



1ST
FIELD FORCE
VIETNAM



1ST BATTALION
50TH INFANTRY



"HQ" COMPANY



SERGEANT



INFANTRY

ROBERT BRUCE HANEY, JR.

"HQ" Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry
Specialist 4th Class, E4, Posthumous Promotion to SGT, RA480663609, MOS 63C20
Home of Record: Fairfield, IA
Date of Birth: February 27, 1949, Age at time of loss: 21, Single
I Field Force Vietnam, Binh Thuan Province, Republic of Vietnam
Start of Tour: February 12, 1969, Date of Casualty: May 3, 1970, Days in Country: 445
Casualty Type A1, Gun, small arms fire, Panel 11W - Row 091

Bob Haney was killed in action when at 1:45 AM the Headquarters base camp for Task Force South, 1st Field Force, Vietnam, LZ Betty, was attacked by a force believed to be the 482B Liberation Front Battalion. The attack consisted of approximately 125 rounds of enemy 60mm and 82mm mortar fire, an unknown number of B40/B41 rocket rounds and "Sapper" probes in at least 4 separate locations of the base perimeter. At several locations, the perimeter was penetrated. One Bunker position was overrun and held for about 1/2 hour and 2 other bunkers were destroyed as well as numerous wheeled vehicles and several helicopter aircraft.

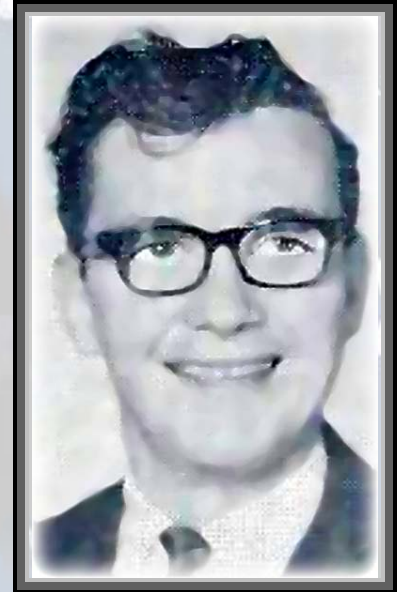
Reaction was hampered by base policy which called for weapons to be secured while forces were in camp, however, once weaponry was obtained, the enemy was counter-attacked and forced to retreat. A large force was spotted at a location Northwest of the perimeter and was fired upon by Artillery and Helicopter Gunships, resulting in 14 enemy killed. Sweeps of the perimeter at dawn revealed numerous blood trails and dozens of drag marks indicating a large number of wounded and dead were dragged away under the cover of darkness.

Also killed during the contact were 50th Infantry men SP4 Roger Craig, SP4 Ken Thomas, SP6 Tom Smith and SSG Fred Denkins. From the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment was SP5 Perry LeClerc. Also killed was an unidentified US Government Civilian conducting classified business in Binh Thuan Province. 35 other U.S. soldiers were wounded.

Although the fact that the weaponry of most base camp units being locked has been "cause for question" for years, command considered the war was far from their home base and allowed the lack of casualties and major contacts for the first 4 months of 1970 to influence their judgment towards a more "stateside" barracks regimen.

Enemy losses were 14 Killed (By Body Count) and 1 POW captured who confirmed that the 482B LF was responsible for the attack. 6 U.S. soldiers were killed, 7 U.S. Helicopters were destroyed and 6 more seriously damaged. Two 3/4 ton trucks, One 5 Ton Truck and One Jeep were destroyed as well as numerous buildings and structures being damaged, including the HQ of "D" Company, 50th Infantry and the Graves and Registration Quonset Hut.

Bob's obituary notes that he was on his second tour in Vietnam. He was posthumously promoted to Sergeant, E5.

