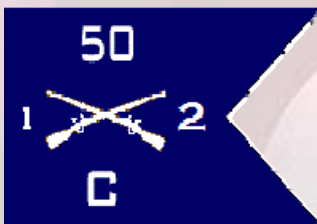




1<sup>ST</sup>  
FIELD FORCE  
VIETNAM



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



"C" COMPANY 2<sup>ND</sup>  
PLATOON



SERGEANT



INFANTRYMAN

## GARY WAYNE COKLEY

2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, "C" Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (Mechanized), 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry  
Sergeant, E5, US562585845, MOS 11B40

Home of Record: Pasco, WA

Date of Birth: December 29, 1944, Age at time of loss: 25, Married

I Field Force Vietnam, Binh Thuan Province, Republic of Vietnam

Start of Tour: April 7, 1970, Date of Casualty: November 2, 1970, Days in Country: 209

Casualty Type A1, Gun, small arms fire, Panel 06W - Row 034

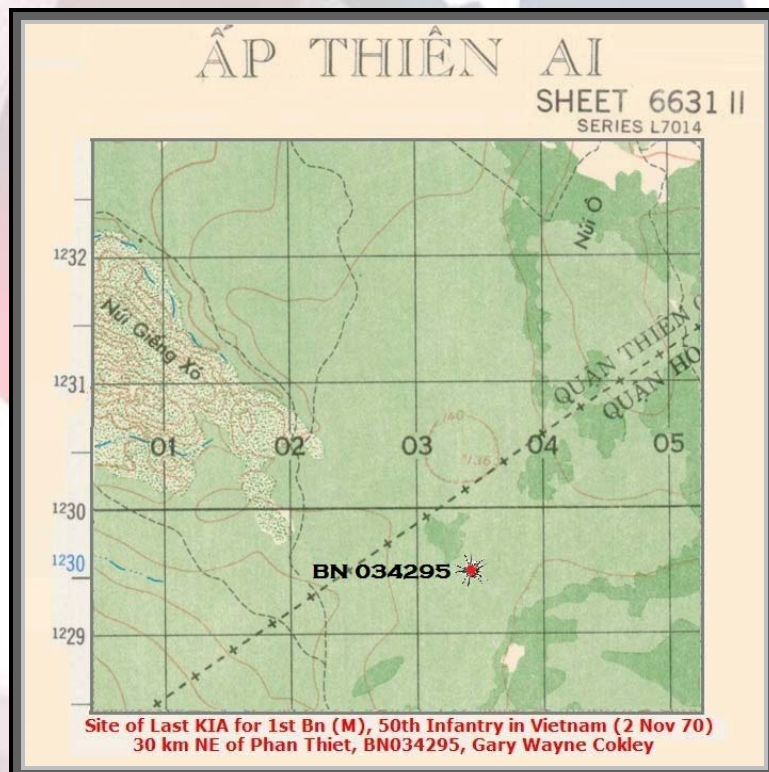
Gary Cokley (Photo at right) was the last man from the 50th Infantry to be killed in action in Vietnam.

At about 4 PM, Team 33 of "C" Company, 75th Rangers spotted 40 to 60 enemy soldiers moving about 100 meters to their south. Artillery was called and an ambush was sprung with small arms fire as they headed north. The 2nd Platoon of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion (M), 50th Infantry was inserted at about 6:15 PM and immediately received small arms fire from 3 enemy soldiers. The men of the 2nd platoon returned fire and the enemy fled, leaving 1 dead NVA soldier behind. Gary Cokley was killed outright in the attack and three others were wounded. Former Company Executive Officer and 2nd Platoon Leader, Ron Leraas, wrote an account of the action in which SGT Cokley was killed:

<http://www.ichiban1.org/pdf/Memorial/LastManKIA.pdf>



A map of the location (BN 034295) is shown below:



Site of Last KIA for 1st Bn (M), 50th Infantry in Vietnam (2 Nov 70)  
30 km NE of Phan Thiet, BN034295, Gary Wayne Cokley

