

17-27  
19-23



**POW/MIA Database**

Item 6 of 5000

# South Vietnam, pre-1975: Harwood, James Arthur, E-5 Army

*5th Special Forces Group*

**Country:** South Vietnam, pre-1975

**Name:** James A. Harwood

**Subjects:** Missing; Ground battle; An Giang Province

**Reel:** 195

**Page:** 103-104

**Category:** Casualty files

**PDF:** [PDF image file](#)



Department of State

Amembury Saigon, USDAO Saigon, JCRC HCP  
COMUSMACV/SAI for PAO

E.I. 11652: 3/A

Account Ctr Tho

12 June 1973

T/OS:

MIIL, VS

Casualty Resolution

- (A) Can Tho 0276, (B) 0249, (C) 0402, (D) 0422,  
(E) NCE 040325Z JUN 73

1. American field personnel and their Vietnamese employees carried out extensive crash site investigations in Delta province from 10 May to 5 June 1973, resulting in the attached findings. The field contacts are arranged alphabetically by province and by accession number, where applicable, within each province. The information is supplemental to that contained in referenced telegrams.

2. This was a concerted effort to find all available information on casualty resolution in the Delta. We will continue to pass additional information on casualty resolution as we get it.

Attachment:  
As stated

15/06/03/16

6/11/73

2772

181817

101

26 June 1973

1688 RAMMOON JAMES ARTHUR

E-5 ARMY

Status	Missing in Action	CODE Y	
SSAN	04070	Height	73 IN, 1.85 Meters
Serial No	987A	Weight	170 LB, 077 KG
Nationality	U.S.	Hair	Red
Race	Caucasian	Eyes	Blue
Sex	Male	Complexion	Fair
DOB	10 Mar 1950	Home State	Texas
		Photo	Yes

Date of Mission	15 Jan 1971	Mission Coordinates	VS 943684
Type Mission	Ground Recon	Mission Location	South Vietnam MR-4
Unit Assignment	CO A DET 343 55SG	Aircraft/Vehicle Type	Ground
		Aircraft Serial No	
Duty Position	Riflesman	Aircraft Call Sign	

Last known location VS 943684 10-34-13N/104-56-49E SOUTH VIETNAM MR-4  
Chau Doc Province

CODE Y - PROBABLY KIA.

103

26 JUNE 1973

1688 BARHOOD JAMES ARTHUR

E-5 ARMY

CAMP NAME NOT APPLICABLE, NOT KNOWN TO BE CAPTURED  
ADV TO RECON FLT WITH 24 CAMBODIANS & 2 OTHER ADV, ON A 22 MAY 72  
TRNG MSN WHEN HEAVY CONTACT WAS MADE. HE WAS WITH REAR  
ELEMENT & TRYING TO REACH THE POINT AT LAST RADIO CON-  
TACT. 1 OTHER US WAS KILLED & THE OTHER ONE WOUNDED.  
ALL ATTEMPTS TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH SUBJECT WERE  
MET WITH.  
REF. 1688

DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE  
Special Operations Section  
Operations and Training Branch  
Operations and Plans Division  
PFO San Francisco 96620

