



1ST
FIELD FORCE
VIETNAM



1ST BATTALION
50TH INFANTRY



"B" COMPANY
2ND PLATOON



SERGEANT



INFANTRYMAN

HAROLD ALFRED GREEN

2nd Platoon, "B" Company, 1st Battalion (mechanized), 50th Infantry
Sergeant, E5, RA257846817, MOS 11B40

Home of Record: Dalton, GA

Date of Birth: June 28, 1950, Age at time of loss: 19, Single

I Field Force Vietnam, Binh Thuan Province, Republic of Vietnam

Start of Tour: October 30, 1969, Date of Casualty: June 17, 1970, Days in Country: 230

Casualty Type: Non-hostile, Accidental self-destruction, Panel 09W – Row

Harold Green and James Powell of the 2nd Platoon of "B" Company went out to recover a mechanical ambush on the morning of Wednesday, June 17, 1970. They took a squad sized element of approximately 8 men along for security. The device detonated, killing them both. Evidence from witnesses are inconclusive as to whether or not the device had been tampered with. As such, the casualties are officially listed as "non-hostile".

Patrol member Leonard Strand remembered the following:

"As was my normal duty, I was to have been the "Point Man" for the group going to retrieve the Mechanical Ambush. Green and Powell suggested to the B Company 2nd Platoon Leader, LT James MacQueen, that they should take point as they had set up the device the day before...and would better remember where it was located. The order of march for the patrol was then set as: Private Powell on point, SGT Green behind him, Leonard Strand carrying an M60 Machine Gun 3rd, James Yankowski, and several others including Don Lewis followed. We moved out towards the site travelling about 10 yards parallel to the trail. as we approached the site of the mechanical ambush, I clearly witnessed Powell suddenly crouch with his hand up in a fist...indicating for the rest of us to stop and drop. As he began to rise up...while simultaneously turning to face us...the claymore detonated. At that moment I was knocked down by the blast, but otherwise unharmed."

Patrol Member James Yankowski moved along behind Leonard Strand and remembered things similarly, but slightly different:

"I remember it was early in the morning and I was carrying my M60 Machine Gun. Most of us believed that Powell may have forgotten exactly where the Mechanical Ambush was located and set it off by accident...of course, our view of the event was blocked by the members of the patrol who preceded us...as we were travelling single file with the customary 5 yards between each man. In retrospect, this formation probably saved others from serious injury...but left Powell and Green in deadly positions."

