



1ST FIELD
FORCE
VIETNAM



52ND ARTILLERY
GROUP



3RD BATTALION,
6TH ARTILLERY

2ND PLATOON



"A" COMPANY



SERGEANT



FIELD
ARTILLERY

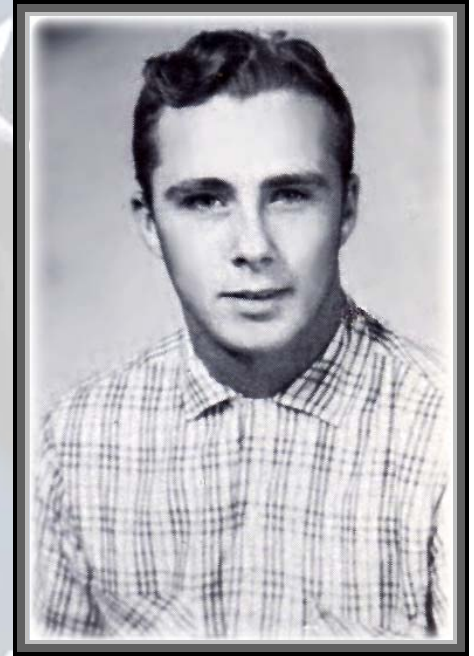
JOHNNY LEE WARD

"B" Battery, 3rd Battalion, 6th Artillery, 52nd Artillery Group
Forward Observer (RTO), 2nd Platoon, "A" Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry
Specialist 4th Class, E4, Posthumous Promotion to SGT, US519525004, MOS 13A10
Home of Record: Cambridge, ID

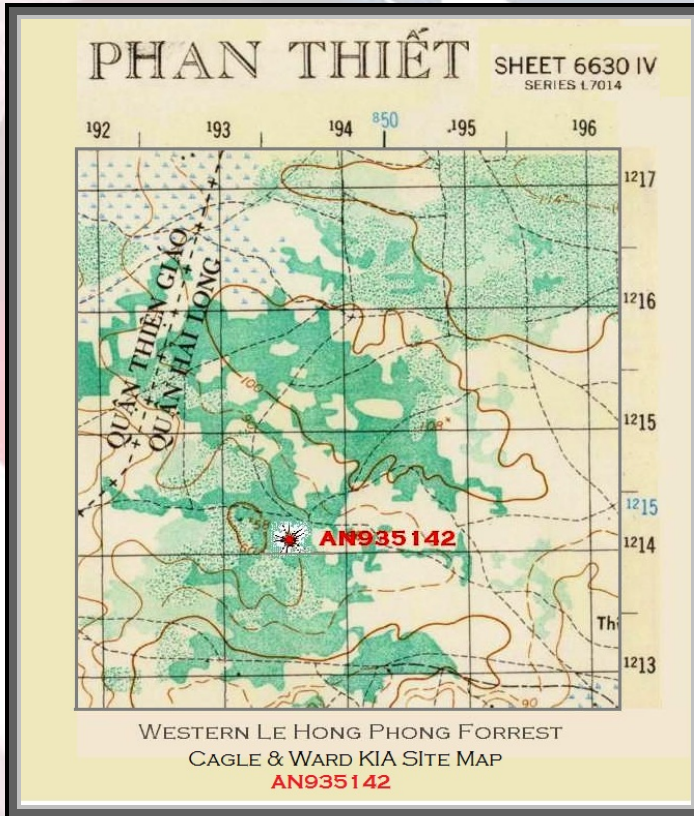
Date of Birth: November 28, 1947, Age at time of loss: 21, Single
I Field Force Vietnam (FO), Binh Thuan Province, Republic of Vietnam
Start of Tour: September 9, 1968, Date of Casualty: September 11, 1969, Days in Country: 367
Casualty Type A1, OED, Panel 18W - Row 073

SGT Johnny Ward and Randy Cagle were the first casualties the 50th Infantry realized after it's move from Binh Dinh Province to Binh Thuan Province in September of 1969. SGT Ward was the Radio Telephone Operator (RTO) for the Forward Observer...attached from the 3rd Bn, 6th Artillery, 105mm Self Propelled Howitzers, of the 52nd Artillery Group. IFFV.

"A" Company's 2nd Platoon was operating with it's Armored Personnel Carriers in the Western Le Hong Phong Forrest, Northeast of it's new Base Camp at LZ Betty near Phan Thiet. At 1:10 PM, the antenna from one of the 2nd Platoon's APCs hit a trip wire strung between trees above the trail they were using. A 50 pound Chinese Claymore Mine blasted across the top of the (lead) APC Killing Ward, Cagle and wounding 5 others.



A map of the location of SGT Ward's Death in Binh Thuan Province is shown below:



Continued...

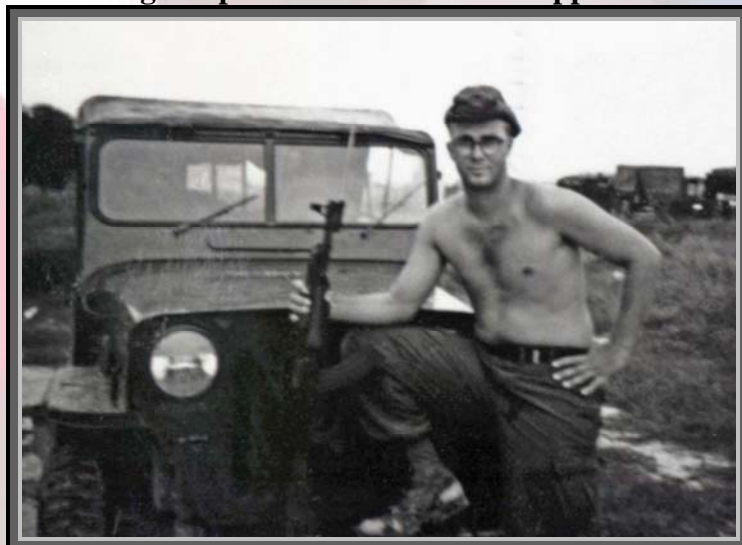
Below (right) is a photo of "A24", the Armored Personnel Carrier upon which Ward was riding when the left antenna tripped the explosion that took his life.



Below is a photo of Johnny Lee Ward, taken while he was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor, in 1968.



Below is a photo of Ward holding a captured AK-47 at Fire Support Base Sherry in August of 1969.



Continued...

Johnny Lee Ward is buried at Salubria Cemetery, Cambridge, Washington County, Idaho, pictured below:



JOHNNY LEE WARD'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:



Combat Infantry Badge



HEADQUARTERS I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 753

15 OCTOBER 1969

FOR DISTINGUISHING HIMSELF BY OUTSTANDING MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 1968 TO SEPTEMBER 1969. SERGEANT WARD, THROUGH HIS UNTIRING EFFORTS AND PROFESSIONAL ABILITY, 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. SERGEANT WARD'S INITIATIVE, ZEAL, SOUND JUDGMENT AND DEVOTION TO DUTY HAVE BEEN IN THE HIGHEST TRADITION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND REFLECTED GREAT CREDIT ON HIM AND ON THE MILITARY SERVICE.



Bronze Star
(2 awards)

Purple
Heart

National
Defense

Vietnam
Service

Vietnam
Campaign