ACDUP-OS

1 August 1973

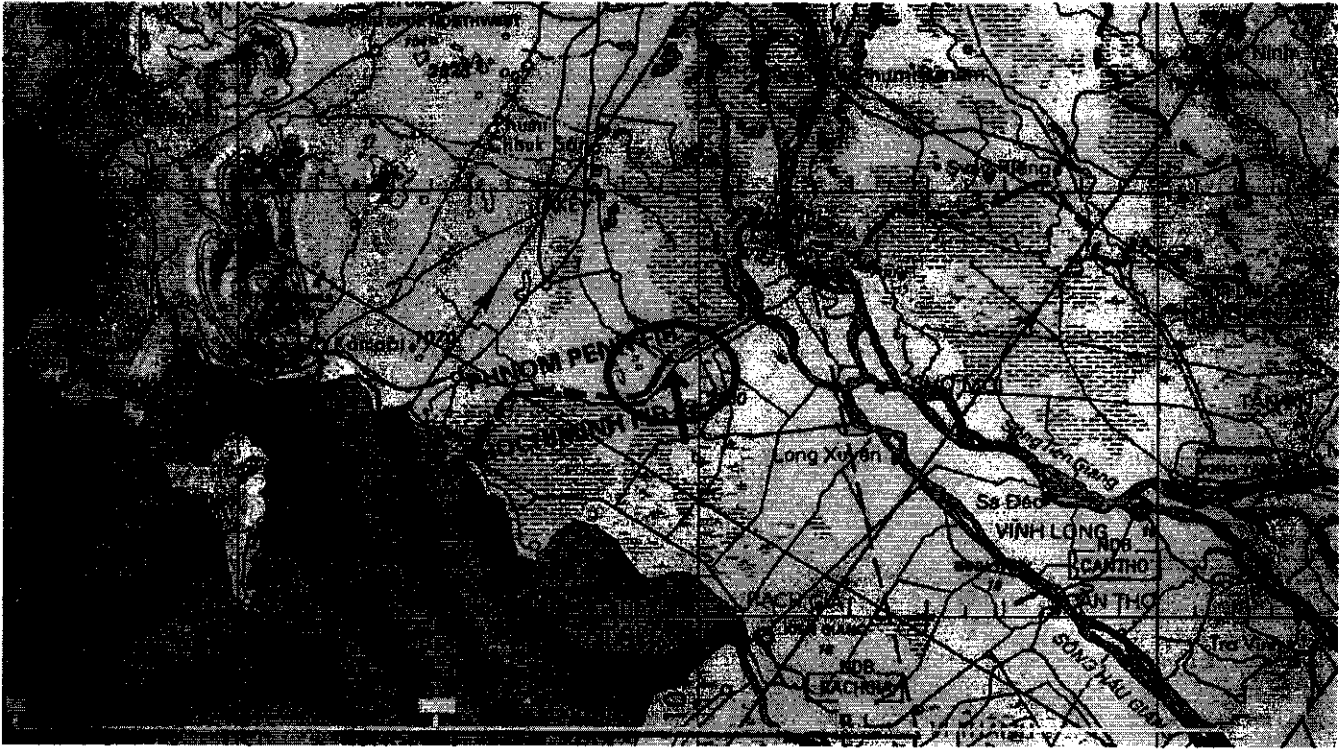
MEMORANDUM FOR: JCRC

SUBJECT: Accession Numbers 1688 & 5516, MRLV

1. It has been noticed that subjects 1688 and 5516 both have last known locations of V8943684 and both were from the same military unit.
2. The Biographic File (B2) of 26 Jun 73 shows the date of mission for each as:  
1688 - 15 Jan 71  
5516 - 01 Jan 71
3. It is requested that any connection between these cases be reported to the undersigned.

*Charles R. Petty*  
CHARLES R. PETTY  
Staff Operations Officer, GS-13  
Special Operations Section





## HARWOOD, JAMES ARTHUR

Name: James Arthur Harwood  
Rank/Branch: E5/US Army Special Forces  
Unit: Company A, Detachment B-43, 5th Special Forces Group  
Date of Birth: 10 March 1950 (Omaha NE)  
Home City of Record: Dallax TX  
Date of Loss: 15 January 1971  
Country of Loss: South Vietnam  
Loss Coordinates: 103415N 1045652E (VS943684)  
Status (in 1973): Missing In Action  
Category: 2  
Aircraft/Vehicle/Ground: Ground  
Refno: 1692  
Other Personnel In Incident: Gerald F. Kinsman (missing)  
Note: Operation Nui Ta Bec

Source: Compiled from one or more of the following: raw data from U.S. Government agency sources, correspondence with POW/MIA families, published sources, interviews. Updated by the P.O.W. NETWORK in 1998.