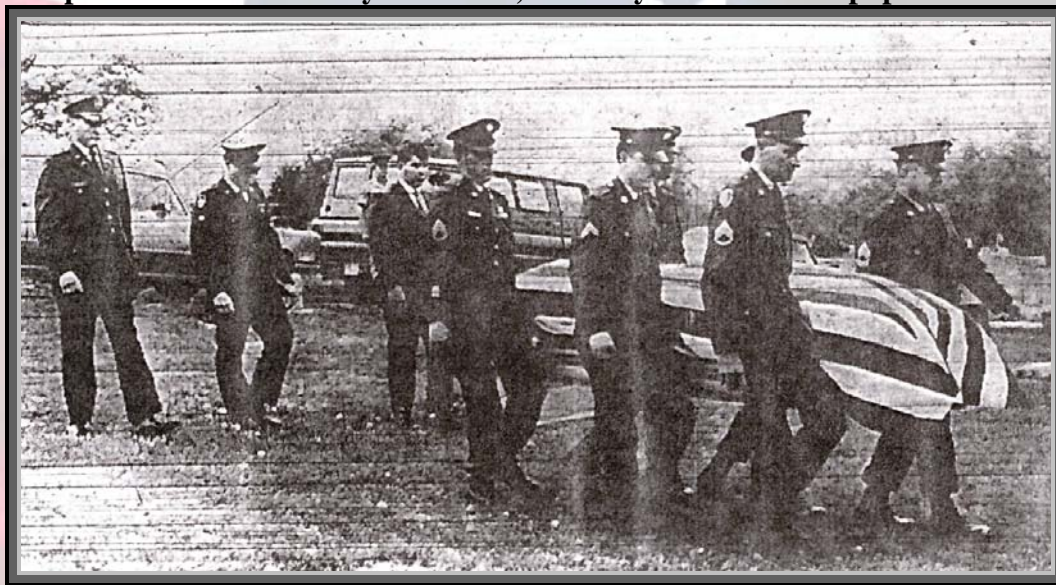


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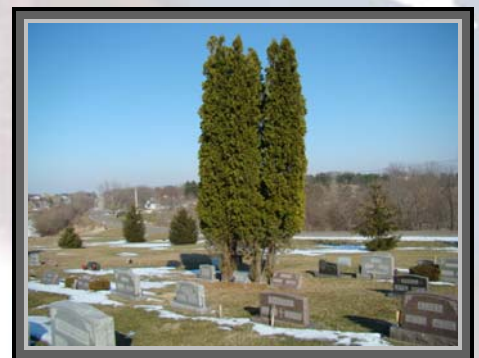
A map of the location (AN809070) is shown below, with the position of the Attacking Force Main Body at AN795075.



Below is a photo of Robert Haney's Funeral, taken by the local newspaper "The Fairfield"



Bob Haney is buried at Evergreen Cemetery, Fairfield, Jefferson County, Iowa, Plot 4th.056



Trees planted by Bob Haney's grave have flourished over the years (pictured above right)

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AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF ROBERT HANEY:



THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE FOR VALOR

HQ 1ST FIELD FORCE VIETNAM - GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 634, 30 MAY 1970

FOR HEROISM IN CONNECTION WITH GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM: SPECIALIST FOUR HANEY DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF ON 3 MAY 1970, WHILE SERVING AT LANDING ZONE BETTY. DURING THE EARLY MORNING HOURS ON THAT DATE, THE PERIMETER DEFENSE OF THE COMPOUND WAS PENETRATED BY AN ENEMY FORCE OF UNKNOWN SIZE. AS THEY ADVANCED, THE ENEMY FIRED ROCKETS, ROCKET PROPELLED GRENADES, AND AUTOMATIC AND SMALL ARMS AT THE SURROUNDING BUILDINGS AND OUTMANNED DEFENSIVE POSITIONS. QUICKLY A REACTION FORCE WAS ORGANIZED AND DEPLOYED TO COMBAT THE HOSTILE ADVANCE. AS THE VEHICLE IN WHICH SPECIALIST HANEY RODE APPROACHED THE EMBATTLED PERIMETER, AN ENEMY ROCKET STRUCK IT, SERIOUSLY WOUNDING SPECIALIST HANEY. DESPITE HIS PAINFUL INJURIES, HE DISMOUNTED THE RUINED TRUCK AND IMMEDIATELY BEGAN LAYING DOWN INTENSE SUPPRESSIVE FIRE WHICH WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN FORCING THE ENEMY TO RETREAT. AS THE ENEMY WITHDREW, THEY HURLED A BARRAGE OF GRENADES, ONE OF WHICH MORTALLY WOUNDED SPECIALIST HANEY. SPECIALIST HANEY'S HEROIC 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**



**Purple
Heart**



**National
Defense**



**Vietnam
Service**



**Vietnam
Campaign**