



173<sup>RD</sup> AIRBORNE  
BRIGADE



1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION  
50<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY



"HQ" COMPANY



CORPORAL



MEDIC

## CALVIN LIONEL GOOCH

"HQ" Company, Working with "B" Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (Mechanized), 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry  
Private First Class, E3, Posthumous Promotion to CPL, US54509493, MOS 91A10

Home of Record: Burkeville, TX

Date of Birth: August 9, 1947, Age at time of loss: 20, Married

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

Start of Tour: December 14, 1967, Date of Casualty: May 11, 1968, Days in Country: 149

Casualty Type A1, MFW, Panel 58E - Row 021

Calvin Gooch was killed in action during the Battle of Trung Hoi (2) on May 11, 1968. Also killed that day were James Rylee and Robert Owens.

In the days following the major battle at An Bao on May 5th and 6th, the enemy struck again as there was a Camp Strike Force contact in the central 506 Valley, West of LZ Uplift. It was assumed that whatever force was involved would likely exit the valley to the south.

On May 11th, "B" and "C" Companies began Search and Clear operations in the area of the villages at Trung Hoi near highway 506. A huge trench and tunnel complex was found and before much time had passed, both Companies were attacked from all sides. It is estimated that 2 Battalions of enemy soldiers attacked that day but the results were a lopsided American victory.

Tanks from "B" Company, 1st Battalion, 69th Armor joined in the fight as the enemy rained heavy small arms, automatic weapons, mortars and rocket fire on the surrounded men. The combined firepower of the 50th Infantry Armored Personnel Carriers and the accompanying M48 Tanks of the 69th Armor allowed the American units to withdrawal to the Southeast as Air Strikes and Artillery were brought in. At one point, FAC and Aerial observers spotted a group of 30 to 60 enemy soldiers maneuvering in an open rice paddy area.

Reactions to the sightings by air power brought heavy casualties to the enemy forces. It was estimated that over 200 enemy soldiers were killed in the battle but under cover of darkness the night after the battle, the enemy policed most of the bodies from the area. In the morning, the enemy had withdrawn, leaving behind 61 bodies.

View the official report of the Battle: [After Action Report - Battle at Trung Hoi \(2\)](#)



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A map of the location of the Battle of Trung Hoi (2) in Binh Dinh Province is shown below:



**CALVIN GOOCH'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:**



Combat Medic Badge

