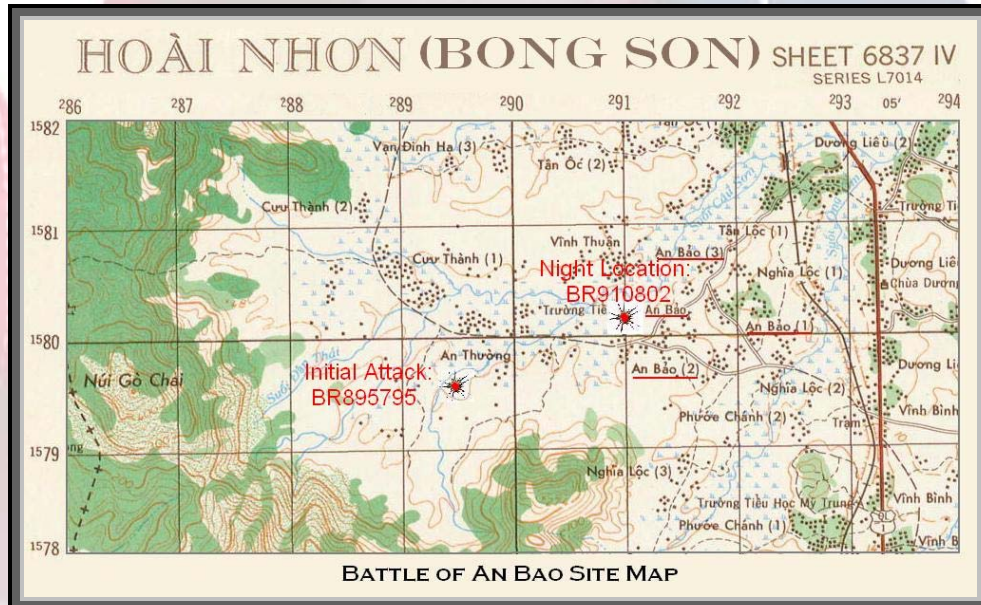
Read about the Battle of An Bao (Condensed Version):

<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...

Bob Leska is buried at Long Hill Burial Ground, Middlebrooks Avenue, Trumbull, Fairfield County, CT (Photo Below):



### ROBERT LESKA'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:



Combat Infantry Badge



HQ 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 1465

26 MAY 1968

SERGEANT ROBERT LESKA DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY OUTSTANDING MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD FROM MARCH 1968 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. SERGEANT LESKA'S INITIATIVE, ZEAL, SOUND JUDGMENT AND DEVOTION TO DUTY WERE IN THE HIGHEST TRADITION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND REFLECTED GREAT CREDIT ON HIM AND ON THE MILITARY SERVICE.

