

GARY DENNIS FERNANDEZ**Class 5-67**

GARY DENNIS FERNANDEZ
is honored on Panel 33E, Row 77 of
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Full Name: GARY DENNIS FERNANDEZ
Wall Name: GARY D FERNANDEZ
Date of Birth: 3/8/1947
Date of Casualty: 1/7/1968
Home of Record: LEVITTOWN
County of Record: NASSAU COUNTY
State: NY
Branch of Service: ARMY
Rank: 1LT
Casualty Country: SOUTH VIETNAM
Casualty Province: DINH TUONG



1LT Fernandez was assigned to Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 33rd Artillery, 1st Infantry Division. He was killed by a land mine while serving as a Forward Observer with Company A, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry. He had arrived in country on 28 December 1967 and was killed on 7 January 1968.

From thewall-usa.com

"Manny," as we called him, was a Training Officer, in Company E, 3rd, BN., 1st, Training Brigade, Ft. Polk, LA. He was a hard charging little Field Artillery Lieutenant, who probably saved a number of lives, because of his constant demand that the trainees under him learned how to "Do it right!" He left Ft. Polk, I would guess, in Sep 67 and was assigned as a forward observer with Company A, 1st, Bn., 16th, Infantry, 1st, Division. In Jan. 68, the point platoon of A, Company was hit by a large directional mine and many soldiers were killed and wounded. Manny went forward with the Company HQ to help and they too were hit by another mine. I read that he'd been killed in Army Times and cried. By great coincidence, I took command of that same company in Oct. 68. There were still several soldiers that remembered Manny and his death. He was a good little trooper. I still think of him often.

Alan Anderson
Comrade, in Arms
27605, Lolo Creek Road, Lolo, MT., 59847
A good, officer and friend
December 14, 2001

Note from The Virtual Wall

Although the casualty file says that 1LT Fernandez was killed in Dinh Tuong Province, that was well outside the 1st Infantry Division's area of responsibility. On the other hand, it is known that seven men from the 1st Brigade, 1st Inf Div were killed by command detonated mines during a patrol about 7 kilometers south of Ben Cat in Binh Duong Province.

Six of the seven can be positively identified, all associated with the Alpha Company, 1/16 Infantry command group. They were the Company commanding officer; his radiomen; two medics attached from the 1st Med Bn; and a member of his artillery Forward Observer team. The F/O team member was from B Battery, 2/33rd Arty - 1LT Fernandez's unit.

While The Virtual Wall cannot prove it so, it is thought very likely that the casualty file is incorrect with respect to where 1LT Fernandez died, that it wasn't in Dinh Tuong Province but rather in Binh Duong.

The six men known to have been killed in the 1/16 incident are listed below, and so too is 1LT Fernandez, believed to be the seventh man killed by the mines:

A Co, 1st Bn, 16th Infantry:

CPT Andrew J. Tellis, Winnetka, IL, C.O. Alpha 1/16 Inf

SP4 Larry L. Cleem, Midway City, CA

SP4 William G. Schramm, New York, NY

HQ & A Co, 1st Med Bn (medics attached to Alpha 1/16):

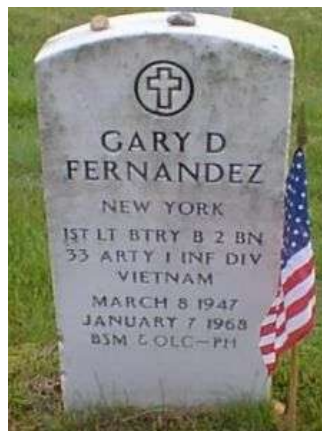
SP4 Rene Guerra-Hernandez, Los Angeles, CA

SP4 James J. Mora, Denver, CO

B Btry, 2nd Bn, 33rd Artillery:

1LT Gary D. Fernandez, Levittown, NY (Bronze Star "V" w/ OLC)

SGT Roger D. Ledbetter, Brownstown, IL



Buried in Long Island National Cemetery Section 2P, Plot 2710