



1ST CAVALRY
DIVISION
(AIRMOBILE)



1ST BATTALION
50TH INFANTRY



"C" COMPANY



PRIVATE
FIRST CLASS



INFANTRY

GARY RAY JOHNSON

2nd Squad, 3rd Platoon, "C" Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry
Private First Class, E3, US56928145, MOS 11B10
Home of Record: Silverton, OR

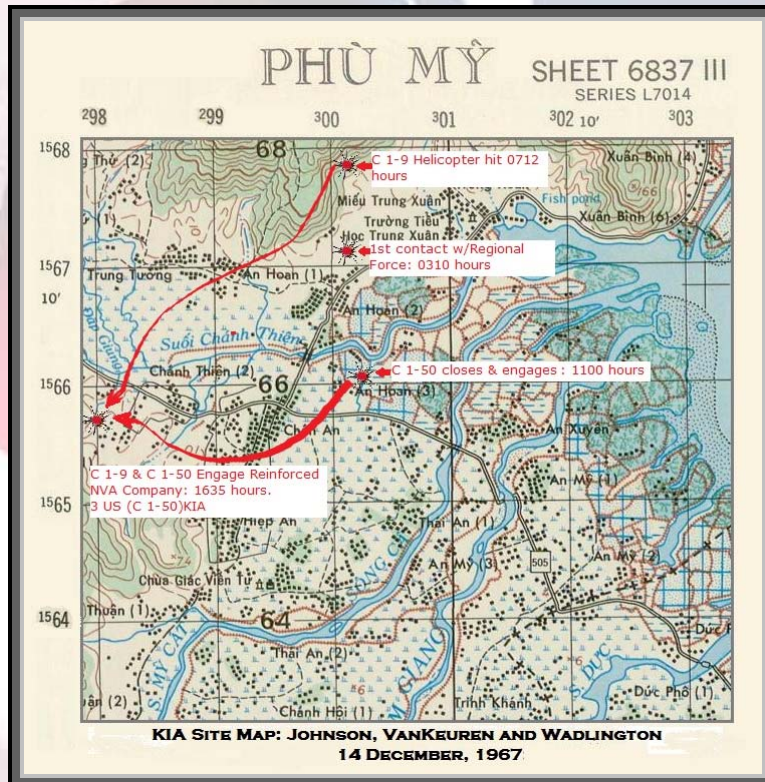
Date of Birth: April 22, 1947, Age at time of loss: 20, Single
1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam
Start of Tour: September 1, 1967, Date of Casualty: December 14, 1967, Days in Country: 104
Casualty Type A1, Gun, small arms fire, Panel 31E - Row 092

On December 14, 1967, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry, elements of the 41st ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) Regiment and other RF (Regional Forces), became engaged with elements of the 2nd VC Regiment near the village of Trung Xuân in Binh Dinh Province. Two days of heavy contact resulted in 115 NVA (North Vietnamese Army) killed and 5 NVAC (Captured). Read an account of the battle taken from the 1st Cavalry Division Intelligence Summaries for 14 & 15 December, 1967:

<http://www.ichiban1.org/pdf/Memorial/TrungXuan.pdf>

Gary Johnson was killed as he manned his squad's 50 Caliber Machine gun and posthumously received the Bronze Star with "V" Device (Valor) for this engagement. He was also posthumously awarded a Bronze Star for Meritorious Service for the period from September of 1967 until his death. Also killed were Allan Van Keuren and Louis Wadlington.

A map showing the location of the battle is shown below.



Continued...

Gary Johnson is buried at Belcrest Memorial Park, Browning Avenue South, Salem, Marion County, Oregon (Pictured below).



GARY JOHNSON'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:



Combat Infantry Badge



THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL
WITH "V" DEVICE FOR VALOR

HQ 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 986

16 FEBRUARY 1968

FOR HEROISM NOT INVOLVING PARTICIPATION IN AERIAL FLIGHT, IN CONNECTION WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOHNSON DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY EXCEPTIONALLY VALOROUS ACTION ON 14 DECEMBER 1967, WHILE SERVING AS A MACHINE GUNNER WITH COMPANY C, 1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 50TH INFANTRY DURING A COMBAT MISSION NEAR TRUNG XUÂN, BINH DINH PROVINCE, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. WHEN HIS UNIT CAME UNDER INTENSE HOSTILE FIRE, PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOHNSON EXPOSED HIMSELF TO THE ENEMY FIRE AS HE LEFT HIS COVERED POSITION TO ENGAGE THE HOSTILE EMPLACEMENT. UPON DESTROYING THE ENEMY BUNKER, HE RETURNED TO HIS POSITION TO PLACE EFFECTIVE SUPPRESSIVE FIRE ON THE ENEMY EMPLACEMENTS. AT THIS TIME PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOHNSON WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED, BUT HIS ACTION CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF HIS UNIT'S MISSION. HIS DISPLAY OF PERSONAL BRAVERY AND DEVOTION TO DUTY WAS IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SERVICE AND REFLECTS GREAT CREDIT ON HIMSELF, HIS UNIT, AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

Continued...



**THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL
FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE**

HQ 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 1049

19 FEBRUARY 1968

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOHNSON DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY OUTSTANDING MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 1967 TO MARCH 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. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOHNSON '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
(Valor)**



**Bronze
Star
(Merit)**



**Air
Medal**



**Purple
Heart**



**National
Defense**



**Vietnam
Service**



**Vietnam
Campaign**