



USARV



5TH SPECIAL
FORCES



MIKE FORCE



MAJOR



SPECIAL FORCES

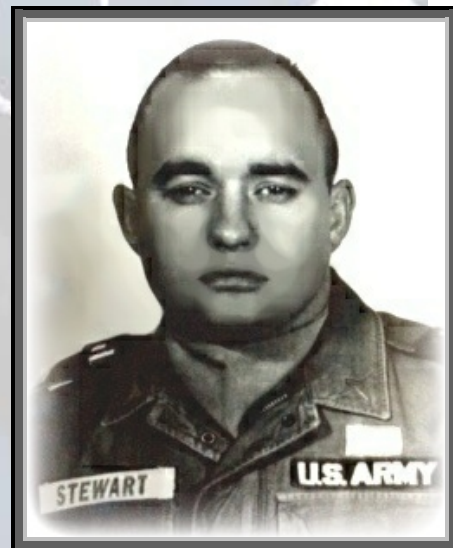
JACK THOMAS STEWART

DET A-302 (Bien Hoa), A Company, 5th Special Forces Group
Commanded "B" Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry, 1965-1966
Captain, O3, Promotion to Major, O4 while missing, 379505195, MOS 1542
Home of Record: Washington, DC

Date of Birth: March 30, 1941, Age at time of loss: 25, Married
USARV, Phuoc Long Province, Republic of Vietnam
Start of Tour: Unknown, Incident Date: March 24, 1967,
Status changed from MIA to KIA, June 10, 1976, Days in Country: NA
Casualty Type A3, Hostile, Died while Missing, Ground Casualty. Panel 17E - Row 040

Major Jack Stewart commanded our "B" Company at Fort Hood Texas during the crucial period when the battalion was tasked with becoming a training unit. He commanded Company B during the first cycle of Basic Combat Training from December of 1965 through February of 1966. He departed the 50th Infantry sometime in the spring of 1966 and joined the Special Forces.

On March 24, 1967, CAPT Jack T. Stewart and SSGT Roger C. Hallberg were advisors to a mobile strike force company on a combat operation in South Vietnam. The Mike Force Company was conducting a Combat Assault on March 24, 1967, 13 km east of Bu Dop in Phuoc Long Province, South Vietnam, near the Cambodian border.



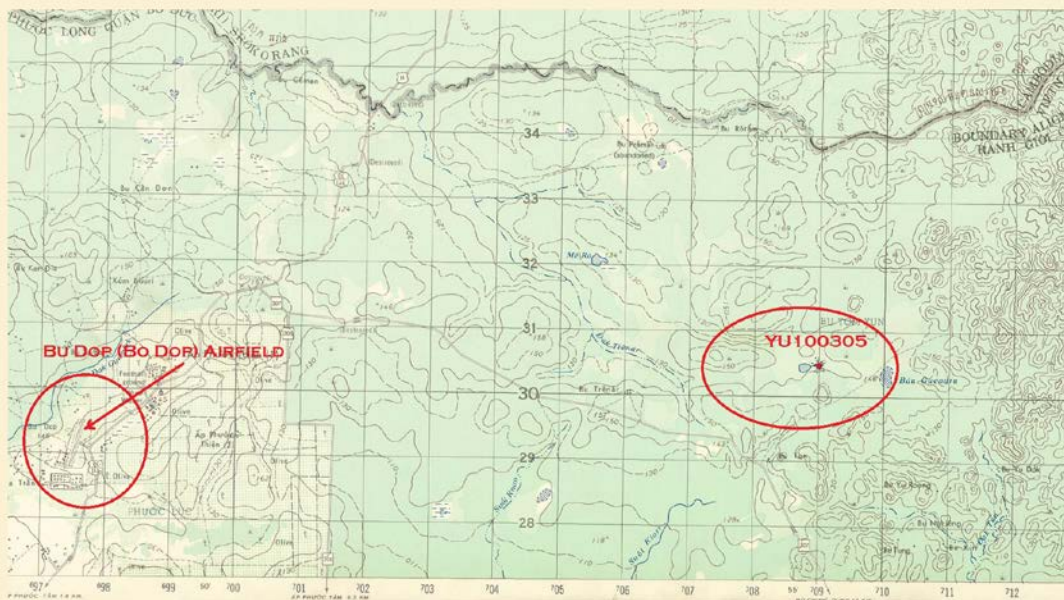
Shortly after landing, the company proceeded about 800 meters north where the point element began receiving automatic weapons fire. SFC Hallberg, who was part of the point element, came back to the command group to report on the situation because he had no radio. Captain Stewart, after assessing the situation, tried to maneuver the recon platoon to flank the enemy, but it also ran into heavy automatic weapons fire. The second platoon then started to pull out.

It was determined that the unit had been ambushed by two heavily armed NVA battalions. The remaining platoons fell back to the command group and took up positions. Stewart and Hallberg's attempts to consolidate positions around the landing zone supported by airstrikes failed. Hallberg was wounded slightly, and his commanding officer was wounded more seriously in the battle.

When last seen, they were fighting while providing cover for the safe withdrawal of their companions who moved toward Bu Dop and were later picked up by friendly helicopters. Another group was sent immediately to aid them, but when they arrived at the site of the ambush they found no trace of Hallberg or Stewart. (Taken from pownetwork.org)

The incident took place 13 km east of Bu Dop Airfield, 3 km south of the Cambodian Border (See map on next page).

Continued...



KIA SITE MAP - JACK STEWART

One of the men involved in the action, John M. Throckmorton, the lone American survivor of the firefight, submitted fellow soldiers Jack Stewart and Roger Hallberg for valor awards. After Throckmorton met the Hallberg family 2005 and learned that neither Hallberg nor Stewart had been decorated for their heroism in 1967, Throckmorton resubmitted paperwork that led to Hallberg being awarded the Silver Star, and the eventual awarding of the Distinguished Service Cross to Jack Stewart in 2009. Read an in depth account of the action written by retired Army Major John Mullins and published in the April 2001 issue of Vietnam Magazine:

<https://www.ichiban1.org/pdf/Memorial/StewartAccount.pdf>



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918, takes pride in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) to Major (Infantry), [then Captain] Jack Thomas Stewart, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy while serving with Operational Detachment Alpha-302 (ODA-302), Company A, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, during combat operations in the Republic of Vietnam on 24 March 1967. Major Stewart's Mike Force element was surrounded and savagely attacked by two North Vietnamese Army battalions. Equipped only with individual small arms, the

Mike Force was unable to obtain fire superiority. Major Stewart formed a defensive perimeter as the enemy launched human wave assaults and raked the Mike Force with small arms and mortar fire. Major Stewart repeatedly exposed himself to withering enemy fire and direct assault as he calmly moved about the maelstrom rallying his troops. While attempting to coordinate an air strike, Major Stewart was wounded by enemy fire and his radio was destroyed. Unable to communicate with friendly air support, the Mike Force began to take friendly fire from tactical support aircraft. Recognizing the untenable situation, Major Stewart attempted to lead a withdrawal, but was thwarted by fierce enemy fire. Facing the probable annihilation of his unit, Major Stewart sacrificed himself to certain capture or death by taking up an exposed position and covering the withdrawal of as many of his troops as possible. Major Stewart's undaunted courage and steadfast regard for his men at the cost of his life are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the 5th Special Forces Group, and the United States Army.