



**4<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY  
DIVISION**



**1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION 50<sup>TH</sup>  
INFANTRY**



**3<sup>RD</sup> PLATOON**

**50**

**1 3**

**C**

**"C" COMPANY**



**SPECIALIST  
4<sup>TH</sup> CLASS**



**INFANTRYMAN**

## **RUSSELL CARL HAAS**

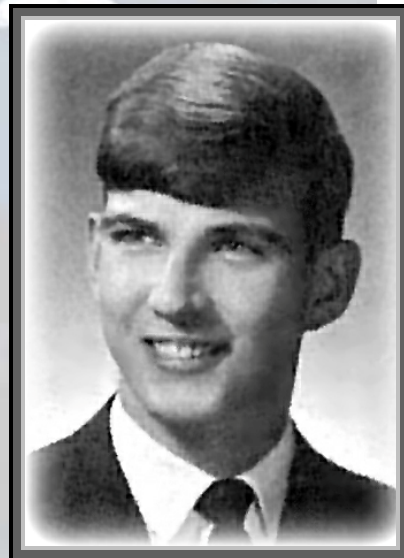
**3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, 1<sup>st</sup> Squad, "C" Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (Mechanized), 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry  
Specialist 4<sup>th</sup> Class, E4, US16975513, MOS 11B20**

**Home of Record: La Crosse, WI**

**Date of Birth: October 20, 1948, Age at time of loss: 19, Single  
4th Infantry Division, Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam**

**Start of Tour: September 1, 1967, Date of Casualty: March 2, 1968, Days in Country: 183  
Casualty Type A1, Gun, small arms fire, Panel 42E - Row 032**

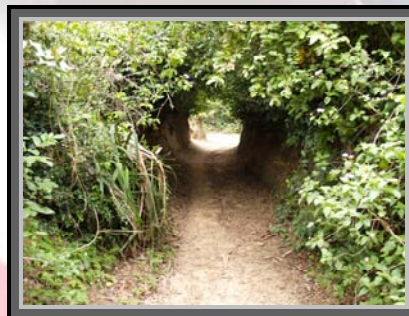
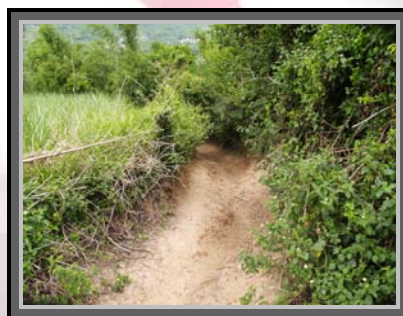
At about 9:30 in the morning on March 2nd, 1968, the 2nd & Third platoons of Charlie Company were "Air Assaulted" to two locations near the Northwestern edge of the Nui Mieu Mountains. The 2nd Platoon had an uneventful insertion, but the 3rd Platoon immediately began receiving fire from an estimated Platoon of NVA soldiers in a hedgerow between them and the "Rock pile" area at the base of the Nui Mieu. It was later learned that the 3rd Platoon had landed practically on top of the Headquarters element of a North Vietnamese Army Battalion! In time, incoming fires increased. Early in the contact, Russell Haas was killed near Harry Wilson. Medic Erwin Sims was also killed when he braved intense enemy fire to try to administer aid to the fallen Haas.



Also killed during the course of the contact were Todd Handy and Clarence Hills. Air strikes and Artillery were called in over the next 24 hours and the enemy withdrew back into the mountains, leaving behind 30 of their dead. A large amount of supplies including weapons, ammunitions and communication wire were captured along with 3 enemy soldiers. It was believed that a high ranking NVA officer was killed in the contact. During a return trip to Vietnam in 2007, 3rd Platoon Leader Harry Wilson took the photos used to create this panoramic view of the location where Haas, Handy, Hills and Sims were killed in action (Shown below & corresponding with Map locations indicated on the next page).



Positions of some of the NVA elements of March 2nd, 1968 are shown below in photos taken in 2007.



Continued...



