



9TH INFANTRY
DIVISION



60TH INFANTRY



50TH INFANTRY



"E" COMPANY



PRIVATE 1ST CLASS



INFANTRYMAN

RONALD K. MOORE

"E" Company (Long Range Patrol), 50th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division
Private First Class, E3, RA12741844, MOS 11B10

Home of Record: Herkimer, NY

Date of Birth: March 14, 1949, Age at time of loss: 19, Single

9th Infantry Division, Dinh Tuong Province, Republic of Vietnam

Start of Tour: September 14, 1968, Date of Casualty: November 4, 1968, Days in Country: 51
Casualty Type A1, Gun, small arms fire,, Panel 39W - Row 017

Private First Class Ronald Moore started his tour of duty in the Republic of Vietnam on 14 September 1968 and was initially assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division in the Mekong Delta.

PFC Moore volunteered for and qualified as a member of Company E (Long Range Patrol), 50th Infantry. He was killed in action by small arms fire on a combat mission somewhere in Dinh Tuong Province on November 4th, 1968. Following is Fire Team Leader Jim Thayer's account of the action in chapter 9 of his book "Tango 1-1" published in 2020:



On 3 November G-3 (Division Operations) decided it was time to send another patrol onto Thoi Son

Island in the middle of the Mekong River. No one had been to the dreaded 'VC Island' since my team, Tango 1-1, had been shot at on insertion back on 10 October. C.R. Mathis' team got the nod for the mission this time. They were to be inserted at first light on the morning of the 4th by riverine patrol boat.

Just before daylight on the day of the mission, the team boarded the PBR at the Navy docks and motored out to the river before heading downstream toward their insertion point on the lower end of the island. Their landing was uncontested, so the team moved quickly into the dense underbrush and 'went ghost' for nearly twenty minutes to make sure their insertion had not been observed. Satisfied that they had not been spotted, the team moved out toward the interior of the island.

Sometime just before midday they reached a point nearly a mile from the river where they stumbled upon several camouflaged huts spread out in some thick underbrush, surrounded by a stand of mature bamboo. The huts were well-hidden and almost impossible to spot from the air.

The team remained in hiding and watched the structures for nearly fifteen minutes. Finally deciding that they were unoccupied, the LRPs moved in cautiously to search the area for anything that might be of value to the Intel people at Division G-2. It wasn't long before they uncovered a weapons cache and a large supply of rice inside two of the structures. There were also some cooking pots and pans and a couple of sleeping mats that indicated someone had been using the site. Deciding not to touch anything, the five LRPs backed off into the surrounding cover and called in their discovery to their commanding officer back at Dong Tam.

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Suddenly, a long burst of AK-47 fire erupted from a patch of dense cover on the back side of the huts. The team leader, still holding the radio handset, was hit in the buttocks by a single round. The bullet traveled down through his leg and exited out of his knee. It was a serious wound that required an immediate medevac.

No one had seen where the gunfire had come from. While one of the team members began treating the wounded team leader, the remainder of the LRPs desperately scoped out the surrounding area trying to locate the enemy sniper who had fired them up. They realized that they had to get the wounded man extracted and decided that the fastest way was to carry him back to the river. While three team members left with the casualty, Mathis remained behind to make sure they weren't followed. He secretly hoped that the hidden VC might think the entire team had pulled out and step out into the open and show himself. Mathis waited ten minutes and when nothing happened, slipped silently away to catch up with his teammates.

It was mid-afternoon when they reached the shoreline. The PBR boat was waiting for them. The crew helped them get their casualty aboard and then quickly transported the team back to Dong Tam. After seeing to it that their wounded team leader was on his way to a surgical ward at Ton San Nhut, they reported what they had found to a staff officer at Division G-3. The debriefing officer listened intently to what the LRPs had to say, then asked them to wait while he conferred with his senior officers. He returned a short time later and told the team that he wanted them to go back to the island and lead an infantry platoon to the cache site.

