

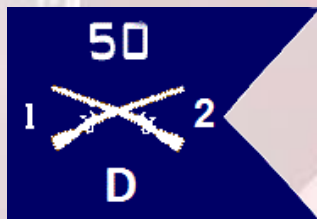


**4TH INFANTRY
DIVISION**



**1ST BATTALION 50TH
INFANTRY**

"D" COMPANY



2ND PLATOON



**SPECIALIST
4TH CLASS**



**ARMOR
RECONNAISSANCE
SPECIALIST**

EDWARD MARVIN STERNIN

**2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon, "D" Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry
Specialist 4th Class, E4, US52687895, MOS 11D20**

Home of Record: Hillside, NJ

**Date of Birth: September 4, 1947, Age at time of loss: 20, Single
4th Infantry Division, Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam**

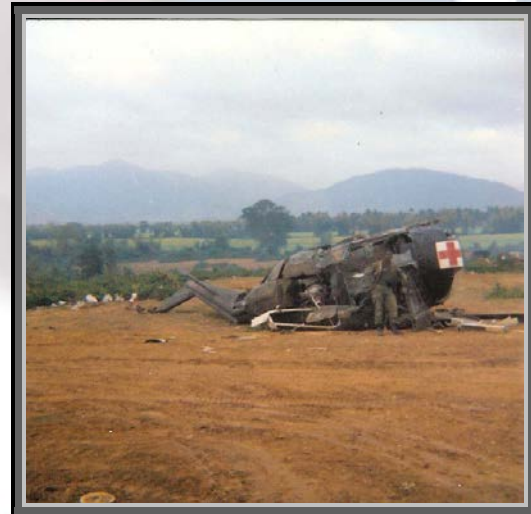
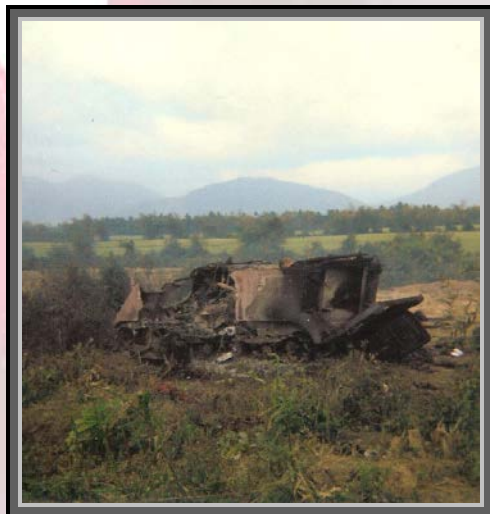
**Start of Tour: September 1, 1967, Date of Casualty: March 9, 1968, Days in Country: 190
Casualty Type A1, MFW, Panel 44E - Row 003**

Edward Sternin was killed in action during what has become known as the Battle of LZ Litts, during the pre-dawn hours of March 9th, 1968. Also killed in the battle were Willie Bradford, Joseph Perez and Melvin Leavell.

At approximately 3:15 AM, the 8th Battalion of the 22nd North Vietnamese Army (NVA) Regiment, as part of its mission to reinforce the 2nd VC Regiment, attacked "D" Company of the 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry, with a continuous B40 Rocket Barrage that was first reported as incoming Mortar fire. All 19 Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs) in the formation were hit by enemy fires with one being totally destroyed and four others severely damaged.

The primary attack came from the West and Northwest, with other assaults from the south and north. Bradford was killed when an incoming mortar round exploded near the tent he had pitched behind his APC. Medic Robert Melendez remembers he had a massive throat wound and likely died immediately. He was in Jerry Couch's Squad and assigned to APC # 419 during the contact. Jerry remembers that Bradford had a "premonition" that he would die in battle & his vision proved correct on his 25th day in Vietnam.

Illumination Flares had been prudently prepared by Bob Gold before the battle & when fired, revealed hundreds of enemy troops attacking in various sized formations!

