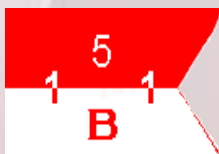




1<sup>ST</sup>  
CAVALRY  
DIVISION  
(AIRMOBILE)



1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION  
5<sup>TH</sup> CAVALRY



"B" COMPANY  
1<sup>ST</sup> PLATOON

**MONGOOSE BRAVO**



SERGEANT



INFANTRYMAN

## TOMMY GENE "SMOKEY" STOVER

1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, "B" Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry

Sergeant, E5, US56694149, MOS 11B40

Home of Record: Wilmington, CA

Date of Birth: June 28, 1946, Age at time of loss: 21, Married

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

Start of Tour: February 4, 1967, Date of Casualty: January 2, 1968, Days in Country: 332

Casualty Type A3, Gun, small arms fire, Panel 33E - Row 024

We have determined that "Smokey" Stover was not a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (M), 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry during our tour in Vietnam. We currently do not have access to the information that reported him as one of our KIAs, but it was indicated in a note on our original "In Memoriam" pages that someone within our Association identified him as such. Since our After Action Report for the Battle of An Tinh indicated 6 men lost in action, we believe the assumption was that they were all 50<sup>th</sup> infantry, in error. In fact, 3 men were lost from the 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry and 3 from the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry. Also lost was a Forward Observer working with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Cav. From "B" Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 77<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery.

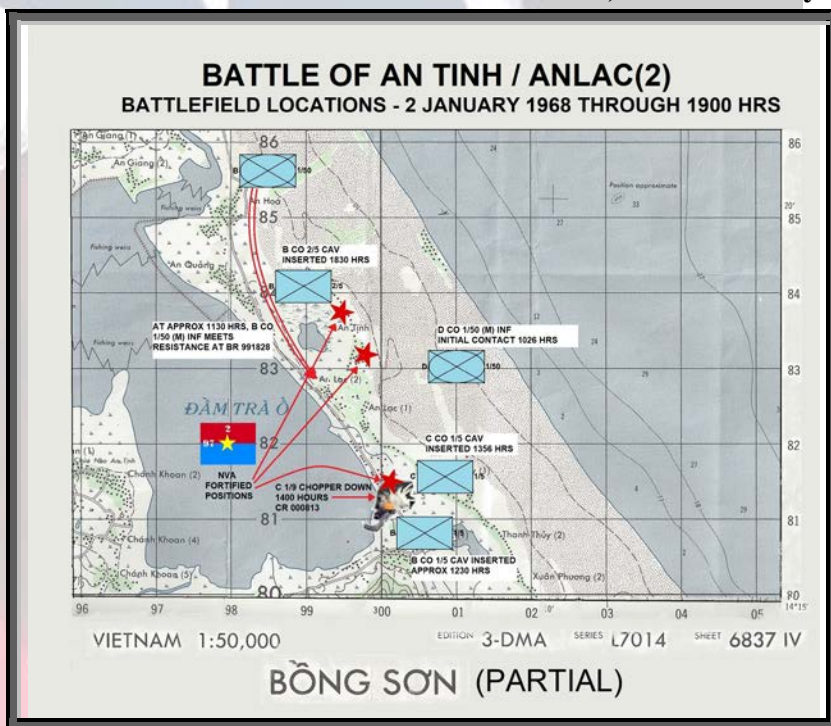


Sergeant Stover was mortally wounded on the sandy beach near An Lac/Thanh Thuy and he died there in a heroic effort to retrieve his best friend, SGT Terry

Birmingham...who had been mortally wounded and lay helpless on the sandy beach near the battle. Stover moved forward to his friend in an effort to remove him from the intense enemy fire that was being directed on their Platoon. SGT Stover was shot and killed instantly as he reached his dying friend and cradled him in his arms. They died together as did Forward Observer Fred Manly who was providing supporting fire from nearby. The scene was

described to the 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association by former "Mongoose Bravo" soldier Hugh Foster. Above (Left) is a map showing the position of and the forces involved in the Battle of An Tinh, more commonly known as the Battle of An Lac(2), January 2, 1968.

Smokey's name is inscribed on our 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Vietnam Memorial in front of Battalion Headquarters, Treadwell Barracks, Sand Hill, Fort Benning, Georgia. By a unanimous vote of Association Members, his name will remain on our memorial.



Continued...

# SMOKEY STOVER'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:



Combat Infantry Badge



Bronze Star



Air Medal



Purple Heart



National Defense



Vietnam Service



Vietnam Campaign