

is honored on Panel 17E, Row 129 of
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Full Name: JOHN EDWARD TARANTOWICZ
Wall Name: JOHN E TARANTOWICZ
Date of Birth: 11/10/1942
Date of Casualty: 4/8/1967
Home of Record: DICKSON CITY
State: PA
Branch of Service: ARMY
Rank: 1LT
Casualty Country: SOUTH VIETNAM
Casualty Province: BINH DINH



1LT Tarantowicz lost his life in a helicopter crash while serving as an Aerial Observer. He was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Division Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division.

A Note from The Virtual Wall

At one time, it was thought that two men died when a light helicopter tasked with an artillery spotting mission was shot down on 08 Apr 1967 - the pilot, WO Larry G. Hatch of the 17th Aviation Group, and the observer, 1LT John E. Tarantowicz, from HQ Battery, 1st Cav Div Artillery.

When the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial was built, the two men appeared on Panel 17 East - WO Hatch on Row 122, 1LT Tarantowicz on Row 129 - but then an odd thing happened: Larry Hatch turned up very much alive.

While Hatch had been injured in the incident he had survived his injuries and his name had been included in error. Although he now has been removed from the official list of casualties on the Wall, "Larry G. Hatch" still appears at 17E/122.

Regrettably, no error had been made with respect to 1LT Tarantowicz. John Tarantowicz had graduated from the Fort Sill Artillery Officers' Basic Course in Class 1965-11 (started 14 May 1965; finished 26 October 1965), arrived in Vietnam on 28 July 1966 - and was killed in action there.

Note: The above should read **Officer Candidate School** – not Officers' Basic Course