

## WILLIAM FRANCIS PIASKOWSKI

"E" Company (Long Range Patrol), 50th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division  
Specialist Four, E4, US50203010, MOS 11B10

Home of Record: Anchorage, AK

Date of Birth: May 14, 1948, Age at time of loss: 19, Single  
9th Infantry Division, Vinh Long Province, Republic of Vietnam,

Start of Tour: September 30, 1967,

Date of Incident: Unknown, Date of Casualty: March 14, 1968, Days in Country: 165  
Casualty Type A2, Hostile, Died of Wounds, MFW, Panel 44E - Row 052



9TH INFANTRY  
DIVISION



50TH INFANTRY



"E" COMPANY



SPECIALIST FOUR



INFANTRYMAN

Specialist Four William F. Piaskowski belonged to the elite Company E, 50th Infantry Long Range Patrol unit of the 9th Infantry Division, operating out of the Tan An base camp in early 1968 (See Map - bottom of page).

We have learned from the men who served with Piaskowski that he died late in the same day the he was wounded, after his 5 man reconnaissance team was attacked by Viet Cong Forces. Former 50th Infantry officer Hilan Jones also mentioned that two men who were on the same mission with Piaskowski were killed in action later in their tours. Both [Specialist Herbert Vaughn](#) (Piaskowski's Team Leader) and [Staff Sergeant Herbert Frost](#) were killed on May 25, 1968 and June 21, 1969, respectively.



In the book "Bonding of Warriors" by Bob Hernandez, the following account of the action which took Piaskowski's life is documented:

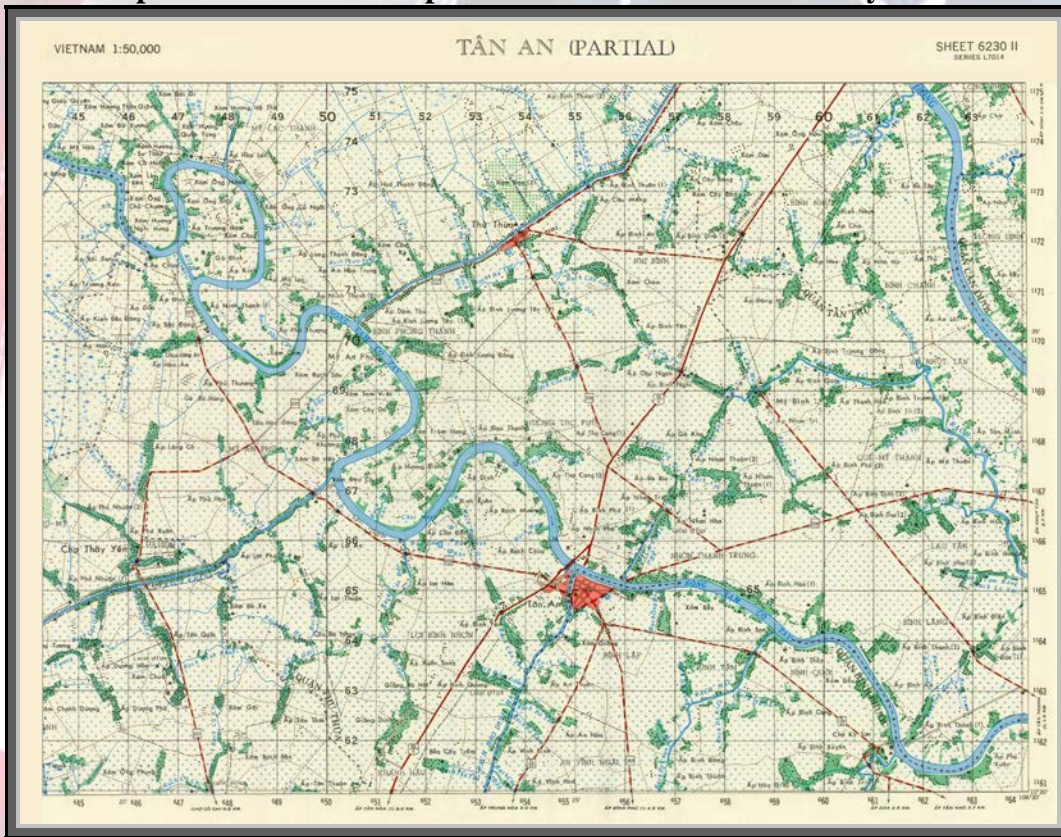
"Specialist four William Francis 'Ski' Piaskowski was wounded on March 14, while on a routine patrol in Vinh Long Province with Sergeant Herbert Lee Vaughn, Staff Sergeant Hilan Jones, Staff Sergeant Herbert Cornelius Frost and several others. The patrol was inserted from a Navy Patrol Boat (PBR) and was conducting a search for any signs of enemy activity. At mid-day they came upon a hooch that gave the appearance of being occupied. It was a normal abode for the area, complete with hard packed floor and measured about 20 feet by 30 feet. Contained in the hooch were the normal Vietnamese furnishings. You could smell the incense and burnt charcoal, signs that the place was definitely occupied. Security was put in place and the hooch was searched for enemy weapons, equipment, and any other signs that would give an indication as to the status of the occupants.

