



JAMES DONAHUE FERGUSON

2nd Platoon, 2nd Squad, "A" Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry
Sergeant, E5, US56580348, MOS 11B40

Home of Record: West Plains, MO

Date of Birth: July 5, 1947, Age at time of loss: 20, Single

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

Start of Tour: September 1, 1967, Date of Casualty: May 5, 1968, Days in Country: 247

Casualty Type A1, Gun, small arms fire, Panel 55E - Row 011

Jim Ferguson 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 Co. 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. 50th Infantry Archive Documentation shows that Jim Ferguson was struck by a gunshot wound to his neck and died instantly. He did not suffer.



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.

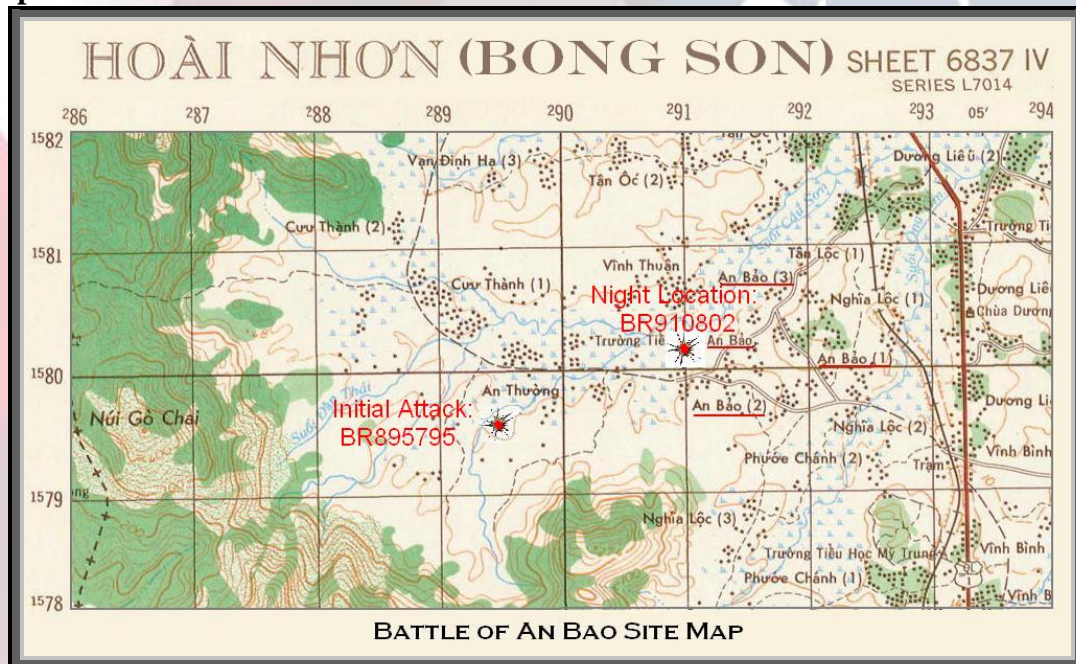
Read about the Battle of An Bao (Condensed Version):

<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...



Association Member Mick Hawkins provided this photo of Jim Ferguson (Center man below) taken on the USS Pope during the Battalion's voyage to Vietnam in 1967.

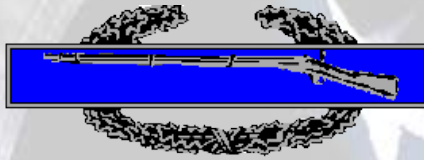


Jim Ferguson is buried at Oak Lawn Cemetery, 1101 Amyx Street, West Plains, Howell County, MO 65775, (Picture Below).



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JIM FERGUSON'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:



Combat Infantry Badge



THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL
FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

HQ 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 1458

26 MAY 1968

SERGEANT JAMES FERGUSON DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY OUTSTANDING MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 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. SERGEANT FERGUSON'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.



Bronze
Star



Air
Medal



Purple
Heart



National
Defense



Vietnam
Service



Vietnam
Campaign