



**4TH INFANTRY  
DIVISION**



**1ST BATTALION  
50TH INFANTRY**

**HHC - MEDIC**



**WITH  
3RD PLATOON**



**"C" COMPANY**



**PRIVATE  
1ST CLASS**

## **E. BRUCE SIMS**

**HHC Medic, Assigned to 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, "C" Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (Mechanized), 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry  
Private First Class, E3, US51829147, MOS 91B20**

**Home of Record: Uniontown, OH**

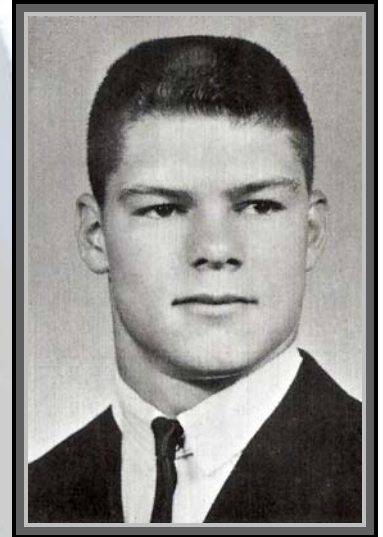
**Date of Birth: October 14, 1948, Age at time of loss: 19, Single**

**4th Infantry Division, Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam**

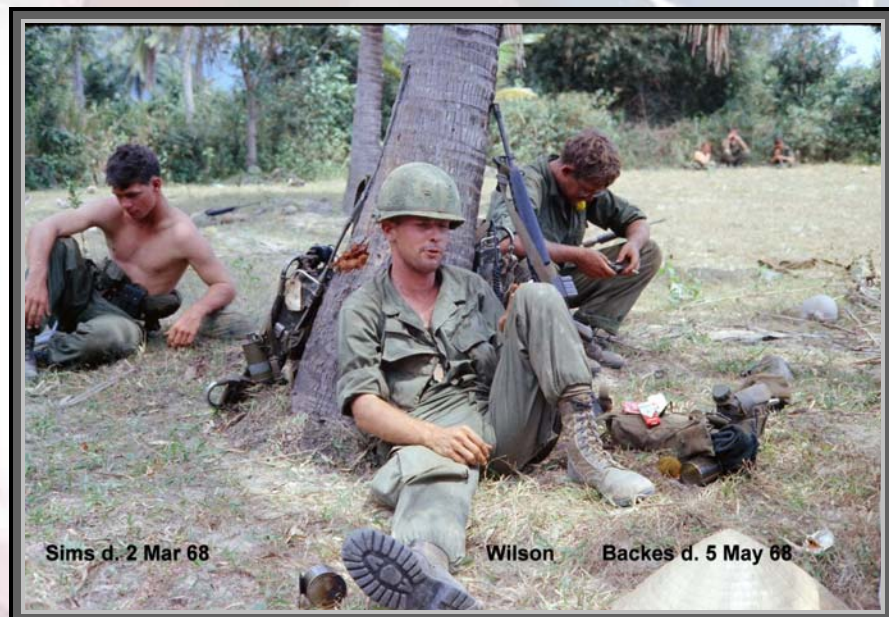
**Start of Tour: January 22, 1968, Date of Casualty: March 2, 1968, Days in Country: 40**

**Casualty Type A1, Hostile, Guns Small arms, Panel 42E - Row 041**

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 Northeastern 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 Bruce Sims, remembered to be a "conscientious objector" who did not carry a weapon, 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.



Bruce Sims is pictured below (Left) with Harry Wilson (center) and Bruce Backes...who was later killed on May 5th at the Battle of An Bao.