A lone Viet Cong Soldier came down the trail. Right into the Ranger position. He fired one round before running from the area. The Rangers returned fire immediately, but the VC was able to escape. That one round found its mark and hit 'Ski' in the chest. Vaughn applied first aid to the chest wound and the team leader called for medical evacuation. Piaskowski was evacuated by helicopter in short order and initial prognosis from the medical staff at the field hospital was good. We were all relieved to learn that 'Ski' would make it, but later that evening, word came from the hospital that he had died."

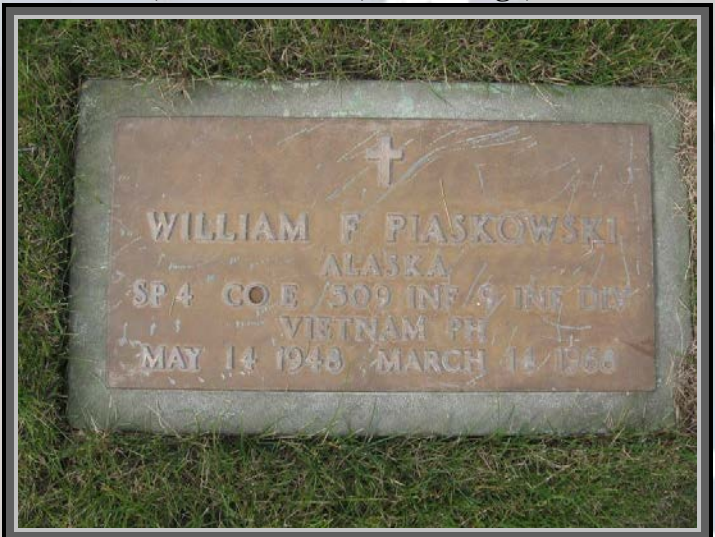
Visit the website dedicated to the men of what became the 75th Rangers at:  
<http://www.75thrra.com>

continued...

A map of the area where Specialist Piaskowski was mortally wounded.



Specialist Piaskowski is buried at Angelus Memorial Park, E. Klatt Road, Anchorage, Alaska



Continued...

## AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF WILLIAM PIASKOWSKI:



Combat Infantry Badge



Army  
Commendation  
Medal

Purple  
Heart

National  
Defense

Vietnam  
Service

Vietnam  
Campaign

Alaska Decoration of Honor Medal



THE ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL  
WITH "V" DEVICE FOR VALOR

**HEADQUARTERS, 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 3608**

**21 MAY 1968**

For heroism in connection with military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Four Piaskowski distinguished himself by heroism in action on 28 November 1967, while serving as Point Man with a five man reconnaissance team of Company E, 50th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division near Binh Son, Vietnam. After successfully calling in Artillery on three enemy base camps, Specialist Piaskowski's team was spotted by a Viet Cong patrol which opened fire wounding one team member. Specialist Piaskowski kept the enemy at bay by lobbing grenades into their midst. Specialist Piaskowski provided cover fire for the extraction of his comrades, waiting until last to grasp the ladder and climb into the waiting helicopter. Specialist Four Piaskowski's heroic actions are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, the 9th Infantry Division, and the United States Army.