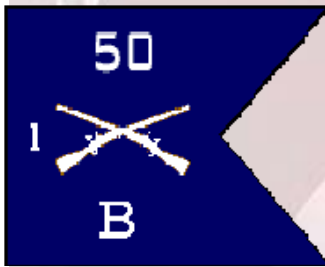




4TH
INFANTRY DIVISION



1ST BATTALION 50TH
INFANTRY



"B" COMPANY



SPECIALIST
4TH CLASS



INFANTRYMAN

DONALD WAYNE QUEEN

"B" Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry
Specialist 4th Class, E4, US53448948, MOS 11B20
Home of Record: Epworth, GA

Date of Birth: April 16, 1944, Age at time of loss: 23, Married
1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam
Start of Tour: September 1, 1967, Date of Casualty: April 2, 1968, Days in Country: 214
Casualty Type A1, OED, Panel 47E - Row 042

Donald Queen was an APC (Armored Personnel Carrier) Driver Assigned to "B" Company, but driving a special fabricated vehicle rigged with four .50 Caliber Machine guns (Quad 50's). This special APC was working with "A" Company on April 2, 1968, staffed by Specialist Queen as the driver, [PFC Pablo Sanchez](#) and [PFC Thomas Woodland](#) as Crew Members for the Quad-50 from "E" Battery, 41st Artillery, 41st Arty Group, I Field Force, USARV



"Leprechaun", Quad Fifty notes:
http://ichiban1.org/html/stories/story_47.htm

Former "A" Company man Bob Bihari witnessed the event from the APC behind



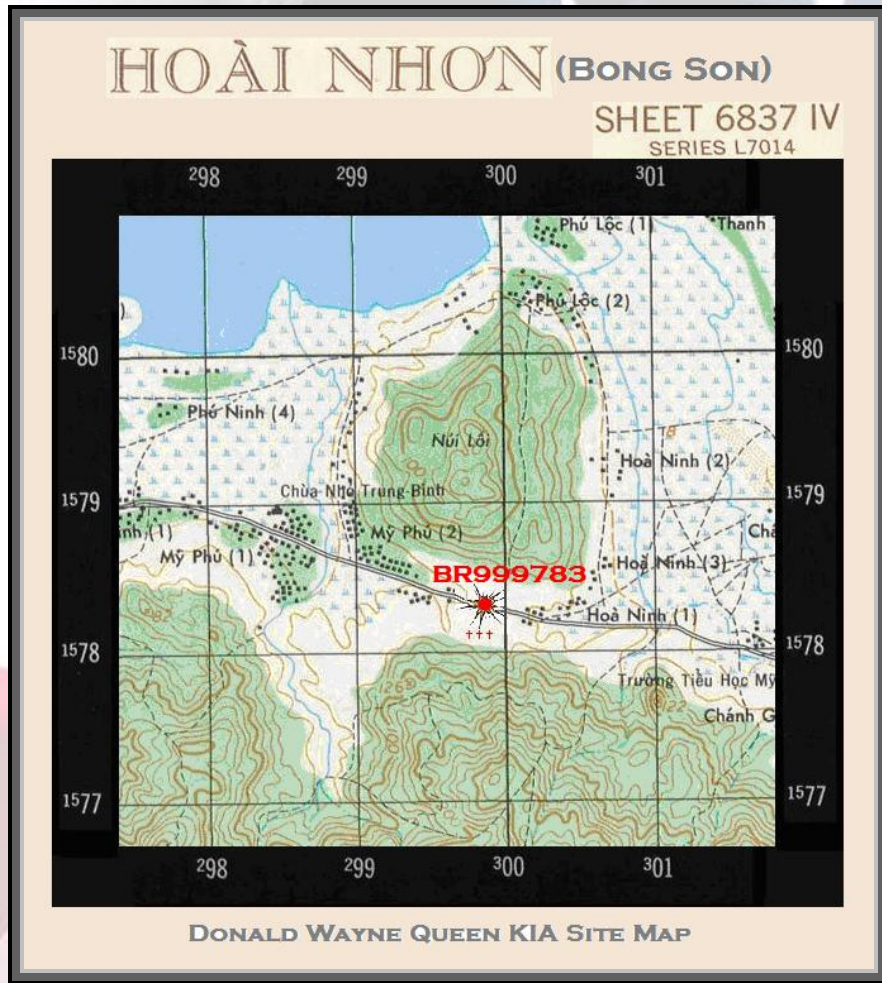
Queen: *"I remember that action very well. I remember Donald as being a very friendly individual, and made friends very easily. The picture is exactly how I remember him, though he usually had a big grin on his face. I remember Sanchez also..I believe he was one of the loaders on the track, and I think he was sleeping in the main compartment when the mine went off, and Donald was driving. We had just finished some operations on the beach, and were heading back to LZ*

