

Huntley, John Norman
Dates in the 57th - 1969
PFC – Door Gunner
Birth Date: March 1st 1951
Portland, ME
Killed In Action
Body Never Recovered
Date: September 27th 1969
Laos



Birth: Mar. 1, 1951
Portland
Cumberland County
Maine, USA
Death: Sep. 27, 1969, Laos

In Memory of PFC John Norman Huntley.

*** Private First Class Huntley was a member of 57th Aviation Company, 52nd Aviation Battalion, 17th Aviation Group, 1st Aviation Brigade. On September 27, 1969, he was the door gunner of a Bell Iroquois Utility Helicopter (UH-1H) on an extraction mission at Attopeu Province, Laos. As the aircraft departed it received heavy enemy fire, crashed and burned. His remains were not recovered. His name is inscribed on the Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial.

You may be gone, no longer living on this earth; but you will live on - in the memories of your family and friends. There will always be a part of you living in those who knew you. You will live on because we remember you!

JOHN NORMAN HUNTLEY - Army - PFC - E3 - 1st AVN BDE

Age: 18

Race: Caucasian

Date of Birth Mar 1, 1951

From: PORTLAND, ME

Religion: PROTESTANT

Marital Status: Single - Parents: Father, John S. Huntley, Born June 27, 1925 and Died Feb. 5, 1980 from Eastport, Maine and Buried in Hillside Cemetery in Eastport, Washington, Maine and Mother, Gertrude E. Huntley, from Rouses Point, New York. He has NO children.

His tour began on Sep 27, 1969

Casualty was on Sep 27, 1969

In LZ, LAOS

Hostile, died while missing, HELICOPTER - CREW
AIR LOSS, CRASH ON LAND

Body was not recovered

Panel 17W - Line 13

Other Personnel in Incident: (none missing)

On 27 September 1969, PFC John N. Huntley was the door gunner of a UH1H helicopter on an extraction mission to recover a Special Forces Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) that was operating west of the tri-border area where the countries of South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia meet.

The Huey's crew lowered 4 ropes to the waiting reconnaissance team members who hooked up and then were lifted out of the dense jungle located deep within enemy held territory approximately 10 miles north of the Lao/Cambodian border, 16 miles west of the Lao/South Vietnamese border, 20 miles from Dak Seang, South Vietnam and 32 miles east-southeast of Attopeu City, Attopeu Province, Laos.

As the helicopter lifted away from the extraction site with 4 men attached to the rigs, and at an altitude of 400 feet, the Huey came under heavy volumes of enemy small arms and anti-aircraft artillery (AAA) fire striking the aircraft in the engine compartment and causing immediate engine failure.

The pilots were able to slow the descent somewhat by autorotation. However, according to survivors, the aircraft twisted and bounced hard before coming to rest on its right side.

Some of the Americans were temporarily knocked unconsciousness, then regained it as the aircraft's pilot and co-pilot attempted to extricate the limp body of PFC Huntley from beneath the burning helicopter.

While they were doing so, the fuel tanks exploded knocking them all to the ground. Because of the spreading fire and intense heat, as well as the communist's continuing attack on the downed Americans, all further attempts to rescue the door gunner were rendered impossible.

A second helicopter arrived on site and successfully evacuated the surviving aircrew and team members. The remains of John Huntley were believed to have been partially or totally consumed in the fire.

Because the area was under total enemy control, no ground search was possible and John Huntley as immediately listed Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered.

War Story:

The 57th AHC's unit history states 1LT Raymond Dell and WO David Rhodes were in the process of pulling a string extraction of a LRRP team. Four team members were tied off on 100-foot ropes waiting to be pulled clear of 70-foot trees. Hovering straight up so not to pull the team through the trees, the aircraft had to hover at least 170 feet AGL and 100 feet above the trees to give the men below on the strings a chance for survival. The aircraft then fell straight down into the trees and, after impact, it exploded and burned.

The gunner, PFC John Huntley, was killed but the remainder of the crew received only minor cuts and bruises. The crew from another 57th aircraft landed and were quickly on the scene. After doing what they could for the members of the downed aircraft, they began to follow the ropes that were still attached to the wreckage. Three of the four LRRP team members were alive. LT Dell received the Silver Star for his quick reaction and saving as many lives as possible. The rest of the crew received the DFC, including

those who assisted in the rescue. Editor's note: Since the WALL database does not show another American KIA with the same location details as Huntley, it is assumed that the LRRP killed was not an American.
This record was last updated on 05/25/1998

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall Court B

General GPS Location:

Latitude: +21.313599 °N

Longitude: -157.847030 °W

Altitude: 170 ft

Google Map/Earth

21.313599, -157.847030

Find-A-Grave

Latitude: 21.313599

Longitude: -157.847030

Memorial note:

PFC John Norman Huntley is one of the many who made the ultimate sacrifice and are remember at the Honolulu Memorial, a cenotaph, an "empty tomb". Individuals memorialized here on the tablets at the "Honolulu Memorial" are the Missing in Action, lost, or buried at sea in the Pacific during WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Their remains were never recovered but their sacrifice has not been forgotten by their country and this brother serviceman.

SSgt Bruce Almeida Ret USAF 100% Disabled Vet 1970's-1990's

<https://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials/americas/honolulu-memorial>



IN THESE GARDENS ARE RECORDED
THE NAMES OF AMERICANS
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES
IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY
AND WHOSE EARTHLY RESTING PLACE
IS KNOWN ONLY TO GOD
★ Indicates MEDAL OF HONOR Award

<https://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/24828/JOHN-N-HUNTLEY/>

HONORED ON PANEL 17W, LINE 13 OF THE WALL

JOHN NORMAN HUNTLEY

WALL NAME

JOHN N HUNTLEY

PANEL / LINE

17W/13

DATE OF BIRTH

03/01/1951

CASUALTY PROVINCE

LZ

DATE OF CASUALTY

09/27/1969

HOME OF RECORD

PORTLAND

COUNTY OF RECORD

Cumberland County

STATE

ME

BRANCH OF SERVICE

ARMY

RANK

PFC

STATUS

MIA



Missing in Action

