

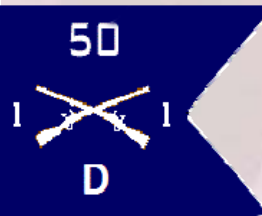


1ST
CAVALRY
DIVISION
(AIRMOBILE)



1ST BATTALION
50TH INFANTRY

"D" COMPANY



1ST PLATOON



SPECIALIST
FOURTH CLASS



INFANTRYMAN

THOMAS W. "TOMMY" MITCHELL

1st Platoon, "D" Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry
Specialist 4th Class, E4, US51772287, MOS 11B20

Home of Record: Buffalo, NY

Date of Birth: March 30, 1947, Age at time of loss: 20, Single

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

Start of Tour: September 1, 1967, Date of Casualty: December 2, 1967, Days in Country: 92

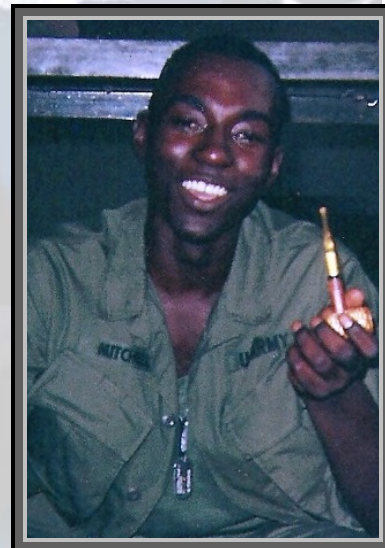
Casualty Type A1, Gun, small arms fire, Panel 31E - Row 025

Thomas "Tommy" Mitchell was killed as the 1st Platoon of "D" Company received intense fire from a large NVA unit while advancing in rocky terrain believed to be near the Nui Mieu Mountains along the coast of Binh Dinh Province. He was struck in the chest by machine gun fire and died instantly as the "Delta Devils" took their first fatal casualties. Mitchell was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor, Posthumously. Read an account of the action written by former 1st Platoon Leader Dennis Driscoll:

<http://www.ichiban1.org/pdf/Memorial/Rockpile2Dec67.pdf>

Fellow 1st Platoon member Dan Neely supplied this account of the action:

"We spent the night (December 1st, 1967) on the far side of a rice paddy which separated us from a village situated next to a hill. On the morning of December 2nd, Platoon Leader Dennis Driscoll moved us to a position between the village and the hill and split us into two groups of two squads each to advance up the hill on two fronts...separated by about 150 feet. The terrain consisted of large boulders...some as large as a house...with smaller rocks, crevasses as deep as 50 feet and grass in between. After moving up the hill about 150 Feet, the enemy opened fire on our left element with grenades and machine gun fire. Our group, led by SSG Lenick, quickly moved to join LT Driscoll who was with the group being attacked. As soon as we rejoined that group we also came under intense fire. After an exchange of automatic and small arms fire, the enemy ceased fire and attempted to withdrawal. We saw several enemy soldier fall when hit by our rifle fire & after a short while, we were able to retrieve the bodies of Richard Holloway and Tommy Mitchell, both killed instantly with the initial enemy volley.



