

LARRY GENE BONNELL

CLASS 15-66

is honored on Panel 18E, Row 83 of
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Full Name: LARRY GENE BONNELL
Wall Name: LARRY G BONNELL
Date of Birth: 6/27/1943
Date of Casualty: 4/25/1967
Home of Record: WINAMAC
State: IN
Branch of Service: ARMY
Rank: 1LT
Casualty Country: SOUTH VIETNAM
Casualty Province: TAY NINH



1LT Bonnell was killed in action while serving with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 9th Division Artillery, 9th Infantry Division.

For a quiet hero

Larry and I went through basic and OCS together, then to the 9th Division. He was quiet, unassuming and a great friend. To his family and friends, please accept my sympathy and know that he was loved by all he knew him.

Posted by: Joe Hastings
April 17, 2006

Fellow Classmate

I replaced Larry as an Air Observer in the 9th. Our classmate Ed Naylor replaced me. Both were killed in action.

Posted by: Ed Ross
May 15, 2007

From thewall-usa.com

In Remembrance of 1st Lieutenant Larry G. Bonnell

In early 1967, Larry Bonnell and I were aerial observers with the 9th Division Artillery. There were about eight of us AOs. We went up in two-seater "bird-dog" spotter planes or two-seater Plexiglas "bubble" helicopters almost every day, for between 4 and 8 hours a day. We worked out of "Bearcat", the 9th Division's base camp, about 30 miles east of Saigon. We accumulated air medals, and occasionally took a few rounds in the fuselage. This was much safer than being a forward observer on the ground - life was good, for a combat zone, except for the daily mandatory attendance at formal evening mess, and constant oversight by superior officers.

When Larry got a "Dear John" letter from his girlfriend, he decided he needed a break from the headquarters routine. He volunteered for temporary duty at "Black Horse", the 11th Armored Cav's base camp, which was about 50 miles away, south of Xuan Loc. (The 11th ACR was getting ready to take the lead in the Cambodian incursion.) Larry was in route to connect up with the night convoy that ran between Saigon and "Black Horse", when the vehicle he was riding in hit a large land mine.

I flew as AO for the same night convoys several times near the end of my tour – and it always made me think of Larry. I knew Larry well enough to know that he was a good, person, and a good, brave, soldier. It is a shame he died so young. I am sure he is still missed by his family. May he rest in peace. Larry will not be forgotten.

James Chase
Fellow soldier & friend
Falls Church VA 22042
Nov 19, 2010