Sims d. 2 Mar 68

Wilson

Backes d. 5 May 68

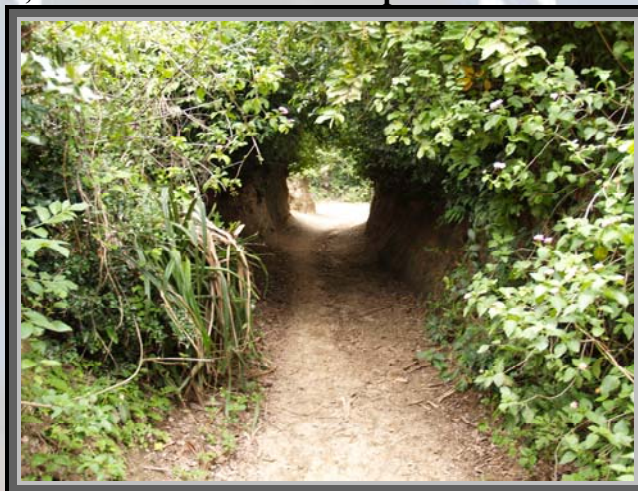
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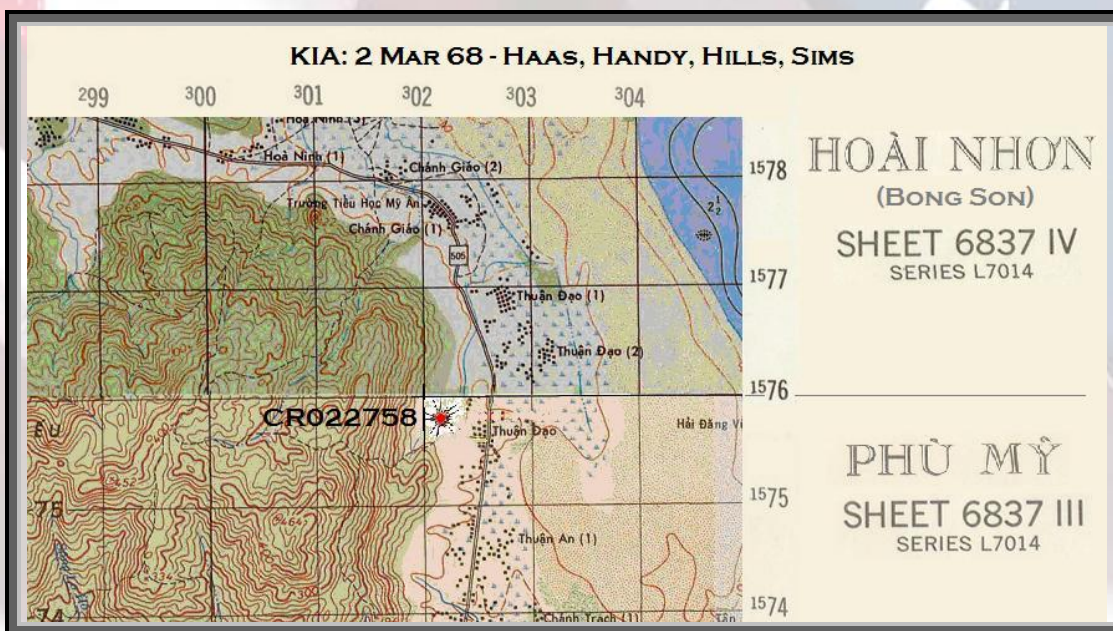
During a return trip to Vietnam in 2007, 3rd Platoon Leader Harry Wilson took the photos used to create this panoramic view of the location where Haas, Handy, Hills and Sims were killed in action (Shown below & corresponding with Map locations indicated on the next page).



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



Period Topographical maps of the location of The action on March 2nd, 1968, are shown below:



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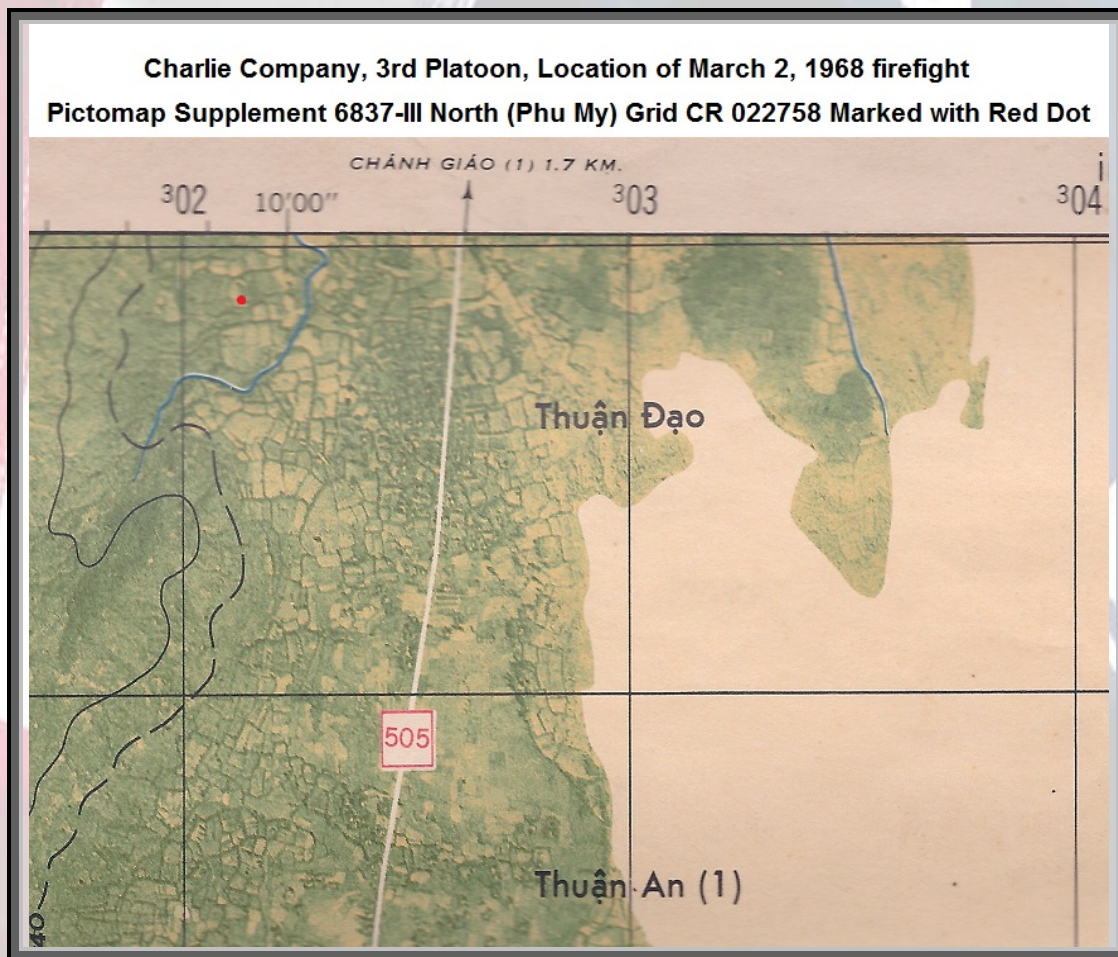
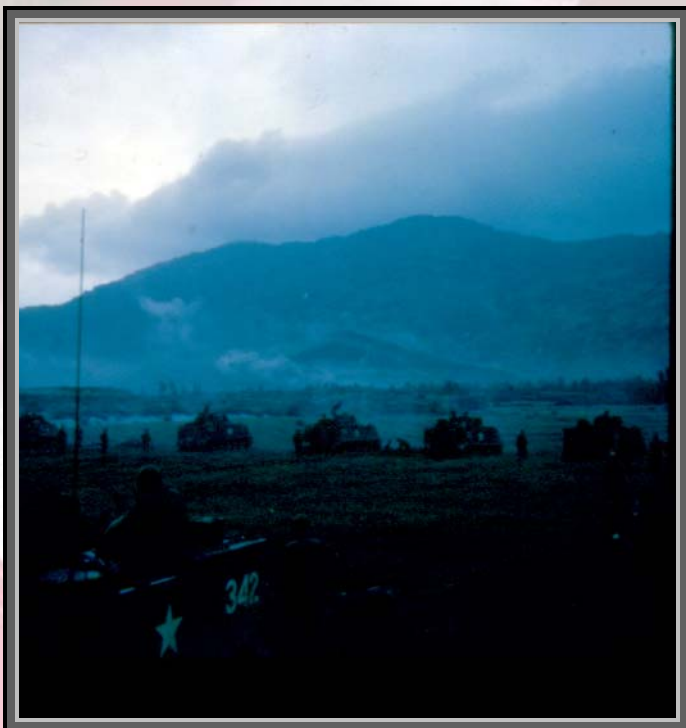


Photo below (left) shows Charlie Company after pulling back to allow air strikes and artillery to pound the NVA positions (Smoke in background). Below right, Charlie Company is assembled on the beach the day of the battle near Thuan Dao.



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Bruce Sims is buried at Hillside Memorial Park, 1025 Canton Road, Akron, Summit County, Ohio 44312



## AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF ERWIN SIMS:



Combat Medic Badge



THE SILVER STAR

HQ, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 3215

13 MAY 1968

FOR GALLANTRY IN ACTION WHILE ENGAGED IN MILITARY OPERATIONS INVOLVING CONFLICT WITH AN ARMED HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS SIMS DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY EXCEPTIONALLY VALOROUS ACTION ON 2 MARCH 1968, WHILE SERVING AS A MEDICAL AIDMAN WITH COMPANY C, 1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 50TH INFANTRY DURING A SEARCH AND CLEAR MISSION NEAR THUÂN DAO IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. WHEN HIS UNIT BECAME HEAVILY ENGAGED WITH A LARGE ENEMY FORCE AND SUSTAINED SEVERAL CASUALTIES, PRIVATE FIRST CLASS SIMS, DISREGARDING HIS OWN SAFETY, EXPOSED HIMSELF TO THE HOSTILE FIRE AS HE MOVED FORWARD IN AN ATTEMPT TO ASSIST HIS WOUNDED COMRADES. BEFORE HE COULD REACH HIS OBJECTIVE, PRIVATE FIRST CLASS SIMS WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED. HIS GALLANT ACTION WAS IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SERVICE, AND REFLECTS GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF, HIS UNIT, AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.



Silver  
Star



Purple  
Heart



National  
Defense



Vietnam  
Service



Vietnam  
Campaign

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.](#)