

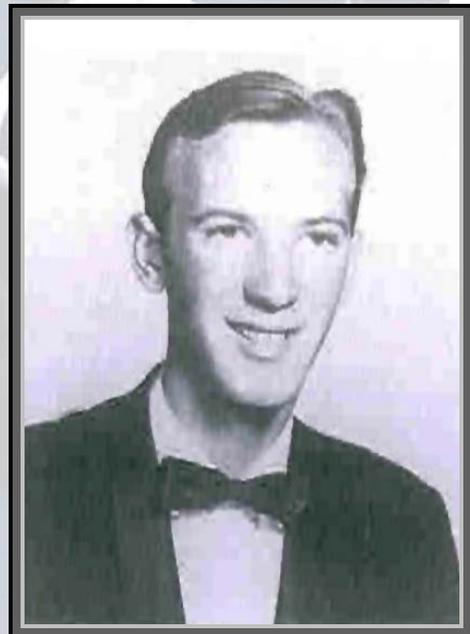


THOMAS W. MORRIS

"C" Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry
Private First Class, E3, Posthumous Promotion to CPL, US56838787, MOS 11B10
Home of Record: Hayward, CA

Date of Birth: May 9, 1948, Age at time of loss: 20, Married
173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate), Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam
Start of Tour: September 20, 1968, Date of Casualty: November 13, 1968, Days in Country: 54
Casualty Type A2, Misadventure (Friendly Fire), Panel 39W - Row 061

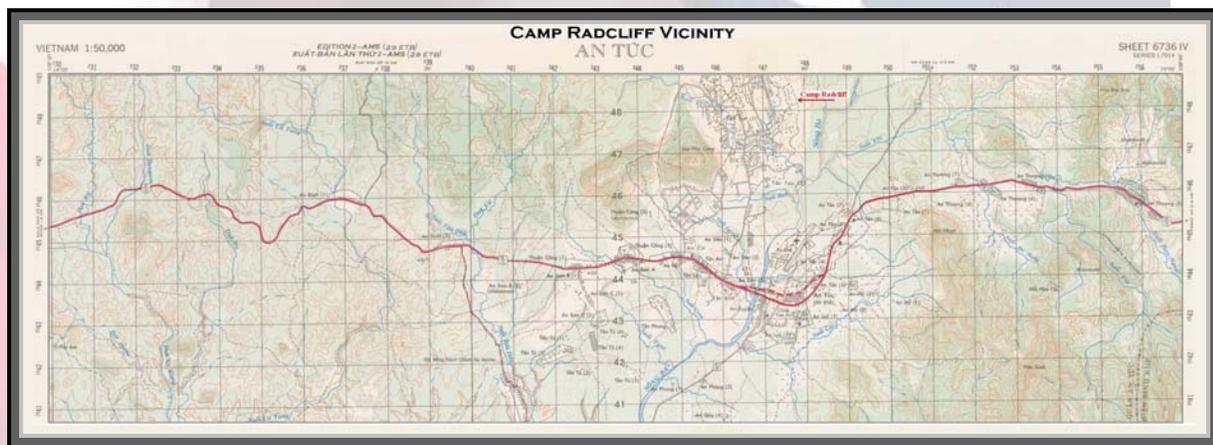
"Friendly Fire" is the term used in conjunction with battle zone fatalities caused by accidents and carelessness on the part of personnel constantly in possession of the instruments of death associated with an Infantry Unit in combat.



Corporal Morris was mortally wounded when, on November 13th, he was being handed a .45 Caliber pistol by a fellow platoon member. The safety was released in the exchange and the trigger accidentally pulled...resulting in a severe wound to Morris's head. He died instantly and did not suffer. A medical evacuation helicopter was there within minutes, but there was nothing that could be done to save him.