## REMARKS:

SYNOPSIS: Sgt. James Harwood and 1Lt. Gerald Kinsman were part of the 5th Special Forces Group Detachment B-43 based at the Special Forces camp at Chi Lang, South Vietnam. The two were assisting in the training of the Reconnaissance Platoon, 2nd Company, 1st (later the 6th) Cambodian Mobile Operations Battalion as part of Capt. Harry Purdy's instruction team.

Chi Lang was situated in a dangerous, contested border zone. Any training venture away from camp was subject to becoming a frightening battlefield between Cambodian trainees and hardened Viet Cong regulars, with predictable results, although the Special Forces had considerably more faith in the abilities of the Khmer troops than they had had in the Vietnamese CIDG unit they had formerly trained. The situation was worsened by the serious friction between Detachment B-43 and the former CIDG Vietnamese troops at the camp. The Special Forces made no secret of the fact that they felt the Khmer troops were superior to the ARVN border rangers, whom they considered hoods and thieves. The Vietnamese officer, Maj. Hoa countered by refusing to punish any Vietnamese caught stealing from the Americans.

In January 1971, Capt. Purdy's team and the Khmer battalion-in-training conducted a field exercise at Nui Ta Bec, five miles northwest of Chi Lang. 1Lt. Gerald F. Kinsman, the tactics committee instructor, accompanied the was then lost and McCarty's shouts to him received no response. battalion's 3rd Company cadre, Lt. James J. McCarty and Sgt. James A. Harwood. On 15 January, the three Special Forces troops were escorting the company's 24-man reconnaissance platoon, which was awaiting the arrival of the 8th Khmer Infantry Battalion, coming to replace them in the field.

The platoon was moving downhill through thick bamboo on the slope of Hill 282 (Nui Ta Bec) northwest of Chi Lang and 2 miles from the Cambodian border, after searching several large rock outcroppings of Nui Ta Bec. Sgt. Harwood was in the lead, 1Lt. Kinsman was in the middle, and McCarty to the rear of the platoon. At this time, the platoon was moving in column formation. Suddenly the pointman came under automatic weapons fire, engaging

the platoon in a firefight.

Harwood radioed 1st Lt. James J. McCarty that he was crawling up toward the point, and was receiving direct fire from the front. Communications were then lost with Harwood, and McCarty's shouts to him met with no response. McCarty then approached Kinsman's position at the front, and saw Lt. Kinsman standing in an open area saying he had been hit in the stomach. When he reached Kinsman, McCarty found him lying on his back in a bamboo thicket. He had been shot in the stomach, just to the side of the navel with an exit wound in the back, and was lying in a large pool of blood. McCarty tried to administer aid, but his weapon was shot away, and he was wounded himself. He tried to drag the unconscious 1Lt. Kinsman from the area, but enemy troops were approaching and he had to hide. McCarty did not see Harwood.

McCarty's radioman was wounded in the leg as he frantically radioed Sgt. Stamper at the base of the hill. Maj. Leary, the Detachment B-43 commander, was overhead in an O-1 aircraft and relayed the request for immediate assistance to Maj. Hoa at Chi Lang. Hoa claimed all of his units were "busy" and no response was possible. Leary summoned a battalion from the 9th ARVN Division next, but by the time they arrived, the fighting was over. In addition to the Cambodian casualties, both Lt. Kinsman and Sgt. Harwood were missing.

McCarty was later evacuated. Harwood was classified Missing In Action, and Kinsman, because of his severe wounds was classified as Killed/Body Not Recovered.

In August 1974, a Vietnamese source reported the following information which he received second hand from another Vietnamese, "The enemy (Viet Cong) ambushed a Government of Vietnam team, killed one American and captured one American, one officer and one NCO in that vicinity. The live American was ordered to pull the body into the forest. In the forest, the American was ordered to dig a hole and bury his friend. As soon as he finished his work, a VC cadre stood beside him and fired at his head with a K .54 pistol. The two bodies were rushed into the hole, and it was filled with earth." The source also assumed that the grave site might have been in a valley.

