Tom Woodland 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, Tom Woodland and PFC Pablo Sanchez as Crew Members for the Quad-50 from "E" Battery, 41st Artillery, 41st Artillery Group, I Field Force, USARV.


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."
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 Arlington National Cemetery.  
Date Interred: April 18, 1968  
Plot: Section 51, Site 2761
Known Awards and Decorations of Thomas Woodland*

* It is most likely that Private First Class Woodland 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.