Specialist Fourth Class John H. "Jack" White, Jr. was a member of Long Range Patrol Team Cobra 1-2 of Company F (LRP), 50th Infantry with the 25th Infantry Division.

The mission for March 1st called for team Cobra 1-2, lead by Sergeant Rodney Tavares, from California, to move to an OP (Observation Position) near the Saigon River after a "stay-behind" insertion by Armored Personnel Carriers from the 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry's Bravo Company. Specialist Fourth Class Jack White, also from California, would serve as Tavares' assistant team leader during the mission. A MACV Recondo School graduate with eight to ten missions under his belt, White was by far the most experienced LRP on the team. Highly regarded for his ability in the field and his natural coolness under fire, he was the man everyone would turn to if the shit hit the fan.

As the men were half way to their destination, they encountered an enemy patrol and a vicious fire fight ensued in which White was seriously wounded. The team fell back and team members PFC Martin and PFC Thompson took turns giving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to White. In spite of efforts to keep him alive, the Assistant Team Leader died just as a reaction force from Alpha Company, 1st of the 5th (Mech) Infantry arrived on foot.


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John White is buried at Wesymister Memorial Park, 14801 Beach Blvd., Westminster, Orange County, CA.

Awards and Decorations of John White, Jr.:

Combat Infantry Badge

General Orders Number 1662
HQ 25th Infantry Division
26 March 1968

Specialist Four John White, Jr. distinguished himself by outstanding meritorious service in connection with ground operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam during the period from April 1967 to March 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. Specialist Four White's initiative, zeal, sound judgment and devotion to duty were in the highest tradition of the United States Army and reflected great credit on him and on the military service.