



173RD
AIRBORNE
BRIGADE



1ST BATTALION
50TH INFANTRY

2ND PLATOON



"A" COMPANY



PRIVATE
1ST CLASS



INFANTRYMAN

BOBBY LEE GENTRY

2nd Platoon, "A" Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry

PFC, E3, RA406661106, MOS 11B10

Home of Record: Winchester, KY

Date of Birth: March 29, 1950, Age at time of loss: 19, Single

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

Start of Tour: March 8, 1969, Date of Casualty: July 8, 1969, Days in Country: 122

Casualty Type A1, OED, Panel 21W - Row 083

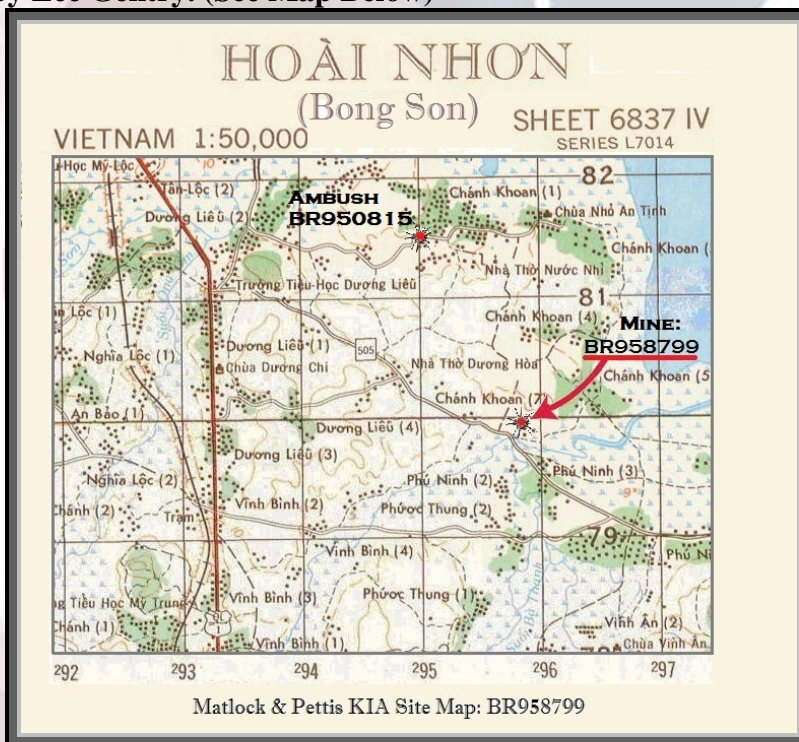
At the present time, we have no definitive information on the date of the wound event (Booby Trap Detonated) that took Bobby Lee Gentry's life. We are hopeful that some documentation or eyewitness will be forthcoming. It is suspected that Gentry was wounded at some earlier date...and days later, died of his wound. There is no mention of any casualty from "A" Company on the Daily Staff Journal for either the 50th Infantry nor for the 173rd Airborne Brigade on July 8th, 1969. Intelligent speculation is that Gentry and several others were wounded by the blast that took the lives of Lorenzo Pettis and William Matlock on June 12th. This was the last documented occasion where men were wounded in "A" Company prior to Gentry's death.



The Battalion History for the June 12th Incident stated: "At 1130 hours, an Armored Personnel Carrier (APC) from "A" Company hit a mine, suspected to have been a pressure **detonated** 175mm Artillery shell at BR958799. One U.S. Soldier was KIA and 5 wounded (One of which later died of his wounds).

Gentry's Casualty Report, DA Form 2496, states: "Individual died as the result of peritonitis and general sepsis *secondary* to wounds *previously* received. while on a combat operation when a booby trap **detonated**. He was admitted to a military medical facility, placed on the Seriously Injured list and then on the Very Seriously Injured list, and later expired."

Based on this documentation, I will show location information on the event from June 12th for Bobby Lee Gentry. (See Map Below)

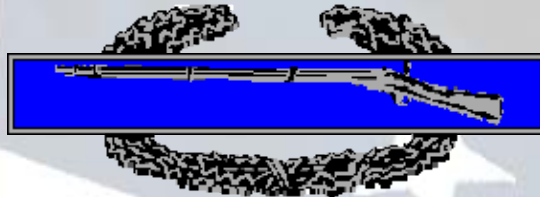


Continued...

Bobby Lee Gentry is buried at Bush Cemetery in Midway, KY. Historian Jim Sheppard visited the site with Gentry's Father Ernest in June of 2012 (Photo Below left). Below Center is Bobby Lee as he looked in Training sometime in late 1968 or early 1969.



BOBBY LEE GENTRY'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:



Combat Infantry Badge



HQ 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS BOBBY GENTRY DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY OUTSTANDING MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD FROM MARCH 1969 TO JULY 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. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS GENTRY'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

Purple Heart w/OLC

National Defense

Vietnam Service

Vietnam Campaign