

Tritsch, John Ballou (John), 5th Platoon

21 Aug 45 – 3 Nov 1992

Arlington National Cemetery

John Tritsch passed away on 3 Nov 1992, at the age of 47, of heart disease in Narberth, PA.

John Ballou Tritsch was born 21 Aug 1945 in Wilmington, DE to John Grant Tritsch and Grace Ballou. John's father, [who](#) attended Princeton University and earned a BS Chemical Engineering in 1942, worked at [the](#) DuPont Corporation [in Wilmington](#). John was the only boy in the Tritsch family with older sister and four younger sisters: Grace, Jean, Catherine, Margaret, and Irene.

John attended Princeton University earning a BS in Chemical Engineering in 1967. While at Princeton, John was commander of the Navy ROTC drill team and a member of the Elm Club.

Following graduation, he accepted a regular commission as a second lieutenant in the USMC and served in Vietnam. John was severely wounded in combat and sustained shrapnel wounds over most of his body. He spent many months in a hospital in Japan until he could return to the U.S., where he spent another six months at Bethesda Naval Medical Center. Upon his recovery, he went to interrogators' school and language school, and was honorably discharged in August of 1971 with the rank of Captain. John was awarded the Purple Heart.

John then went on to receive an MBA from the Wharton School and became a CPA, working at Arthur Young. He also worked with FMC, CertainTeed, Sperry Univac, and Movie Exchange, before starting his own business, Cornerstone Business Solutions, which specialized in designing computer business systems.

John served on the Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Jaycees from 1976-1979. He was a member of the American Institute of CPAs and the New York State Society of CPAs. He enjoyed jogging, volleyball, personal computing and photography. John died on 3 Nov 1992, of heart disease in Narberth, PA. He was interred at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

USMC Resume:

TBS Class 1-68 Alpha Company, 5th Platoon June-Nov 1967

Vietnam: XXX – XXX, Unit?

Post-Vietnam:

Hospitals in Japan and Annapolis, MD

Interrogators' school and language school, Monterey CA

ITT Pendleton: xxx – Aug 1971

Discharged August 1971 with the rank of Captain.

Awarded the Purple Heart.

Personal Reflections about John Tritsch:

From John Schmid, 23 Mar 2015: "John Tritsch and I were in the same ITT (Interrogation Translation Team) at Pendleton. We lived in the BOQ together for a while and would eat together in the evenings. He later moved out to an apartment in Oceanside (he was a terrible housekeeper, by the way) but we still hung out on weekends. Nat Reed, 4th Plt, also hung out with John and me at Pendleton. John's wounds were horrible and he had terrible scars on his chest and abdomen. We were both

released from active duty in August '71. I was living with my parents in San Francisco and John came and stayed with us for a few days before he went home in the East. He had been close to Hank Wright at TBS, so he called Hank Wright's parents and they invited us over for dinner at their home in Oakland. We drove across the bridge to Oakland and Mr. & Mrs. Wright served us dinner at their home. It was a very sad evening and I still remember clearly how proud they were of Hank [Hank – USNA grad KIA RVN]. A few years later, after we both had received MBAs, we were living and working in New York. We occasionally got together for drinks and BS. I remember one very cold Sunday going to his apartment in Brooklyn Heights and watching the Super Bowl. My last memory of John is having drinks with him at the Princeton Club where he told me he was developing software (the PC was just becoming common) for, I believe, the insurance industry. I lost track of John after the early '80s, but I have always valued memories of knowing him. I have no doubt that his serious wounds shortened his life.”

From Nat Reed, 24 Mar 2015: “What stands out in my memory about John Tritsch occurred during a field exercise at Pendleton during the first or second quarter of '71. I was in the 25th ITT after 47 weeks at language school in Monterey, California (I know, tough duty, but someone had to do it.) During the exercise, we spent some time doing interrogations, and also some time being interrogated. When I was being subjected to interrogation, I remember John, who was part of the interrogation team, really got into his role and displayed some incredible histrionics. John was a real character! I was stunned recently when I learned that John had passed away. Our paths never crossed again after we left the Corps. I give him a lot of credit—he graduated from one of the finest B schools in the world. God rest his soul.”