

KENNETH DEE GILMORE

CLASS 5-64

is honored on Panel 4E, Row 123 of
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Full Name: KENNETH DEE GILMORE
Wall Name: KENNETH D GILMORE
Date of Birth: 3/30/1939
Date of Casualty: 1/31/1966
Home of Record: AUSTIN
State: TX
Branch of Service: ARMY
Rank: 1LT
Casualty Country: SOUTH VIETNAM
Casualty Province: PR & MR UNKNOWN



1LT Gilmore was serving with Battery A, 1st Battalion, 21st Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division when he lost his life.

From thewall-usa.com

I arrived at Bong Son 1-31-66 on call to replace Lt. Gilmore. I didn't have an opportunity to make Lt. Gilmore's acquaintance. He was helilifted from the battlefield into 3rd Brigade's Medevac facility at Dog within an hour of my arrival there, after leading an ammo convoy up the coast from the forward support area at Phu Cat. I was made immediately aware that he was not expected to survive, and that I might replace him in the field. I would welcome hearing from anyone who knew him, and who he was with and the circumstances behind his death. I have begun writing about my experiences with the 1/21 Arty, which I served from January to August in several capacities, including AO and FO, and as XO of C Battery during Paul Revere II.

Alan Berry
A standby replacement for Gilmore
6024 Telesco Way Carmichael CA 05608 USA
Jan 23, 2008

Kenneth is buried in Arlington National Cemetery – Section 35 Site 3916

Military funeral services will be Monday in Arlington National Cemetery for a 26-year-old Oklahoman killed January 31 in Viet Nam.

Kenneth Gilmore, who had lived in Allen, Sulphur, Bethany and Muskogee, was a first lieutenant with the First Cavalry air mobile division. He was an artillery spotter.

Gilmore was graduated from Muskogee High School and Abilene, Texas, Christian College. He received a master's degree from the University of Texas in 1963 and planned to earn a doctorate and teach college mathematics after his army duty was completed.

Survivors include his wife, Marla, Columbus, Ga.; his father, H. D. Gilmore, Oklahoma City; his mother, Mrs. Richard Friend, Haysville, Kan.; a brother, Charles Gilmore, Idaho Falls, Idaho, a nuclear engineering graduate of the University of Oklahoma; two sisters, Mrs. Janet Akers, Galena, Alaska, and Mrs. Carol Sue Mulanax, Las Vegas, Nev.; two half-sisters, Virginia Ann Friend and Lee Margaret Friend, Haysville, Kan., and his maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. N. N. Stafford, Allen.

Note from The Virtual Wall

1LT Kenneth Gilmore was killed in action during what became known as the "Battle of Cu Nghi", the first significant engagement in Operation MASHER. LT Gilmore probably was an artillery Forward Observer with one of the infantry battalions involved in the fight, which took place between 28-31 Jan 1966 in an area roughly 7 kilometers west of Tam Quan.

The Jan 2004 issue of *VFW Magazine* contains an article entitled "'Graveyard' at LZ 4: Battle of Cu Nghi" by Mr. Al Hemingway; in it Mr. Hemingway says

"During the three-day Battle of Cu Nghi (LZ 4), 77 cavalymen were killed and another 220 wounded. Including the 42 men of A Co., 2nd Bn., 7th Cav, and the four crewmen, 10 helicopter pilots and seven Green Berets, the grand total came to 140 Americans killed. LZ 4 rated its reputation as the 'graveyard.'"

Mr. Hemingway's "140 Americans killed" exaggerates matters, which were bad enough. According to the 1st Cavalry Division's After Action Report, 77 1st Cav soldiers were killed during the period 28 Jan-03 Feb inclusive, as Hemingway states. However,

- The 1st Cav had eight men killed in action between 01-03 Feb, reducing the number killed during the primary engagement (28-31 Jan) somewhat. One soldier from C Co, 1st Bn, 7th Cavalry died of wounds on 02 Feb, but the date he was wounded is not known - he may or may not have been at Cu Nghi.
- The "42 men ... and the four crewmen" refers to the non-hostile loss of C-123B tail number 54-0702, which crashed in the Deo Mang Pass on 25 Jan while ferrying 1st Cav soldiers from An Khe to Bong Son.
- The "10 helicopter pilots" is slightly in error; although 13 helo aircrew (not all "pilots") died in Binh Dinh Province during the three day period, 6 were killed when CH-47A tail number 63-07913 suffered a transmission failure and crashed 5 miles north of Phu Cat. The other 7 were killed in action.
- The "seven Green Berets" really relates only to the three members of Recon Team ROADRUNNER missing in action about 19 kilometers west-northwest of Tam Quan. Eight other Special Forces soldiers were killed in action during the period 28-31 Jan, but all were in the Tra Bong-Binh Son area of Quang Ngai Province - far north of the action at Cu Nghi.

Quibbling over the numbers, though, doesn't change the primary point: the fighting west of Tam Quan between 28 and 31 Jan inclusive was brutal and very costly to both sides.