The fates of Harwood and Kinsman are unknown. They are two of nearly 2500 Americans who are still missing from Southeast Asia. As reports flow in that hundreds of Americans are still alive in Vietnam and Laos, one wonders if Harwood or Kinsman are among them. If the 1974 report is true, why have their bodies not been returned? If it is not, and they are alive, what must they be thinking of us?

## The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall , View record [ Last Name: KINSMAN , City: FOXBORO , State: MA ]

Last Name	KINSMAN
First Name	GERALD
Middle Name	FRANCIS
Suffix	
Service Number	014343342
Service Branch	A
Component	V
Rank	1LT
Posthumous Promotion	
Grade	O2
Military Occupational Specialty	32162
Age	25
City	FOXBORO
State	MA
Incident casdate	01/15/1971
return identify vehicle operation	GROUND
event	NUI TA BAC (HILL 282) 9 KM NW OF THAT SONAFLD 197
cas1	A3
cas2	D
cas3	7
body utm	BNR VS943684
utmvhpa Province	47
Country	VS
lsvc	**
Birthdate	06/12/1945
Race	C
rel	RC
Married	S
Sex	M
tourd	-----
Panel	05W
Line	045
Comments	
majorg	USARV
div	
bde	
rgt	5TH SF GROUP
bn	
co	A CO
plt	DET B-43 (CHI LANG)
airwing	
airgroup	
sqdn	
tf	
tg	
ship	
unit	"Army Spt Cmd VNSO 85 dtd 26Mar71; CIL 31272; by
lupd	06-Apr-09
Medal Of Honor	FALSE
Distinguished Service Cross	FALSE
Navy Cross	FALSE
Air Force Cross	FALSE

*Missing with  
James A. Harwood*



<b>Merchant Marine Distinguished Service Medal</b>	<b>FALSE</b>
<b>dfc</b>	<b>FALSE</b>
<b>bsv</b>	<b>FALSE</b>
<b>bsm</b>	<b>FALSE</b>
<b>Purple Heart</b>	<b>TRUE</b>
<b>am</b>	<b>FALSE</b>
<b>gcm</b>	<b>FALSE</b>
	<b>Back to list</b>

# HARWOOD, JAMES ARTHUR

**Name:** James Arthur Harwood  
**Rank/Branch:** Sergeant First Class/US Army  
**Unit:** Company A, Detachment B-43,  
 5th Special Forces Group  
 1st Special Forces  
**Date of Birth:** 10 March 1950 (Omaha, NE)  
**Home of Record:** Dallas, TX  
**Date of Loss:** 15 January 1971  
**Country of Loss:** South Vietnam  
**Loss Coordinates:** 103415N 1045652E (VS943684)  
[Click coordinates to view maps](#)  
**Status in 1973:** Missing in Action  
**Category:** 2  
**Aircraft/Vehicle/Ground:** Ground  
**Other Personnel In Incident:** Gerald F. Kinsman (missing)



## REMARKS:

**SYNOPSIS:** In January 1971, Major Leary, Special Forces Detachment B-43 commander; and Capt. Harry Purdy, company commander; were the senior officers assigned to Detachment B-43. The detachment's mission was to train and advise the Khmer Reconnaissance Platoon, 2nd Company, 1st (later the 6th) Cambodian Mobile Operations Battalion. The detachment was stationed at the Chi Lang Special Forces Camp, Chau Doc Province, South Vietnam. Other members of the Detachment B-43 included 1st Lt. James F. Kinsman, Lt. James J. McCarty, then Sgt. James A. Harwood and Sgt. Stamper.

Chi Lang Special Forces Camp was situated in a dangerous, highly contested border area just south of the South Vietnamese/Cambodian border, South Vietnam. Because of the large enemy presence in this region, all training exercises in the field were subject to becoming real battles between the Cambodian trainees and hardened Viet Cong (VC) regulars at a moments notice. Although the Special Forces cadre had considerably more faith in the abilities of the Khmer troops now under their training command than they ever had in the Vietnamese CIDG unit they formerly trained, the inexperienced troops were still at a great disadvantage.

