

JOHN M. McDAID

"C" Company, 2nd Platoon, 1st Battalion (mechanized), 50th Infantry
Specialist 4th Class, E4, Posthumous Promotion to SGT, US366521007, MOS 11B20
Home of Record: Ithaca, MI

Date of Birth: March 16, 1949, Age at time of loss: 20, Single
I Field Force Vietnam, Binh Thuan Province, Republic of Vietnam
Start of Tour: July 24, 1969, Date of Casualty: January 19, 1970, Days in Country: 179
Casualty Type A1, MFW, Panel 14W - Row 047

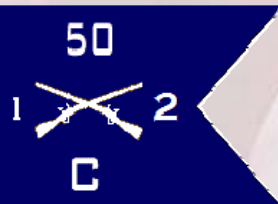


1ST
FIELD FORCE
VIETNAM



1ST BATTALION
50TH INFANTRY

2ND PLATOON



"C" COMPANY



SERGEANT



INFANTRYMAN

John McDaid (Photo at right) was killed when elements of Charlie Company's 2nd Platoon engaged an estimated Company of VC/NVA on a remote trail 21 Kilometers north of Phan Thiet.

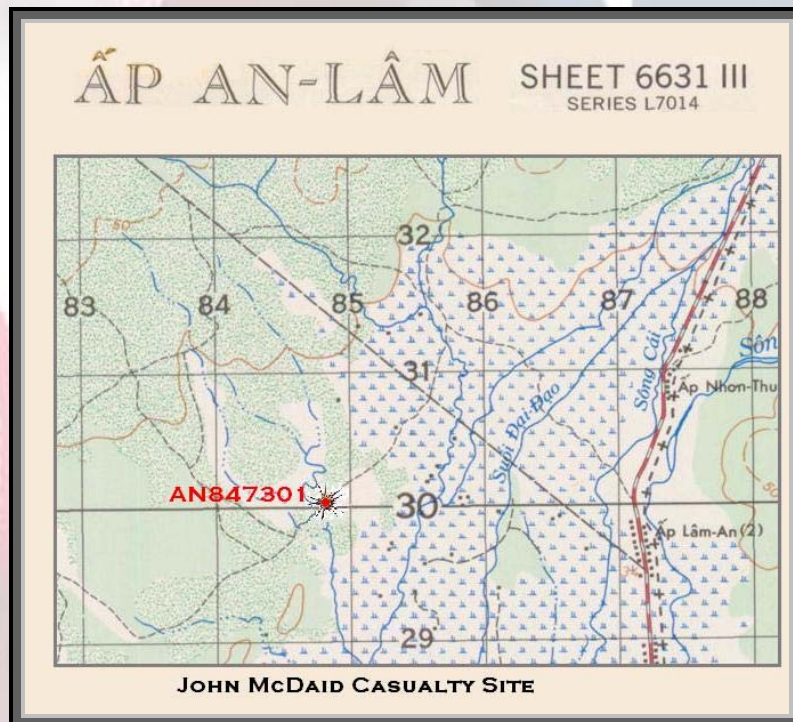
John lead his squad during an Ambush Patrol which met a large enemy force as his squad moved to set up their positions in darkness. The Official IFFV Intelligence Summary noted:

"At 8:30 PM in the vicinity of AN847301, in "AO Watts", an element of the second Platoon of "C" Company initiated contact on 25 VC at an estimated distance of 100 meters. A Reaction force of APCs (Armored Personnel Carriers) responded and contact was broken by 9:30 PM. 1 U.S. KIA, Enemy casualties unknown."

John's former Company Commander, Ray Sarlin, wrote a gripping account of the action that night for the Association of the 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry's "War Stories" web site section.

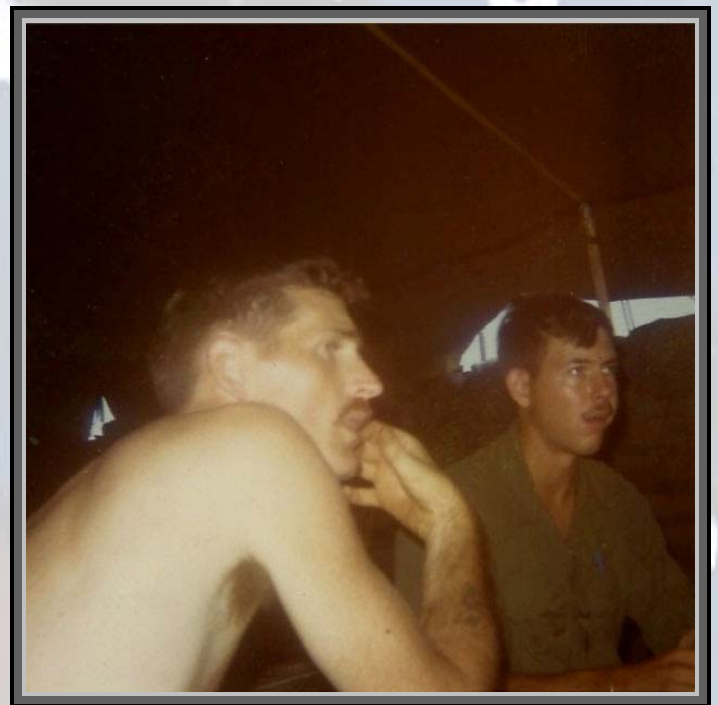
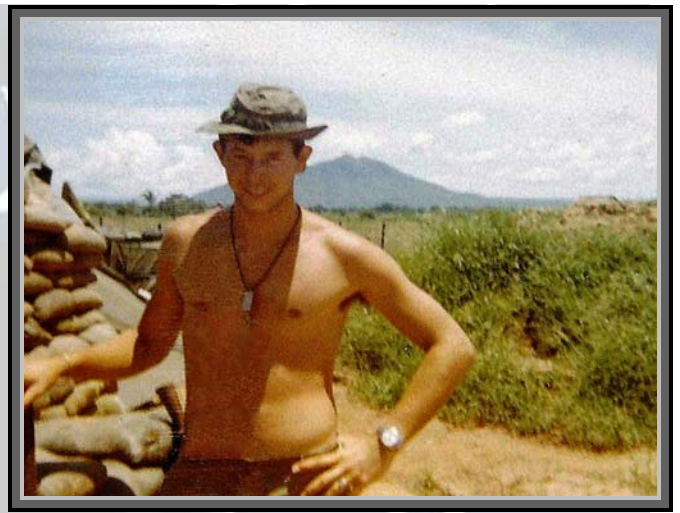
Read the story at: <http://www.ichiban1.org/pdf/Memorial/McDaidStory.pdf>

