



**173RD
AIRBORNE
BRIGADE**

THOMAS B. LUKES

"A" Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry
Specialist 4th Class, E4, Posthumous Promotion to SGT, US54970930, MOS 11B10
Home of Record: Pontiac (Waterford), MI
Date of Birth: December 18, 1947, Age at time of loss: 20, Single
173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate), Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam
Start of Tour: February 27, 1968, Date of Casualty: July 13, 1968, Days in Country: 137
Casualty Type A2, OED, Panel 52W - Row 023

SGT Thomas Lukes was killed In Action on July 13, 1968, near base of Cay Giép Mountain south of Bong Son in Binh Dinh Province (See map below). The Battalion History for the period stated:

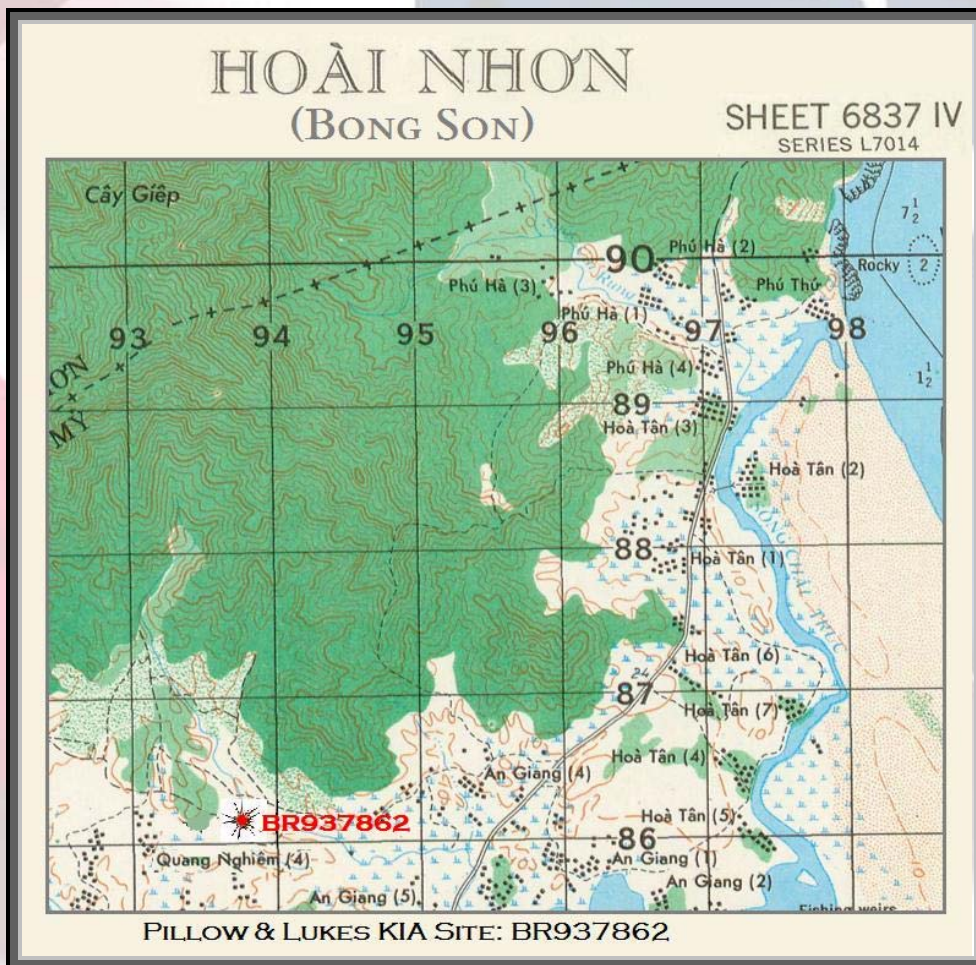
"Two men from "A" Company were killed by a pressure detonated mine in the vicinity of BR937862. The mine was suspected to have been a 105mm Artillery Shell rigged with a pressure detonating device".

Former "A" Company man Glen Nicholls remembers: "I was not there, but remember those who were stating that they thought the mine might have been much larger than a 105 round. The blast killed the two men immediately...they did not suffer".



Also killed in the blast was SP4 Ronald Pillow.

A map of the location of the incident is shown below:



Continued...



**1ST BATTALION
50TH INFANTRY**



"A" COMPANY

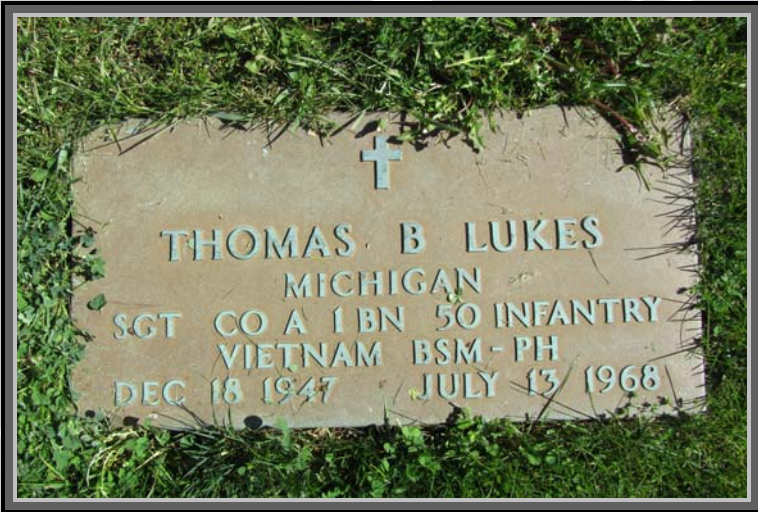


SERGEANT



INFANTRY

Tom Lukes is buried at Ottawa Park Cemetery, 6180 Dixie Highway, Clarkston, Oakland County, MI 48346, and is managed by the city of Pontiac, MI. (Photos Below):



AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF THOMAS LUKES:



HQ 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 1975

23 JULY 1968

SERGEANT THOMAS LUKES DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY OUTSTANDING MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY 1968 TO JULY 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 LUKES' 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.



Combat Infantry Badge



Bronze Star

Purple Heart

National Defense

Vietnam Service

Vietnam Campaign