The situation worsened due to the serious friction between Detachment B-43 members and the Vietnamese CIDG troops who were also stationed at the Special Forces camp. The Americans made no secret of the fact they felt the Khmer troops were superior to the ARVN border rangers, whom the Americans considered to be no more than hoods and thieves. The Vietnamese commanding officer, Major Hoa, countered by refusing to punish any Vietnamese caught stealing from the Americans.

On 15 January 1971, 1st Lt. Kinsman, the tactics instructor, Lt. McCarty and then Sgt. Harwood escorted their Khmer company's 24-man reconnaissance platoon during the battalion-in-training field exercise on Nui Ta Bec Mountain. The mountain, also known as "Hill 282," was the shortest of several mountains clustered together in the populated and hotly contested rice bowl sector of extreme southwestern South Vietnam. It was also located approximately ¼ mile southeast of Highway TL55, 2 miles south of the South Vietnamese/Cambodian border, 5 miles northwest of Chi Lang Special Forces Camp, 15 miles southwest of Chau Duc, 34 miles northeast of Ha Tien and 115 miles west-southwest of Saigon.

After completing the field exercise, and while waiting for the 8th Khmer Infantry Battalion to arrive onsite to replace them in the field, the reconnaissance platoon began moving through the thick bamboo on the west side of the mountain. Sgt. Harwood accompanied the lead element, 1st Lt. Kinsman was located in the middle, and 1st Lt. McCarty was in the rear of the platoon's formation. As the platoon moved down-slope under the direction of the American cadre, the Khmer searched several large rock outcroppings for signs of a communist presence. As the inexperienced troops moved about their duties and without warning, the platoon came under VC automatic weapons fire.

Sgt. Harwood immediately dropped to the ground and radioed 1st Lt. McCarty stating that he "was crawling toward the pointman, could not see anything and was receiving direct fire from the front." Shortly thereafter all contact with James Harwood was lost. When radio contact could not be reestablished, James McCarty shouted to Sgt. Harwood, but received no response from him.

In the initial burst of gunfire, 1st Lt. McCarty's radioman was wounded in the leg. He frantically radioed Sgt. Stamper, who was located with another platoon at the base of the mountain, informing him of the platoon's dire situation. Major Leary, the detachment commander, monitored the training exercise while flying overhead in a Forward Air Control (FAC) aircraft. From his vantage point, he observed the firefight commence and heard the radio traffic between the troops on the ground. He immediately relayed the reconnaissance platoon's request for assistance to Major Hoa at Chi Lang. The CIDG Commander claimed all of his units were "busy" and no response was possible.

As the battle continued, 1st Lt. McCarty moved forward toward 1st Lt. Kinsman's position. Through the clumps of bamboo he momentarily saw James McCarty standing in an open area directing the Khmer soldiers into better firing positions. When he reached Gerald Kinsman's position, James McCarty found him lying on his back in the small clearing. 1st Lt. Kinsman had sustained a gunshot wound in the stomach just to the side of the navel with an exit wound in the back. Lt. McCarty also noted he was lying in a large pool of blood.

While James McCarty immediately began ministering to the severely wounded Lieutenant, enemy gunfire struck his weapon destroying it and scattering the pieces everywhere. Seconds later another enemy round struck and wounded 1st Lt. McCarty. As the firefight raged around him, James McCarty tried to drag the unconscious Lieutenant to safety. Unfortunately, enemy troops moved forward and as they approached the wounded Americans' position, James McCarty was forced to leave Gerald Kinsman where he lay and hide in a nearby thicket to escape detection.

Meanwhile, after being rebuffed by Major Hoa, Major Leary transmitted an emergency call to another battalion assigned to the 9th ARVN Division. Unfortunately by the time they reached the embattled troops, the firefight was over and the VC retreated into their sanctuary across the border.

The survivors regrouped, called in medivac aircraft for their wounded and dead, took a head-count and determined that Gerald Kinsman and James Harwood were missing. 1st Lt. McCarty reported that during the firefight he never saw Sgt. Harwood and that when last seen, 1st Lt. Kinsman was unconscious with communist troops approaching his location. The newly arrived ARVN troops initiated a ground search and rescue (SAR) operation in and around Nui Ta Bec Mountain for the two missing American advisors. At the same time, American aircraft were called in to conduct an aerial visual search of the area.