Thirty minutes later, the LRPs were once again on the PBR headed back to VC Island. They reached shore 100 meters upstream from their previous landing site, hoping to avoid an ambush. Just behind them, a flat-bowed ATC (Armored Troop Carrier) pulled into shore, lowered its ramp, and dropped off a reinforced infantry platoon. The waiting LRPs linked up with the line unit, then waited while the team's ATL told the lieutenant in command of the infantry that his team would take point and lead him and his platoon back to the cache site, a little over a klick inland.

Forty minutes later, the LRPs pulled up at the edge of the underbrush where the hooches were located and signaled for the infantry to move up on-line. There was still plenty of daylight left, but the ATL wanted to get the mission over with and get back to Dong Tam before dark. He wanted to find out how his wounded team leader was doing. As the infantry maneuvered to approach the first hooch, VC soldiers hidden in the dense cover behind the buildings sprang their ambush on both the LRPs and the infantry platoon. The Americans returned fire as they dove for cover.

The infantry unit had taken several casualties in the opening moments of the ambush. Three Americans were killed outright and several others were wounded. Among the LRPs, Mathis had taken a round in his bicep and another LRP, Ron Moore, was shot in the abdomen. He died a few moments later.

As the battle raged around them, the two unwounded LRPs pulled their dead teammate back from where he had fallen. Mathis crawled over to join them. They discussed the situation among themselves and decided to get Moore's body back to the shoreline. They had completed their mission by leading the infantry platoon to the cache site. It had cost them two more casualties. The infantry platoon could handle the ongoing battle. LRPs were not trained for extended firefights.

Two of the LRPs moved out, carrying Moore's body between them. Mathis dropped behind to pull rear security for his teammates as they struggled back to the river with their load. The infantry remained at the initial point of contact, still heavily engaged with the hidden enemy. Both sides would suffer additional casualties before the battle ended later in the afternoon with the VC finally withdrawing.

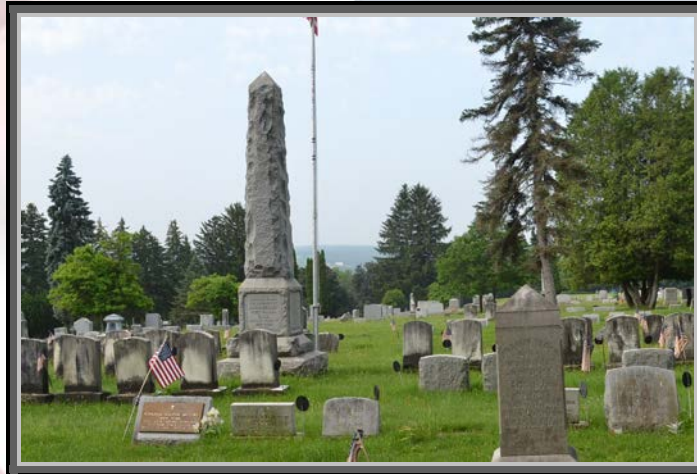
The LRPs were extracted back to Dong Tam where Moore's body was turned over to Graves Registration. Mathis was treated at the med center in Dong Tam, then medevacked to military hospital at Tan Son Nhut. The next day he was airlifted to Camp Zama in Japan. A month later, he was flown to the military hospital at Fort Lewis, Washington where he spent four more months going through additional surgeries and physical therapy. He was awarded a Bronze Star with 'V' device for his actions that day in November and unceremoniously given a medical retirement from the military. His war was over.¹

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Below are photos found on other memorial pages showing PFC Moore in what appears to be the [MACV Recondo School at Nha Trang](#). Although the fatigue jacket Moore is wearing displays rank and unit patches that were not his own, the students were often given "hand-me-down" camouflage fatigues with the previous owner's patches still attached.