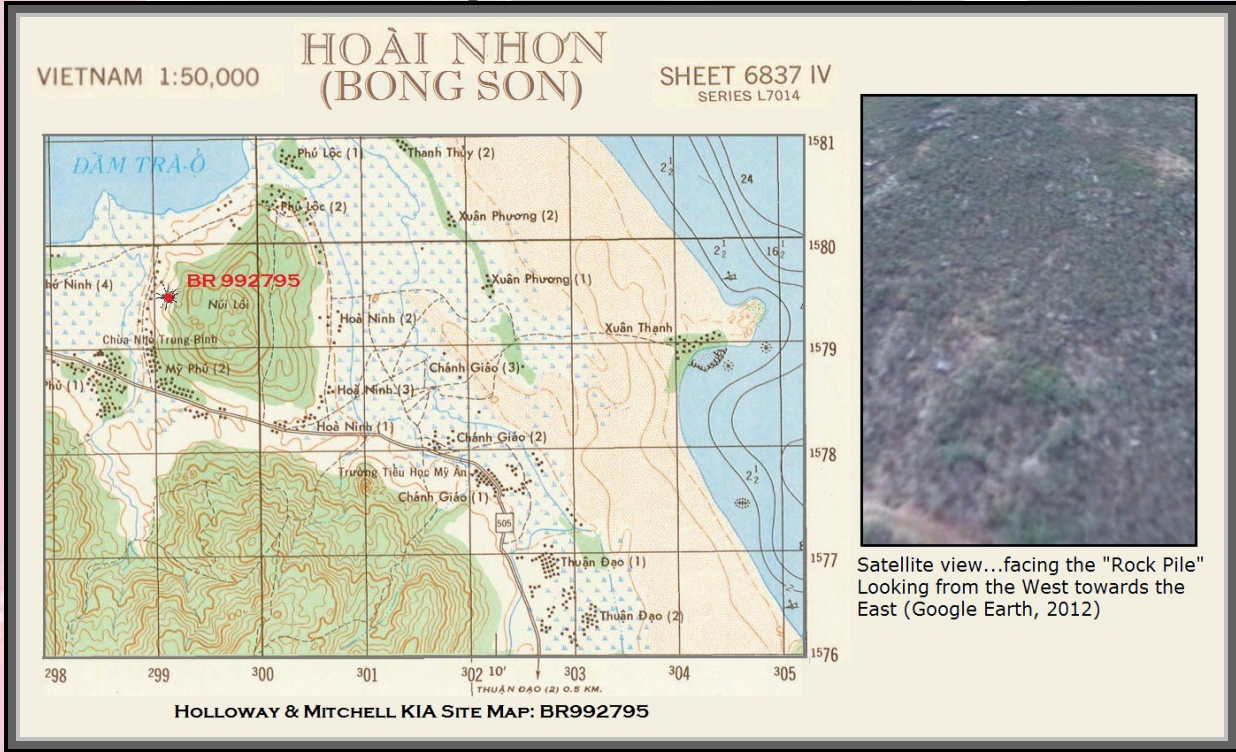
An Air Strike was called in utilizing High Explosive, White Phosphorous and Napalm Ordinance which Intelligence reported caused extensive casualties to the withdrawing elements of an NVA Regiment headquartered in the area."

The Association of the 1st Bn, 50th Inf. wishes to thank Tommy's Platoon mate and friend Dan Neely for the photos used in this memorial. To the left is a photo of Tommy Mitchell in the Platoon Bay at Fort Hood, Texas, just prior to the battalion's deployment to Vietnam in

September of 1967.

Continued...

The 1st Cavalry Division Intelligence Report for December 2, 1967, reports the location of the site where Tommy Mitchell was killed in action (See map below)



Tommy Mitchell is buried at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Plot 19, Delaware & West Delavan Avenues, Buffalo, Erie County, New York (Photos below)



Continued...

THOMAS MITCHELL'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:



Combat Infantry Badge



THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE FOR VALOR

HQ 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE), GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 1410, 10 MARCH 1968

FOR HEROISM, NOT INVOLVING PARTICIPATION IN AERIAL FLIGHT, IN CONNECTION WITH GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM: SPECIALIST FOUR MITCHELL DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY EXCEPTIONALLY VALOROUS ACTION ON 2 DECEMBER 1967, WHILE SERVING AS A SQUAD LEADER WITH COMPANY D, 1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 50TH INFANTRY, DURING A SEARCH AND DESTROY MISSION NEAR THE CRESCENT VALLEY, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. WHILE LEADING AN ASSAULT AGAINST A HEAVILY FORTIFIED HOSTILE CAVE COMPLEX, SPECIALIST MITCHELL ENGAGED AND KILLED SEVERAL ENEMY SOLDIERS. UPON SPOTTING A HOSTILE SNIPER, SPECIALIST MITCHELL PUSHED A COMRADE OUT OF THE ENEMY SOLDIER'S FIELD OF FIRE. AT THIS TIME, SPECIALIST MITCHELL WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED, BUT HIS ACTION CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF HIS UNIT'S MISSION. SPECIALIST FOUR MITCHELL'S 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)



National
Defense



Vietnam
Service



Vietnam
Campaign