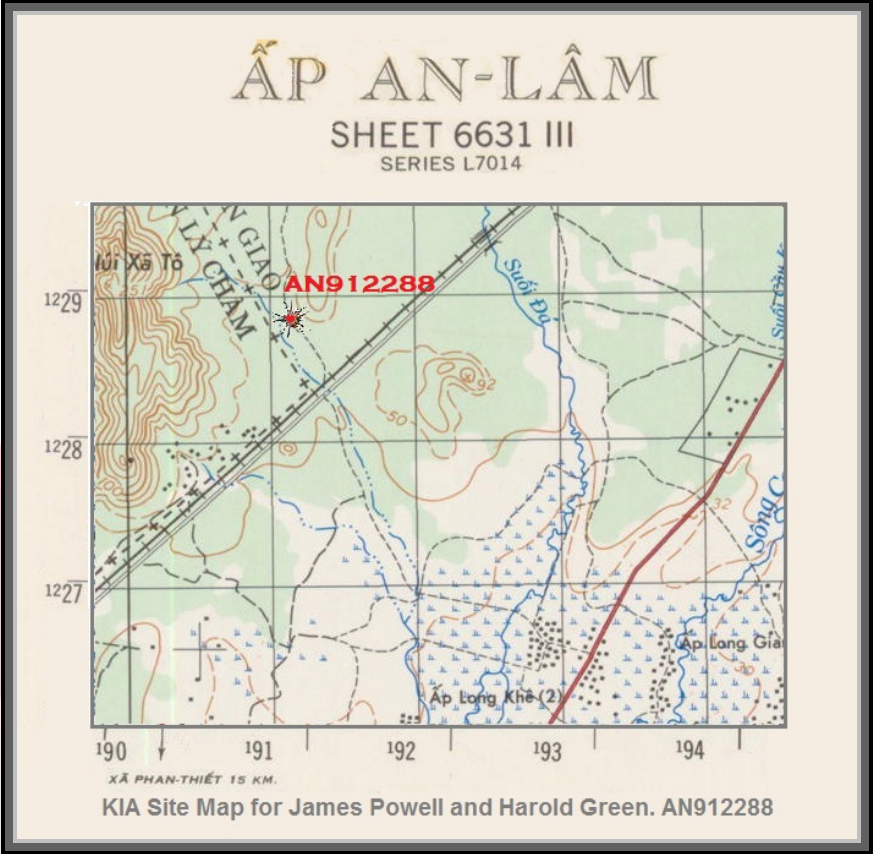


The Platoon Leader, Lieutenant James MacQueen, could not provide any detail of the event as he passed away in 2004 before 50th Infantry Association research began on the incident.

Continued...

Company Commander (former CPT) Robert Camors recalls:

" The site was reported as having no evidence that the device was tampered with. There were no enemy sandal tracks in the area...and the area was wiped clean by the blast. This was not an area where there were any villages or base areas where the enemy "hung out" ...and watched patrols....instead it was a high speed trail that the enemy used to travel back and forth between bases in the mountains and villages where they got supplies and new recruits. This was one of the most tragic events of my command. My stomach still turns over when I think about it. I was at the surgery when they brought them in. It was a horribly vivid and very bad day in my life." A map of the location (AN 912288) is shown below:

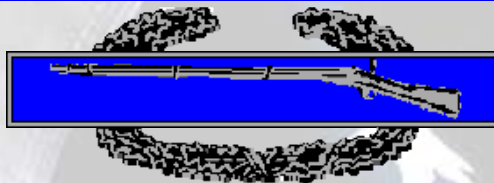


Harold Green is buried at Good Hope Baptist Church Cemetery, Lake Rd NE & Good Hope Rd NE, Dalton, Whitfield County, Georgia (Photo Below)



Continued...

HAROLD GREEN'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:



Combat Infantry Badge



HQ FIRST FIELD FORCE VIETNAM

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 819

28 JULY 1970

FOR DISTINGUISHING HIMSELF BY OUTSTANDING MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1 NOVEMBER 1969 TO 17 JUNE 1970. 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.



HQ FIRST FIELD FORCE VIETNAM

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 305

20 MARCH 1970

FOR HEROISM IN CONNECTION WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM: SPECIALIST GREEN DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF WHILE SERVING AS A RIFLEMAN WITH AN AMBUSH PATROL SET UP IN A DENSE BAMBOO THICKET NEAR A RECENTLY USED ENEMY BASE CAMP AREA. ON 13 FEBRUARY 1970 AT ABOUT 0400 HOURS, A VIET CONG COMPANY-SIZE UNIT WAS SIGHTED COMING DOWN THE TRAIL TOWARD THE AMBUSH. HOWEVER, BEFORE REACHING THE AMBUSH SITE, THE VIET CONG COMPANY LEFT THE TRAIL, MOVING DIRECTLY TOWARD THE REAR SECURITY MEN OF THE AMBUSH. SPECIALIST GREEN OPENED FIRE, AND, REALIZING THE NEED TO CONSERVE AMMUNITION, PLACED ACCURATE SEMI-AUTOMATIC FIRE ON THE ATTACKING ENEMY SOLDIERS UNTIL THEY WITHDREW. WHEN THE ENEMY REGROUPED AND ATTACKED THE AMBUSH POSITION A SECOND TIME, SPECIALIST GREEN HELD HIS POSITION AND KEPT UP STEADY FIRE UNTIL THE ENEMY HAD BEEN COMPLETELY ROUTED. SPECIALIST FOUR HAROLD GREEN'S HEROIC ACTIONS WERE IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SERVICE AND REFLECT GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF, HIS UNIT, AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.



Bronze Star

Army Commendation Medal

National Defense

Vietnam Service

Vietnam Campaign