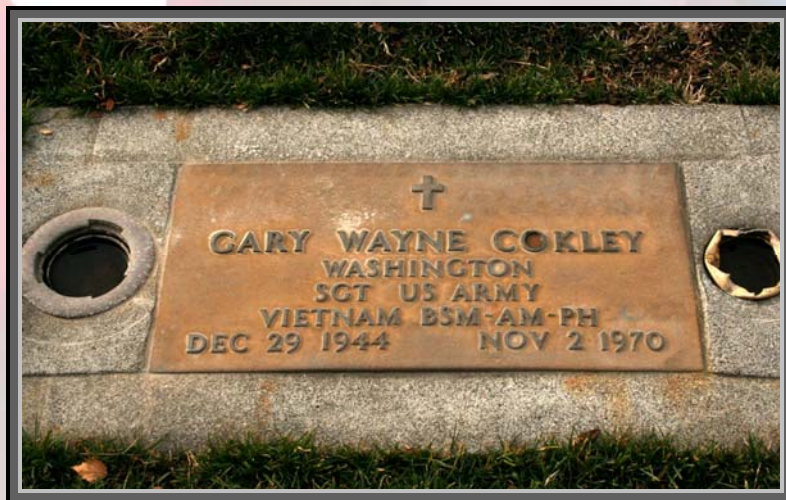
Continued...



Pictured below are the men of Charlie Company, 2nd Platoon, waiting to head out on a mission. Gary Cokley is located on the far left with his back to the camera. George Lopez, [07W-053](#), KIA September 10th, 1970, is facing the camera next to Cokley.

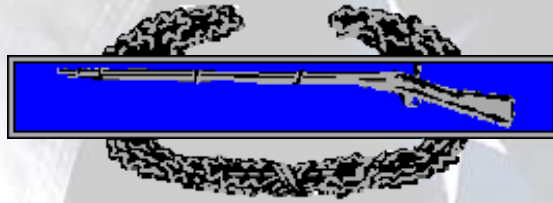


Gary Cokley is buried at Desert Lawn Memorial Park, South Union Street and West 10th Avenue, Kennewick, Benton County, Washington and is pictured below:



Continued...

## GARY WAYNE COKLEY'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:



Combat Infantry Badge



THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL  
WITH "V" DEVICE FOR VALOR

HEADQUARTERS I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 1548

3 DECEMBER, 1970

FOR HEROISM IN CONNECTION WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. SERGEANT GARY W. COKLEY DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY VALOROUS ACTIONS ON 2 NOVEMBER 1970, WHILE SERVING AS SQUAD FOR 2ND PLATOON, COMPANY C, 1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 50TH INFANTRY IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. ON THAT DATE, SERGEANT COKLEY WAS NOTIFIED THAT THE 2ND PLATOON, WHICH WAS THEN THE BATTALION REACTION FORCE, WAS TO BE INSERTED INTO A CONTACT AREA IN WHICH THERE WERE AN ESTIMATED FORTY TO SIXTY ENEMY TROOPS. UPON COMPLETION OF THE COMBAT ASSAULT, THE 2ND PLATOON QUICKLY LINKED UP WITH THE SIX MAN RANGER TEAM WHICH HAD MADE THE INITIAL CONTACT AND IMMEDIATELY MOVED OUT TO REGAIN CONTACT WITH THE RETREATING ENEMY FORCE. AS DUSK APPROACHED, THE PLATOON MADE CONTACT WITH AN UNKNOWN SIZE ENEMY FORCE LOCATED IN A BUNKER COMPLEX. MOVING THROUGH THE BULLET SWEEPED AREA, SERGEANT COKLEY MANEUVERED HIS MEN ON LINE TO ASSAULT THE ENEMY POSITION. DISREGARDING HIS PERSONAL SAFETY, SERGEANT COKLEY COURAGEOUSLY MOVED TOWARD THE ENEMY POSITION FIRING EFFECTIVE SUPPRESSIVE FIRE WHILE POSITIONING HIMSELF TO DESTROY THE ENEMY FORCE. WHILE DOING SO HE WAS KILLED IN ACTION TEN FEET SHORT OF THE ENEMY BUNKER. SERGEANT COKLEY'S VALOROUS ACTIONS WERE IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SERVICE AND REFLECT GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF, HIS UNIT, AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.



Bronze  
Star  
(Valor)



Air  
Medal



Purple  
Heart



National  
Defense



Vietnam  
Service



Vietnam  
Campaign