

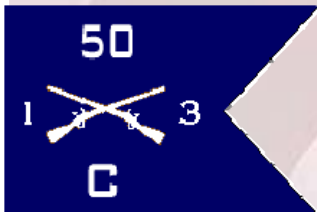


1ST
CAVALRY DIVISION
(AIRMOBILE)



1ST BATTALION
50TH INFANTRY

3RD PLATOON



"C" COMPANY



SERGEANT



INFANTRY

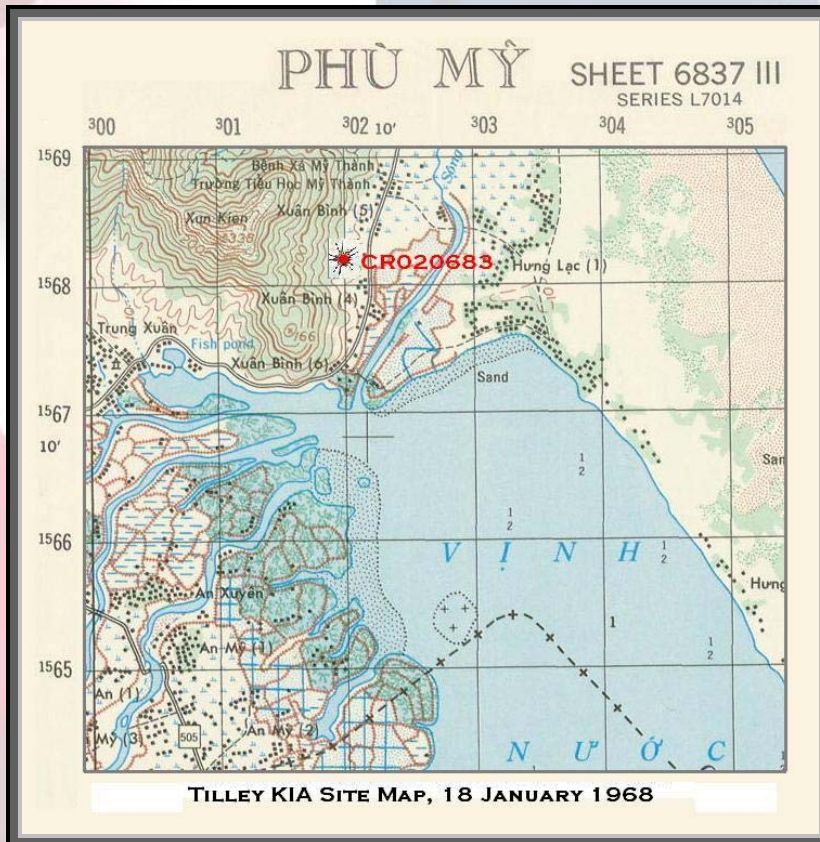
JAMES A. TILLEY

"C" Company, 3rd Platoon, 1st Squad, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry
Sergeant, E5, US54957623, MOS 11C40
Home of Record: Livonia, MI

Date of Birth: August 5, 1947, Age at time of loss: 20, Married
1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam
Start of Tour: September 1, 1967, Date of Casualty: January 18, 1968, Days in Country: 139
Casualty Type A1, Gun, small arms fire, Panel 34E - Row 071

Platoon Leader Harry Wilson gave this account of the action involving Jim Tilley's death: *"I remember this action as a "C" Company operation, starting from a night laager somewhere on the beach. (See Map Below) We arrived at the base of the rock pile, and 3rd platoon assaulted up on foot. Others may have also, but I do not remember. About half way up in the big rocks, we started taking and returning fire, all small arms fire. SGT Jim Tilley, my FO, was hit close by me by an NVA who popped out of a cave entrance. SFC Wood tried to fire at the guy, but his old model M-16 misfired. SFC Wood was then wounded by a grenade, bad enough for a Stateside evacuation.*

We were firing up from a downhill, exposed position at NVA hiding in caves and behind the rocks. After some period of firing from this bad position, we withdrew down the hillside. CPT Randall called for fire support,



