



1ST
CAVALRY
DIVISION
(AIRMOBILE)



8TH ENGINEER
BATTALION



"B" COMPANY

WORKING WITH



"D" COMPANY



SERGEANT



COMBAT
ENGINEER

HOWARD CLAYTON BELL

"B" Company, 8th Engineer Battalion (Known in Vietnam as the "Skybeavers")
Working with "D" Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry
Specialist 4th Class, E4, Posthumous Promotion to SGT, RA549640118, MOS 12B20
Home of Record: Long Beach, CA

Date of Birth: December 31, 1946, Age at time of loss: 21, Married
1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam
Start of Tour: November 24, 1967, Date of Casualty: February 14, 1968, Days in Country: 82
Casualty Type A1, MFW, Panel 39E - Row 028

Sergeant Bell was working with "D" Company in search & Clear operations near the Nui Mieu Mountains along the South China Seacoast of Binh Dinh Province. Bell was an Engineer Specialist in EOD from the 1st Cavalry Division's 8th Engineers. At approximately 9 AM the Armored Personnel Carrier on which Howard Bell rode hit a pressure detonated land mine, resulting in his death. 3 others were wounded, one from fragmentation as a result of the blast and two suffered concussions.

Former "D" Company Medic, Robert Melendez, witnessed the event that day and so informed the Association.

Since SGT Bell gave his life while directly under the Operational Control of "D" Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry, our Veteran's Association has voted (Unanimously) to have his name added to our Memorial at Fort Benning, Georgia. The official addition of Bell and 6 others took place during the 2011 Reunion. Pictured below are Robert Melendez and members of Bell's family who attended the dedication ceremony at Fort Benning, Georgia.

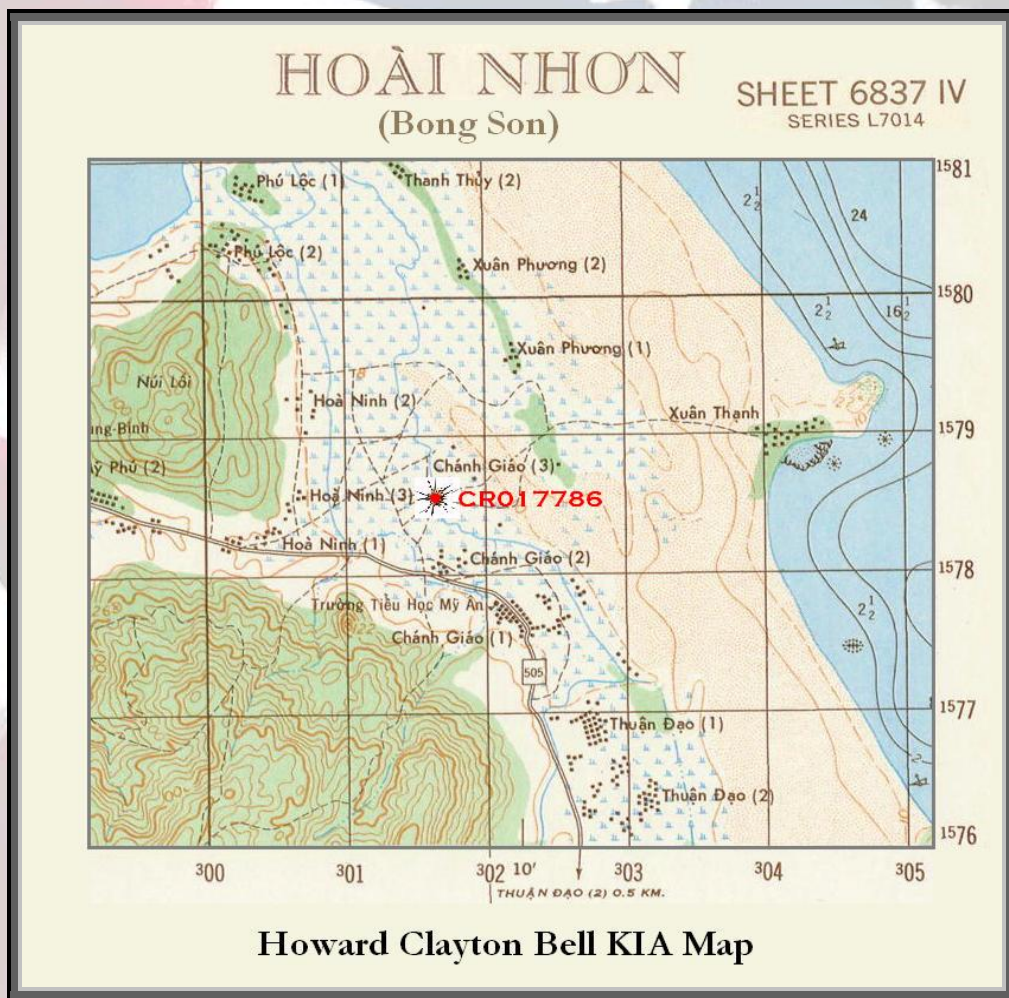


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SGT Howard Bell is buried at Mountain View Cemetery in Oakland, CA., just a few miles from the spot where the 50th Infantry departed the United States aboard the Troop Ship, USS General John Pope (AP-110), headed for Vietnam in 1967.

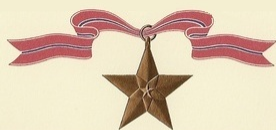


A Map of the location of the incident which claimed Howard Bell's life is shown on the following page. This area was the scene of several serious land mine incidents experience by the 50th Infantry in 1967 and 1968.



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HOWARD BELL'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS



THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

HQ 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)
GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 1698

20 MARCH 1967

FOR DISTINGUISHING HIMSELF BY OUTSTANDING MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD NOVEMBER 1967 TO FEBRUARY 1968. THROUGH HIS UNTIRING EFFORTS AND PROFESSIONAL ABILITY, HE CONSISTENTLY OBTAINED OUTSTANDING RESULTS. HE WAS QUICK TO GRASP THE IMPLICATIONS OF NEW PROBLEMS WITH WHICH HE WAS FACED AS A RESULT OF THE EVER-CHANGING SITUATIONS INHERENT IN THE COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATION AND TO FIND WAYS AND MEANS TO SOLVE THOSE PROBLEMS. THE ENERGETIC APPLICATION OF THIS EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE HAS MATERIALLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE EFFORTS OF THE UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM TO ASSIST THAT COUNTRY IN RIDDING ITSELF OF THE COMMUNIST THREAT TO ITS FREEDOM. HIS INITIATIVE, ZEAL, SOUND JUDGMENT AND DEVOTION TO DUTY HAVE BEEN IN THE HIGHEST TRADITION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND REFLECT GREAT CREDIT ON HIM AND ON THE MILITARY SERVICE.



Bronze
Star



Air
Medal



Purple
Heart



National
Defense



Vietnam
Service



Vietnam
Campaign