



USARV



1ST AVIATION BRIGADE



16TH CAVALRY

TRANSFER FROM



"F" COMPANY RIFLE SECURITY 50TH INFANTRY



SPECIALIST 4TH CLASS



INFANTRYMAN

## CHARLES LEROY STEWART, JR.

C Troop, 16th Cavalry - transferring from "F" Company (Rifle Security), 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Specialist Four, E4, 363 04 4156, MOS 11B20 Home of Record: Gladstone, MI

Date of Birth: July 15, 1953, Age at time of loss: 19, Single  
1st Aviation Brigade, USARV, Dinh Tuong Province, Republic of Vietnam  
Start of Tour: March 14, 1972, Date of Casualty: October 31, 1972, Days in Country: 231  
Casualty Type Hostile, Air Loss or Crash over Land - Helicopter - Noncrew,  
Panel 01W - Row 087

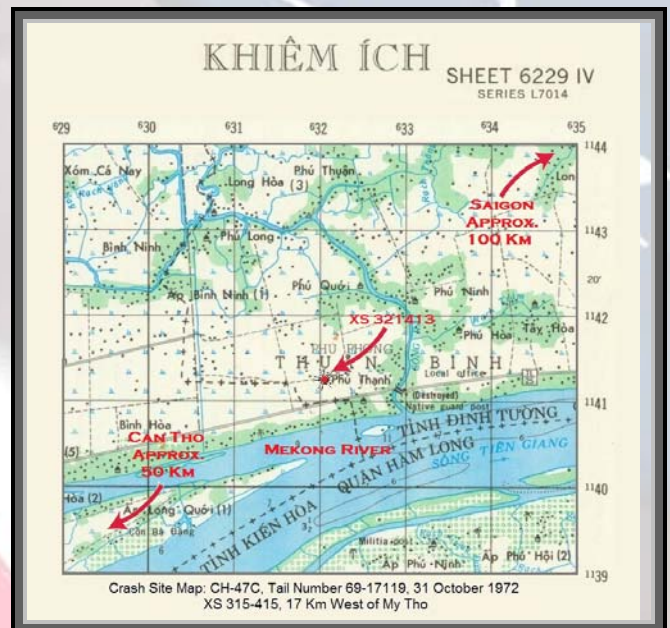
Specialist Stewart was initially assigned to Company B, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment with the 196th (Light) Infantry Brigade.. When that unit prepared to depart Vietnam in the summer of 1972, Charles was re-assigned to Company F, 50th Infantry (Rifle Security) at DaNang, guarding the various port installations in that area of operations. The Vietnamization Program of withdrawing American Troops from combat roles would, again, force the transfer of Charles as, in October of 1972, his 50th Infantry unit was disbanded and he was transferred to C Troop, 16th Cav, 164th Aviation Group, 1st Aviation Brigade. While "En-Route" to their new assignment, the Chinook Helicopter in which they were riding crashed...killing all on board.<sup>(1)</sup> The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association shows the Map Grid Coordinates of the crash as XS 321 413 (See Map)



While operating in the Dinh Tuong Province with a crew of five and 17 passengers on board, Chinook Helicopter CH-47: 69-17119, was struck in flight by a SA-7 'Strella' shoulder launched heat seeking missile. The aircraft crashed into a flooded rice field in the Mekong Delta, southwest of Saigon, and was destroyed. There were no survivors. The helicopter was on a courier run from Saigon to Can Tho when it was hit near My Tho, about 35 miles from Saigon. The SA-7 rocket, new to the arsenal of the Communist soldiers in South Vietnam was a deadly heat seeking weapon which caused a major design change in the widely used CH-47 "Chinook" helicopter. The heat from the jet turbines was redirected to be flushed by the rotor blade "prop wash" after this incident.

Other 50th Infantry men killed along with SP4 Stewart while en-route to the 16th Cavalry were SP4 James D. Brown, SP4 Roger Chambliss, SP4 Milton Hunter and SP4 Delbert Wood.

<sup>(1)</sup> Information provided by former Company F, 50th Infantry Veteran John Ryan: John.Ryan@smdc-cs.army.mil.



Continued...

Charles Stewart is buried at Fernwood Cemetery, Gladstone, Delta County, Michigan (Pictured below).



### AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF CHARLES L STEWART, JR.



Combat Infantry Badge

