

DONALD EVERETT LOWE

1st Platoon, "A" Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry
Private First Class, E3, Posthumous Promotion to CPL, US56958785, MOS 11B10

Home of Record: Tacoma, WA

Date of Birth: January 29, 1947, Age at time of loss: 21, Single

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

Start of Tour: December 19, 1967, Date of Casualty: May 5, 1968, Days in Country: 138

Casualty Type A1, Hostile, MFW, Panel 55E - Row 021



173RD AIRBORNE
BRIGADE



1ST BATTALION
50TH INFANTRY

1ST PLATOON



"A" COMPANY



CORPORAL



INFANTRYMAN

Donald Lowe was Killed in action during the Battle of An Boa in Binh Dinh Province (May 5-7 1968).

At noon, on May 5, 1/50th "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.

Fierce fighting ensued on both 1/50th Companies and additional reinforcements from "B" Company, 1/50th Infantry and "B" Company, 1/69th Armor were called in to battle the huge enemy force.

Battle of An Bao, Condensed:

<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>

Personal Battle Account by James Fitzgerald:

http://www.ichiban1.org/html/stories/story_Jim_Fitzgerald_An_Bao.htm



BATTLE OF AN BAO SITE MAP

A map of the location of the Battle of An Bao in Binh Dinh Province is shown above.

Continued...

Cpl. Donald E. Lowe, Forty Years After 5/5/68

By William Lowe

Don, it doesn't seem like it's been close to forty years
We received the word of our worst and greatest fears,
And your mother began to shed a river of many tears.

Forty years ago today we got that dreaded telegram,
That you died and gave your life far away in Vietnam
So many times I've ask, "Did anyone even give a damn?"

But forty years later, I know more about that fatal day
Because of men like "Doc" who said what they had to say.
You gave your life as a Hero; a brother will not run away.

You and Robert Allen turned, stood, and held your ground
Until the two of you had fired your last and final round.
Forty years later, on a Wall, your names are now found.

Freedom is not free, not now, nor was it forty years ago
And I doubt your whole story we will ever really know
When you gave it all at a place called "Battle of An Bao".

Maybe you saved only one life, but probably many more.
Only God knows what happened there, forty years before,
Thousands of miles from home in that crazy, stupid war.

But forty years later, I'm as honored as any man can be,
Because forty years earlier you fought to make men free.
You helped make this world a little safer for men like me.

One day in the here-after I'll salute and shake your hand.
Maybe by then, I might even begin to see and understand
Why God took you, forty years ago, from this mortal land.

I loved you forty years ago, and I still won't say goodbye,
Because in so many ways you left, but you didn't really die.
You still live in my heart; I have dreams and sometimes cry.

**YOU ARE MY FRIEND, AND YOU ARE MY BROTHER.
THE WAY YOU WERE, THERE COULD NEVER BE ANOTHER.
YOU'RE NOT IN THIS LIFE, BUT NEAR TO MY HEART;
AND THERE YOU'LL REMAIN, AS AN EVERLASTING PART.
OUR YESTERDAYS ONCE HERE, HAVE NOW GONE THEIR WAY;
BUT OUR TOMORROWS GET CLOSER WITH EACH PASSING DAY.
BECAUSE OF THE PRICE THAT THE LORD ONCE PAID;
AND BECAUSE OF THE PATH WHICH BEFORE ME HE LAID,
I HAVE THE PROMISE HE GAVE, TO HOLD CLOSE TO ME;
NEXT TO THE MEMORIES OF YOU, FOR ALL ETERNITY.
I LOVE YOU BROTHER, AND I MISS YOU, YOU SEE;
BUT I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW, WHENEVER THAT WILL BE.**

From His Brother And Friend, William Douglas Lowe, P. O. Box
864, Sterling, AK 99672



Above, Left to right: James Fitzgerald and Donald Lowe, sometime before the Battle of An Bao.



**Mary E. Lowe with her son Donald Lowe
December, 1967**

Continued...

On May 2, 2013, one of the training fields near the current day 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry at Fort Benning, Georgia, was dedicated in honor of Corporal Donald Lowe. Donald's two brothers attended and accepted a Certificate of Dedication in a moving ceremony.



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DONALD LOWE'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:



Combat Infantry Badge



THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL
FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

HQ 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 1464

26 MAY 1968

CORPORAL DONALD LOWE DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY OUTSTANDING MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY, 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. CORPORAL LOWE'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.



Bronze
Star



Purple
Heart



Good
Conduct



National
Defense



Vietnam
Service



Vietnam
Campaign



Vietnam
Merit



Vietnam
Gallantry