PFC Robert John Loehlein, Jr. joined Company E (Long Range Patrol), 50th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division, on May 27th of 1968.

During the period from August through October, PFC Loehlein's 8-man LRP team was working out of Dong Tam and often teamed with the Provincial Reconnaissance Units (PRU). The PRU troops contained personnel from the Central Intelligence Agency's Project Phoenix program. The PRU were hardened anticommunist troops dedicated to destroying the Viet Cong infrastructure and generally possessed very high esprit and great knowledge of Viet Cong operating methods.\(^1\)

At approximately 9:00 AM on the morning of 25 September 1968, PFC Loehlein's LRP team and a PRU team were moving near the large Dong Tam Base Camp when a booby trapped Claymore Mine was detonated, killing SSG Herb Cho and severely wounding 3 other LRP and 1 PRU men. PFC Loehlein was severely wounded and died later that day of his wounds. Loehlein was posthumously promoted to Corporal.\(^2\)

A map showing the location of the incident is shown on the left.
Robert Loehlein is buried at Fort Snelling National Cemetery, 7601 34th Avenue South, Minneapolis, Hennepin County, MN. Plot: Section F, Site 246.

Awards and Decorations of Robert Loehlein*:

1. Combat Infantry Badge
2. Purple Heart
3. National Defense Medal
4. Vietnam Service Medal
5. Vietnam Campaign Medal

* It is highly likely that Corporal Loehlein was awarded a Bronze Star, Posthumously, as was SSG Cho, who was also killed in the same incident. I currently have no documentation and as such cannot list the award here.