



173RD
AIRBORNE BRIGADE



1ST BATTALION 50TH
INFANTRY

1ST PLATOON



"C" COMPANY



PRIVATE FIRST CLASS



INFANTRYMAN

CLAUDE ROBERTS

1st Platoon, "C" Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry
Private First Class, E3, US53580106, MOS 11B10

Home of Record: Delray Beach, FL

Date of Birth: June 15, 1947, Age at time of loss: 20, Single

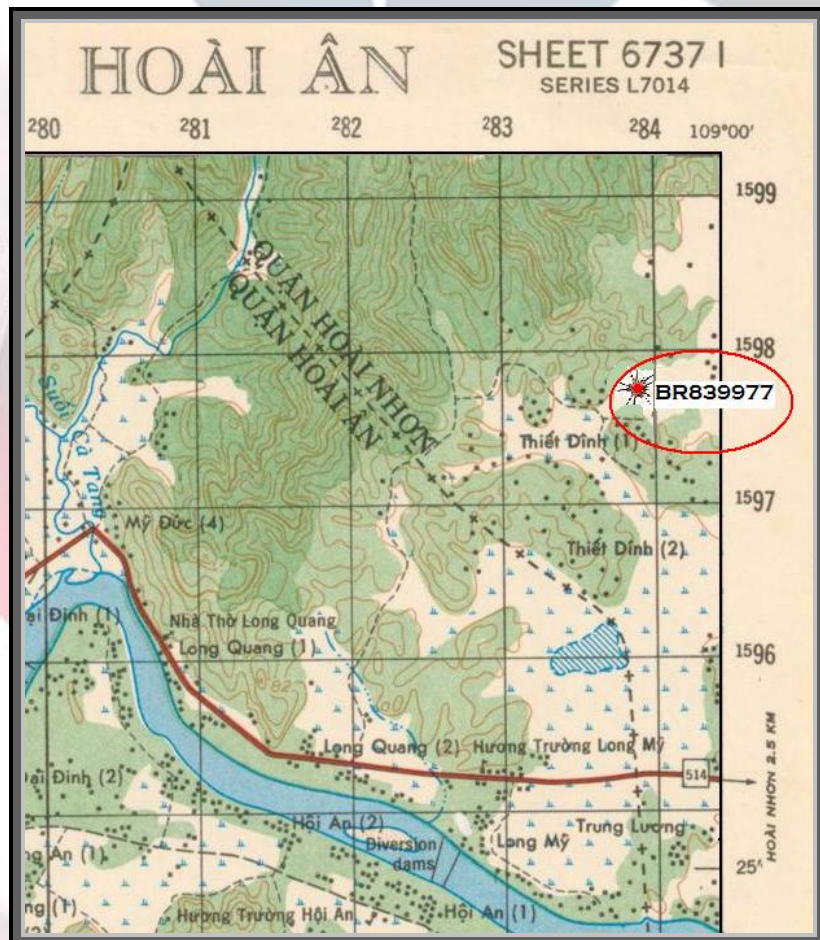
173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate), Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam

Start of Tour: March 13, 1968, Date of Casualty: April 11, 1968, Days in Country: 29

Casualty Type A1, MFW, Panel 49E - Row 026

PFC Claude Roberts was killed while the 1st Platoon of "C" Company was on a search and destroy mission on the coastal central highlands in the Bong Song Plains. At 1449 hours, Roberts stepped on a "Bouncing Betty" type land mine at map grid location BR839977 (See map below), killing him and wounding three others. Among the wounded were Acting 2LT, Platoon Leader Norm Poage, who was walking "point" with Roberts.

PFC Roberts was awarded the Bronze Star for Heroism as well as the Purple Heart, both Posthumously.



Continued...

Claude Roberts is buried at Pine Ridge Cemetery, 700 Southwest 8th Avenue, Delray Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida (Photo below)



AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF CLAUDE ROBERTS:



Combat Infantry Badge



HQ 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 1264

4 MAY 1968

FOR HEROISM IN CONNECTION WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ROBERTS DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF ON 11 APRIL 1968 IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. ON THIS DAY COMPANY C WAS MOVING THROUGH AN AREA OF THICK VEGETATION AND EXTREMELY ROUGH TERRAIN. THE 1ST PLATOON WAS MOVING THROUGH AN AREA WHICH WAS HEAVILY BOOBY TRAPPED AND MINED BY THE ENEMY. PRIVATE ROBERTS, WHO WAS VOLUNTARILY WALKING POINT, SPOTTED SEVERAL OF THE MINES AND PROCEEDED TO MARK THEM, INSURING THE SAFETY OF HIS FELLOW MEN. AS HE WAS MARKING AN ENEMY MINE, ANOTHER MINE WAS TRIGGERED, MORTALLY WOUNDING HIM. THROUGH HIS COURAGE AND COMPLETE DISREGARD FOR HIS OWN SAFETY, AND PROFOUND CONCERN FOR HIS FELLOW SOLDIERS, HE AVERTED LOSS OF LIFE AND INJURY TO THE OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS PLATOON. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ROBERTS' ACTIONS WERE IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SERVICE AND REFLECT GREAT CREDIT ON HIMSELF, HIS UNIT, AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.



Bronze Star

Purple Heart

National Defense

Vietnam Service

Vietnam Campaign