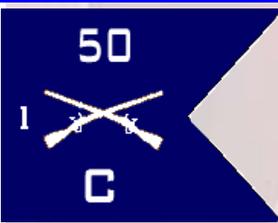




**173<sup>RD</sup> AIRBORNE  
BRIGADE**



**1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION  
50<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY**



**"C" COMPANY**



**SPECIALIST  
4<sup>TH</sup> CLASS**



**INFANTRYMAN**

## CHARLES ELLIS THOMAS

"C" Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (Mechanized), 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry  
While OPCON to (Operating with) the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Airborne) 503<sup>rd</sup> Infantry  
Specialist 4th Class, E4, US67098032, MOS 11B10  
Home of Record: Tampa, FL

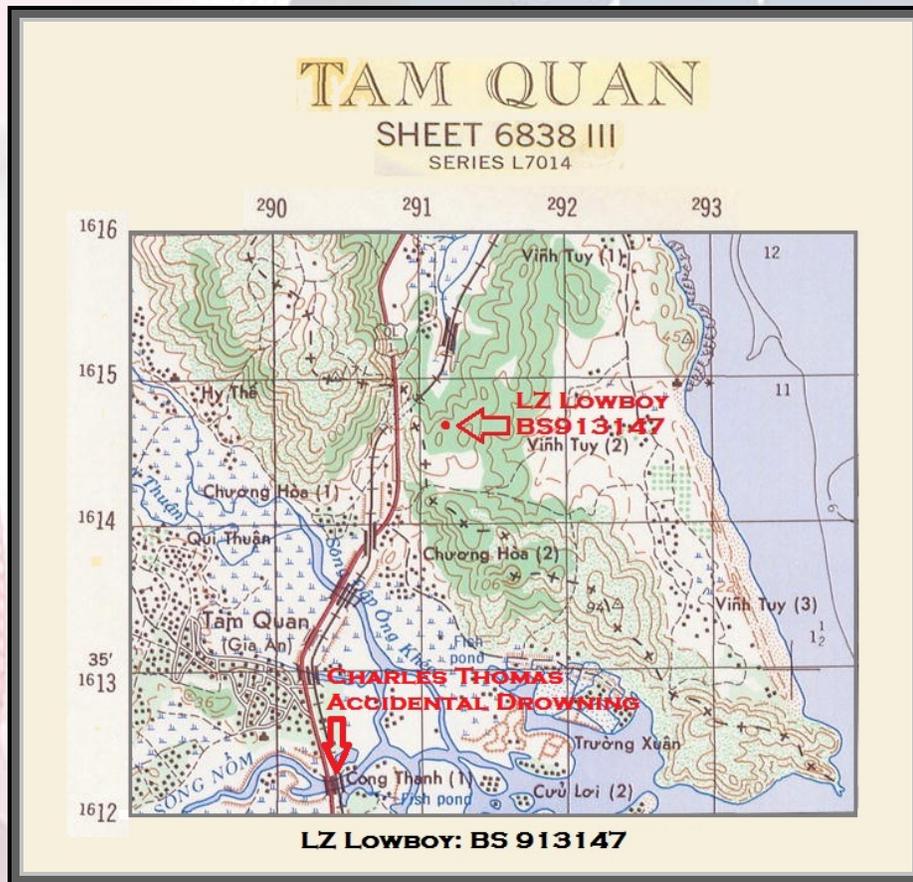
Date of Birth: August 13, 1948, Age at time of loss: 20, Single  
173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade (Separate), Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam  
Start of Tour: November 11, 1968, Date of Casualty: April 19, 1969, Days in Country: 159  
Casualty Type C1, Non-hostile, drowned, suffocated, Panel 26W - Row 012

During the spring and summer of 1969, "C" Company was temporarily assigned to work with the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Airborne), 503<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Battalion conducting Road Runner operations from LZ English adjacent to Highway (QL) 1, North to LZ Lowboy. They also assumed Bridge Security in an area from below Bong Son to LZ Lowboy and finally often served as a "ready reaction" force to assist the 4<sup>th</sup> of the 503<sup>rd</sup> during contact with the enemy.

After dinner on the evening of the 19<sup>th</sup> of April, Specialist Charles Thomas took a dive off of the bridge his squad was guarding and accidentally drowned. Although a medical evacuation helicopter rushed him to the Brigade's medical aid station at LZ English, he was dead on arrival.

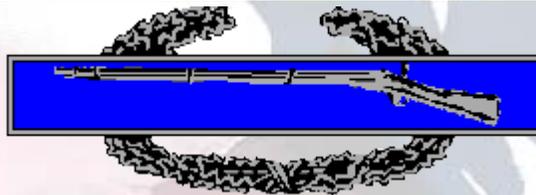


A map of the location of the Incident in Binh Dinh Province is shown below:





**AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF CHARLES THOMAS:**



**Combat Infantry Badge**

