



1<sup>ST</sup>  
AIR CAVALRY  
DIVISION



1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION  
50<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY

2<sup>ND</sup> PLATOON



"A" COMPANY



SPECIALIST 4<sup>TH</sup>  
CLASS



INFANTRY

## DUDNEY NELSON ARLENTINO

2nd Platoon, 1st Squad, "A" Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (Mechanized), 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry  
Specialist 4th Class, E4, US56908858, MOS 11B20

Home of Record: Coolidge, AZ

Date of Birth: April 29, 1945, Age at time of loss: 22, Single

1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam

Start of Tour: September 15, 1967, Date of Casualty: December 7, 1967, Days in Country: 83

Casualty Type A1, Hostile Ground Casualty - Other causes, Panel 31E - Row 058

Specialist Dudney Nelson, a Native American and member of "A" Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (Mechanized), 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry, was killed during the opening days of the Battle of Tam Quan at a small village named Dai Dong. He was acting as RTO and driving the Command APC of the Ready Reaction Force comprised of "A" Company men and lead by LT. Hinton. Dudney was hit in the head by an AK-47 round. He was killed instantly.

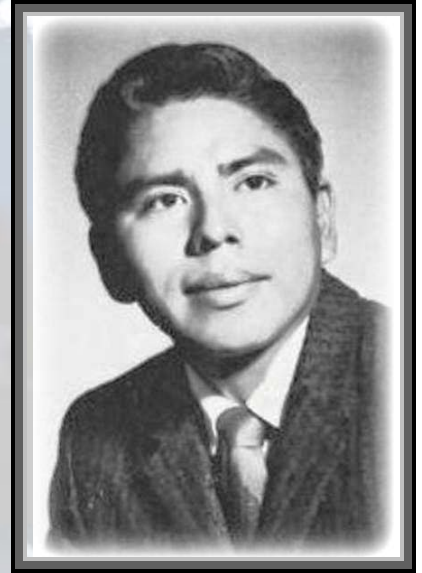
Fourteen 50th Infantry men were killed in the Battle of Tam Quan, which was the major battle of the 1st Air Cavalry Division's "Operation Pershing" on the coastal Bong Son Plains in and around Binh Dinh Province. 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) units, including the 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry, and the 40th ARVN Regiment engaged the NVA/VC including the 7th and 8th Battalions of the 22nd NVA Regiment, 3rd NVA Division in a running battle from the 6th through the 20th of December, 1967.

The engagement began on the 6th of December when a scout helicopter from "A" Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry observed an antenna and received small arms fire from a native village structure in the vicinity of the village of Dai Dong (2) near the city of Tam Quan, from which the ensuing battle took it's name. Late in the afternoon, a Platoon of Infantryman (Blues) from Troop "A" were sent to investigate the antenna and became pinned down by intense enemy automatic and small arms fire. Reinforcements from "B" Troop, 1st of the 8th Cavalry and a "Ready Reaction" platoon of Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs) from "A" Company, 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry were able to successfully remove the 9th Cavalry elements that had been pinned down.

The following morning, on December 7th, after prep artillery fire and CS Gas deployment, the "A" Company Ready Reaction force was called in to help the now engaged troops from "A" Troop, 1st of the 8th Cavalry in the same vicinity. LT Hinton's RTO was killed in this action. Dudney Arlentino of Coolidge, Arizona became the first 50th Infantry man killed in the battle.

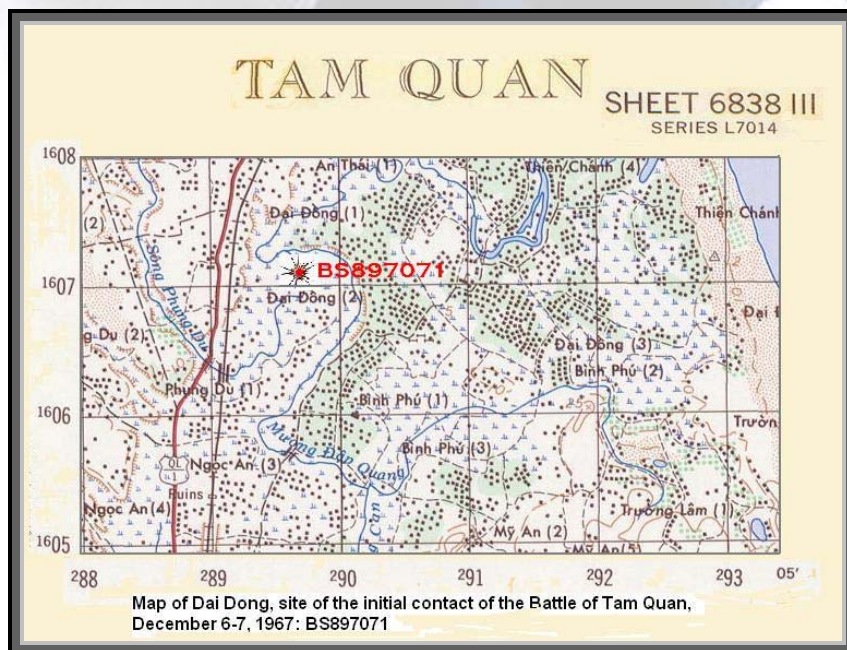
At this time, other 50th Infantry elements became fully involved in the battles as the enemy forces were located and attacked by our "B" and "D" Companies. Actions on the 10th of December saw ten men killed from "B" Company at the village of Truong Lam (2) and three men killed from "D" Company at the village of My An (2).

Most sources list the enemy (VC/NVA) dead for the battle at 650 and friendly forces lost a total of 58 men.



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A map of the location of Dai Dong (BS897071) is shown below:



Dudney Arlentino is buried at Blackwater West Cemetery, Blackwater, AZ...a Gila River Indian Community.



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## ARLENTINO'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS



Combat Infantry Badge



THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL  
WITH "V" DEVICE FOR VALOR

HQ, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 992

16 FEBRUARY, 1968

FOR HEROISM, NOT INVOLVING PARTICIPATION IN AERIAL FLIGHT, IN CONNECTION WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. SPECIALIST FOUR ARLENTINO DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY EXCEPTIONALLY VALOROUS ACTION ON 7 DECEMBER 1967, WHILE SERVING AS A DRIVER OF AN ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER WITH COMPANY A, 1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 50TH INFANTRY DURING A COMBAT MISSION NEAR BONG SON IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. WHILE HIS UNIT WAS ASSAULTING AN ENEMY FORTIFICATION, SPECIALIST ARLENTINO SUSTAINED A SERIOUS WOUND, BUT CONTINUED TO EXPOSE HIMSELF TO THE ENEMY FIRE AS HE MOVED HIS VEHICLE AGAINST THE HOSTILE BUNKER. AT THIS TIME SPECIALIST ARLENTINO WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED, BUT HIS ACTIONS CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF HIS UNIT'S MISSION. HIS DISPLAY OF PERSONAL BRAVERY AND DEVOTION TO DUTY WAS IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SERVICE AND REFLECTS GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF, HIS UNIT, AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.



Bronze  
Star  
(Valor)



Purple  
Heart



National  
Defense



Vietnam  
Service



Vietnam  
Campaign