

Charles “Dean” Hutchison



Dean Hutchison served in the 2nd Platoon of the 101st RRC in 1967 and 1968.

When the Tet Offensive in 1968 began, Dean was on a mission in Ban Me Thuot with Eric Shervey, Rod Brudvik, Robert Weinhold, Larry Monuteaux and others. The team was staying in a small villa in town. When the attack on Ban Me Thuot began, they were cut off for a few days. Then, they made their escape from the villa to the MACV compound.

The next morning, half of the team got out and returned to Pleiku. The men identified above were sent to the helicopter assault compound south of town to help defend the perimeter, and they dug in on the south berm for a few days.

Eventually, they were able to move from their foxholes to a hooch where they slept on cots. Things were calming down, but the base was running short of food, water, and ammunition. About a week later, a convoy came in with c-rations.

One night, the mortars started coming in much closer. The enemy walked their mortars up to and past the hooch where the team was holed up. One round came through the metal roof and exploded upon entry right over them. Dean got the worst of it, with a big hole in his left thigh. Eric Shervey caught fifty-some pieces of shrapnel in his backside and feet. Rod Brudvik got a piece in his upper arm, and Robert Weinhold stopped one with his head. The head wound must have addled him, because he ‘crawled off somewhere.’ He later received a metal plate at the site of the wound. Brudvik and Shervey went looking for help and got Dean to the medical tent. Hutchison and Shervey were both sent out on a Medevac helicopter and hospitalized for their wounds. Brudvik and Weinhold were treated and released.

Dean Hutchison, born on February 18, 1946, passed away on April 23, 2000. He is interred at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida.