

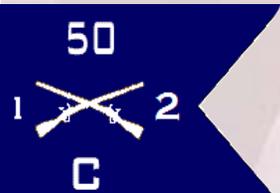


1ST
FIELD FORCE
VIETNAM



1ST BATTALION
50TH INFANTRY

2ND PLATOON



"C" COMPANY



SERGEANT



INFANTRYMAN

DENNIS WESLEY MOORE

"C" Company, 2nd Platoon, 1st Battalion (mechanized), 50th Infantry
Sergeant, E5, US201326166, MOS 11B40

Home of Record: Bodines, PA

Date of Birth: July 21, 1942, Age at time of loss: 27, Married
I Field Force Vietnam, Binh Thuan Province, Republic of Vietnam
Start of Tour: November 13, 1969, Wounded: January 23, 1970,
Died of wounds: January 26, 1970, Days in Country: 74
Casualty Type A2, Hostile OED, Panel 14W - Row 069

Sergeant Dennis Moore (Photo at right) was severely wounded as a member of Charlie Company's 2nd Platoon, while on a search and destroy mission 22 Kilometers north of Phan Thiet. During the operation, he accidentally tripped a booby-trapped hand grenade. The resultant explosion ultimately took his life when he died of his wounds three days later. Association Member Bob Odendahl remembers: *"I was with Sergeant Moore that day. I was fortunate and was only knocked out by the blast...primarily, I believe, because he caught the shrapnel heading my way as he was between the explosion and me."*



Only days before, Dennis Moore had heroically acted to save fellow 2nd Platoon member John McDaid as he lay severely wounded during an intense firefight only a short distance from the site of his own fatal mishap. Moore was posthumously awarded the Silver Star for his actions on January 19th, attempting to save Specialist John McDaid.

Former "C" Company Commander Ray Sarlin wrote:

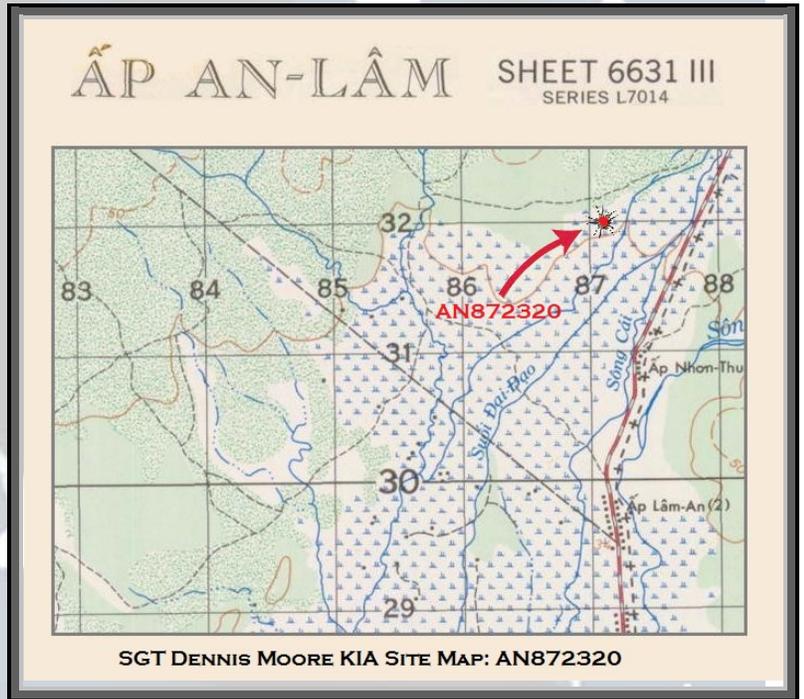
" One of our Platoon Sergeants, a Ranger, had reached John with his medic, and told me that we had to get him out immediately. I talked to the dust-off, who asked for a position and then some of the bravest, or most foolhardy, selfless acts I ever witnessed occurred as John was rescued. The sergeant gathered John in his arms and waving a flashlight to guide the chopper, ran into the middle of the exploding battlefield, enemy rounds flying all around, as the chopper flew in over the NVA tracers and John was loaded aboard with barely a pause and then flown off straight over the head of the enemy unit. John continued to fight for his life in the chopper, but he was simply too badly wounded. By some miracle, the sergeant wasn't hit, but died only days later in another incident. May God bless them both."

Former 2nd Platoon man Bob Odandahl supplied the photo on the right where Sergeant Dennis Moore is picture with John McDaid in their platoon tent at LZ Betty, sometime before the extended trip to the area around Thien Giao where they were both killed in separate actions in early 1970.

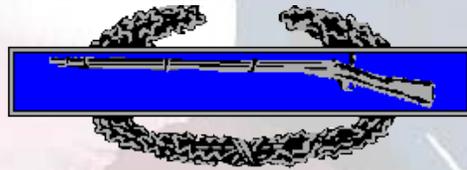


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A map of the location (AN872320) is shown below on the right. The photo below, also supplied by Bob Odandahl, shows Platoon Leader LT Mathews (Lower Left) and Sergeant Dennis Moore preparing for another mission on Christmas Eve, 1969. again, John McDaid can be seen in the background, partially silhouetted by the tent entrance.



AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF SERGEANT DENNIS MOORE:



Combat Infantry Badge



*Award indicated is noted here without documentation since it was entered on the web site by John's former Commanding Officer....who is no longer available to us.

Continued...



Memories of a Fallen Ranger

by: Ray Sarlin, Commanding Officer,
Charlie Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry: 1970

I'd like to think I knew him,
Since in my arms he died...
Shredded by tiny fragments,
God knows the medics tried.

