



1<sup>ST</sup>  
CAVALRY DIVISION  
(AIRMOBILE)



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



"B" COMPANY



SPECIALIST  
4TH CLASS



INFANTRY

## MICHAEL ROBERT SHAPARD

"B" Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (Mechanized), 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry  
Specialist 4th Class, E4, RA16888761, MOS 11B20  
Home of Record: Boulder, CO

Date of Birth: July 22, 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 10, 1967, Days in Country: 100  
Casualty Type A1, Gun, small arms fire, Panel 31E - Row 078

Specialist Shapard was killed as "B" Company came under heavy fire from the village of Truong Lam (2) on the 10th of December, 1967. He was awarded the Silver Star for his actions that day.



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.

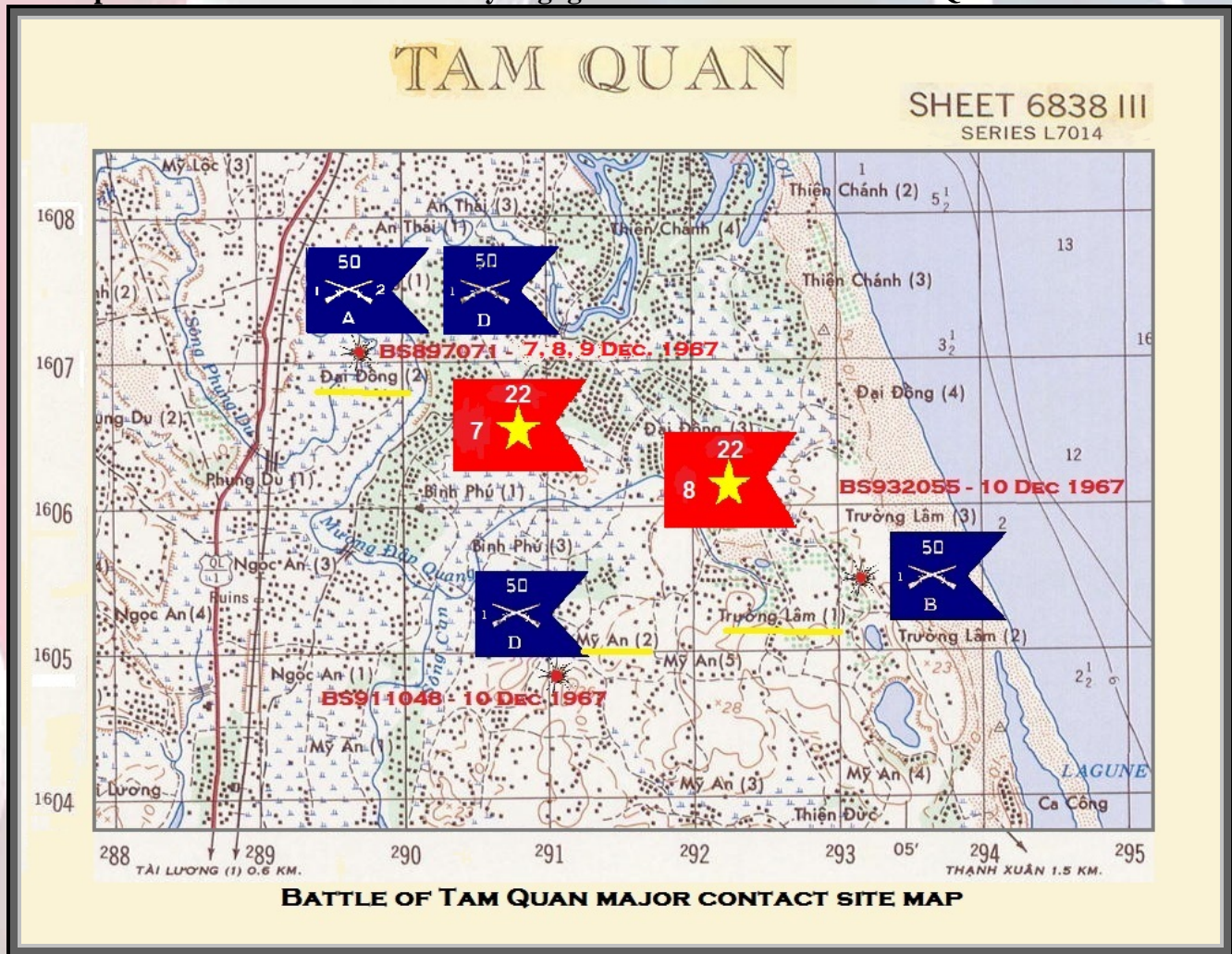
The following morning, on December 7th, after prep artillery fire and CS Gas deployment, the "A" Company Ready Reaction force was called in to help the now engaged troops from "A" Troop, 1st of the 8th Cavalry in the same vicinity. LT Hinton's RTO was killed in this action. Dudney Arlentino of Coolidge,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

