

## U.S. Army SP4 Joseph Mario Cagnacci *Died March 8, 1967*

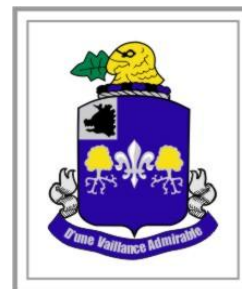


Joseph Cagnacci was born on July 26, 1946, but his place of birth is unknown.

At the time he entered the service he was living in Pleasanton, California.

He served with the 9th Infantry Division, 39th Infantry Regiment, 3rd

Battalion, Company A. Joseph began his tour on December 12, 1966. His unit was located in Long An Province just south of Saigon. This was considered part of the Mekong Delta. On March 8, 1967 at the age of 20 Joseph along with 4 other men from his unit died. His death was attributed to either mortar, rocket or artillery. Below is the story of the attack that ended his life.



### [THE PIKE - March 8, 1967](#) (story obtained from 3/39th website)

When the 3/39th took over the Rach Kien AO from the 2/14th of the 25th Infantry Division on February 13, 1967, it was clear that it would be no picnic. Rach Kien and the surrounding area had long been a stronghold for insurgent forces. These forces did not wait long to test their new and green opponent. The strategy of guerrilla warfare calls for attacking only when and where the balance of forces is high in your favor. A small outpost, known as "The Pike", consisting of a few bunkers and barbed wire perimeter, perhaps a mile or so from Rach Kien, presented a vulnerable target. It was defended by a small squad from A Company and elements of the ARVN 46th Regiment.

The Viet Cong attacked the position at approximately 4 AM on March 8, 1967. From the S3 Daily Reports they apparently had 2 Machine Gun positions to the north of the outpost with elements attacking from the west and southeast. Frantic calls for help were monitored in Rach Kien, with the radio operator apparently wounded and unable to provide any information other than futile pleas for help. Helicopters flying over the area reported secondary explosions within the perimeter. The outpost was completely overrun. It took more than an hour before US and ARVN elements were within the perimeter again. The insurgents had withdrawn by that time and all that was to be done was to remove the wounded and the dead. Of the 34 or so ARVN in the area, 6 had been killed and 9 wounded. US casualties were 5 killed and 2 wounded (one of the dead was Joseph Cagnacci).

Below is the area of the Mekong where Joseph Cagnacci served (Long An Province in yellow on the right picture). Below was the compound at Rach Kien the 9th Infantry motto of "Anything, Anywhere, Anytime, Bar Nothing" can be seen at the entrance.

