



**173RD AIRBORNE
BRIGADE**



**1ST BATTALION
50TH INFANTRY**



"B" COMPANY



CORPORAL



INFANTRY

JOHN E. MARASON

**"B" Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry
Private First Class, E3, Posthumous Promotion to CPL, US51985532, MOS 11B10**

Home of Record: Phillipsburg, NJ

Date of Birth: January 29, 1949, Age at time of loss: 19, Single

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

Start of Tour: November 9, 1968, Date of Casualty: December 2, 1968, Days in Country: 23

Casualty Type A1, Burns, Panel 37W - Row 023

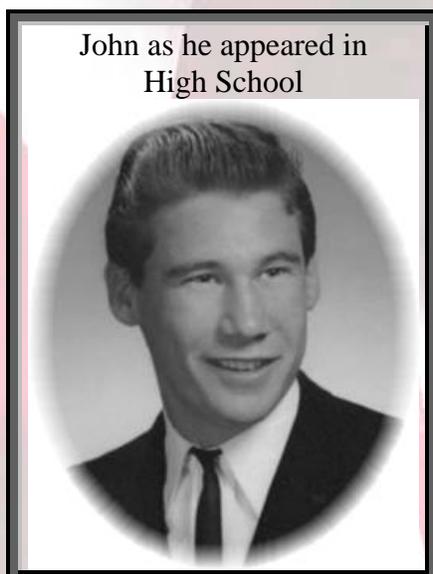
John Marason was killed in an ambush of his Armored Personnel Carrier (APC) on infamous "Highway 19" East of An Khe. The armored vehicle was struck by B-40 Rocket Fire and burned...leaving Marason dead and 7 others wounded. Former Platoon Sergeant Jim Byrd remembers:

"I was driving the APC that night as we moved to reinforce the security forces on Bridge #18. Eight of us were wounded...with John succumbing to his severe burns. He had only been in my Platoon for a short time and I had not gotten to know him well. I do remember him as 'willing and able'...cheerful and always doing his duty. I've always wondered if I could have done more for him that night, but it was so fast and furious that I realize nothing could have saved John."

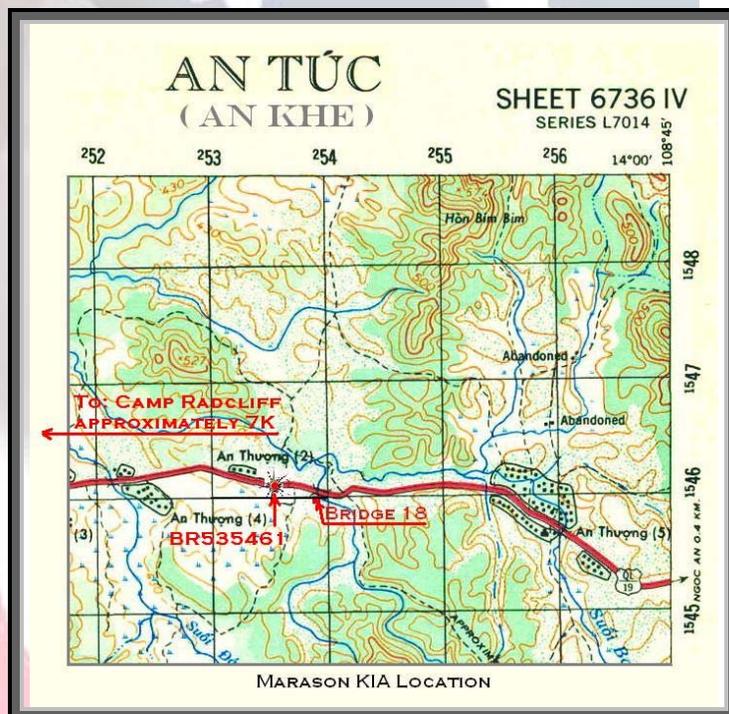


John Marason was Posthumously promoted to the Non-Commissioned Officer Rank of Corporal and awarded the Bronze Star for Meritorious Service.

A map of the location of ambush is shown below:



John as he appeared in High School



John as he appeared while attending Jungle Training School shortly after arriving at An Khe, Central Highlands, Vietnam, in November of 1968.



John Marason is buried at Northampton Memorial Shrine, 3051 Green Pond Road, Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania...just across the Delaware River from Phillipsburg, NJ, his "home town". (Photo Below)



Continued...

JOHN MARASON'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:



Combat Infantry Badge



Bronze Star
Citation reads:

The Bronze Star Medal is presented posthumously to Corporal (Then Private First Class) John E. Marason for distinguishing himself by outstanding meritorious service in connection with ground operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam during the period November 1968 to December 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 a counterinsurgency operation and to find ways and means to solve those problems. The energetic application of his 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.

His initiative, zeal, sound judgment and devotion to duty have been in the highest tradition of the United States Army and reflect great credit on him and on the military service.



Purple Heart



Good Conduct



National Defense



Vietnam Service



Vietnam Campaign



Vietnam Merit



Vietnam Gallantry

New Jersey Web Site devoted to John Marason:

<http://vietnamveteransmemorial.homestead.com/JohnMarason.html>
New Jersey Vietnam Veteran's Memorial page for John Marason:
<http://www.njvvmf.org/JOHNMARASON-vetmemorial827>