TILLEY KIA SITE MAP, 18 JANUARY 1968

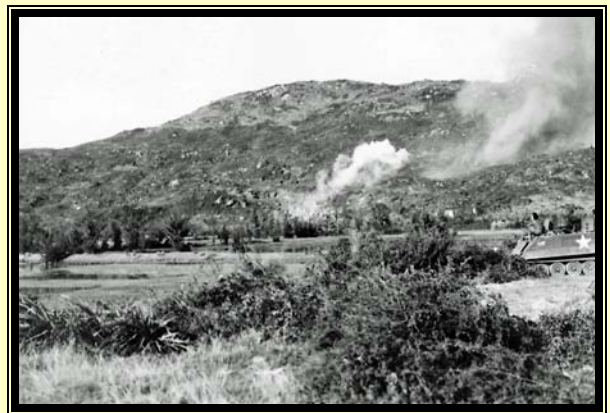
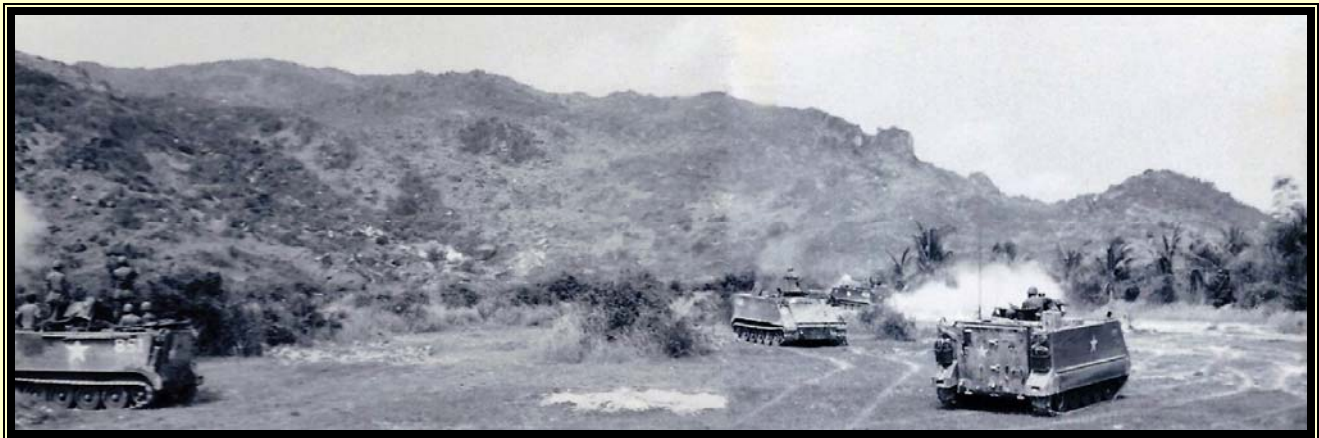


including an air strike as I recall. We then prepped the area with .50 caliber machine guns, and I went back up the rock pile with SGT Poage and about 7 or 8 others to retrieve Tilley's remains. As we were doing this, Norm Poage insisted on going down the tunnel that Tilley's gunner had popped out of. He did, alone, and it took a long time. When he emerged, he told me he had gone down to the bottom of the second level of ladders and had found a large room

with a table, but no enemy. I thought then, and still do, that this was incredibly brave."

Continued...

Below are photos of the Artillery fire, air strikes and Helicopter Gunship fires poured on "The Rockpile" Near Xuân Binh (4), where Jim Tilley was killed. Men and Armored Personnel Carriers from Charlie Company are seen pulling back to watch from a safe distance. The Color photo immediately below and to the right is of the scene in 2007...taken by Harry Wilson, other photos were taken by Walt Podraza, 2nd Platoon.



Continued...

PHOTOS OF JIM TILLEY



Above left: Jim & Debbie Tilley on their wedding day & at Fort Hood, in front of Charlie Company, sometime late in 1966. Above Right: "C" Company Mascot "Charlie" the goat!

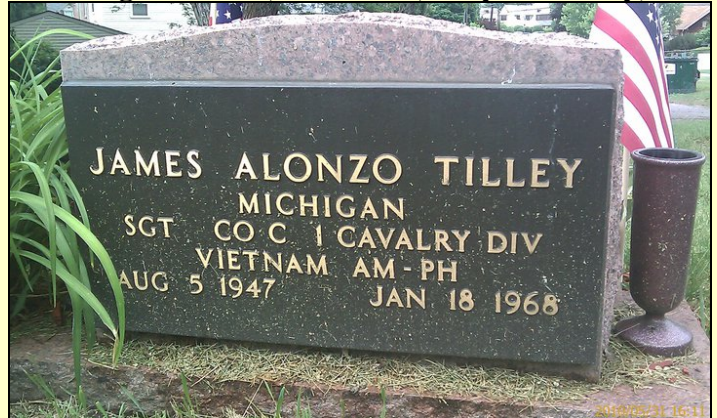


Above left Jim Tilley is second from the left. Above Right Tilley is 2nd from left in bottom row.



Christmas at LZ Uplift, 1967. Entertainment in the new theater at LZ Uplift.

James Tilley is buried at Northview Cemetery, 600 Kensington Street, Dearborn, Wayne County, MI.



Continued...

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF JAMES TILLEY



Combat Infantry Badge



THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL
WITH "V" DEVICE FOR VALOR

HQ 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 1478

13 MARCH 19 68

FOR HEROISM, NOT INVOLVING PARTICIPATION IN AERIAL FLIGHT, IN CONNECTION WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. SERGEANT TILLEY DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY EXCEPTIONALLY VALOROUS ACTION ON 18 JANUARY 1968, WHILE SERVING AS A POINTMAN WITH COMPANY C, 1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 50TH INFANTRY DURING A SEARCH AND CLEAR MISSION IN THE NUI MIEU MOUNTAIN COMPLEX, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. WHILE SEARCHING AN ENEMY COMPLEX, SERGEANT TILLEY CAME UNDER HOSTILE SNIPER FIRE. HE MOVED THROUGH AN OPEN AREA TO GET INTO HAND GRENADE DISTANCE FROM A CAVE OPENING. WHILE THROWING THE FIRST GRENADE, SERGEANT TILLEY WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED. HIS DISPLAY OF PERSONAL BRAVERY AND DEVOTION TO DUTY WAS IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SERVICE AND REFLECTS GREAT CREDIT ON HIMSELF, HIS UNIT, AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.



Bronze
Star
(Valor)



Air
Medal



Purple
Heart
(2 awards)



National
Defense



Vietnam
Service



Vietnam
Campaign



Vietnam
Merit



Vietnam
Gallantry