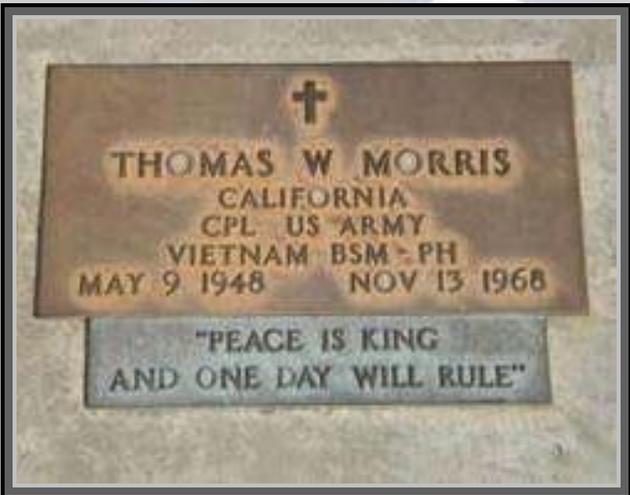
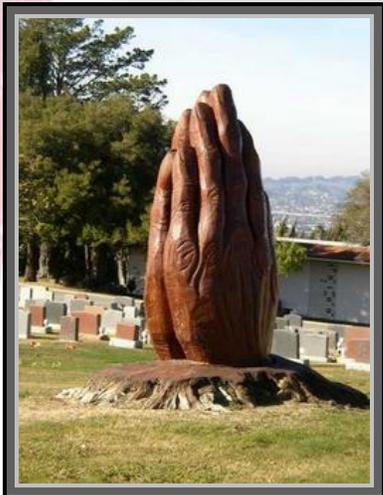
According to Association Member Ken Bradley, who witnessed the event, the man who had passed him the weapon was terribly distraught...and never the same after. Charlie Company had been sent to an undisclosed area outside of Camp Radcliff as a result of a flurry of attacks on the huge base and nearby bridges on Highway 19 during late 1968.

A map of the area of where Thomas Morris died is shown below:



Continued...

Thomas Morris is buried at Lone Tree Cemetery on 24591 Fairview Avenue in his home town of Hayward, Alameda County, California, shown below:



AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF THOMAS MORRIS*:



Combat Infantry Badge



Bronze Star

Purple Heart

National Defense

Vietnam Service

Vietnam Campaign



THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL
FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

FOR DISTINGUISHING HIMSELF BY OUTSTANDING MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD 20 SEPTEMBER 1968 TO 13 NOVEMBER 1968. THROUGH HIS UNTIRING EFFORTS AND PROFESSIONAL ABILITY, HE CONSISTENTLY OBTAINED OUTSTANDING RESULTS. HE WAS QUICK TO GRASP THE IMPLICATIONS OF NEW PROBLEMS WITH WHICH HE WAS FACED AS A RESULT OF THE EVER-CHANGING SITUATIONS INHERENT IN THE COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATION AND TO FIND WAYS AND MEANS TO SOLVE THOSE PROBLEMS. THE ENERGETIC APPLICATION OF THIS EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE HAS MATERIALLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE EFFORTS OF THE UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM TO ASSIST THAT COUNTRY IN RIDDING ITSELF OF THE COMMUNIST THREAT TO ITS FREEDOM. HIS INITIATIVE, ZEAL, SOUND JUDGMENT AND DEVOTION TO DUTY HAVE BEEN IN THE HIGHEST TRADITION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND REFLECT GREAT CREDIT ON HIM AND ON THE MILITARY SERVICE.

*The list of awards shown here reflects the standard medals issued to all men who served in Vietnam. We have added the undocumented Bronze Star and Purple Heart since these are indicated on his gravestone. Cemetery Laws prohibit placement of such an indication without documentation...thus giving us "Just Cause" to list these awards here. The Purple Heart was NOT awarded for "accidental" deaths. We can only assume an Headstone indicated award was given for an earlier combat related wound. Since no "Heroism" was involved in the award of the Bronze Star, we "assume" it would have been for meritorious service and we show a rendering here of the common wording for such awards.