



173RD AIRBORNE
BRIGADE



1ST BATTALION
50TH INFANTRY



"B" COMPANY



CORPORAL



INFANTRY

JAMES JOSEPH MORRISSEY

"B" Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry
Private First Class, E3, Posthumous Promotion to CPL, US52816395, MOS 11B10
Home of Record: Philadelphia, PA

Date of Birth: March 14, 1948, Age at time of loss: 20, Married
173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate), Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam
Start of Tour: September 21, 1968, Date of Casualty: December 29, 1968
Days in Country: 99, Casualty Type A1, Gun, small arms fire, Panel 35W - Row 005

Jim Morrissey was killed during an ambush along the infamous Route 19 in the Central Highlands of Vietnam's Binh Dinh Province on December 29th, 1968.

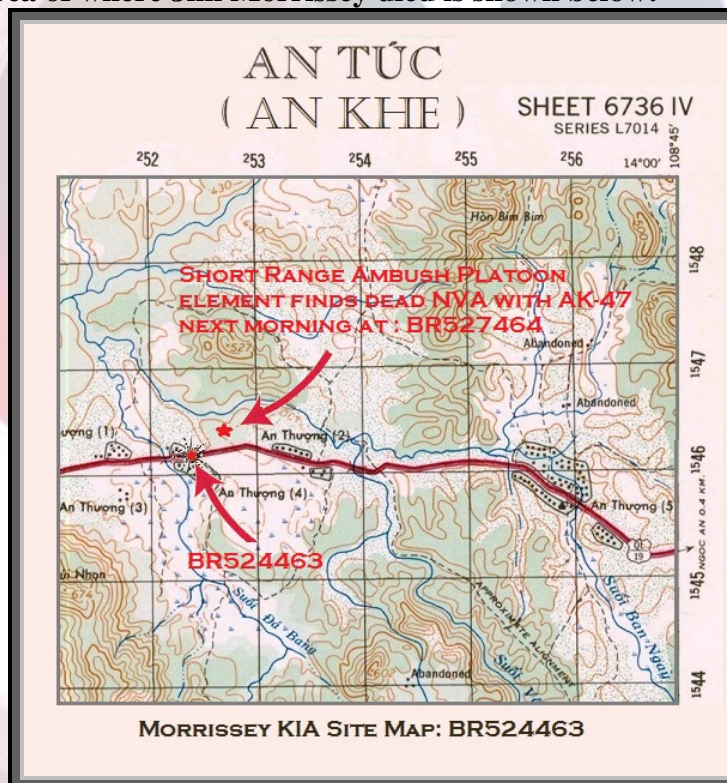
The Armored Personnel carriers were in the habit of heading out from the huge An Khe Base Camp to reinforce several of the Bridges along this route...which were guarded by 50th Infantry Elements during our time with the 173rd Airborne from summer of 1968 until spring of 1969...every evening just before dark.

Two men wrote tributes to Jim...one describes the action and events surrounding his death:

<http://www.ichiban1.org/pdf/Memorial/RememberingMorrissey.pdf>

Another story, written by Jim's former Platoon Leader, speaks to his great character: <http://www.ichiban1.org/pdf/Memorial/RememberingJimMorrissey.pdf>

A map of the area of where Jim Morrissey died is shown below:



Continued...

Battalion After Action Reports show that the lessons learned from this tragic ambush would prove valuable in preventing a repeat of the events. The Battalion learned that sending these reinforcement element out right before dark left no margin for the unforeseen. Also, the habit of departing every day at the same time...around 7 pm...was deadly. The Communist forces always looked for patterns. As Infantrymen, we learned early not to set up in the field in the same place more than one night in a row. After Morrissey's death all 50th Infantry elements were directed to vary their time of departure for these bridge fortifications...and to set out well before dark as well.

The Association extends it's thanks to Jim's widow, Marie Garvin, for supplying the photos used in this memorial. Pictured below left is Jim Morrissey before the war...at home in Northeast Philadelphia. Below center is Bob Mervine and Jim Morrissey...and in the lower right photo is Morrissey, "Charlie" (Last name unknown) and Bob Mervine.

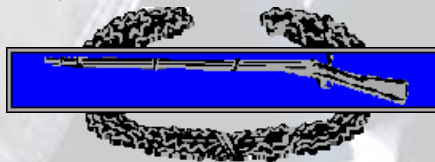


Jim Morrissey is buried at Greenmount Cemetery, 4301 North Front Street, Philadelphia, PA 19140 (Photo Below)



Continued...

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF JAMES MORRISSEY:



Combat Infantry Badge



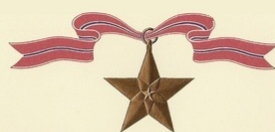
Bronze Star

Purple Heart

National Defense

Vietnam Service

Vietnam Campaign



THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL
FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

HQ 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)

GENERAL ORDERS

JANUARY 1969

CORPORAL JAMES JOSEPH MORRISSEY DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY OUTSTANDING MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD FROM 21 SEPTEMBER 1968 TO 29 DECEMBER 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. HIS INITIATIVE, ZEAL, SOUND JUDGMENT AND DEVOTION TO DUTY HAVE BEEN IN THE HIGHEST TRADITION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND REFLECT GREAT CREDIT ON HIM AND ON THE MILITARY SERVICE.