



1ST
CAVALRY
DIVISION
(AIRMOBILE)



1ST BATTALION
50TH INFANTRY

"D" COMPANY



HEAVY WEAPONS
PLATOON



SPECIALIST
FOURTH CLASS



INFANTRYMAN

DAVID LLOYD PARKER

Heavy Weapons Platoon, "D" Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry
Specialist 4th Class, E4, US55850677, MOS 11C40

Home of Record: Alden, MN

Date of Birth: October 3, 1946, Age at time of loss: 21, Single

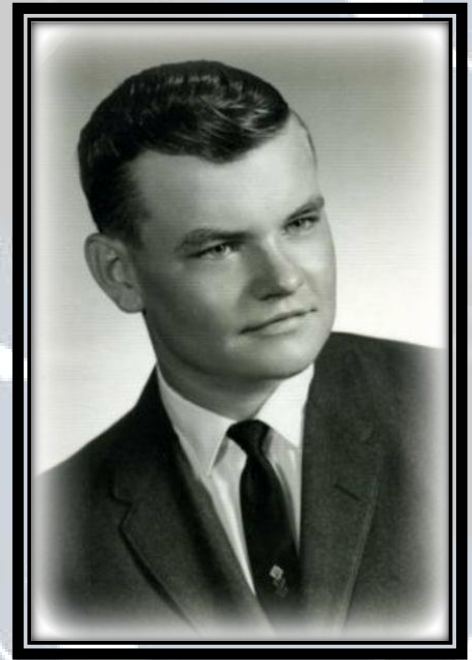
1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam

Start of Tour: September 1, 1967, Date of Casualty: January 31, 1968, Days in Country: 152

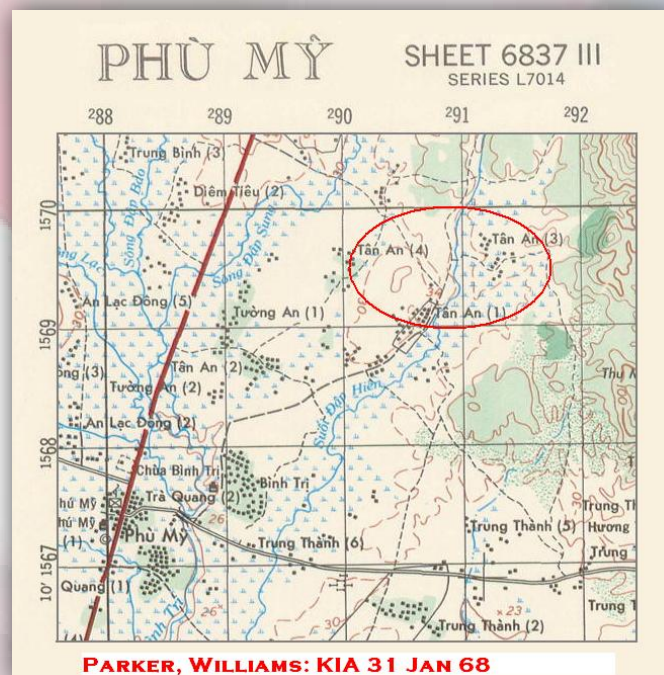
Casualty Type A2, Gun, small arms fire, Panel 36E - Row 029

During the fierce fighting that ensued at the outset of the Tet Offensive near Phu My in Binh Dinh Province, "D" Company came into contact with a large enemy force Northeast of Phu My and to the East of the villages of Tan An (See map below). Mick Hawkins, also a member of Parkers squad remembered:

"The NVA rolled out a heavy machine gun after we had taken over from Company B...who had withdrew from the fight in the general direction from which this gun appeared. The men all opened up on the Machine gun, but SSGT Bell order them to hold their fire as he feared we would hit the troops of "B" Company. The machine gun wreaked havoc on our troops. After the fight, we found Dave Parker dead of what appeared to be a large caliber weapon wound."



Also killed during the battle was Corporal Melvin Joe Williams, also with "D" Company. The action lasted from January 31st through February 4th and was part of "Operation Pershing II". Enemy forces lost (By Body Count) 139 killed during the action while U.S. forces suffered 4 dead. To read the After Action Report for the action go to: <http://www.ichiban1.org/pdf/Memorial/Pershing2.pdf>



PARKER, WILLIAMS: KIA 31 JAN 68

Continued...

Below: (Left) Dave Parker Basic Training Photo, (Right) On the beach in Binh Dinh, Vietnam.



Below: (Left) wrestling a beer from unidentified squad member, (Right) Guarding prisoners.

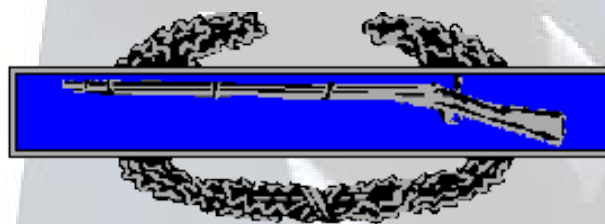


David Parker is buried at Rosehill Cemetery, Wells, Faribault County, Minnesota.



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DAVE PARKER'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:



Combat Infantry Badge



THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE FOR VALOR

HQ 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE), GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 1718, 21 MARCH 1968

FOR HEROISM, NOT INVOLVING PARTICIPATION IN AERIAL FLIGHT, IN CONNECTION WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM: SPECIALIST. FOUR PARKER DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY EXCEPTIONALLY VALOROUS ACTIONS ON 31 JANUARY 1968, WHILE SERVING AS A SQUAD LEADER WITH COMPANY D, 1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 50TH INFANTRY DURING A COMBAT MISSION NEAR TAN AN, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. WHEN HIS UNIT CAME IN CONTACT WITH A LARGE ENEMY FORCE, SPECIALIST PARKER EXPOSED HIMSELF TO THE HOSTILE FIRE AS HE MOVED THROUGH AN OPEN AREA AND SECURED A RESUPPLY OF AMMUNITION. WHILE PROVIDING COVERING FIRE FOR HIS MEN, SPECIALIST PARKER WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED. HIS DISPLAY OF PERSONAL BRAVERY AND DEVOTION TO DUTY 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

Read a compilation of letters Dave wrote home to his family between September, 1967 and January, 1968:

<http://www.ichiban1.org/pdf/Memorial/ParkerLetters.pdf>