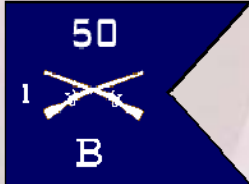




1<sup>ST</sup>  
AIR CAVALRY  
DIVISION



1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION  
50<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY



"B" COMPANY



CORPORAL



INFANTRY

## JOHN HAROLD WELCH

"B" Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (Mechanized), 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry  
Private First Class, E3, Posthumous Promotion to CPL, US55984016, MOS 11B10  
Home of Record: Knob Noster, MO

Date of Birth: August 25, 1947, Age at time of loss: 20, Single  
1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam  
Start of Tour: September 1, 1967, Date of Casualty: November 1, 1967, Days in Country: 61  
Casualty Type A1, MFW, Panel 29E - Row 007

John Welch was killed when he tripped a booby trapped explosive device while on a combat mission near Hoa Tan (2) in Binh Dinh Province. (See Map Below)

An original member of Bravo Company, Welch travelled to Vietnam with us on the USS Pope and had been on combat missions for approximately 5 weeks when killed.

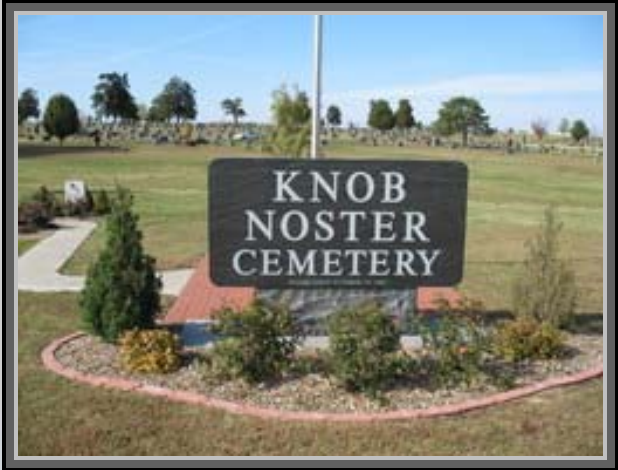
The 1st Cavalry Division Intelligence Summary for November 1, 1967, obtained from the National Archives, revealed that Welch was killed and 3 others wounded in the incident just east of a wide expanse of beach on the South China Sea. The villages just across the river from the incident were hotbeds of VC and NVA activity...as they were sandwiched between the high mountains of the Cay Giep and the Sea...both favored escape routes for the enemy. They frequented these villages for "Rest and Recuperation" often.

Company Commander, then Captain Dick Guthrie (Colonel, US Army, Retired) recommended Welch for the Bronze Star for Meritorious Service and promotion to Corporal, both posthumously.



Continued...

John Welch is buried at Knob Noster Cemetery, SE State Highway D, Knob Noster, Johnson County, MO, Pictured below.



**JOHN WELCH'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**



Combat Infantry Badge



HQ 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 7794

31 DEC 1967

FOR DISTINGUISHING HIMSELF BY OUTSTANDING MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD 22 SEPTEMBER 1967 TO 1 NOVEMBER 1967. 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.



Bronze Star

Air Medal

Purple Heart

National Defense

Vietnam Service

Vietnam Campaign