



WILLIAM JOHN WINTERS

3rd Squad, 3rd Platoon, "C" Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry
Sergeant, E5, Posthumous Promotion to SSG, US52968611, MOS 11B40

Home of Record: Boonville, NY

Date of Birth: October 12, 1945, Age at time of loss: 23, Single

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

Start of Tour: January 10, 1969, Date of Incident: May 3, 1969, Died of Wounds: May 14, 1969,

Days in Country: 124, Casualty Type A2, OED, Panel 24W - Row 014

At the time of his death, Bill Winters was the Squad Leader of the 3rd squad, 3rd Platoon of Charlie Company, which was split from the Battalion Proper and under the Operational Control of the 4th Battalion, 503rd Infantry. The Platoon was responsible for Bridge Security between LZ Lowboy, just north of Tam Quan, and LZ English to the south.



A 4th/503rd Battalion Quarterly Historical Report reveals that 3 individuals were wounded by a booby-trapped M26 Grenade on May 3rd while on Bridge Security near Tam Quan. This information was confirmed in a personal letter written by a member of Winters's Squad, Shirl W. Grimm, who wrote to Winters's parents after his death, specifically mentioning May 3rd in his letter.

Grimm further wrote that although these two men were reported wounded together...they were wounded by identical booby traps within 20 minutes of each other...but at two different locations. Apparently, all wounded were picked up together...and reported as one incident. Winters died of his wounds on May 14th. John Love also died of his wounds on May 13th.

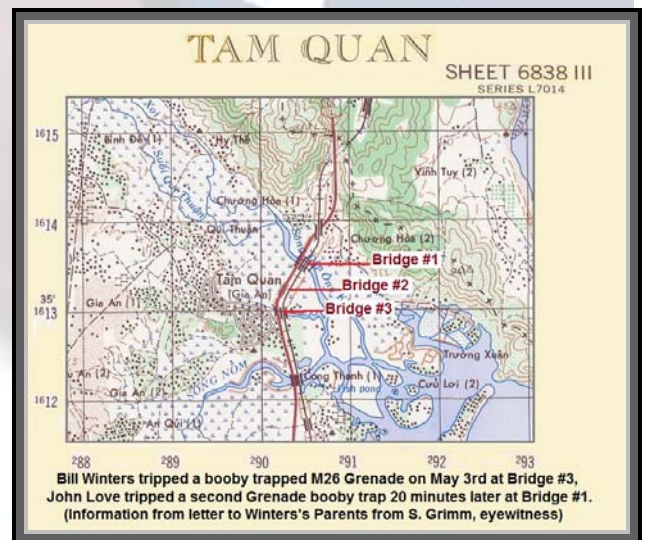
Bill Winters had just returned from a hospital stay in Japan for wounds received in a mortar attack on LZ Schueller on March 7th, 1969.



STAFF
SERGEANT



INFANTRYMAN

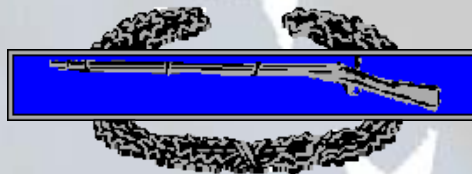


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Bill Winters is buried at Beechwood Cemetery (Pictured below), Woodhull Road, Forestport, Oneida County...just a few miles from his home town of Boonville, New York



AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF WILLIAM WINTERS



Combat Infantry Badge



THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL
FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

HQ 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)
GENERAL ORDERS

STAFF SERGEANT WILLIAM WINTERS DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY OUTSTANDING MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1969 TO MAY 1969. 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. STAFF SERGEANT WINTERS' INITIATIVE, ZEAL, SOUND JUDGMENT AND DEVOTION TO DUTY WERE IN THE HIGHEST TRADITION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND REFLECTED GREAT CREDIT ON HIM AND ON THE MILITARY SERVICE.



Bronze Star



Purple Heart with OLC (2 awards)



Good Conduct



National Defense



Vietnam Service



Vietnam Campaign



Vietnam Merit



Vietnam Gallantry



NY State Conspicuous Service