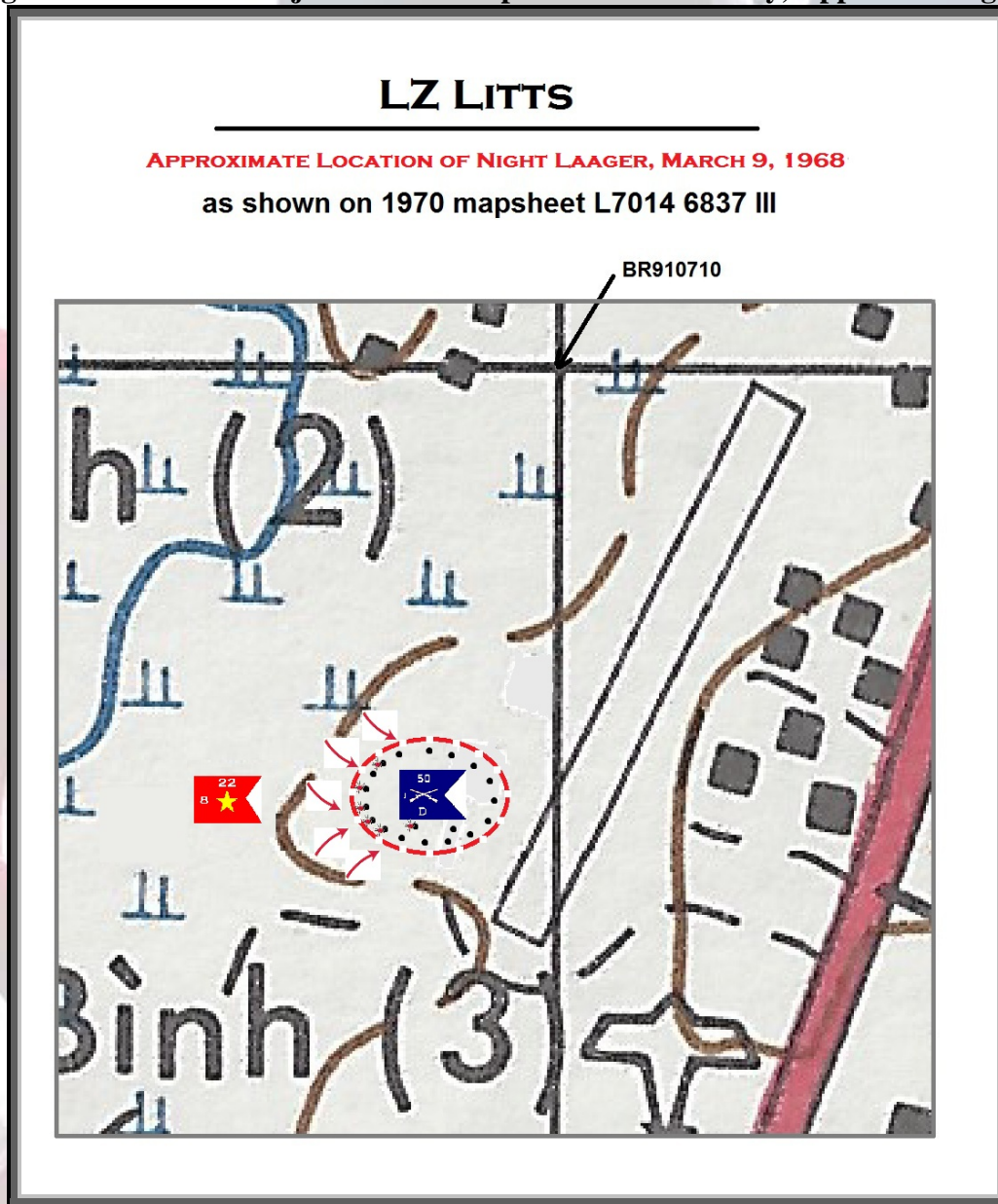


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Fifty Caliber and M-60 Machine Guns as well as "close in" mortar fires, M-16 rifle and grenades rained a hot counter attack on the enemy and over 100 NVA bodies were counted after first light.

The Delta Company Commanding Officer, Captain Bruce Braun, was wounded in the initial volley & the main communications antennae were "knocked out" causing a temporary lapse in reporting the events to the Battalion TOC (Tactical Operations Center) at nearby LZ Uplift.

During the battle, a brave Medivac Helicopter crew survived a crash caused by enemy fire and crawled into the friendly APC encirclement. Medivac of wounded was not effected until 0630 hours. Below is a portion of a mapsheet showing the site of the battle just west of the pictured LZ Runway, Approximate grid BR909707:



Several personal accounts of this battle are available in the 50th Infantry Association Archive Files.

Continued...

Edward Sternin is buried at Mount Lebanon Cemetery, Gill Lane, Iselin, Union County, New Jersey



Download a video of Ed Sternin taken at home before his deployment to Vietnam:

<http://www.ichiban1.org/media/ed-sternin.mp4>

EDWARD STERNIN'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:



HQ, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 3194

13 MAY, 1968

FOR HEROISM, NOT INVOLVING PARTICIPATION IN AERIAL FLIGHT, IN CONNECTION WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. SPECIALIST FOUR STERNIN DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY EXCEPTIONALLY VALOROUS ACTION ON 9 MARCH 1968, WHILE SERVING WITH COMPANY D, 1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 50TH INFANTRY DURING A COMBAT MISSION IN BINH DINH PROVINCE, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. WHEN HIS UNIT'S DEFENSIVE PERIMETER CAME UNDER AN ENEMY MORTAR AND GROUND ATTACK, SPECIALIST STERNIN EXPOSED HIMSELF TO THE HOSTILE FIRE AS HE MOVED HIS VEHICLE TO REINFORCE A POSITION THAT HAD BEEN WEAKENED BY THE DESTRUCTION OF AN ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER. WHILE PLACING EFFECTIVE SUPPRESSIVE FIRE ON THE ASSAULTING ENEMY FORCE, SPECIALIST STERNIN WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED, BUT HIS COURAGEOUS ACTION CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO THE SUCCESSFUL REPULSION OF THE ENEMY ATTACK. HIS DISPLAY OF PERSONAL BRAVERY AND DEVOTION TO DUTY WAS IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SERVICE AND REFLECTS GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF, HIS UNIT, AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

