



173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE



1ST BATTALION 50TH INFANTRY



"B" COMPANY



SPECIALIST 5TH CLASS

GENERAL VEHICLE REPAIRMAN

JAMES SIDNEY RYLEE

"B" Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry
Specialist 5th Class, E5, US52807130, MOS 63C2U
Home of Record: Glenmoore, PA

Date of Birth: April 24, 1941, Age at time of loss: 27, Single
173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate), Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam
Start of Tour: August 15, 1967, Date of Casualty: May 11, 1968, Days in Country: 270
Casualty Type A1, Other causes, Panel 58E - Row 026

James Rylee was killed in action during the Battle of Trung Hoi (2) on May 11, 1968. Also killed that day were Robert Owens and Calvin Gooch. Normally expected to be in the safety of the rear base camp, Rylee was a combat volunteer that day.

In the days following the major battle at An Bao on May 5th and 6th, the enemy struck again as there was a Camp Strike Force contact in the central 506 Valley, West of LZ Uplift. It was assumed that whatever force was involved would likely exit the valley to the south.

On May 11th, "B" and "C" Companies began Search and Clear operations in the area of the villages at Trung Hoi near highway 506. A huge trench and tunnel complex was found and before much time had passed, both Companies were attacked from all sides. It is estimated that 2 Battalions of enemy soldiers attacked that day but the results were a lopsided American victory. Tanks from "B" Company, 1st Battalion, 69th Armor joined in the fight as the enemy rained heavy small arms, automatic weapons, mortars and rocket fire on the surrounded men. The combined firepower of the 50th Infantry Armored Personnel Carriers and the accompanying M48 Tanks of the 69th Armor allowed the American units to withdrawal to the Southeast as Air Strikes and Artillery were brought in. At one point, FAC and Aerial observers spotted a group of 30 to 60 enemy soldiers maneuvering in an open rice paddy area. Reactions to the sightings by air power brought heavy casualties to the enemy forces. It was estimated that over 200 enemy

soldiers were killed in the battle but under cover of darkness the night after the battle, the enemy policed most of the bodies from the area. In the morning, the enemy had withdrawn, leaving behind 61 bodies. View the official report of the Battle:

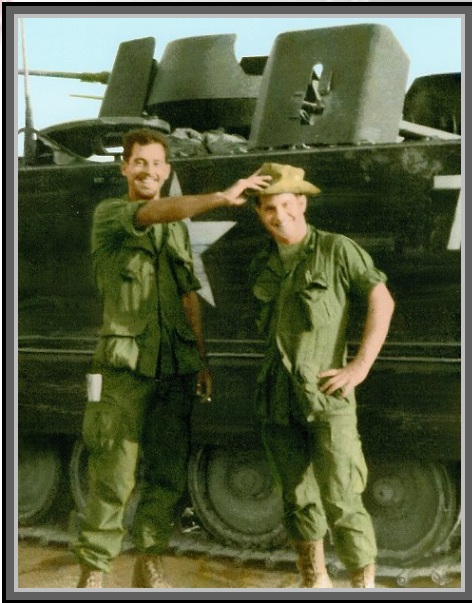
[After Action Report - Battle Of Trung Hoi \(2\)](#)

A map of the location of the Battle of Trung Hoi (2) in Binh Dinh Province is shown on the right.



Continued...

Photos below of James Rylee...on left with friend in front of Armored Personnel Carrier and High School Yearbook photo on the right.



James Rylee is buried at Lawn Croft Cemetery, Linwood, Delaware County, PA Section C (Pictured Below)



Jim's Headstone



Continued...

JAMES RYLEE'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:



THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL
WITH "V" DEVICE FOR VALOR

HQ, 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 1542

5 JUNE, 1968

FOR HEROISM IN CONNECTION WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE. SPECIALIST FIVE RYLEE DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF ON 11 MAY 1968 IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. ON THIS DAY, WHILE ON A SEARCH AND CLEAR MISSION, COMPANY B CAME UNDER A VICIOUS ENEMY ATTACK. SPECIALIST RYLEE SPOTTED THE ENEMY FORCE MOVING TOWARD THE COMPANY. HE IMMEDIATELY PLACED SUPPRESSIVE FIRE AGAINST THE ENEMY FORCE AND DEPLOYED THE WEAPONS PLATOON VEHICLES INTO A DEFENSIVE POSITION. SPECIALIST FIVE RYLEE CONTINUOUSLY EXPOSED HIMSELF TO THE ENEMY FIRE TO PLACE INTENSE VOLUMES OF EFFECTIVE FIRE ONTO THE ENEMY. WHILE RESUPPLYING SOME OF HIS COMRADES, HE WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED. SPECIALIST FIVE RYLEE'S ACTIONS WERE IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SERVICE AND REFLECT GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF, HIS UNIT, AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.



Bronze
Star
(Valor)



Purple
Heart
(2 Awards)



National
Defense



Vietnam
Service



Vietnam
Campaign