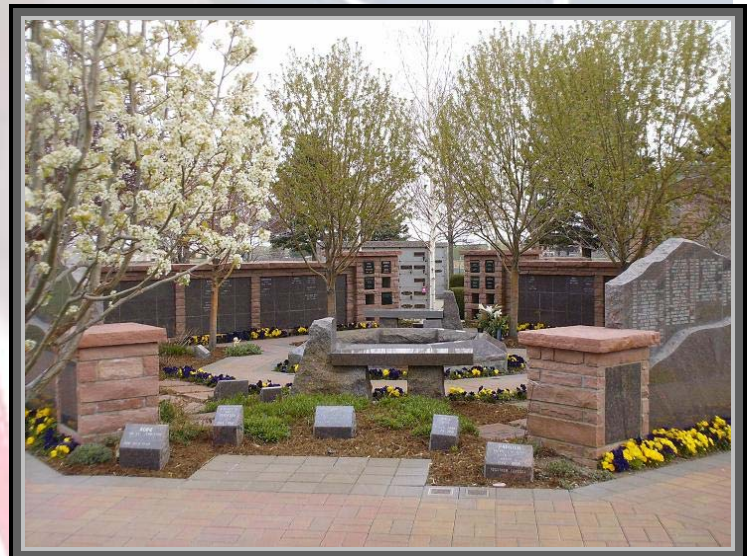
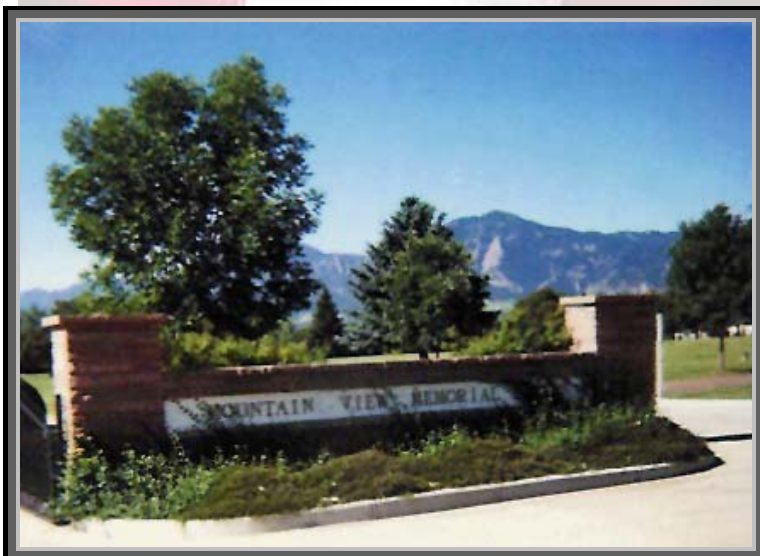
Most sources list the enemy (VC/NVA) dead for the battle at 650 and friendly forces lost a total of 58 men.



A map of the location of the three key engagements of the Battle of Tam Quan is shown below:



Michael Shapard is buried at Mountain View Memorial Park, 3016 Kalmia Avenue, Boulder, Boulder County, Colorado (Pictured below).



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## MICHAEL SHAPARD'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS



Combat Infantry Badge



HQ, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 1724  
1968

21 MARCH

**FOR GALLANTRY IN ACTION WHILE ENGAGED IN MILITARY OPERATIONS INVOLVING CONFLICT WITH AN ARMED HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. SPECIALIST FOUR SHAPARD DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY EXCEPTIONALLY VALOROUS ACTION ON 10 DECEMBER 1967, WHILE SERVING AS A RIFLEMAN WITH COMPANY B, 1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 50TH INFANTRY DURING A SEARCH AND DESTROY MISSION NEAR BONG SON IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. WHEN HIS UNIT BECAME HEAVILY ENGAGED WITH A LARGE ENEMY FORCE, SPECIALIST SHAPARD EXPOSED HIMSELF TO THE HOSTILE FIRE AS HE PLACED EFFECTIVE SUPPRESSIVE FIRE ON THE ENEMY POSITIONS. WHILE ATTEMPTING TO ASSAULT A HOSTILE EMPLACEMENT, SPECIALIST SHAPARD WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED. HIS GALLANT ACTION WAS IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SERVICE, AND REFLECTS GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF, HIS UNIT, AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.**



Silver  
Star

Purple  
Heart

National  
Defense

Vietnam  
Service

Vietnam  
Campaign