



1ST FIELD FORCE
VIETNAM

"E" BATTERY



41ST ARTILLERY
GROUP

WORKING WITH



"A" COMPANY,
1ST BATTALION
(MECHANIZED),
50TH INFANTRY



PRIVATE
1ST CLASS



ARTILLERY

PABLO DEMEO SANCHEZ

E Battery, 41st Artillery, 41st Artillery Group

Attached Quad-50 Gunner working with:

"A" Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry

Private First Class, US54720626, MOS 13F10, Home of Record: Taft, TX

Date of Birth: June 23, 1947, Age at time of loss: 20, Married

I Field Force Vietnam (FO), Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam

Start of Tour: January 28, 1968, Date of Casualty: April 2, 1968, Days in Country: 65

Casualty Type A1, OED Ground Casualty, Panel 47E - Row 04366

Pablo Sanchez was one of two Artillery Gunners manning a specially fabricated vehicle rigged with four .50 Caliber Machine guns called a Quad 50. This machine gun configuration was normally found mounted on trucks pulling convoy escort duty. This specially rigged APC was working with "A" Company on April 2, 1968, staffed by [Specialist Donald Queen](#) as the driver, 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

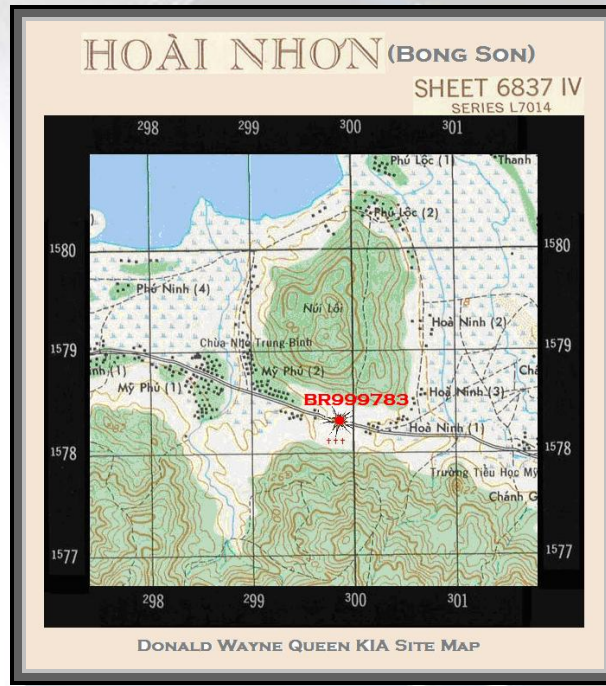


event from the APC behind the Quad-50 APC: *"I remember that action very well. I remember Sanchez also...I believe he was one of the loaders on the track, and I think he was sleeping in the main compartment when the mine went off, Donald was driving and Tom Woodland was manning the Quad-50. We had just finished some operations on the beach, and were heading back to LZ Uplift in the late afternoon. As since verified by other eye-witnesses, I was in the track right behind the Quad 50 when they blew the mine (I think it was a command-detonated 250 pound 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. 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 other APCs and dismounted individuals for a little while, and a med-evac helicopter coming in to remove some casualties. 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'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.



Thomas Woodland is buried at Taft Memorial Cemetery, 800 Ave C, Taft, San Patricio County, Texas 78390



KNOWN AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OF PABLO SANCHEZ*



* It is most likely that Private First Class Sanchez received a posthumous award, but we have no documentation to show this. If you are a family member and/or can verify more awards for this memorial, please contact [Jim Sheppard, 50th Infantry Association Historian.](#)