Neither the aerial or ground search discovered any trace of Sgt. Harwood, 1st Lt. Kinsman, or of freshly dug graves in and around the ambush site, or along the enemy's withdrawal path. At the time the formal search operation was terminated, James Harwood was listed Missing in Action. At the same time Gerald Kinsman was classified Killed/Body Not Recovered because of the severe wound he was known to have sustained.

In August 1974, a Vietnamese refugee reported the following information to the US government, which he received second hand from another Vietnamese: "The enemy (Viet Cong) ambushed a Government of Vietnam team, killed one American and captured one American - one officer and one NCO - in that vicinity. The live American was ordered to pull the body of the dead American into the forest. There the American was ordered to dig a hole and bury his friend. As soon as he finished his work, a VC cadre stood beside him and fired at his head with a K .54 pistol. The two bodies were rushed into the hole, and it was filled with earth." The source also assumed that the gravesite might have been in a valley, but could not provide details of its location. There is no way to determine the validity of this second hand, hearsay report, and the fate of the two Americans remains unknown. Likewise, US intelligence had no way to determine if this report actually correlated to the loss of 1st Lt. Kinsman and Sgt. Harwood, or to any other

**American casualties.**

If James Harwood and Gerald Kincade died in combat, or were murdered by a ruthless enemy, each man has a right to have his remains returned to his family, friends and country. However, if they survived, there is no question they were captured and their fate, like that of other Americans who remain unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, could be quite different. Either way, there is no doubt the Vietnamese could return them or their remains any time they had the desire to do so.

Since the end of the Vietnam War well over 21,000 reports of American prisoners, missing and otherwise unaccounted for have been received by our government. Many of these reports document LIVE American Prisoners of War remaining captive throughout Southeast Asia TODAY.

American military men in Vietnam were called upon to fight in many dangerous circumstances, and they were prepared to be wounded, killed or captured. It probably never occurred to them that they could be abandoned by the country they so proudly served.

# KINSMAN, GERALD FRANCIS

**Name:** Gerald Francis Kinsman  
**Rank/Branch:** 1st Lieutenant/US Army  
**Unit:** Company A, Detachment B-43,  
 5th Special Forces Group  
 1st Special Force  
**Date of Birth:** 12 June 1945  
**Home of Record:** Foxboro, MA  
**Date of Loss:** 15 January 1971  
**Country of Loss:** South Vietnam  
**Loss Coordinates:** 103415N 1045652E (VS943684)  
[Click coordinates to view maps](#)  
**Status in 1973:** Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered  
**Category:** 2  
**Aircraft/Vehicle/Ground:** Ground  
**Other Personnel In Incident:** James A. Harwood (missing)

**NO  
 Picture  
 Available**

## REMARKS:

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[facebook](#)



## SGT James Arthur Harwood

### OUR ADOPTED POW/MIA: WE WILL NEVER FORGET!

**Name:** James Arthur Harwood  
**Rank/Branch:** E5/US Army Special Forces  
**Unit:** Company A, Detachment B-43, 5th Special Forces Group  
**Date of Birth:** 10 March 1950 (Omaha NE)  
**Home City of Record:** Dallax TX  
**Date of Loss:** 15 January 1971  
**Country of Loss:** South Vietnam  
**Loss Coordinates:** 103415N 1045652E (VS943684)  
**Status (in 1973):** Missing in Action  
**Category:** 2 -- Suspect knowledge  
**A. Involved in the same incidents as individuals in Category 1.**  
**B. Lost in areas or under conditions that they may reasonably be expected to be known by the enemy.**  
**C. Connected with an incident that was discussed but not identified by name in the enemy news media, or**  
**D. Probably identified through analysis of all-source intelligence.**

**Aircraft/Vehicle/Ground:** Ground  
**Refno:** 1692

**Source:** Compiled from one or more of the following: raw data from U.S. Government agency sources, correspondence with POW/MIA families, published sources, interviews. Updated by the P.O.W. NETWORK in 1998.

