



**173RD AIRBORNE  
BRIGADE**



**1ST BATTALION  
50TH INFANTRY**



**"A" COMPANY**



**SPECIALIST 4TH  
CLASS**



**INFANTRY**

## **RICHARD FOY WELLS**

**"A" Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (Mechanized), 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry  
Specialist 4th Class, E4, US54564439, MOS 11B10**

**Home of Record: Little Rock, AR**

**Date of Birth: November 22, 1947, Age at time of loss: 20, Single**

**173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate), Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam**

**Start of Tour: December 13, 1967, Date of Casualty: May 5, 1968, Days in Country: 144**

**Casualty Type A1, Burns, Panel 55E - Row 035**

Richard Wells was killed In Action on May 5, 1968, near the villages of An Bao in Binh Dinh Province, "A" Company forces were attacked and outnumbered 10 to 1 by a Regiment of the North Vietnamese Army. "A" Company forces were overrun and took heavy casualties when Charlie Company was called in to reinforce the besieged Alpha Company. Upon arrival, the enemy, who had fallen silent to allow the "C" Company troops to enter the ambush zone, opened fire with an intense and sustained barrage of small arms, automatic weapons and B40 Rocket fire from three sides. Wells was surrounded with the command group that was forced to flee on foot when their Armored Personnel Carrier was destroyed in the initial volley of rocket fire. Although records indicate Richard died of Burns, eyewitnesses saw him fighting for his life in the surrounded command group and believe he was shot and killed there. Many from that group were burned as their Armored Personnel Carriers had been rocketed and set ablaze. Fierce fighting ensued on both 1/50th Companies as additional reinforcements from "B" Company, 1/50th Infantry and "B" Company, 1/69th Armor were called in to battle the huge enemy force.



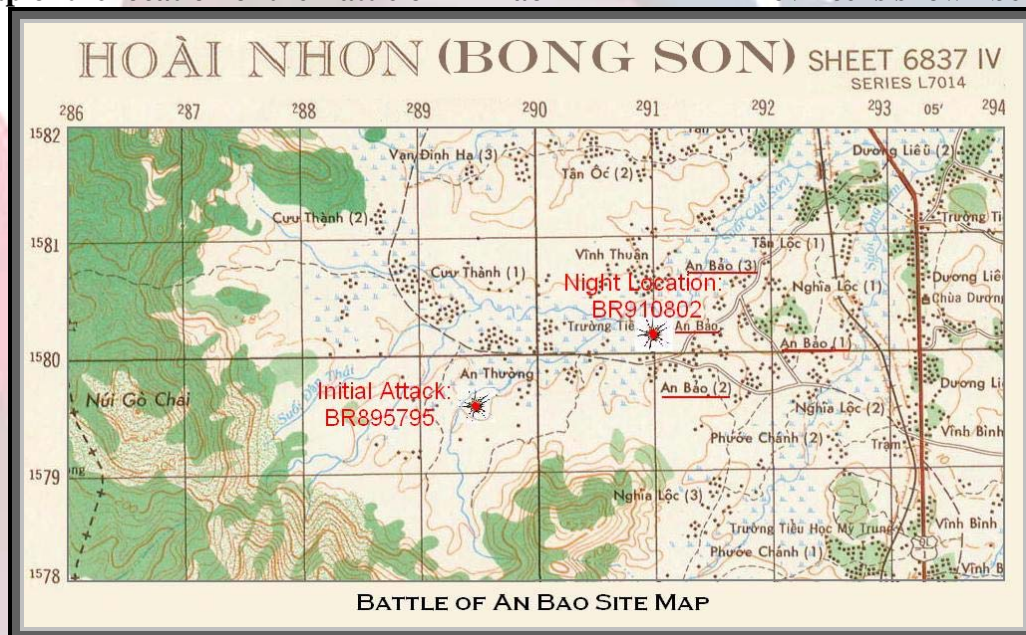
Read about the Battle of An Bao (Condensed Version):

<http://www.ichiban1.org/pdf/Memorial/AnBaoCondensed.pdf>

Declassified An Bao After Action Report, Daily Staff Journal and Air Report:

<http://www.ichiban1.org/pdf/Memorial/AnBaoExpanded.pdf>

A map of the location of the Battle of An Bao in Binh Dinh Province is shown below:



**BATTLE OF AN BAO SITE MAP**

Continued...



Richard Wells is buried at Orion Cemetery, 4000 Stagecoach Rd, Sheridan, Grant County, AR (Photos Below)



### AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF RICHARD WELLS:



Combat Infantry Badge



THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL  
FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

HQ 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 1453

26 MAY 1968

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 DECEMBER 1967 TO MAY 1968. 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  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Award)

National Defense

Vietnam Service

Vietnam Campaign