Period Topographical map of the location of the action on March 2nd, 1968, is shown below:

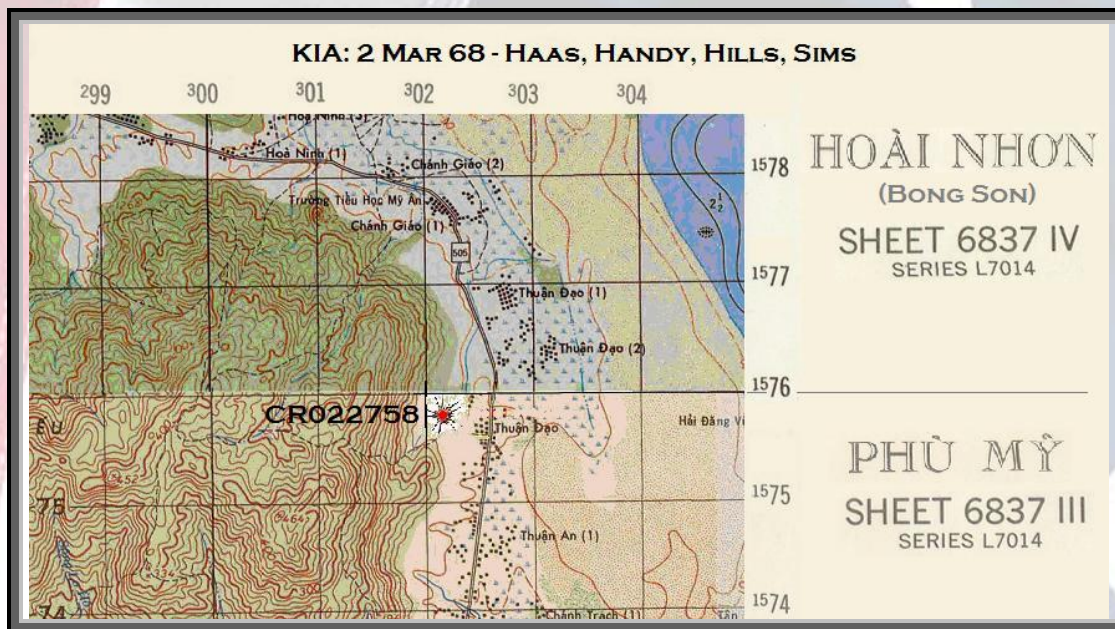
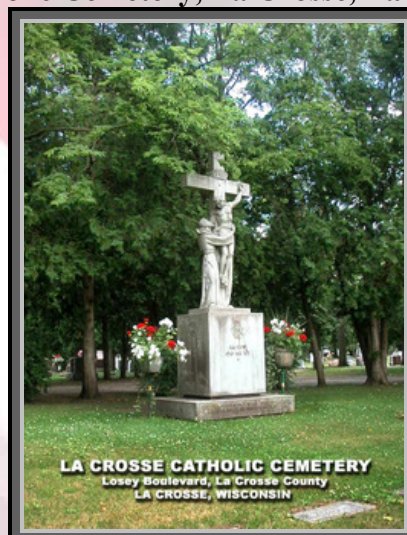


Photo below (Left) shows Charlie Company after pulling back to allow air strikes and artillery to pound the NVA positions (Smoke in background). Below (right), Charlie Company is assembled on the beach the day of the battle near Thuan Dao.



Russell Haas is buried at La Crosse Catholic Cemetery, La Crosse, La Crosse County, Wisconsin, picture below.



Continued...

In May of 2015, Ron Fischer...a high school classmate of Russell Haas, published an article in the LaCrosse Tribune about his friend and medic Bruce Sims. Read what Ron wrote:

[Soldiers Remember La Crosse 19-year-old's sacrifice, medic's courage in Vietnam.](#)

## AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF RUSSELL C. HAAS



Combat Infantry Badge



HEADQUARTERS  
1<sup>ST</sup> CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 3208

13 MAY 1968

FOR HEROISM, NOT INVOLVING PARTICIPATION IN AERIAL FLIGHT, IN CONNECTION WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. SPECIALIST FOUR RUSSELL HAAS DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY EXCEPTIONALLY VALOROUS ACTION ON 2 MARCH 1968, WHILE SERVING WITH COMPANY C, 1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 50<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY DURING A SEARCH AND CLEAR MISSION NEAR THUÂN DAO, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. WHEN HIS UNIT BECAME PINNED DOWN BY INTENSE HOSTILE FIRE, SPECIALIST HAAS, DISREGARDING HIS OWN SAFETY IMMEDIATELY MOVED THROUGH THE ENEMY FIRE IN AN ATTEMPT TO ORGANIZE AND LEAD AN ASSAULT ON THE ENEMY POSITIONS. ALTHOUGH HE WAS FORCED TO WITHDRAW, SPECIALIST HAAS CONTINUED TO ENGAGE THE ENEMY EMPLACEMENTS UNTIL HE WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED.

HIS DISPLAY OF PERSONAL BRAVERY AND DEVOTION TO DUTY WAS IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SERVICE AND REFLECTS GREAT CREDIT ON HIMSELF, HIS UNIT, AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.



Bronze  
Star  
(Valor)



Air  
Medal



Purple  
Heart



National  
Defense



Vietnam  
Service



Vietnam  
Campaign