



1ST
FIELD FORCE
VIETNAM



1ST BATTALION
50TH INFANTRY



"HQ" COMPANY



SCOUT PLATOON



SERGEANT



ARMOR RECON

CHARLES ANTHONY "STORMY" CONNELL

Scout Platoon, "HQ" Company, 1st Battalion (mechanized), 50th Infantry
Sergeant, E5, RA265865123, MOS 11D40

Home of Record: Mango, FL

Date of Birth: November 6, 1950, Age at time of loss: 19, Single
I Field Force Vietnam, Binh Tuy Province, Republic of Vietnam

Start of Tour: June 14, 1969, Date of Casualty: March 20, 1970, Days in Country: 279
Casualty Type A1, Gun, small arms fire, Panel 12W, Row 024

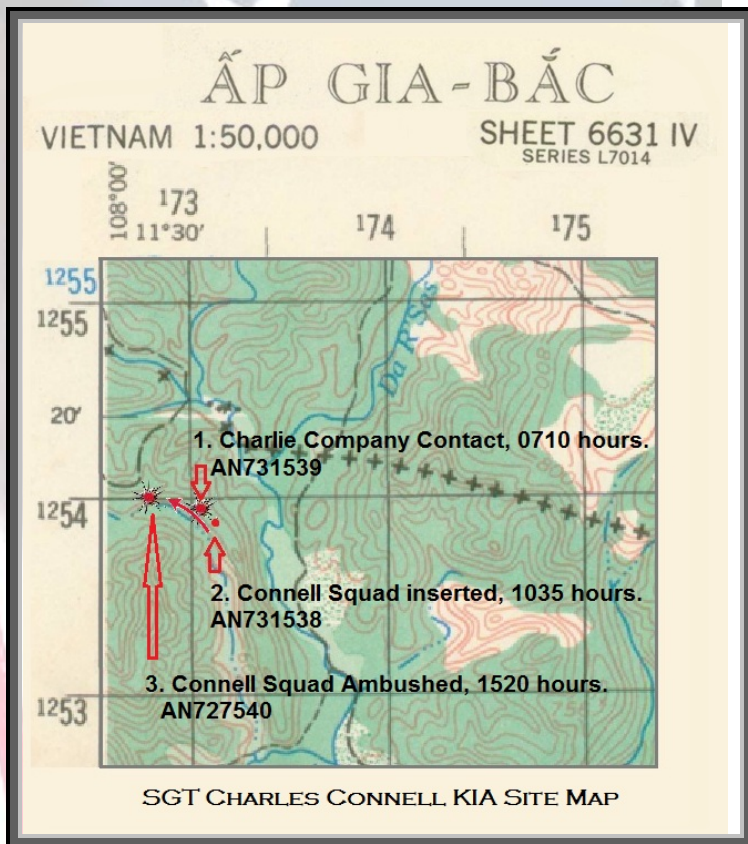
Charles "Stormy" Connell was killed while walking "Point" for his squad from the Scout Platoon in the mountains about 45 Kilometers North of Phan Thiet.

At approximately 7:10 AM on March 20th, an ambush element set out by Charlie Company, 1st Bn, 50th Inf, received AK-47 fire from an estimated 4 or 5 enemy soldiers. The Charlie Company men returned fire and began to withdraw while still receiving enemy sniper fire. The main body of Charlie Company rushed to the aid of their men and also began receiving sniper fire. 3 "C" Company men were wounded during this contact. SGT Connell's Squad was inserted at 10:35 AM and swept the area...finding 3 fighting positions and a large amount of AK-47 brass (Expended shell casings).

When Connell's Squad moved further to the Northwest, with SGT Connell taking "point", they came under fire from 2 enemy soldiers at about 3:20 PM, and SGT Connell was killed. The enemy escaped to the Northwest. A map of the action is shown to the right.

Scout Platoon Member Pat Willson recalls:

"Stormy's squad was hurriedly Combat Assaulted (Via helicopters) to check an area in the mountains where Charlie Company had made contact with the enemy early in the day. The rest of the Scout Platoon was inserted after Connell's element also came under fire. Connell was killed and the enemy fled into the dense mountain jungle to the Northwest."



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Charles "Stormy" Connell is buried at Turkey Creek Baptist Cemetery,
Plant City, Hillsborough County, Florida



"STORMY" CONNELL'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:



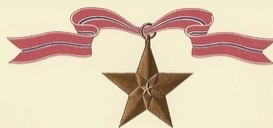
HEADQUARTERS I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 460

24 APRIL 1970

FOR GALLANTRY IN ACTION WHILE ENGAGED IN MILITARY OPERATIONS INVOLVING CONFLICT WITH AN ARMED HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. SERGEANT CONNELL DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY EXCEPTIONALLY VALOROUS ACTION ON 20 MARCH 1970, WHILE SERVING AS A SQUAD LEADER WITH THE SCOUT PLATOON, 1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 50TH INFANTRY. ON THAT DATE, SERGEANT CONNELL WAS LEADING A SEARCH AND CLEAR PATROL THROUGH MOUNTAINOUS JUNGLE WHEN HE DECIDED TO TAKE THE POINT POSITION DUE TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF NEWLY ASSIGNED PERSONNEL IN THE SQUAD. THE PATROL BEGAN RECEIVING INTENSE SMALL ARMS FIRE FROM AN ENEMY ELEMENT OF UNKNOWN SIZE. SERGEANT CONNELL WAS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED IN THE INITIAL FIRING BUT, DISREGARDING HIS WOUNDS, HE DIRECTED THE RETURN FIRE OF HIS MEN, MOVING THEM TO STRATEGIC DEFENSIVE POSITIONS WHILE GAINING FIRE SUPERIORITY WITH HIS OWN WEAPON. AS HE WAS DIRECTING HIS MEN, HE WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED, BUT HIS FAST REACTIONS AND SOUND JUDGMENT ENABLED THE PATROL TO OVERPOWER THE ENEMY WITHOUT FURTHER CASUALTIES. SERGEANT CONNELL'S HEROIC ACTIONS WERE IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SERVICE, AND REFLECTS GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF, HIS UNIT, AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

Continued...



**THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL
FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE**

HEADQUARTERS I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 472

25 APRIL 1970

SERGEANT CHARLES CONNELL DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY OUTSTANDING MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD FROM 10 AUGUST 1969 TO 20 MARCH 1970. 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. SERGEANT CONNELL'S 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.



**Silver
Star**



**Bronze
Star**



**Purple
Heart**



**National
Defense**



**Vietnam
Service**



**Vietnam
Campaign**