

## MELVIN JOE WILLIAMS

"D" Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry  
Private First Class, E3, Posthumous Promotion to CPL, US53843376, MOS 11B10  
Home of Record: Birmingham, AL

Date of Birth: November 11, 1947, Age at time of loss: 20, Single  
1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam  
Start of Tour: December 14, 1967, Date of Casualty: January 31, 1968, Days in Country: 47  
Casualty Type A1, Gun, MFW, Panel 36E - Row 042



1ST  
CAVALRY DIVISION  
(AIRMOBILE)



1ST BATTALION 50TH  
INFANTRY

"D" COMPANY



CORPORAL

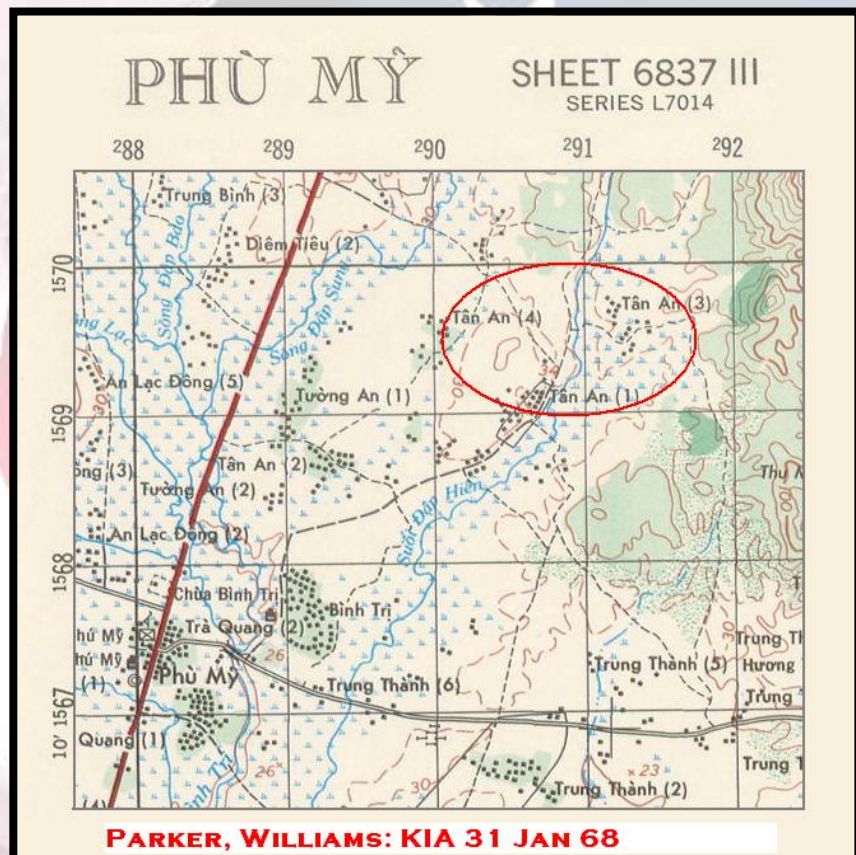


INFANTRYMAN

During the fierce fighting that ensued at the outset of the Tet Offensive near Phu My in Binh Dinh Province, "D" Company came into contact with a large enemy force Northeast of Phu My and to the East of the villages of Tan An (See map below). An enemy grenade took Melvin Williams' life in the fighting. Also killed during the battle was Specialist Dave Parker with "D" Company's Heavy Weapons Platoon.

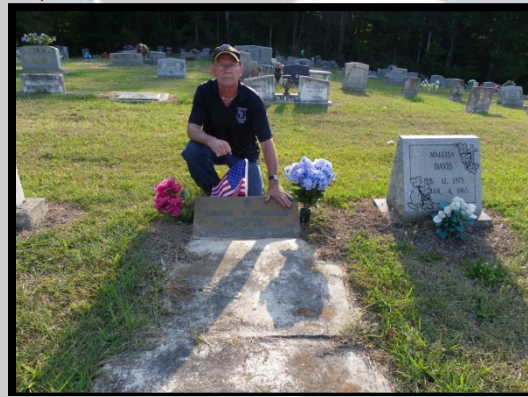
The action lasted from January 31st through February 4th and was part of "Operation Pershing II". Enemy forces lost (By Body Count) 139 killed during the action while U.S. forces suffered 4 dead. To read the After Action Report for the action go to:

<http://www.ichiban1.org/pdf/Memorial/Pershing2.pdf>

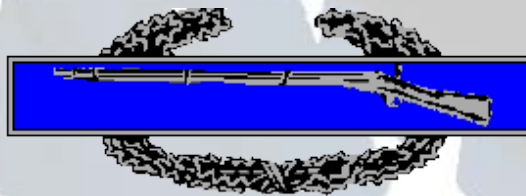


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Melvin Joe Williams is buried at Moton Hill Cemetery, Texas Ave & Ohio Street, Leeds, Jefferson County, Alabama. (Historian Jim Sheppard visited the grave in 2012)



### AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF MELVIN JOE WILLIAMS:



Combat Infantry Badge



THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL  
WITH "V" DEVICE FOR VALOR

HQ 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE),

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 1637

19 MARCH 1968

FOR HEROISM, NOT INVOLVING PARTICIPATION IN AERIAL FLIGHT, IN CONNECTION WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM: PRIVATE FIRST CLASS WILLIAMS DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY EXCEPTIONALLY VALOROUS ACTIONS ON 31 JANUARY 1968, WHILE SERVING AS A RIFELMAN WITH COMPANY D, 1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 50TH INFANTRY DURING A SEARCH AND CLEAR MISSION NEAR TAN AN, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. WHEN HIS UNIT BECAME HEAVILY ENGAGED WITH A LARGE ENEMY FORCE, PRIVATE FIRST CLASS WILLIAMS EXPOSED HIMSELF TO THE HOSTILE FIRE AS HE ATTEMPTED TO ASSIST A WOUNDED COMRADE. WHILE MOVING FORWARD IN AN ATTEMPT TO REACH THE INJURED SOLDIER, PRIVATE FIRST CLASS WILLIAMS WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED. 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



Purple Heart



National Defense



Vietnam Service



Vietnam Campaign