

**THOMAS JOHN LARKIN II****Class 46A-67**

is honored on Panel 10W, Row 41 of  
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

**Full Name:** THOMAS JOHN LARKIN II  
**Wall Name:** THOMAS J LARKIN II  
**Date of Birth:** 8/15/1946  
**Date of Casualty:** 5/14/1970  
**Date of Death:** 5/14/1970  
**Home of Record:** STEUBENVILLE  
**County of Record:** JEFFERSON COUNTY  
**State:** OH  
**Branch of Service:** ARMY  
**Rank:** CAPT  
**Casualty Country:** SOUTH VIETNAM  
**Casualty Province:** TAY NINH



CPT Larkin served with the 187th Assault Helicopter Company, 11th Aviation Battalion. He was the pilot of a UH-1H helicopter on a single ship mission that went down during a storm killing all seven personnel on board.

***From thewall-usa.com***

**I Remember**

Captain Larkin; I remember when you came to the 187th. You replaced Captain Burford as the supply officer. I worked for you in supply as the head supply specialist and I also flew as a crew chief. We both had our collateral duties when we weren't flying. I remember when you and I went to Long Binh to get much needed supplies. We went to Group Headquarters and they told us to go back and go through the normal channels. I said that I was going direct to Long Binh supply depot anyway and you said go ahead and that you would go back to Tay Ninh. I got back a couple days later with all that flight gear, remember- new helmets, gloves, sunglasses, M-60 parts, Nomax and all the rest of the other stuff. I always respected you as an officer. You were good to me and I will never forget that. I pray that someday that we will meet again in Heaven, then we can talk over the good times. I salute you sir and I was glad that I was a small part of your life. By the way I was the one who put all your personal effects together and shipped them to your home. You still owe twenty dollars, so I will collect it when I get to Heaven. Respectfully, Jimmy Strait 187th AHC Crew chief 5/69-5/70 Tay Ninh, Vietnam  
Monday, February 18, 2002

*From www.flyarmy.org*

**LARKIN THOMAS JOHN II**

CPT Thomas John Larkin II

Status: Killed In Action from an incident on 05/14/1970 while performing the duty of Pilot.

Age at death: 23.7

Date of Birth: 08/15/1946

Home City: Steubenville, OH

Service: FA branch of the reserve component of the U.S. Army.

Unit: 187 AHC

Major organization: 1st Aviation Brigade

Flight class: 69-20

Service: FA branch of the U.S. Army.

The Wall location: 10W-041

Short Summary: Single ship mission in Cambodia supporting ARVN. Possible inadvertent IFR at high speed, low level, all 4 KIA CP was WO1 Raymond H Krug

Aircraft: UH-1H tail number 67-17767

Call sign: Crusader 4

Service number: O5428022

Country: South Vietnam

MOS: 100B = Utility/Observation Helicopter Pilot

Primary cause: Weather

Major attributing cause: aircraft connected not at sea

Compliment cause: weapons

Vehicle involved: helicopter

Position in vehicle: aircraft commander

Started Tour: 08/23/1969

"Official" listing: helicopter air casualty - other aircrew

Length of service: \*

Location: Tay Ninh Province III Corps.

Reason: aircraft lost or crashed

Casualty type: Non-hostile - died of other causes

single male U.S. citizen

Race: Caucasian

Religion: Roman Catholic

The following information secondary, but may help in explaining this incident.

Category of casualty as defined by the Army: non-battle dead Category of personnel:

active duty Army Military class: officer

This record was last updated on 07/28/1994

## Helicopter UH-1H 67-17767

Information on U.S. Army helicopter UH-1H tail number 67-17767

The Army purchased this helicopter 0968

Total flight hours at this point: 00001877

Date: 05/14/1970

Incident number: 700514171ACD Accident case number: 700514171 Total loss or fatality Accident

Unit: 187 AHC

The station for this helicopter was Tay Ninh in South Vietnam

Number killed in accident = 7 . . Injured = 0. . Passengers = 4

costing 500945

Original source(s) and document(s) from which the incident was created or updated: Defense Intelligence Agency Helicopter Loss database. Army Aviation Safety Center database. Also: OPERA (Operations Report.)

Loss to Inventory

Crew Members:

**P CPT LARKIN THOMAS JOHN II KIA**

P WO1 KRUG RAYMOND HENRY JR KIA

CE SP4 TAYLOR KENT CHILDS KIA

G PFC BLAIR CHARLES DOUGLAS KIA

Passengers and/or other participants:

, , G

X1 THANG, , PX, KIA

X1 TRANG, , PX, KIA

MAJ BARTON JAMES RAYBON, AR, PX, KIA

Accident Summary:

The flight was visual recon which originated at approximately 1400 hours 14 May 1970 at Tay Ninh, RVN. The aircraft was flown to Tay Ninh East where one American advisor and two ARVN officers boarded. While on return from the recon, the aircraft commander was in contact with a Major Shen and trying to home to his position during bad weather when contact was lost at approximately 1615 hours. Major Shen was unable to reestablish contact and notified the 187th AHC operations personnel of this. They were also unable to contact the aircraft and a search was initiated.

The wreckage was discovered at 1800 hours. Analysis of the wreckage and wreckage distribution indicates that the main rotor struck the tail boom three times. The first strike was just in front of the 42 gearbox severing the tail rotor drive shaft and cover, the second completely severed the tail boom at the synchronized elevators and the third partially severed the tail boom a few feet aft of the tail boom attaching points. Each strike resulted in mast bumping and the last in mast separation. The aircraft entered a near vertical descent (very little forward airspeed) rolling to the left, struck the ground on

its left side and bounced to a final resting point on its left side approximately 10 meters to the NE of the initial impact point. The main rotors continued on after separation to land 80 meters NE of the main wreckage. During the tail boom strikes or just after, one tail rotor blade struck the leading left edge of the vertical fin just above the 42 gearbox and partially severed the vertical fin causing the other tail rotor blade to be thrown from its grip. After being severed the tail boom continued on to land approximately 28 meters to the west of the tail boom's final position. There was no fire.

**From the 187th Unit History**

**14 May 70** - A bad day for the "Crusaders". Aircraft #767 (UH-1H) was on single ship mission in Cambodia. During a storm the ship crashed killing all four of the crew, and three passengers.

**Killed in this incident were:**

**CPT Thomas John Larkin II - Aircraft Commander**  
**WO1 Raymond Henry Krug Jr. - Pilot**  
**SP4 Kent Childs Taylor - Gunner**  
**PFC Charles Douglas Blair - Crew Chief**