



Thomas F. Young

SGT, USMC

Prisoner of War, Hue, 5 Feb 1968

Home of Record (Official):
HOT SPRINGS, AR
Date of Birth: Wednesday, September 18, 1946
Sex: Male
Race: Caucasian
Marital Status: Single

Military ---
Branch: Marine Corps
Rank: SGT
Serial Number: 2183922
Component: Regular
Pay grade: E5
MOS (Military Occupational Special Code): 4312
Major Organization: 1st Cavalry Division

Action: ---
Start of Tour: Unknown/Not reported
Date of Casualty: Saturday, February 3 (5), 1968
Age at time of loss: 21
Casualty type: (A1) Hostile, died
Reason: Gun, small arms fire (Ground casualty)
Country: South Vietnam
Province: Thua Thien
The Wall: Pane 37E – Row 016

From **The Wall** Database

Please scroll down



From the old Geocities Web Site

His friend SFC Harry Ettmueller writes, "I was right next to Tom when he was KIA in Hue and it was 5 Feb 68 not the 3rd as believed. Tom was killed by a burst of automatic weapons fire while trying to evade with the detachment from being overrun. We were in the streets of Hue fighting off a very large NVA force while heading towards MACV HQ and possible safety but alas we never made it. Three were killed that day to include one civilian a Courtney Niles, but the worst part was having Army SP. Steve Stroub executed shortly after capture.... Our detachment sustained 100% casualties, 3 KIA, 5 CIA, [Captured in Action] and 1 managed to evade. All of us sustained multiple wounds either gunshot, grenade, and or RPG's."

*Personal communication between Harry Ettmueller and Robert Morecook, August, 2001.

Sgt. Young's body was recovered by Marine Sergeant Dale Dye, Marine Corporal Rick Grimm and Marine Sergeant Steve Berenson.

From the MACOI Web Site: <http://www.macoi.net/biographies.html>

Tommy Young, a native of Hot Springs, Arkansas, was a Marine Sergeant at 21. He had been trained as a Print Journalist (Marine MOS 4312), and had long dreamed of a civilian career in radio and television news. He had radio experience, courtesy of his older brother, a local deejay who carefully taught him and would allow him to do occasional fill-in work. He planned to apply for journalism school at the University of Missouri after his tour.

The young sergeant was assigned in 1967 to AFVN's Detachment 5 in Hue, Thua Thien Province. Hue was the old imperial capital of Vietnam, and even though it was located just 50 miles south of the DMZ, it was well-guarded and considered a secure area. Tom was to be one of the three broadcasters assigned to the newly outfitted radio facility.

On the morning of 31 January 1968, the Communists launched the nationwide attacks which became known as the Tet Offensive, and Hue was invaded by a division-sized force comprised of NVA regulars and seasoned Viet Cong guerillas. ARVN forces, supplemented by elements of the 1st and 5th Marines and the Army's 7th and 12th Cavalry, bravely resisted, but the central city was soon under enemy control.

The men of Det. 5 were forced off the air when they began taking mortar rounds and sniper fire. They fought bravely, holding off the enemy for five days until their ammunition ran out, along with food and water. They disabled the radio and TV equipment just before a series of RPGs struck,

and they retreated through a rice paddy toward the MACV compound, about a mile away. If they had been able to make it to the fortified compound, they might have been safe, but the Communists cut them off.

Tom and two other men were killed, five were taken as POWs, and one man escaped. Tom left behind a 19-year old widow, and a two-month old daughter he had never seen. Mrs. Young reports that she has overcome her tragic loss, saying she is "relatively sane and happy," and describes her daughter as "a happily married wife/mother of 3/attorneyes who lives nearby." Today, when you visit The Wall in Washington, DC, you'll find Tommy's name listed on Panel 37E, Row 016.



The above is taken from a video received from Cedric Williams on August 2nd, 2016.