That he lived so long at all
Once the explosives blew...
Testifies to God knows what,
I wish that I knew too.

Thirty-two years later on
I can't recall his name...
Though I swore to not forget
My God, I feel such shame.

But if his name has vanished,
And God knows that is real...
His heroism hasn't dimmed,
His mem'ry stirs me still.

But my real disgrace I fear
Not his forgotten name,
But other's expectations
I tried but couldn't claim.

He'd written wife and daughter
Cheap Charlie had his pic
To draw a velvet painting
And make them less heartsick.

Reply to my condolence
Came as this simple plea
If I didn't mind too much
Send his picture cross the sea.

I wrote back that I would try...
And try we did in vain....
Days and weeks and months passed by
Time came to board my plane.

If I should recall his name
Though thirty years have passed.
May his actions give me strength
To write his kin at last.

I'd like to think I knew him,
Since in my arms he died...
Shredded by tiny fragments,
God, help my pain subside.



(Sergeant Moore, I have remembered your name and I will never forget it again, just as I have never forgotten you or your heroism. May God bless you and your family forevermore.)



THE SILVER STAR

HQ 1ST FIELD FORCE VIETNAM, GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 377, 2 APRIL 1970

FOR GALLANTRY IN ACTION WHILE ENGAGED IN MILITARY OPERATIONS INVOLVING CONFLICT WITH AN ARMED HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. SERGEANT MOORE DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF WHILE SERVING AS A PLATOON SERGEANT WITH HIS UNIT ON 19 JANUARY 1970. LATE THAT NIGHT, AN AMBUSH SQUAD WHICH HAD BEEN PINNED DOWN BY A COMPANY SIZE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY UNIT CALLED FOR A REACTION FORCE AND A MEDICAL EVACUATION HELICOPTER TO REMOVE A SERIOUSLY INJURED MAN. ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS FROM SERGEANT MOORE'S UNIT WERE MOVING TO THE CONTACT AREA WHEN THE LEAD TRACK BECAME CAUGHT IN A DEEP TRENCH AND THE PLATOON LEADER WAS THROWN TO THE GROUND UNCONSCIOUS. SERGEANT MOORE IMMEDIATELY TOOK CHARGE OF THE REMAINING VEHICLES AND DIRECTED THEM TO THE BATTLE SITE. WHEN HE ARRIVED, THE CONTACT AREA WAS UNDER INTENSE HOSTILE FIRE. SERGEANT MOORE RECEIVED WORD THAT THE EVACUATION HELICOPTER WAS NEARBY AND NEEDED A LANDING ZONE. REALIZING THE DANGER THAT FRIENDLY FIRE POSED FOR THE HELICOPTER, SERGEANT MOORE CALLED A CEASE FIRE, BUT RADIO COMMUNICATIONS FAILED AND THE OTHER UNITS CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN INTENSE FIRE. SEEING NO OTHER WAY TO INSURE THE SAFETY OF THE HELICOPTER AND THE WOUNDED MAN, SERGEANT MOORE RAN TWO HUNDRED FIFTY METERS THROUGH BOTH ENEMY AND FRIENDLY FIRE TO RESUME CONTACT WITH THE OTHER CARRIERS. HE THEN CONSOLIDATED THE REACTION FORCES AND THE AMBUSH PATROL TO SECURE A LANDING ZONE FOR THE EVACUATION OF THE WOUNDED PERSONNEL. SERGEANT MOORE'S HEROIC ACTIONS AND DISREGARD FOR HIS OWN SAFETY IN THE FACE OF HOSTILE FIRE WERE IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SERVICE, AND REFLECT GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF, HIS UNIT, AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.



THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

HQ 1ST FIELD FORCE VIETNAM, GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 368, 31 MARCH 1970

FOR DISTINGUISHING HIMSELF BY OUTSTANDING MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD 23 NOVEMBER 1969 TO 25 JANUARY 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. 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.



THE ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE FOR VALOR

HQ 1ST FIELD FORCE VIETNAM, GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 376, 2 APRIL 1970

FOR HEROISM IN CONNECTION WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. SERGEANT MOORE DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF WHILE SERVING AS A SQUAD LEADER DURING A SEARCH AND CLEAR MISSION ON 23 JANUARY 1970. SERGEANT MOORE AND HIS SQUAD WERE SEARCHING THE UNDERBRUSH WHEN THEY DISCOVERED SEVERAL BAMBOO AND THATCH BUILDINGS WITH EVIDENCE OF VERY RECENT USE. HE IMMEDIATELY SET UP SECURITY PRECAUTIONS AND HAD THE REMAINDER OF HIS MEN CHECK THE AREA FOR SIGNS OF THE ENEMY. SERGEANT MOORE BEGAN INSPECTING THE AREA AND CAME UPON SOME SUSPICIOUSLY ARRANGED CLOTHING BY THE CREEK BED. MOTIONING ALL HIS PERSONNEL OUT OF THE AREA, HE BEGAN TO INSPECT THE CLOTHING. IN DOING SO, HE TRIGGERED A HIDDEN BOOBY-TRAPPED FRAGMENTATION GRENADE, WHICH EXPLODED, CAUSING INJURIES FROM WHICH HE DIED THREE DAYS LATER. THROUGH SERGEANT MOORE'S SELFLESS ACT OF VALOR AND DISREGARD OF HIS OWN PERSONAL SAFETY, NONE OF HIS MEN WERE INJURED IN THE INCIDENT. SERGEANT MOORE'S HEROIC ACTIONS WERE IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SERVICE AND REFLECT GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF, HIS UNIT, AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.