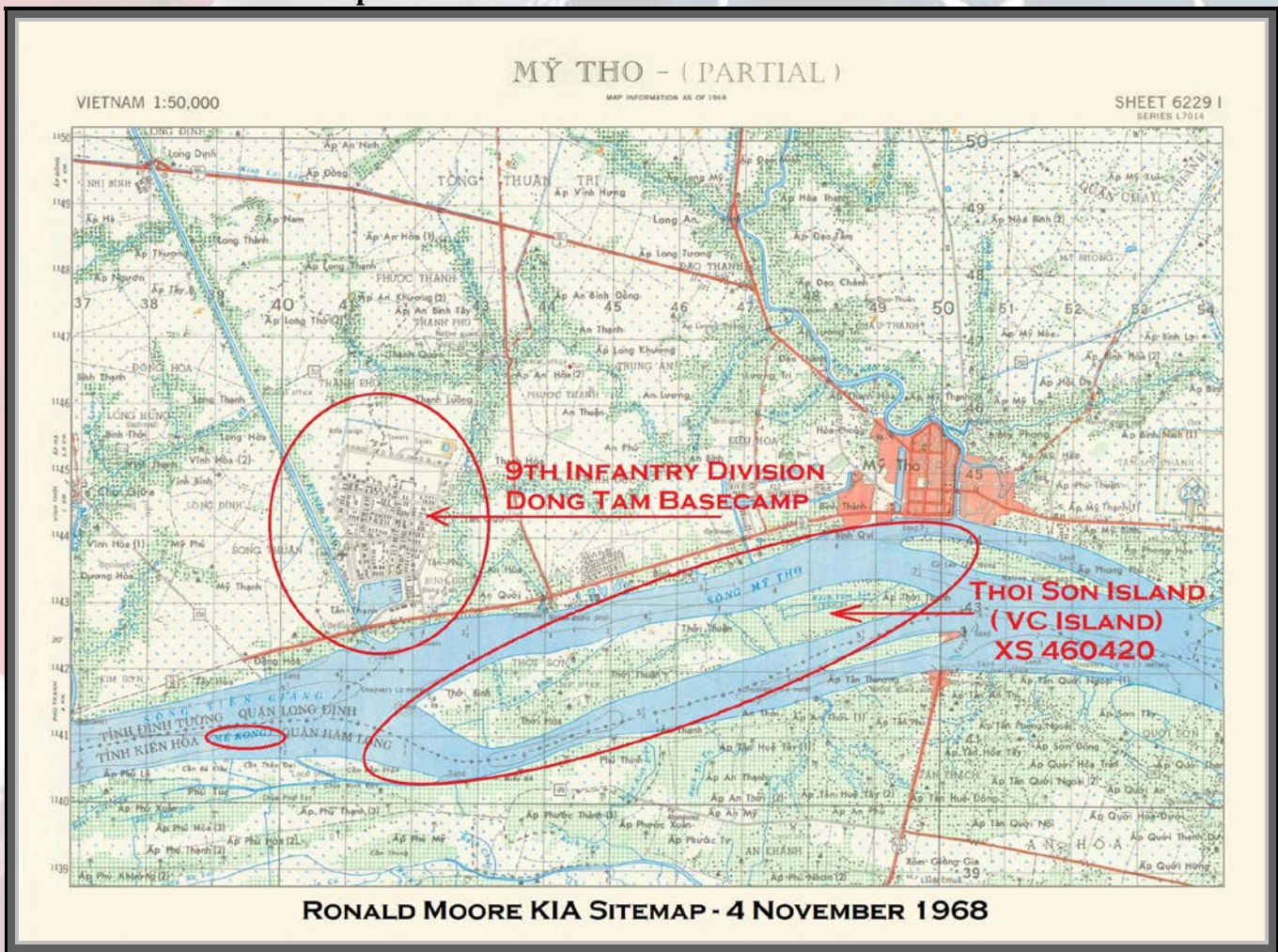


Ronald Moore is buried at Oak Hill Cemetery, W. German Street, Herkimer, Herkimer County, New York.

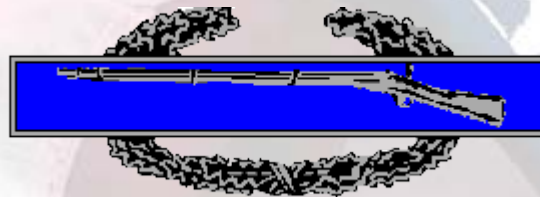


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Below is a map of the location where Ronald Moore was killed in action.



AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF RONALD MOORE:



Combat Infantry Badge

