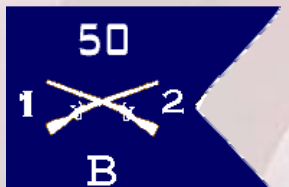




1ST
FIELD FORCE
VIETNAM



1ST BATTALION
50TH INFANTRY



"B" COMPANY 2ND
PLATOON



CORPORAL



INFANTRYMAN

JAMES RICHARD POWELL

2nd Platoon, "B" Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry
Private First Class, E3, Posthumous Promotion to CPL, US315520885, MOS 11B10
Home of Record: Greensburg, IN

Date of Birth: August 6, 1949, Age at time of loss: 20, Married
I Field Force Vietnam, Binh Thuan Province, Republic of Vietnam
Start of Tour: February 20, 1970, Date of Casualty: June 17, 1970, Days in Country: 117
Casualty Type: Non-hostile, Accidental self-destruction, Panel 09W – Row

James Powell and Harold Green 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.

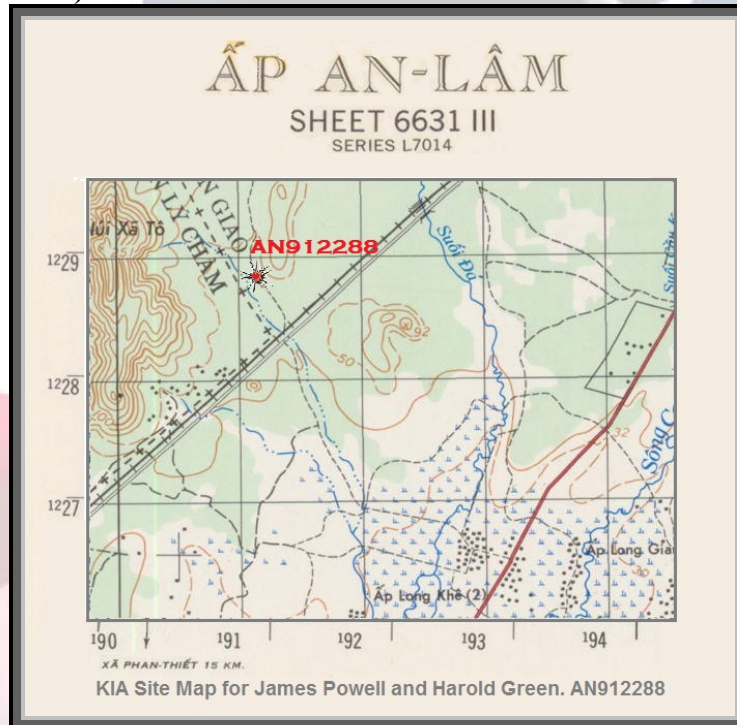


Continued...

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:

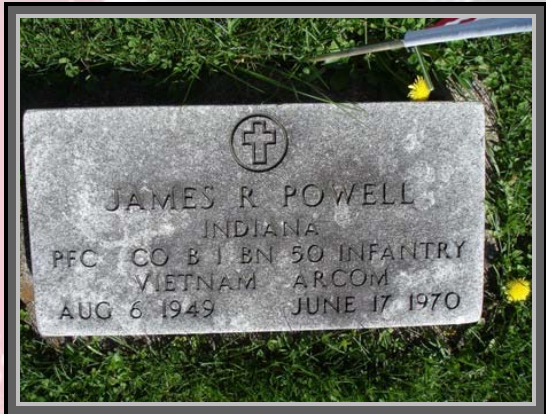


Below Left: (L to R) Harold Green and Richard Powell at LZ Betty. Below Right...Green is pictured again on the far left while Powell is 2nd from the right.



Continued...

James Powell is buried at South Park Cemetery, East Street, Greensburg, Decatur County, Indiana (Photos below)



JAMES POWELL'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:



Combat Infantry Badge



THE ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

HEADQUARTERS, 1ST FIELD FORCE VIETNAM

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 917

14 AUGUST 1970

FOR EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS SERVICE AS A RIFLEMAN FOR THE 2ND PLATOON OF COMPANY B, 1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 50TH INFANTRY, FROM 20 FEBRUARY 1970 TO 17 JUNE 1970. CORPORAL POWELL'S ACTIONS AND EXAMPLE WERE DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUSTAINMENT OF HIS UNIT AND HIS REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM SUPPORT. HIS CONTINUOUS DETERMINATION TOWARD SELF-SUFFICIENCY ENSURED NOT ONLY MISSION-READINESS BUT THE SURVIVAL OF HIS UNIT. CORPORAL POWELL'S ACTIONS BRING GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF, HIS UNIT, AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY



**Army
Commendation**



**National
Defense**



**Vietnam
Service**



**Vietnam
Campaign**