

# Tet 1968 O51 Bunker

## CHARLES EDWARD HEBRON Silver Star

Casualty was on Jan 31, 1968

**377th Combat SPS,  
Tân Sơn Nhứt Air Base**

by David Summerfield (RIP) (SMSgt, Ret), LM 186  
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## CHARLES EDWARD HEBRON

**SGT - E4 - Air Force - Regular**  
**22 year old Married, Caucasian, Male**  
**Born on Sep 18, 1945**  
**From BRYAN, TEXAS**  
**Length of service 3 years.**  
**His tour of duty began on Mar 21, 1967**  
**Casualty was on Jan 31, 1968**  
**Tân Sơn Nhứt Air Base**  
**377th SPS**  
**in GIA DINH, SOUTH VIETNAM**  
**HOSTILE, GROUND CASUALTY**  
**ARTILLERY, ROCKET, or MORTAR**  
**Body was recovered**  
**Religion**  
**ROMAN CATHOLIC**  
**Panel 36E - - Line 13**

**Tet 1968:** Every VSPA member knows of the valor and heroics of the 377th SPS while defending Tân Sơn Nhứt Air Base at the infamous O51 Bunker. **David Summerfield (RIP), SMSgt, Ret.,** VSPA Life Member 186, submitted the following:

I saw somewhere that you were looking for pictures of SPs who lost their life in combat or Line of Duty in RVN. This is a picture of **Charles Hebron** who was assigned to me when I was NCOIC of the 377th SPS detachment at Vũng Tàu. This is shortly before he went on R&R in Hawaii, to be with his wife. He came back on 31 Jan 1968, *and was killed that night* in the O51 bunker on the night of 31 Jan 68. I really liked this kid and still think about him often.

Regards,  
Dave Summerfield, SMSgt USAF, ret LM # 186



Binh Thuy Air Base. KIA Memorial Dedication. MSgt Summerfield, 1968: 01



Binh Thuy Air Base. KIA Memorial Dedication. MSgt Summerfield, 1968: 02



Binh Thuy Air Base. KIA Memorial Dedication, Honor Guard. MSgt Summerfield, 1968: 03

*For those who are not familiar with the Tet battle, a few photos are included below. The period of the TET OFFENSIVE is recorded as being from January 31 to March 31, 1968.*

**Tan Son Nhut Air Base:** *The NVA/VC attacked with four infantry battalions and a sapper battalion, their losses being 962 killed and 9 prisoners taken. The US losses were 19 US Army killed, 75 wounded, USAF losses 4 killed, 11 wounded, ARVN losses were 32 killed and 79 wounded. damage inflicted was 13 aircraft damaged.*

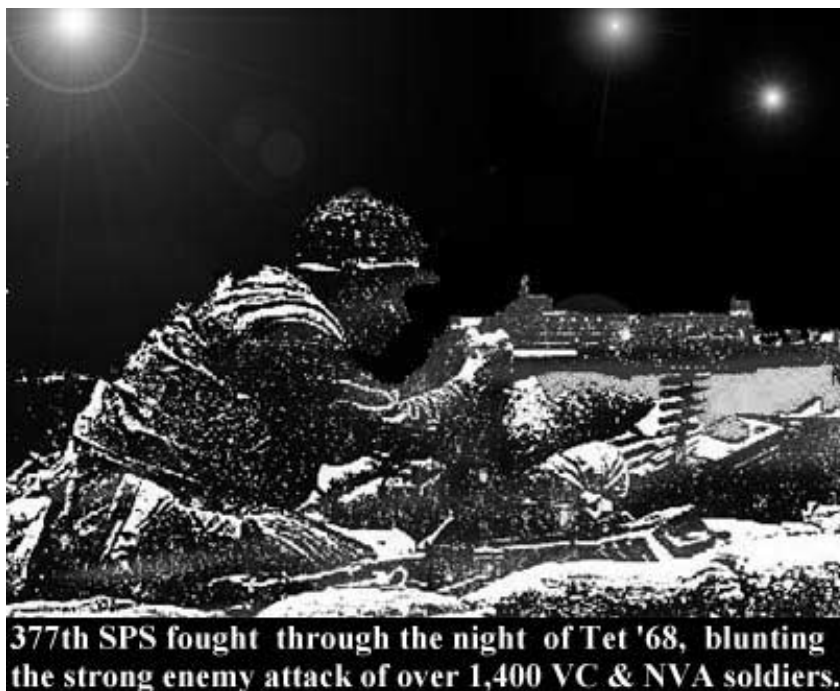


**Members of the 377th SPS open up on Communist forces who infiltrated Tan Son Nhut AB during the Tet 1968 Offensive. (USAF photo courtesy USAF SP Museum.)**



Members of the 377th SPS, supported by armor, move to resecure Tan Son Nhut AB after penetration by Communist forces on January 31st, 1968.

05



377th SPS fought through the night of Tet '68, blunting the strong enemy attack of over 1,400 VC & NVA soldiers.

06



377th Security Police view the bodies of Communist forces killed in the attack on Tan Son Nhut Air Base during Tet Offensive.

07

VSPA member Frank Ybarbo returned to Saigon in December 1998 and photographed O51 Bunker:



08

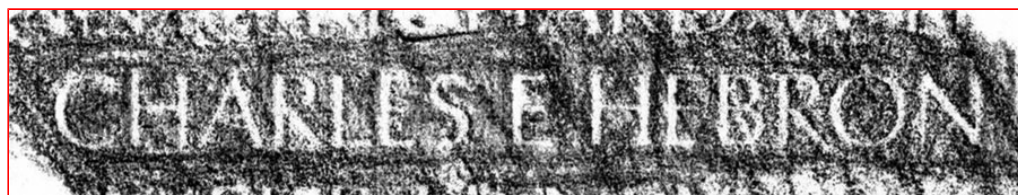


O51 Bunker, above, viewed from almost the same angle as the day the bunker was recaptured, but 30 years later.

09



10



The Wall rubbing for Charles Hebron.

11



12



13

Tân Sơn Nhứt, Tet1968 Stories:

- [Hotel California, 1968 Tet, Tân Sơn Nhứt](#), by Denis Cook (RIP: 21 May 2017)
- [tsn-cook-photos-1-1968](#)
- [Tet 1968, 1968 Tet, Tân Sơn Nhứt](#), SSgt Bernie Beldin' Bronze Star/V
- [No Dead Heros, 1968](#), by Bob Uchman, VSPA Life member # 67
- [O51 Bunker, Tet1968, Tân Sơn Nhứt AB!](#) by Dan McKegney
- [To The Last Man, 1968 TET, Tân Sơn Nhứt, 1968](#), Sgt Coggins' Silver Star
- [Sgt Charles Hebron-1968](#), by David Summerfield (RIP), SMSgt, Ret.
- [Heaven's Door!](#) by Denis Cook (RIP: 21 May 2017), Tet 1968, Tân Sơn Nhứt [From the heart!]
- [Tet Offensive, Tân Sơn Nhứt! 1968](#), by G.M. George
- [Propaganda Leaflets, Post 1968, Tân Sơn Nhứt](#), by Dan McKegney
- [Sunday Driver! Tân Sơn Nhứt, Tet1968!](#) by Dan McKegney
- [Charlie, Tân Sơn Nhứt, Sitting Duck, Tet1968](#), by Nik Boldrini
- [O51 Bunker, Tân Sơn Nhứt, Revised, Tet1968, 1998](#), by Frank Ybarbo
- [After Action Report, Department of The Air Force](#)
- [USAF Medals, SP Purple Heart](#)
- [USAF Medals, SP Silver Star](#)
- [Memorial](#)

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