



## American Forces Vietnam Network – AFVN



### SP5 Steven J. Stroub, USA

#### Executed while a POW

Recounting the fighting near AFVN Hue, one Army trooper was hidden by local Catholic priests. AFVN's SFC Harry Ettmueller [also captured at Hue] writes, "As for the man hid by priests it was John Bagwell an Army E-5 detached from the 1st Cav to AFVN HUE to start radio for the [First] CAV. We were going to become a Class A Station. His buddy Steve Stroub was captured with us and then summarily executed while being led out of the area." SFC Ettmueller said \* that Stroub was executed in the street, and in his presence after both had been captured.

SFC Ettmueller further said that Stroub was also attached to AFVN from the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division.

#### From The Wall database:

##### General / Personal ---

Last name: STROUB  
First name: STEVEN JOHN  
Home of Record (official):  
AUSTIN State (official): MN  
Date of Birth: Tuesday, April 29, 1947  
Sex: Male  
Race: Caucasian  
Marital Status: Single



**Military ---**

Branch: Army

Rank: SP5

Serial Number: 16864803

Component: Regular

Pay grade: E5

MOS (Military Occupational Specialty code): 71R20

Major Organization: 1st Cavalry Div

**Action ---**

Start of Tour: Tuesday, March 21, 1967

Date of Casualty: Monday, February 5, 1968

Age at time of loss: 20

Casualty type: (A1) Hostile, died

Reason: Gun, small arms fire (Ground casualty)

Country: South VietNam

Province: Thua Thien

The Wall: Panel 37E - Row 045

**The below is taken from his bio on the MACOI Website**

Steven Stroub, a native of Austin, Minnesota, enlisted in the Army in April 1966; just 11 days shy of his 19th birthday. After graduating from Journalism and Broadcast Specialist School at DINFOS, he remained at Fort Benjamin Harrison with the 42nd Public Information Detachment until March 1967, when he received his orders for Vietnam.

Assigned to the 15th Admin Company of the 1st Cavalry Division, he was detached to AFVN at Hue. The station was preparing to begin radio broadcasting, and SP5 Stroub, as a broadcast specialist, would be an integral part of the operation. On 31 January 1968, however, the coordinated nationwide attacks, which became known as the Tet Offensive, took place. One of the major objectives of the North Vietnamese was the MACV Compound at Hue. This enclave was able to hold out until relief arrived, but the much smaller, and much less well-defended AFVN compound, about a mile away, did not fare as well.

Although the defenders fought gallantly, they were hopelessly outmanned and outgunned, and five days later their food, water, and ammunition were depleted. All of the broadcasters were wounded, and two were killed in the extended firefight. When captured, Specialist Stroub had sustained an open fracture and several shrapnel wounds. As the others were being marched away, Steven Stroub was executed. He was six weeks short of his date of rotation back to the US.

Steven was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal for Valor. In 2007 his heroism was again recognized as he was inducted, along with the other members of the Hue AFVN Detachment, into the US Army Public Affairs Hall of Fame.

