



173RD
AIRBORNE
BRIGADE

RONALD E PILLOW

"A" Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry
Private First Class, E3, Posthumous Promotion to CPL, US54564516, MOS 11B10
Home of Record: Hughes, AR
Date of Birth: November 11, 1947, Age at time of loss: 20, Single
173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate), Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam
Start of Tour: May 7, 1968, Date of Casualty: July 13, 1968, Days in Country: 67
Casualty Type A1, OED, Panel 52W - Row 024

Corporal Ron Pillow was killed In Action on July 13, 1968, near base of Cay Giép Mountain south of Bong Son in Binh Dinh Province (See map below). Also killed in the blast was SGT Thomas Lukes. The Battalion History for the period stated:

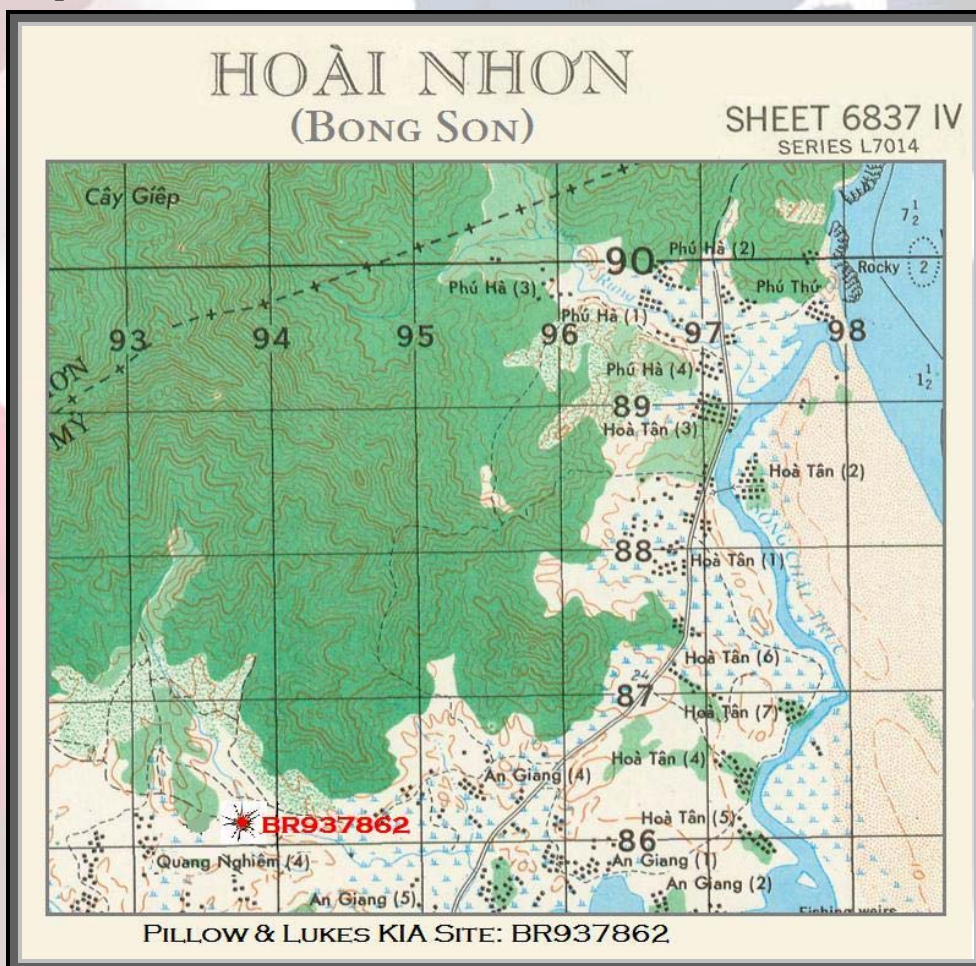
"Two men from "A" Company were killed by a pressure detonated mine in the vicinity of BR937862. The mine was suspected to have been a 105mm Artillery Shell rigged with a pressure detonating device".

Former "A" Company man Glen Nicholls remembers: *"I was not there, but remember those who were stating that they thought the mine might have been much larger than a 105 round. The blast killed the two men immediately...they did not suffer".*



1ST BATTALION
50TH INFANTRY

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



"A" COMPANY



CORPORAL

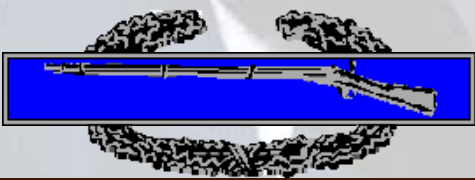


INFANTRY

Ron Pillow is buried at Crittenden Memorial Park, 1 Mile west of Marion on Highway 64, Crittenden County, Arkansas (Photos Below):



AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF RONALD PILLOW:



HQ 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 1974

23 JULY 1968

CORPORAL RONALD E. PILLOW DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY OUTSTANDING MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD FROM MAY 1968 TO JULY 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 PILLOW'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.

Combat Infantry Badge



Bronze Star

Purple Heart

National Defense

Vietnam Service

Vietnam Campaign