**Other Personnel In Incident:** Gerald F. Kinsman (missing)  
**Note:** Operation Nui Ta Bec

**REMARKS:**



**SYNOPSIS:** Sgt. James Harwood and 1Lt. Gerald Kinsman were part of the 5th Special Forces Group Detachment B-43 based at the Special Forces camp at Chi Lang, South Vietnam. The two were assisting in the training of the Reconnaissance Platoon, 2nd Company, 1st (later the 6th) Cambodian Mobile Operations Battalion as part of Capt. Harry Purdy's instruction team.

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In January 1971, Capt. Purdy's team and the Khmer battalion-in-training conducted a field exercise at Nui Ta Bec, five miles northwest of Chi Lang. 1Lt. Gerald F. Kinsman, the tactics committee instructor, accompanied the was then lost and McCarty's shouts to him received no response. battalion's 3rd Company cadre, Lt. James J. McCarty and Sgt. James A. Harwood. On 15 January, the three Special Forces troops were escorting the company's 24-man reconnaissance platoon, which was awaiting the arrival of the 8th Khmer Infantry Battalion, coming to replace them in the field.

The platoon was moving downhill through thick bamboo on the slope of Hill 282 (Nui Ta Bec) northwest of Chi Lang and 2 miles from the Cambodian border, after searching several large rock outcroppings of Nui Ta Bec. Sgt. Harwood was in the lead, 1Lt. Kinsman was in the middle, and McCarty to the rear of the platoon. At this time, the platoon was moving in column formation. Suddenly the pointman came under automatic weapons fire, engaging the platoon in a firefight.

Harwood radioed 1st Lt. James J. McCarty that he was crawling up toward the point, and was receiving direct fire from the front. Communications were then lost with Harwood, and McCarty's shouts to him met with no response. McCarty then approached Kinsman's position at the front, and saw Lt. Kinsman standing in an open area saying he had been hit in the stomach. When he reached Kinsman, McCarty found him lying on his back in a bamboo thicket. He had been shot in the stomach, just to the side of the navel with an exit wound in the back, and was lying in a large pool of blood. McCarty tried to administer aid, but his weapon was shot away, and he was wounded himself. He tried to drag the unconscious 1Lt. Kinsman from the area, but enemy troops were approaching and he had to hide. McCarty did not see Harwood.

McCarty's radioman was wounded in the leg as he frantically radioed Sgt. Stamper at the base of the hill. Maj. Leary, the Detachment B-43 commander, was overhead in an O-1 aircraft and relayed the request for immediate assistance to Maj. Hoa at Chi Lang. Hoa claimed all of his units were "busy" and no response was possible. Leary summoned a battalion from the 9th ARVN Division next, but by the time they arrived, the fighting was over. In addition to the Cambodian casualties, both Lt. Kinsman and Sgt. Harwood were missing.

McCarty was later evacuated. Harwood was classified Missing In Action, and Kinsman, because of his severe wounds was classified as Killed/Body Not Recovered.

In August 1974, a Vietnamese source reported the following information which he received second hand from another Vietnamese, "The enemy (Viet Cong) ambushed a Government of Vietnam team, killed one American and captured one American, one officer and one NCO in that vicinity. The live American was ordered to pull the body into the forest. In the forest, the American was ordered to dig a hole and bury his friend. As soon as he finished his work, a VC cadre stood beside him and fired at his head with a K .54 pistol. The two bodies were rushed into the hole, and it was filled with earth." The source also assumed that the grave site might have been in a valley.

The fates of Harwood and Kinsman are unknown. They are two of nearly 2500 Americans who are still missing from Southeast Asia. As reports flow in that hundreds of Americans are still alive in Vietnam and Laos, one wonders if Harwood or Kinsman are among them. If the 1974 report is true,

**why have their bodies not been returned? If it is not, and they are alive, what must they be thinking of us?**

Missing Plug-in

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