

**OSBORNE AND MAURER:
LAST INFANTRYMEN TO DIE IN VIET NAM**
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The last infantry GIs to die in Vietnam on the ground by enemy action were 1st Cav Rangers: Sgt. Elvis Osborne and Spec. 4 Jeffrey Maurer. On June 9, H Company's Ranger Team 76, led by Osborne, conducted a recon patrol near Tan Uyen. After helicopter gunships raked the NVA bunker complex there, the team went in to assess the damage. Either rocket fire or a command-detonated bomb rigged as a mechanical ambush device claimed their lives.

H Company ceased combat operations by mid-July. A month later, on Aug. 15, it was inactivated, the last U.S. Ranger unit to serve in Vietnam. It was credited with the longest continuous combat tenure of any Ranger outfit in U.S. military history up to that time.