A map of the location (AN847301) is shown below:



Continued...

Bill Mims, of John McDaid's "Charlie" Company, sent this photo (Top-Right) of John in the hot Vietnam sun. This could be either an LZ on Highway 19 in the Central Highlands with the 173rd Airborne before the Battalion transferred to IFFV in Binh Thuan or possibly near Whiskey Mountain north of Phan Thiet sometime during the fall before his death. Another "C Company man, Bob Odendahl, contributed the two photos below. Left is a photo of the 2nd Platoon Tent with LT Matthews and [SGT Moore](#), who died of wounds one week after McDaid was killed. McDaid is located in line with the tent opening. Moore and McDaid are also captured in the photo below right.

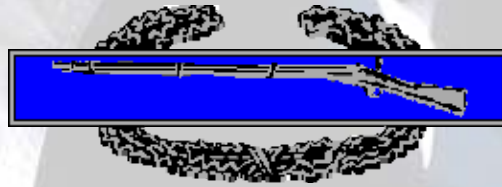


John McDaid was Posthumously promoted to the Non-Commissioned Officer rank of Sergeant E-5. He is buried at North Star Cemetery, South Baldwin Road, North Star Township, Gratiot County, Michigan (Photos Below).



Continued...

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF SERGEANT JOHN MCDAID:



Combat Infantry Badge



THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL
WITH "V" DEVICE FOR VALOR

HQ, 1ST FIELD FORCE VIETNAM

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 151

21 FEBRUARY, 1970

FOR HEROISM: SPECIALIST FOUR JOHN M. MCDAID DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY HEROISM WHILE PARTICIPATING IN MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST AN ARMED HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ON 19 JANUARY 1970, WHILE SERVING AS A SQUAD LEADER WITH COMPANY C, 1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 50TH INFANTRY. ON THAT DATE, SPECIALIST MCDAID LED AN AMBUSH PATROL TO A POINT 500 METERS FROM THEIR FORWARD OBSERVATION BASE. AS PREPARATIONS WERE BEING MADE TO AMBUSH AN ENEMY FORCE KNOWN TO BE IN THE AREA, SPECIALIST MCDAID SPOTTED APPROXIMATELY 40 NORTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS MOVING DIRECTLY TOWARD HIS POSITION. HE QUICKLY INSTRUCTED HIS MEN TO REMAIN UNDER COVER AND CALLED FOR MORTAR SUPPORT AND REINFORCEMENTS. DURING THIS TIME, THE ENEMY SPOTTED THE AMBUSH AND, AFTER DISPERSING TO WITHIN 50 METERS OF THE FRIENDLY TROOPS, THE ENEMY BEGAN DELIVERING HEAVY SMALL ARMS FIRE. AS MORTAR SUPPORT BEGAN, SPECIALIST MCDAID DISREGARDED A HAIL OF INTENSE ENEMY FIRE, MOVED TO EACH OF HIS POSITIONS, AND DIRECTED HIS SQUAD'S FIRE ON THE ADVANCING ENEMY TROOPS. HE INSURED FLANK SECURITY BY DIRECTING GRENADE FIRE TO ONE FLANK WHILE PERSONALLY SECURING THE OTHER FLANK HIMSELF. AS THE REINFORCING TROOPS NEARED THE CONTACT AREA, HE ATTEMPTED TO FIRE A FLARE MARKING THE ENEMY POSITION, BUT WAS WOUNDED IN THE HEAD AND SHOULDER. MEANWHILE, THE FRIGHTENED ENEMY BROKE CONTACT AS THE REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVED. DESPITE HIS PAINFUL AND SERIOUS WOUNDS, SPECIALIST MCDAID CONTINUED TO EXPOSE HIMSELF TO HEAVY ENEMY FIRE IN ORDER TO EFFECTIVELY DIRECT HIS SQUAD'S FIRE. AS THE RETREATING ENEMY WAS BEING SOUGHT, HE SUCCEMDED TO HIS WOUNDS. SPECIALIST FOUR MCDAID'S HEROISM WAS IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SERVICE AND REFLECTS GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF, HIS UNIT, AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.



Bronze
Star



Purple
Heart



National
Defense



Vietnam
Service



Vietnam
Campaign