

ROBERT ALAN HANSELMAN

SP4 - E4 - Army - Selective Service
25th Infantry Division
19 year old Single, Caucasian, Male
Born on May 15, 1948
From MT CLEMENS, MICHIGAN
His tour of duty began on Aug 23, 1967
Casualty was on Dec 22, 1967
in BINH DUONG, SOUTH VIETNAM
HOSTILE, GROUND CASUALTY
GUN, SMALL ARMS FIRE
Body was recovered
Religion
PROTESTANT

Panel 32E - - Line 44

Robert is buried at Cadillac Memorial Gardens East, Clinton Twp., MI



L'Anse Creuse HS Class of '66

Soldier Follows Buddy in Death

By LOUIS MLECZKO

Staff Writer

The joy of Christmas lies shattered today in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hanselman, 23663 Harrellson, Macomb Township.

Their son lies dead in Vietnam.

His life was snuffed out in a Communist ambush while the young soldier was on patrol duty Friday.

THE NEWS of young Robert Hanselman's death was brought home Christmas Eve by emissaries from Selfridge Air Force Base and later confirmed Christmas Day by the Defense Department telegram.

Hanselman, a Spec. 4 jeep machine gunner was killed near his base camp, Dau Tieng, located 80 miles northwest of Saigon.

"We had our Christmas tree decorated two weeks early just so we could send Robert pictures of it," Mrs. Hanselman said.

"He received the Christmas packages we sent, and he returned money in one of his last letters for us to buy gifts for his younger brothers and sisters."

"NOW WITH his death at Christmas, every Christmas in the future is spoiled."

A 1966 graduate of L'Anse Creuse High School, the 19-year-old Hanselman joined the Army last March after a close friend, PFC Elmer F. Kepsel, was killed near Pleiku, South Vietnam.

"Bob was on the U.S. Coast Guard waiting list, but he enlisted into the Army after Elmer was killed," Mrs. Hanselman said.

Hanselman was killed after being in South Vietnam exactly four months. His friend Elmer also was killed after serving four months in the Central Highlands.

BOTH YOUNG MEN played golf at L'Anse Creuse High and worked during the summer at Burning Tree Country Club in Macomb Township.

"He seemed to follow Elmer's footsteps," Mrs. Hanselman said. "This is why I worried so much after Bob was sent to Vietnam as a machine gunner as Elmer had been.

"I just couldn't keep this out of my mind," she said tearfully.

Mrs. Hanselman said her son wasn't bitter about going to fight in Southeast Asia, and said he was confident in returning home safely.

"I do not think his life was in vain," Mrs. Hanselman said. "He was proud of his uniform, and I was proud of him."

The Macomb Daily, Dec. 27, 1967, Front page

Robert Hanselman

Spec. 4 Robert A. Hanselman, 23663 Harrellson, Mount Clemens, was fatally wounded on Friday, Dec. 22, while on patrol duty in Vietnam. He was 19 years old.

He was born in Traverse City, Mich., on May 15, 1948, to Robert and Joyce Derrer Hanselman. In 1966 he was graduated from L'Anse Creuse High School where he played golf on the team. During the summer months he was employed at the Burning Tree Country Club in Macomb Township as an assistant greens keeper. After graduation from high school he was employed by the G. L. Corporation.

On March 13, 1967, he enlisted in the United States Army. He underwent basic training at Ft. Knox, Ky. and advanced training at Ft. Polk, La.

SURVIVING besides his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hanselman of Mount Clemens are five brothers and sisters – Roger, Terry, Connie, Cathy, and Craig, all living at home. Also surviving are his paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Hanselman of Mount Clemens, maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Roland Derrer o Mancelona and his maternal great grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Arch Gothrup, also of Mancelona.

Services will be held Tuesday at 2 p.m. from the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Waldenburg with the Rev. A. H. Klenke officiating. Burial will be in Cadillac Memorial Garden East.

Robert will rest at the Will and Schwarzkoff Funeral Home, 233 North Gratiot, Mount Clemens until 11 a.m. Tuesday and will then lie in state at church from 1p.m. until time of services.

Full military honor will be accorded him by the 28th Artillery Group of Selfridge Air Force Base.

Friends may call at the funeral home after 7 p.m. Saturday.

The Macomb Daily, Saturday, December 30, 1967, page 21

Parents Given Hero's Medals

In honor of their son, Army Sp-4 Robert Alan Hanselman, killed in action in Vietnam on Dec. 22, 1967, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hanselman, 23663 Harrellson, Macomb Township have been presented certificates for Robert's two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart by the Army.

Robert was graduated from L'Anse Creuse High School in 1966 and entered the service March 13, 1967.

The citation accompanying one of the Bronze Stars stated in part: "Specialist Four Hanselman distinguished himself by heroic actions while serving as rifleman with Company D, 3d Battalion, 22d Infantry on a search and destroy operation in Tri Tam Province, Republic of Vietnam.

"Specialist Hanselman's company was ambushed by a large Viet Cong force employing Claymore mines and small arms fire. Specialist Hanselman was with the lead element of the company and was seriously wounded by the initial burst of enemy fire. Although wounded he managed to return the enemy fire and enable his elements to come on line and return fire on the enemy position.

"Due to Specialist Hanselman's Valorous actions the mission was successfully completed and the enemy force defeated.

"Specialist Hanselman's personal bravery and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon, his unit, the 25th Infantry Division and the United States Army."

The Macomb Daily, August 15, 1968, page 6C

