



FRANK WRIGHT WEBB

"A" Company, 1st Platoon Leader, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry
First Lieutenant, O2, O5340990, MOS 1542
Home of Record: Kenbridge, VA

Date of Birth: December 30, 1946, Age at time of loss: 21, Single
173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate), Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam
Start of Tour: September 1, 1967, Date of Casualty: May 5, 1968, Days in Country: 247
Casualty Type A1, Gun, Small Arms Fire, Panel 55E - Row 035

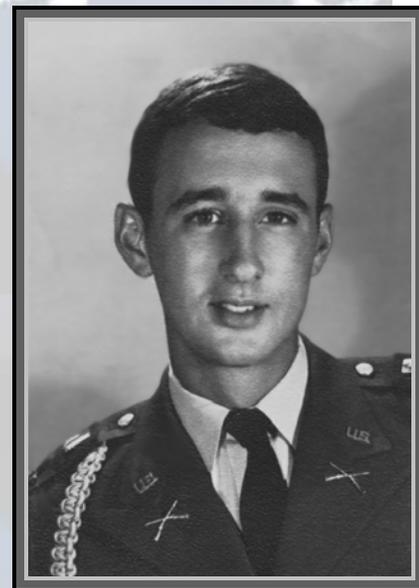
Lieutenant Frank Webb, 1st Platoon Leader of "A" Company, was killed In Action on May 5, 1968, near the villages of An Bao in Binh Dinh Province.

"A" Company forces were attacked and nearly overrun by the "Black Star" Regiment of the North Vietnamese Army. 50th Infantry Archive Documentation shows that the "A" Company Commander, Lt Hinton, was killed near the outset of the attack...shortly after calling for the remaining Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs) to immediately withdraw back the way they had entered the area.

Most of Lieutenant Webb's Platoon's APCs had been disabled in the initial volley of enemy rocket fire and he attempted to rally his now "foot soldier" troops into a defensive position as human waves of NVA soldiers maneuvered in for the kill from three sides.

Caught in open rice paddy areas, with only a small paddy wall for protection, the men of the 1st platoon were being killed by withering enemy fire. Frank Webb was killed by gun shot wound to his head...he died instantly.

Charlie Company was called in to reinforce the besieged Alpha Co. Credit "C" Company's CPT Jay Copley with saving the remaining 1st Platoon troops of Alpha Company as he pushed his relief element swiftly into the battle. Upon arrival, the enemy, who had fallen silent to allow the "C" Company troops to enter the ambush zone, opened fire with an intense and sustained barrage of small arms, automatic weapons and B40 Rocket fire...again from three sides. As Copley organized the Charlie Company APC's machine guns into a forceful counter attack, the enemy began to withdraw. A second reinforcement element, "B" Company 1st Battalion, 69th Armor, came on the scene under the command of CPT Tim Grogan. At this time, "C" Company's CPT Copley was severely wounded, but refused evacuation until he was certain his troops would be able to effect a safe withdrawal. Fierce fighting ensued on both 1/50th Companies and "B" Company, 1/69th Armor as "B" Company, 1/50th Infantry, was also called in to battle the huge enemy force. Although the enemy made one last probe and mortar attack on the American forces at their night Laager, the Regiment was never able to mount another sustained attack. Captured enemy soldiers claimed air strikes had decimated a planned morning attack...and that the Regiment was rendered "Ineffective" by the two day battle. US forces suffered a total of 22 killed in the battle, 11 from "A" Company, 1 from "HQ" Company 2 each from "B" and "C" Companies of the 1/50th, 2 from the 69th Armor and 4 from the 17th Aviation Helicopter which was shot down on the first day. close to 100 were wounded. The enemy may have suffered over 300 killed, but the record reflects that 120 bodies were counted.



Continued...

Read about the Battle of An Bao (Condensed Version):
<http://www.ichiban1.org/pdf/Memorial/AnBaoCondensed.pdf>

Declassified An Bao After Action Report, Daily Staff Journal and Air Report:
<http://www.ichiban1.org/pdf/Memorial/AnBaoExpanded.pdf>

A map of the location of the Battle of An Bao in Binh Dinh Province is shown below:



Frank Webb is pictured below (Left) while on a search and destroy mission in Binh Dinh Province. He is the second man from the left. On the far left (holding the map) is Company Commander CPT Mike Dash, Also pictured are Medic Dennis Apana (Standing facing camera) and in front (Kneeling) Staff Sergeant Doug Worcester. Below (Right) is a photo of Frank Webb while a cadet at the Virginia Military Institute.



Frank Webb's ashes were placed in the Piankatank River at Wilton Creek as he had requested.

Continued...

FRANK WEBB'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:



Combat Infantry Badge



Silver Star

Bronze Star (Valor)

Bronze Star (Merit)

Air Medal

Purple Heart (2 Awards)

National Defense

Vietnam Service

Vietnam Campaign



HQ 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 1460

26 MAY 1968

FOR DISTINGUISHING HIMSELF BY OUTSTANDING MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 1967 TO MAY 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.



HQ, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 2510

22 APRIL 1968

FOR GALLANTRY IN ACTION WHILE ENGAGED IN MILITARY OPERATIONS INVOLVING CONFLICT WITH AN ARMED HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. SECOND LIEUTENANT WEBB DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY EXCEPTIONALLY VALOROUS ACTION ON 12 OCTOBER 1967, WHILE SERVING WITH COMPANY A, 1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 50TH INFANTRY DURING A CORDON AND SEARCH MISSION NEAR HOA TAN IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. WHEN HIS UNIT BECAME HEAVILY ENGAGED WITH A LARGE ENEMY FORCE, LIEUTENANT WEBB, DISREGARDING HIS OWN SAFETY, LED AN ASSAULT AGAINST THE HOSTILE EMPLACEMENTS. REPEATEDLY EXPOSING HIMSELF TO ENEMY FIRE, HE MADE A COMPLETE SEARCH OF THE AREA AND SUCCEEDED IN NEUTRALIZING THE ENEMY EMPLACEMENTS. HIS COURAGEOUS ACTION WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN CAPTURING A LARGE NUMBER OF HOSTILE SOLDIERS AND CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF HIS UNIT'S MISSION. LIEUTENANT WEBB'S GALLANT ACTION IS IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SERVICE, AND REFLECTS GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF, HIS UNIT, AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.