



173RD  
AIRBORNE  
BRIGADE

## WILLIAM TRAVIS MATLOCK

HQ Platoon, "A" Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (Mechanized), 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry  
Specialist 4th Class, E4, Posthumous Promotion to SGT, US546763207, MOS 11B20

Home of Record: Nacogdoches, TX

Date of Birth: July 10, 1948, Age at time of loss: 20, Married

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

Start of Tour: November 21, 1968, Date of Casualty: June 12, 1969, Days in Country: 203

Casualty Type A2, OED, Panel 22W - Row 034

SGT Travis "Tex" Matlock was killed In Action on June 12, 1969, near the Southwest corner of Lake Dam Tra O, south of Bong Son in Binh Dinh Province (See map below). The Battalion History for the period stated:

"At 1130 hours, an Armored Personnel Carrier (APC) from "A" Company hit a mine, suspected to have been a booby trapped 175mm Artillery shell at BR958799. One U.S. Soldier was KIA and 5 wounded (One of which later died of his wounds).

Ten minutes later, "A" Company's second platoon, moving to the area of the blast, was ambushed at BR950815 by 7 or 8 VC/NVA with Small Arms Fire. There were no casualties and the platoon picked up 3 Male detainees, ages 50, 30 and 19 (They had no weapons)."



1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION  
50<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY

Also killed in the blast was Corporal Lorenzo Pettis, also of "A" Company and the Short Range Ambush Platoon.

A map of the location of the action is shown below:



"A" COMPANY



SERGEANT



INFANTRY

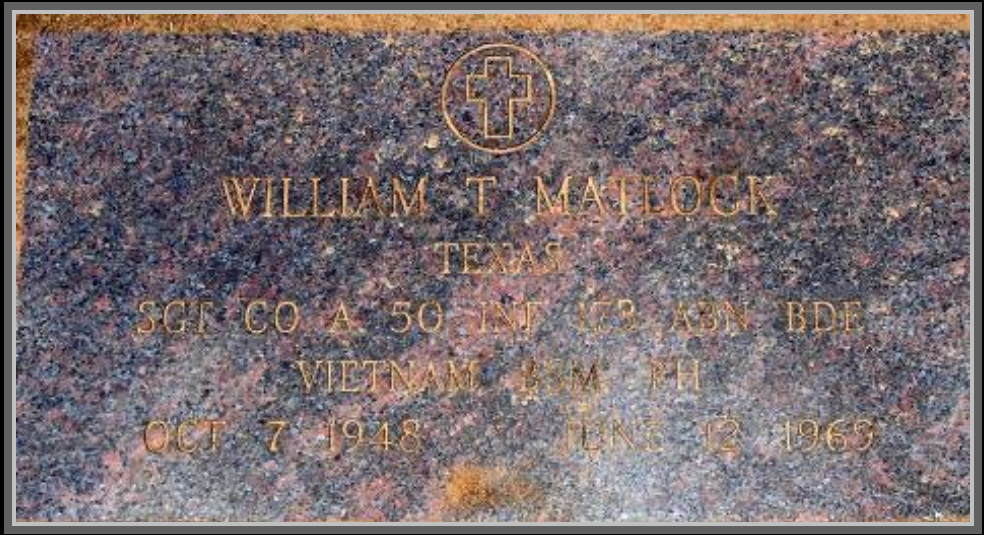
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Photo below on the left is of Matlock as a young trainee. On the right, below, David Payne supplied this photo of then Specialist Matlock on top of one of the Battalion's APC Retrievers (Travis is on the left, with Rodgers, Bates and Villeuman).



William Matlock is buried at Sunset Memorial Park, 5127 North Street, Nacogdoches, Nacogdoches County, Texas (Photos Below)

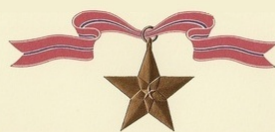


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## AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF W. TRAVIS MATLOCK:



Combat Infantry Badge



THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL  
FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

HQ 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)  
GENERAL ORDERS

SERGEANT WILLIAM MATLOCK DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY OUTSTANDING MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD FROM NOVEMBER 1968 TO JUNE 1969. 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 MATLOCK'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



National  
Defense



Vietnam  
Service



Vietnam  
Campaign