



**4TH INFANTRY  
DIVISION**



**1ST BATTALION 50TH  
INFANTRY**

**3RD PLATOON**



**"C" COMPANY**



**PRIVATE  
1ST CLASS**



**INFANTRYMAN**

## **THOMAS EDWARD DONOVAN**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, 1st Squad, "C" Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (Mechanized), 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry  
Private First Class, E3, US52723205, MOS 11B10  
Home of Record: Norwich, CT**

**Date of Birth: January 28, 1945, Age at time of loss: 23, Single  
4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam  
Start of Tour: February 16, 1968, Date of Casualty: March 23, 1968, Days in Country: 36  
Casualty Type A1, MFW, Panel 45E – Row 062**

Tom Donovan was killed when Charlie Company was attacked near the village of Chanh Giao (1) at the base of the Northeast Nui Mieu Mountains near the South China Sea. "Tommy", a February Replacement, although only with the unit for a short time was a very popular member of the 1st Squad, 3rd Platoon of Charlie Company.

At about 5 PM, an estimated Battalion of NVA Soldiers engaged "C" Company with small arms and rocket fire. A total of 7 were wounded, 3 seriously and 4 had minor wounds. Donovan died later that day from his wounds.

Air Strikes and Artillery were called in. Charlie Company spent the night on the beach in the vicinity of nearby Xuan Thanh and the surrounding area was searched the following day with some weaponry being found as well as enemy bodies.

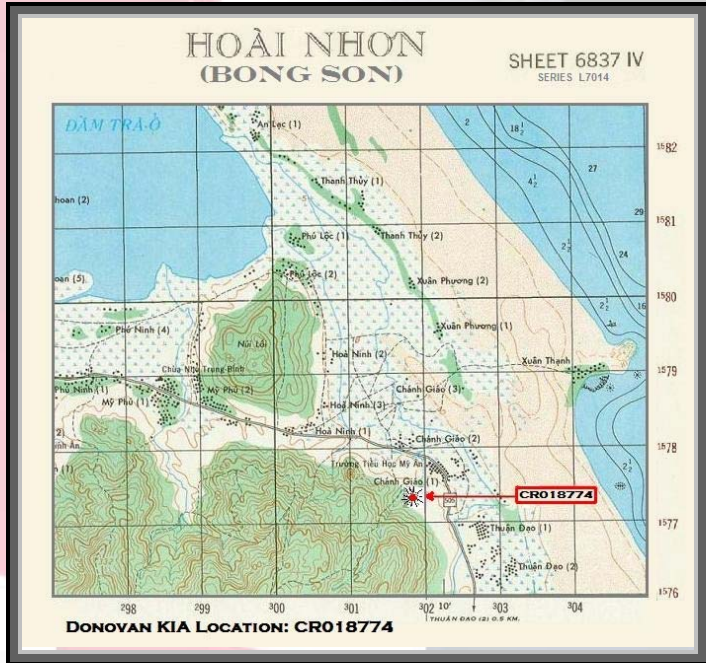
Former 3rd Platoon Leader Harry Wilson took photos of the area on his return visit to the area in 2007. Below is a panoramic view of the Nui Mieu Mountains from highway 505 near the village of Chanh Giao (2).



Donovan was killed near the base of the mountains in the distance. Just off to the left of the down slope of the hill on the left. According to Harry Wilson, this highway is now a heavily traveled major access road that connects National Highway 1 to the villages along the South China Sea. During 1968, the units of the 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry could not travel on this road....as it was heavily mined.

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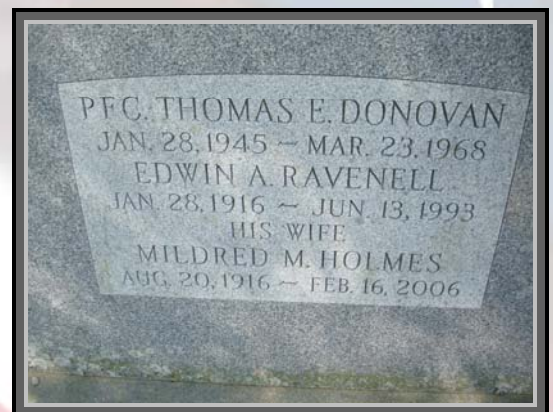
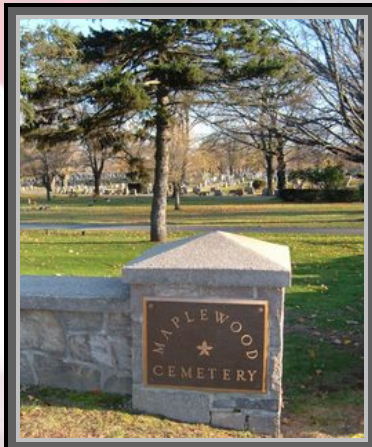
A Period Topographical map of the location of Tom Donovan's death is shown below (Left). Tom's family provided the photos of Tom used in this memorial effort. Below, Tom is pictured in the center of two friends taking a "smoke break" during Basic Training.



