



1ST
FIELD FORCE
VIETNAM



1ST BATTALION 50TH
INFANTRY

"A" COMPANY



3RD PLATOON



SPECIALIST
4TH CLASS



INFANTRYMAN

JOHN WILLIAM SNELSON

3rd Platoon, "A" Company, 1st Battalion (mechanized), 50th Infantry
Specialist 4th Class, E4, RA424629742, MOS 11B20

Home of Record: Cleveland, OH, Home Town: West Blocton, AL

Date of Birth: August 10, 1950, Age at time of loss: 19, Married

I Field Force Vietnam, Binh Thuan Province, Republic of Vietnam

Start of Tour: September 19, 1969, Date of Casualty: April 23, 1970, Days in Country: 216

Casualty Type A1, Gun, small arms fire, Panel 11W - Row 042

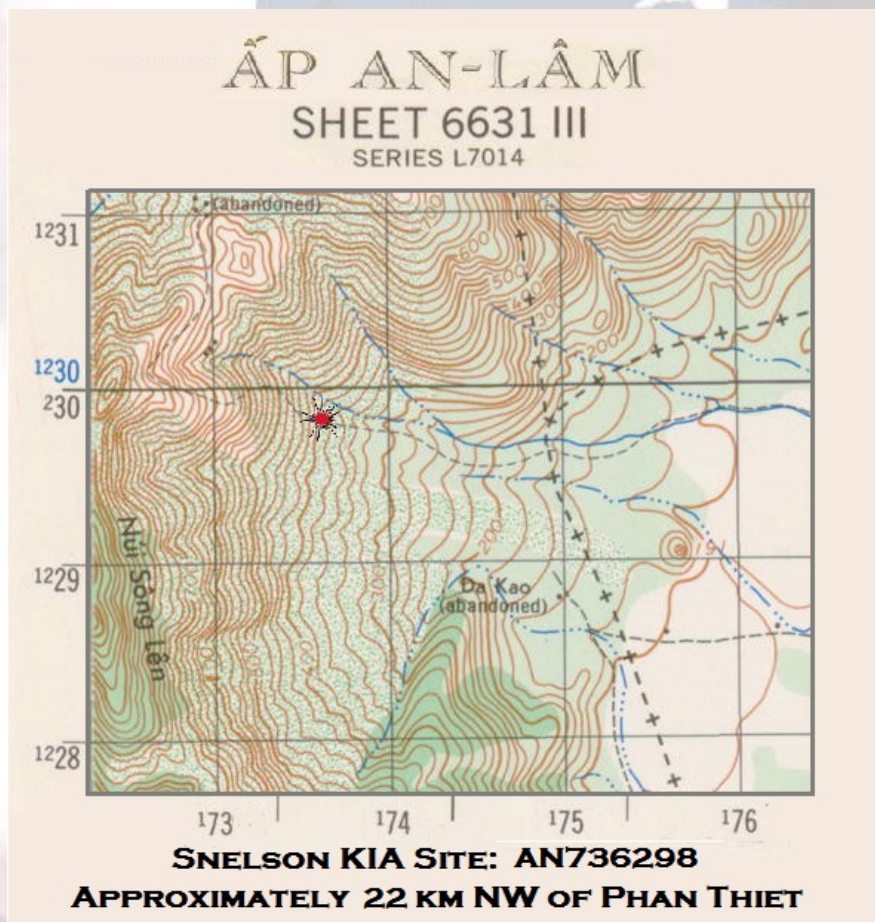
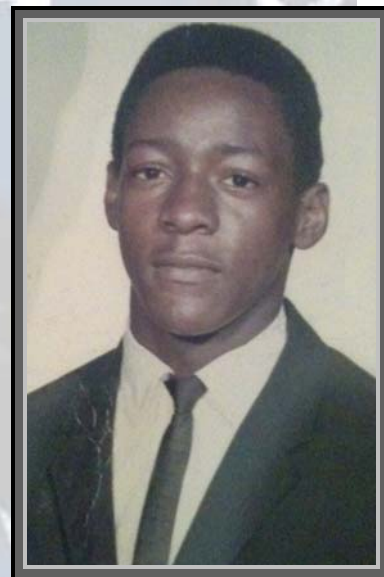
John Snelson was killed when the ambush element he was with received small arms and mortar fire at 1450 hours.

The attack came from about 100 meters to their west and Snelson was badly wounded in the abdomen and legs. He was evacuated by Medical Helicopter but died en route to the hospital.

A sweep of the area from which the enemy attack came revealed no enemy casualties.

John Snelson was awarded a Bronze Star for meritorious service "Posthumously".

A map of the location (AN736228) is shown below.



Continued...

JOHN SNELSON'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:



Combat Infantry Badge



THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL
FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

HQ 1ST FIELD FORCE VIETNAM

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 560

13 MAY 1970

FOR DISTINGUISHING HIMSELF BY OUTSTANDING MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD 18 SEPTEMBER 1969 TO 23 APRIL 1970. 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



Good
Conduct



National
Defense



Vietnam
Service



Vietnam
Campaign