



25TH INFANTRY
DIVISION



50TH INFANTRY



"F" COMPANY



PRIVATE
FIRST CLASS



REID ERNEST GRAYSON, JR.

"F" Company (Long Range Patrol), 50th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division
Private First Class, E3, US56639052, MOS 05C20 , Home of Record: Scobey, MT
Date of Birth: May 5, 1948, Age at time of loss: 20, Married
25th Infantry Division, Binh Duong Province, Republic of Vietnam
Start of Tour: December 13, 1968, Date of Casualty: December 28, 1968
Days in Country: 15, Casualty Type A1, Gun, small arms fire, Panel 36W - Row 084

PFC Reid Grayson was a member of LRP Team 12, Company F (Long Range Patrol), 50th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division.

The day after the Christmas Cease Fire (December 26th), 1968, LRP Team 12 was inserted by helicopter into an area approximately 2 kilometers south of the "Mushroom" River Bend area just inside of Hau Nghia Province. The infamous Cu Chi Tunnels are located just over 3 kilometers to the northeast of the area where the team was inserted with a primary mission of ambushing enemy soldiers and, if the opportunity arose, to capture an enemy soldier. For the next 52 hours, the team set up several Observation Positions (OP) within 100 meters of their insertion point.

From their concealed positions, they observed numerous enemy movements of men and materials along a well worn path near them. On two occasions, they called in Artillery fire on enemy soldiers spotted in more distant locations. The team also observed enemy soldiers firing upon a nearby observation helicopter...which seemed unaware that he was being fired upon. PFC Grayson was likely the member of the team who dialed up the helicopters radio frequency for the team leader to notify the pilot of the incident. Subsequently, the helicopter spotted 4 enemy soldiers trying to flee the area and Helicopter Gunships were called in to fire upon the fleeing Viet Cong.



The team set up an ambush near the well travelled trail in their area in the mid afternoon hours of the 28th. At 7 PM, the teams rear security element observed three enemy personnel moving towards their position. The enemy soldiers had moved within two meters of the team's rear security when Claymore Antipersonnel mines were detonated by the team. The team also put out suppressing fire until helicopter gunships arrived. The results of the ambush were three Viet Cong killed, only one of which was armed, but a rucksack full of documents was captured.



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In preparation for the team's extraction, Team Leader Sergeant Bernard told the team to take cover while the remainder of their Claymores were blown. Immediately after the detonation of the Claymores, RTO Grayson shouted that he had been hit and then passed out. The Team Leader suspected that Grayson might have been wounded by the Claymore's back blast since in the darkness the team could find no external wounds. Grayson was given mouth to mouth resuscitation on the ground and in the extraction helicopter on the way back to the Cu Chi base camp, but died on the helicopter before they could get him back to medical personnel.

It was later ascertained that Grayson had been shot by an enemy AK-47. The round had entered the middle of his back. Supposition is that the shot that killed him came in simultaneously with the final Claymore blast...since the team did not hear any shots fired after the ambush had been completed. Although Grayson had only been with the team for a little over a week, he was awarded a Bronze Star, posthumously.

Reid Grayson's father, Reid Sr., served in World War II and saw duty in the Battle of the Bulge. At the time this memorial was created in 2014, both Reid Sr. and his wife Edith were alive and advised us that they had moved their son's remains from Scobey to Billings when they moved there permanently.

PFC Reid Grayson is buried at Sunset Memorial Gardens, 1721 Central Avenue, Billings, Yellowstone County, MT.



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AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF REID GRAYSON, JR:



**Bronze
Star**



**Purple
Heart**



**National
Defense**



**Vietnam
Service**



**Vietnam
Campaign**