



**173RD AIRBORNE  
BRIGADE**



**1ST BATTALION  
50TH INFANTRY**



**"C" COMPANY**



**CORPORAL**



**INFANTRY**

## **ALLEN WALKER THOMAS**

**"C" Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (Mechanized), 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry**

Private First Class, E3, Posthumous Promotion to CPL, US54608608, MOS 11B10  
Home of Record: San Marcos, TX

Date of Birth: February 11, 1948, Age at time of loss: 20, Single

173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate), Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam

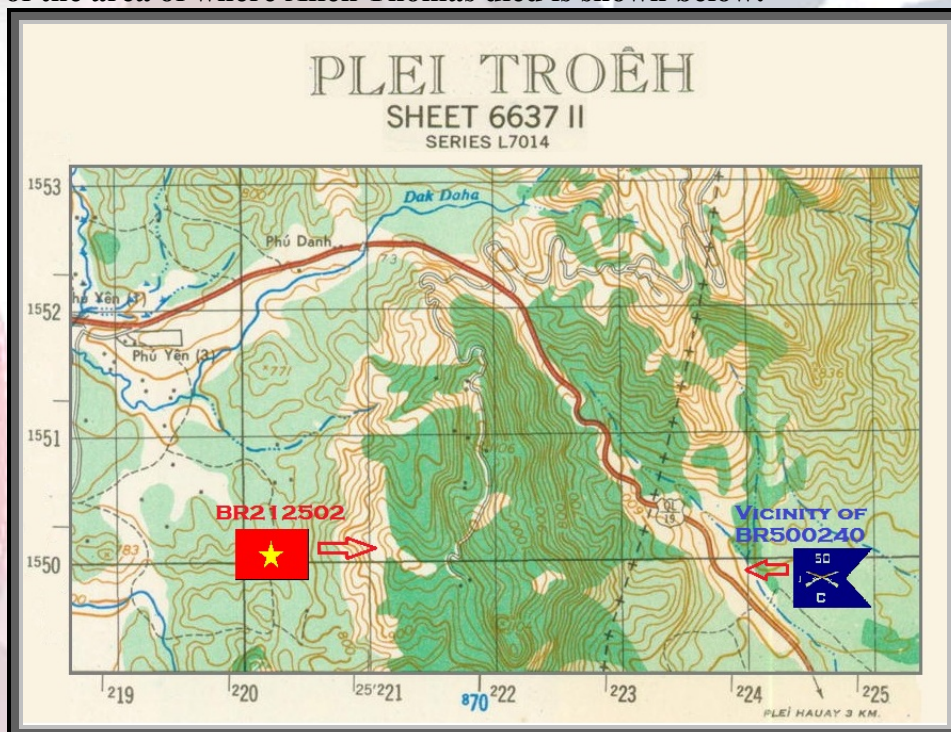
Start of Tour: August 20, 1968, Date of Casualty: November 8, 1968, Days in Country: 80  
Casualty Type C1, Misadventure, Panel 39W - Row 039

On November 8th, 1968, at 0945 hours, a Long Range Patrol from the 173rd Airborne Brigade spotted approximately 30 North Vietnamese Army Soldiers at map grid coordinates BR212502, moving east along a trail. The NVA were armed with AK-47s, SKSs, 1 RPG, 1 30 Caliber Machine Gun and a Mortar of unknown size. 4 of these NVA had unusually large packs. They appeared to be carrying ammunition. The enemy "Point Man" was wearing a dark blue beret and appeared to be Caucasian. Artillery was directed in by the LRP Team Leader resulting in two secondary explosions.



"C" Company was the ready reaction force for the day, positioned just south of the Mang Yang Pass. As "C" Company man Ken Bradley remembers: "It was a sunny hot day and things had been quiet. Most of the men took advantage of the lull by seeking out shade and catching up on some sleep. Several men crawled under their squad's Armored Personnel Carriers, believing that if the APCs were started up, the roar of the diesel engine would awaken them...which it did for all but Thomas. When the call came in for rapid deployment to the area of the sited NVA. "C" Company was told to quickly move out and Thomas' APC ran over him...killing him instantly."

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



Continued...

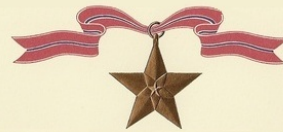
Allen Thomas is buried at Mt Olive Baptist Church Cemetery in New Iberia, Iberia Parish, LA (shown below):



## AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF ALLEN THOMAS \*:



Combat Infantry Badge



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.



Bronze  
Star

National  
Defense

Vietnam  
Service

Vietnam  
Campaign

\* 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 since the award is indicated on his gravestone. Cemetery Laws prohibit placement of such an indication without documentation...thus giving us "Just Cause" to list this award here. The Purple Heart was NOT awarded for "accidental" deaths. 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 an award.