



25TH INFANTRY
DIVISION



50TH INFANTRY



"F" COMPANY



STAFF SERGEANT



INFANTRYMAN

HOWARD BROWN HANDLEY

"F" Company (Long Range Patrol), 50th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division
Sergeant, E5, Posthumous Promotion to Staff Sergeant, E6, RA12937601, MOS 11F4P
Home of Record: Sheffield, AL, Date of Birth: March 29, 1949, Age at time of loss: 19, Single
25th Infantry Division, Tay Ninh Province, Republic of Vietnam
Start of Tour: March 26, 1968, Date of Casualty: September 13, 1968, Days in Country: 171
Casualty Type A1, Artillery, Rocket, or Mortar, Panel 44W - Row 048

Sergeant Howard Handley was a Team Leader with Team 25, Company F (Long Range Patrol), 50th Infantry. The men of these elite patrol units often developed strong ties with organic 25th Infantry Division combat units and it was common for them to ride voluntarily with Infantry line companies during operations not directly associated with their Long Range Patrol duties.

In the weeks following the widespread and coordinated attacks during what became known as the Battle of Cu Chi (August, 1968), mop up continued as the defeated and bloodied communist forces retreated to sanctuaries in Cambodia or melted back into the nearby jungles of Tay Ninh Province.

On September 15th, SGT Handley and his Assistant Team Leader, Sergeant Gary McFall, from LRP Team 25, volunteered to accompany elements from the 4th Battalion (Mechanized), 23rd Infantry, who were sent North on Route 4 on a mine sweep operation. At approximately 1340 hours, the unit was ambushed by an enemy force 3 kilometers north of the prominent Nui Ba Den mountain. The sweep team was supported by artillery and helicopter gunships after rocket fire took the lives of 5 men and wounded 10 others. Sergeants Handley and McFall were killed in the initial rocket volley. Enemy losses in the contact could not be determined. Handley was posthumously promoted to Staff Sergeant and awarded the Bronze Star.

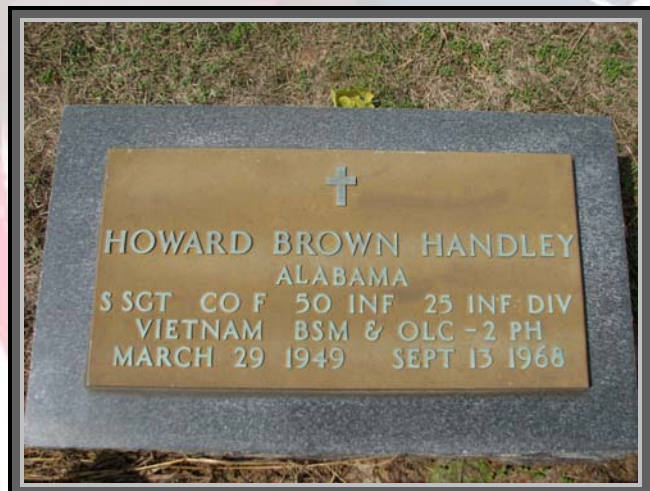
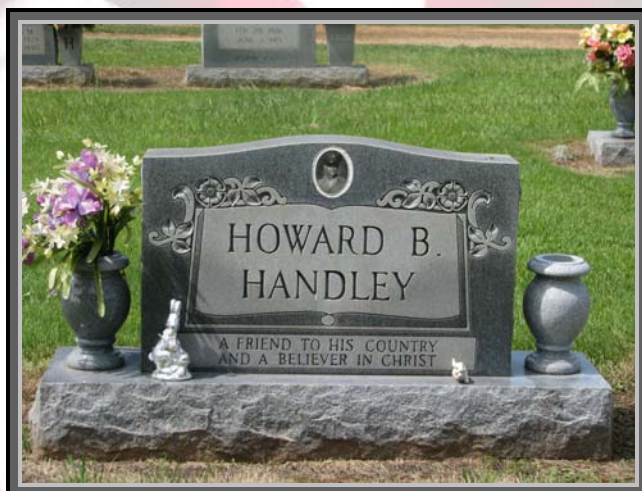
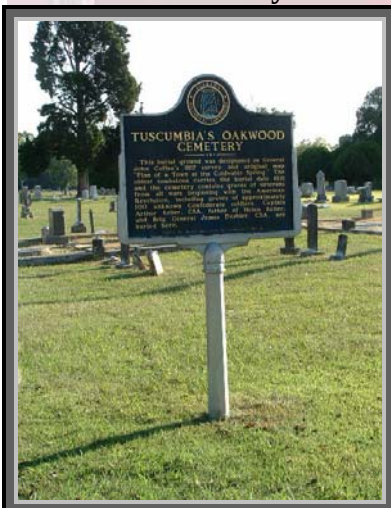


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Looking South on modern day Route 4..near the location of the ambush of the Mine Sweep team from 4th Battalion (Mechanized), 23rd Infantry on 13 Sep 1968.

Howard Handley is buried at Oakwood Cemetery, Joe Wheeler Drive, Tuscumbia, Colbert County, AL.



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AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF SSG HOWARD HANDLEY:



Combat Infantry Badge



Parachutist Badge



**Bronze
Star
2 Awards**



**Purple
Heart
2 Awards**



**National
Defense**



**Vietnam
Service**



**Vietnam
Campaign**