



1ST
AIR CAVALRY
DIVISION
(AIRMOBILE)



1ST BATTALION
50TH INFANTRY



"A" COMPANY



STAFF SERGEANT



SIGNAL CORPS

ESTEBAN WALLACE TADENA

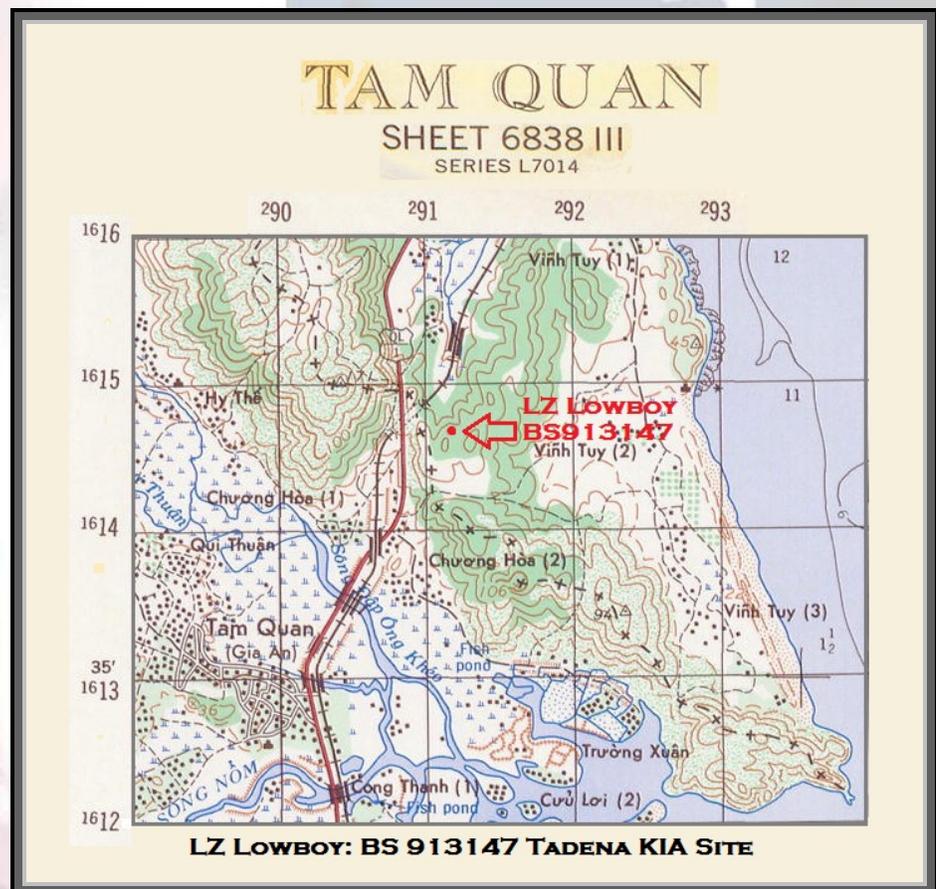
"A" Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry
Staff Sergeant, E6, RA29039096, MOS 31G40
Home of Record: Wailuku, HI

Date of Birth: June 4, 1937, Age at time of loss: 30, Married
1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), Quang Ngai Province, Republic of Vietnam
Start of Tour: September 1, 1967, Date of Casualty: November 7, 1967, Days in Country: 67
Casualty Type C1, Other accident, Panel 29E - Row 045

Staff Sergeant Esteban Tadena was "A" Company's Communications Chief. On November 7th, he and LT Dennis Hinton were in the Northern part of the 50th Infantry AO using Bangalore Torpedoes to clear previously laid concertina wire around what was probably LZ Lowboy...which was just across the province border and inside Quang Ngai Province.



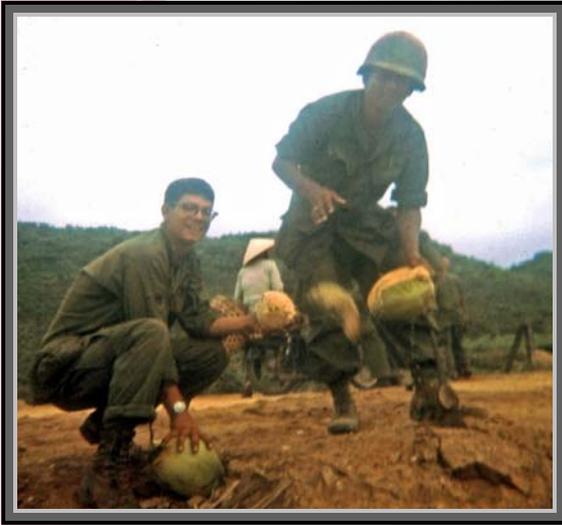
Tadena had charged the Bangalore electrically, but it failed to detonate. After three attempts and a considerable wait... he went down to check the connection and as he approached, it detonated, killing him instantly. Staff Sergeant Tadena was awarded the Bronze Star for Meritorious service, posthumously. A map showing the location of LZ Lowboy is shown below.



Continued...

On the left Below, Fellow "A" Company man Chuck Spots provided this photo of

Staff Sergeant Tadena that was taken just 4 hours before the blast that took his life. Local villagers had sold some of the troops some coconuts and they were having difficulty opening them when SSG Tadena intervened. He exclaimed: "I'm from Hawaii...let me show you how this is done!" Esteban Tadena is buried at Saint Peter and Paul Cemetery, State Road 224, Ottawa, Putnam County, Ohio (Photo below right)



AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF ESTEBAN TADENA*



THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL
FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

HQ 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 7194

2 DECEMBER 1967

FOR DISTINGUISHING HIMSELF BY OUTSTANDING MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD FROM MAY 1967 TO NOVEMBER 1967. THROUGH HIS UNTIRING EFFORTS AND PROFESSIONAL ABILITY, HE CONSISTENTLY OBTAINED OUTSTANDING RESULTS. HE WAS QUICK TO GRASP THE IMPLICATIONS OF NEW PROBLEMS WITH WHICH HE WAS FACED AS A RESULT OF THE EVER-CHANGING SITUATIONS INHERENT IN THE COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATION AND TO FIND WAYS AND MEANS TO SOLVE THOSE PROBLEMS. THE ENERGETIC APPLICATION OF THIS EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE HAS MATERIALLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE EFFORTS OF THE UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM TO ASSIST THAT COUNTRY IN RIDDING ITSELF OF THE COMMUNIST THREAT TO ITS FREEDOM. HIS INITIATIVE, ZEAL, SOUND JUDGMENT AND DEVOTION TO DUTY HAVE BEEN IN THE HIGHEST TRADITION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND REFLECT GREAT CREDIT ON HIM AND ON THE MILITARY SERVICE.



Bronze
Star



Purple
Heart



National
Defense



Vietnam
Service



Vietnam
Campaign

* The awards indicated are not a complete listing of all awards earned for SSG Tadena, but only those we can verify.