Uplift in the late afternoon. As Doc said, I was in the track right behind the Quad 50 when they blew the mine (I think it was a command-detonated 250Lb bomb). I was standing in the main compartment right behind the TC cupola talking to someone when they set that thing off. When something that big goes off nearby, you don't hear it, you FEEL it in every bone in your body. I turned around and saw the track just falling back to earth upside down, and the quad 50 unit still flying up about 40 feet in the air, and then coming back down almost in slow-motion right next to the track. As Doc said - the thing caught fire instantaneously, and boxes of fifty cal. ammo started cooking off in a matter of seconds. I remember that there was some sporadic firing from some of the tracks and dismounted individuals for a little while, and a med-evac coming in to remove some casualties (none were ours). Since it was an exposed position and getting dark, there was nothing we could do, except pull back. We moved back to a more secure area and spent the night watching the track burn from a distance and later calling in flares once in a while to illuminate the surroundings.

The next morning we went back to recover the track. We pulled dismounted perimeter security around the track as they flipped it back over to recover the crew and Donald's remains....I won't go into the details, but they never knew what hit them."

Continued...

A Map showing the location of the incident is below. The area along this stretch of Highway 505 was often heavily mined...and the site of quite a few fatalities from Command Detonated as well as pressure sensitive land mines.

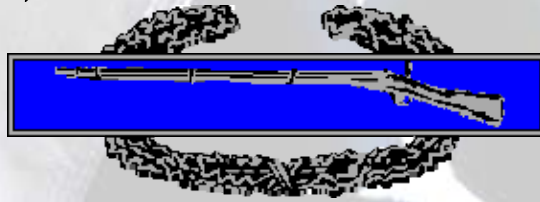


Donald Queen is buried at Lebanon Baptist Church Cemetery, 845 Lebanon Road, Epworth, (Blue Ridge), Fannin County, GA 30541



Continued...

DONALD QUEEN'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:



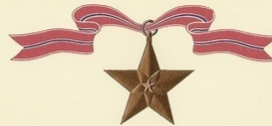
THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE FOR VALOR

HQ 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 1 178

28 APRIL 1968

FOR HEROISM IN CONNECTION WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE. SPECIALIST FOUR QUEEN DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF ON 9 MARCH 1968 IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. ON THIS DAY, SPECIALIST QUEEN MOVED HIS PERSONNEL CARRIER UP TO THE BASE OF A MOUNTAIN AND PROVIDED HEAVY FIRE SUPPORT FOR THE GROUND ELEMENT. DISREGARDING HIS OWN SAFETY, HE THREW GRENADES INTO NUMEROUS CAVES DESTROYING THE ENEMY. WHEN THE FIRING CEASED, HE ENTERED THE CAVES AND RETRIEVED THE ENEMY BODIES AS WELL AS CAPTURED WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT. HIS ACTIONS ACCOUNTED FOR SEVERAL OF THE ENEMY BEING DESTROYED AND PROVIDED THE IMPETUS NEEDED FOR THE DEFEAT OF THE ENEMY. SPECIALIST FOUR QUEEN'S ACTIONS WERE IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST MILITARY TRADITIONS AND REFLECT GREAT CREDIT ON HIMSELF, HIS UNIT, AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.



THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

HQ 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 1 164

28 APRIL 1968

FOR DISTINGUISHING HIMSELF BY OUTSTANDING MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH GROUND OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD 1 SEPTEMBER 1967 TO 2 APRIL 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.



Bronze
Star



Purple
Heart



National
Defense



Vietnam
Service



Vietnam
Campaign