



**173RD AIRBORNE  
BRIGADE**



**1ST BATTALION  
50TH INFANTRY**

**HEAVY WEAPONS  
PLATOON**



**"HQ" COMPANY**



**CORPORAL**



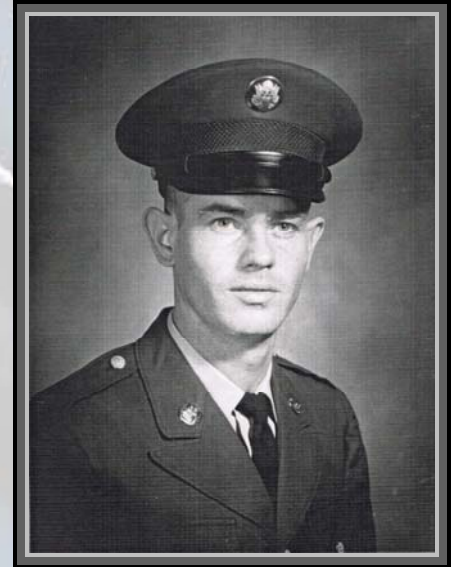
**INFANTRY**

## LARRY HAYS SMITH

"HHC", Heavy Weapons Platoon, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (Mechanized), 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry  
Private First Class, E3, Posthumous Promotion to CPL, US53671143, MOS 11C10  
Home of Record: Jackson, MS

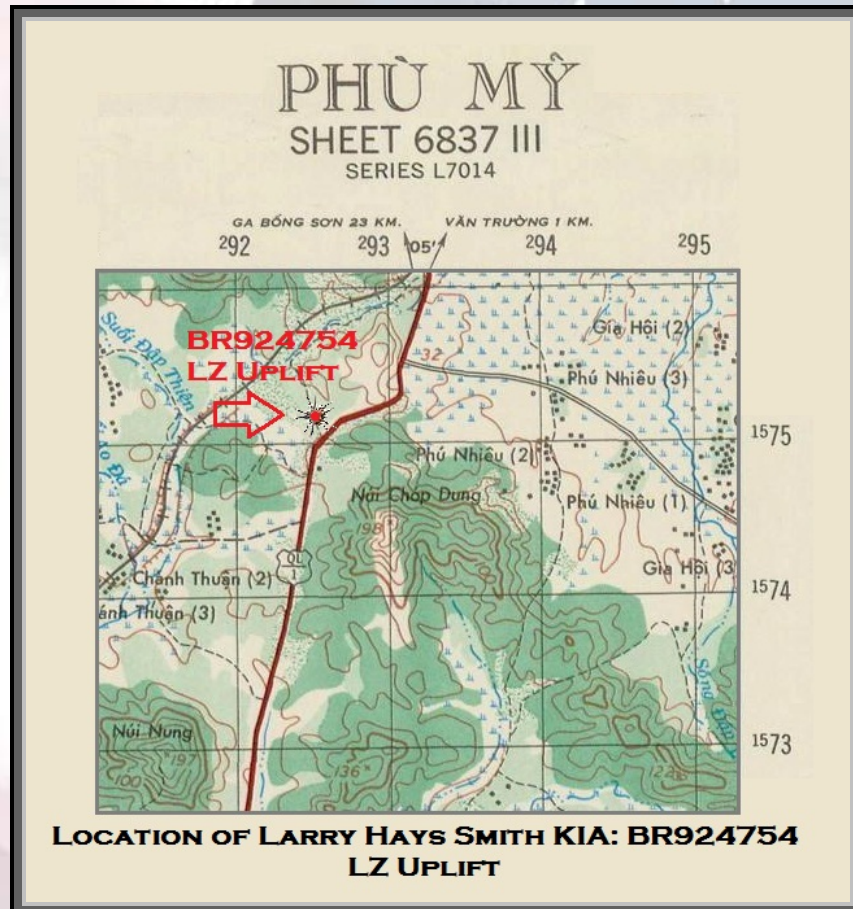
Date of Birth: October 1, 1944, Age at time of loss: 23, Single  
173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate), Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam  
Start of Tour: May 13, 1968, Date of Casualty: June 29, 1968, Days in Country: 47  
Casualty Type: Misadventure. Friendly Fire "Short Round", Panel 54W - Row 020

Larry Smith was one of the first replacements to arrive at the 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry after the Battle of An Bao on May 5th, 1968. A Mortar man, he was assigned to the 4.2 inch Mortar section of the Heavy Weapons Platoon which had reverted from being a "D" Company element back to Headquarter Company in the early summer of 1968. The "Four-Deuce" Mortar was located at LZ Uplift while the rest of the heavy weapons platoon was scattered in various assignments throughout the 50th Infantry area of operations.



On the evening of June 29th, a fire mission was called and the first round out of the 4.2 mortar tube exploded 40 feet off the ground, killing Smith Instantly.

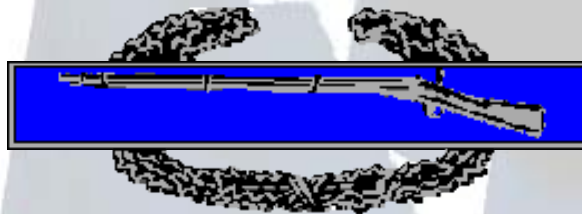
A map of the location of the incident is shown below:



Larry Smith is buried at Magee Cemetery, 1st Avenue NE, Magee, Simpson County, Mississippi (Photo Below):



### AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF LARRY HAYS SMITH:



Combat Infantry Badge



THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL  
FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

HQ 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 1897

12 JULY 1968

FOR DISTINGUISHING HIMSELF BY OUTSTANDING MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD 15 MAY 1968 TO 29 JUNE 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.



Bronze Star

Purple Heart

National Defense

Vietnam Service

Vietnam Campaign