Below left, Tom is pictured in the APC Driver's hatch during his Advanced Infantry Training. Below center and right are photos taken at Fort Polk, Louisiana, prior to deployment to Vietnam...likely around January of 1968. The Vietnam training facility there was called "Tigerland".



Tom Donovan is buried at Maplewood Cemetery, 184 Salem Turnpike, New London County, Norwich, Connecticut 06360-6421, pictured below.



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## TOM DONOVAN'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

### CITATIONS



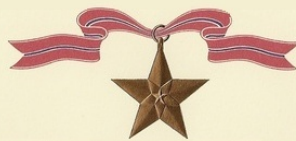
THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL  
WITH "V" DEVICE FOR VALOR

HQ 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 1182

28 APRIL 1968

FOR HEROISM IN CONNECTION WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS DONOVAN DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF ON 23 MARCH 1968, WHILE SERVING WITH COMPANY C, 1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 50TH INFANTRY DURING A COMBAT MISSION NEAR CHANH GIAO, BINH DINH PROVINCE. ON THIS DAY, COMPANY C CAME UNDER A FIERCE ATTACK FROM AN ENEMY BATTALION. PRIVATE DONOVAN, WITH COMPLETE DISREGARD FOR HIS OWN SAFETY AND UNDER HOSTILE FIRE, PLACED A LARGE VOLUME OF EFFECTIVE FIRE ON THE ENEMY POSITIONS, ENABLING THE COMPANY TO WITHDRAW. HE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN BREAKING UP THE ENEMY ATTACK AND IN ESTABLISHING FIRE SUPERIORITY. AS PRIVATE DONOVAN WAS PLACING EFFECTIVE FIRE ON THE ENEMY, AN ENEMY ROCKET MADE A DIRECT HIT ON HIS ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER, MORTALLY WOUNDING HIM. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS DONOVAN'S ACTIONS WERE IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SERVICE, AND REFLECT GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF, HIS UNIT, AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.



THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL  
FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

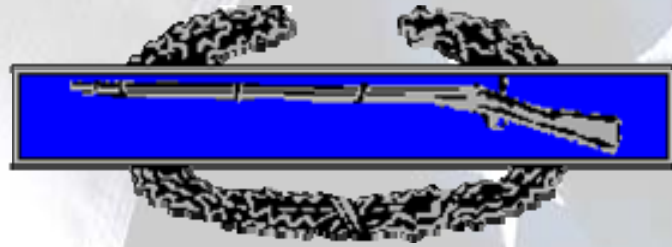
FOR DISTINGUISHING HIMSELF BY OUTSTANDING MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY 1968 TO MARCH 1968. THROUGH HIS UNTIRING EFFORTS AND PROFESSIONAL ABILITY, HE CONSISTENTLY OBTAINED OUTSTANDING RESULTS. 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.



THE AIR MEDAL

FOR DISTINGUISHING HIMSELF BY MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT WHILE PARTICIPATING IN SUSTAINED AERIAL FLIGHT IN SUPPORT OF COMBAT GROUND FORCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 1968 TO MARCH 1968. DURING THIS TIME HE ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN MORE THAN TWENTY-FIVE AERIAL MISSIONS OVER HOSTILE TERRITORY IN SUPPORT OF COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATIONS. DURING ALL OF THESE MISSIONS HE DISPLAYED THE HIGHEST ORDER OF AIR DISCIPLINE AND ACTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BEST TRADITIONS OF THE SERVICE. BY HIS DETERMINATION TO ACCOMPLISH HIS MISSION IN SPITE OF THE HAZARDS INHERENT IN REPEATED AERIAL FLIGHTS OVER HOSTILE TERRITORY AND BY HIS OUTSTANDING DEGREE OF PROFESSIONALISM AND DEVOTION TO DUTY, HE HAS BROUGHT GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF, HIS ORGANIZATION, AND THE MILITARY SERVICE.

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**Bronze  
Star**



**Air  
Medal**



**Purple  
Heart**



**National  
Defense**



**Vietnam  
Service**



**Vietnam  
Campaign**

**Combat Infantry Badge**