USARV





TRANSFER FROM



"F" COMPANY
RIFLE SECURITY
50TH INFANTRY



SPECIALIST 4TH CLASS



JAMES DAVID BROWN

C Troop, 16th Cavalry - transferring from "F" Company (Rifle Security), 50th Infantry Specialist Four, E4, 585 58 5384, MOS 11B2C
Home of Record: San Angelo, TX
Date of Birth: May 18, 1953, Age at time of loss: 19, Single

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1st Aviation Brigade, USARV, Dinh Tuong Province, Republic of Vietnam
Start of Tour: March 7, 1972, Date of Casualty: October 31, 1972, Days in Country: 238
Casualty Type Hostile, Air Loss/Crash over Land - Helicopter - Noncrew
Panel 01W - Row 085

James was a San Angelo, Texas native. He attended San Angelo Schools, last attending San Angelo Central High School. He enlisted in the Army in the summer of 1971.

He completed basic training and infantry AIT at Fort Polk, Louisiana. He also completed jungle training in Panama. He started his tour in Vietnam on March 17, 1971. He was assigned as an infantryman with Company F, 50th Infantry (Rifle Security) at DaNang, guarding the various port installations in that area of operations. The Vietnamization Program of withdrawing American Troops from combat roles was underway and the



50th Infantry unit was de-activated...and Brown was transferred to C Troop, 16th Cay, 164th Aviation Group, 1st Aviation Brigade. While "En-Route" to their new assignment, the Chinook Helicopter in which they were riding crashed...killing all on board. The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association shows the Map Grid Coordinates of the crash as XS 321 413 (See Map)

While operating in the Dinh Tuong Province with a crew of five and 17 passengers on board, Chinook Helicopter CH-47: 69-17119, was struck in flight by a SA-7 'Strella' shoulder launched heat seeking missile. The aircraft crashed into a flooded rice field in the Mekong Delta, southwest of Saigon, and was destroyed. There were no survivors. The helicopter was on a courier run from Saigon to Can Tho when it was hit near My Tho, about 35 miles from Saigon. The SA-7 rocket, new to the arsenal of the Communist soldiers in South Vietnam was a deadly heat



seeking weapon which caused a major design change in the widely used CH-47 "Chinook" helicopter. The heat from the jet turbines was redirected to be flushed by the rotor blade "prop wash" after this incident.

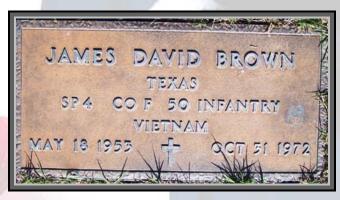
Other 50th Infantry men killed along with SP4 Brown while en-route to the 16th Cavalry were SP4 Roger Chambliss, SP4 Milton Hunter, SP4 Charles Stewart and SP4 Delbert Wood.

Continued...

James Brown is buried at Plainview Cemetery, Plainview, Hale County, Texas: Block 115, Space 4, Lot 1

(Pictured below):





AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF JAMES D. BROWN



