Lance Corporal Edward Jay Rykoskey
Company C, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion (Rein)
3rd Marine Division – Republic of Vietnam

Killed in Action/Body not recovered - August 18, 1966
Panel 10E Line 017

On 18 August 1966, with nine months of service in Vietnam, LCpl. Edward Rykoskey was considered to be a well-trained and experienced "old hand." On that date he was assigned as the radio operator of a four man reconnaissance patrol. The team's mission was to locate, identify and report on enemy activity in the forested mountains approximately 9 miles due north of An Hoa and 11 miles southwest of DaNang, Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam.

After completing its mission, the team was moving toward a pre-briefed rendezvous point for pickup when they were ambushed by a Viet Cong (VC) force of unknown size. During the ensuing firefight, LCpl. Rykoskey was struck by small arms fire and fell to the ground. Other team members tried to reach him, but because of the intense enemy fire, they were unable to do so before being forced to withdraw.

The three remaining team members successfully escaped and evaded to a safe location where they were extracted by helicopter. Later they reported that when they were forced to retreat, Edward Rykoskey had been wounded and was either unconscious or dead. Further, they were unable to determine the extent or location of his wounds.

Search and rescue (SAR) efforts commenced immediately for the LCpl. Rykoskey. They continued for approximately four days, but were unable to find any trace of the missing radio operator or his equipment in and around the ambush site.

Semper Fidelis brother, you are not forgotten