

## **Gio Linh and Con Thien**

By Hue's Perfume River, the old Citadel stands,  
An imperial walled fortress, in a distant dreamy land,  
There was a time the Marines were there, never to be again,  
Remember those helicopters roaring, as they flew north to Gio Linh.

Above the old Mandarin Road, near the South China Sea,  
East of the Ba Long Valley, and beyond old Quang Tri,  
There was a time the Marines were there, never to be again,  
Serving their destination, and The Hill of Angels called Con Thien.

Ho Chi Minh's ominous birthday, brought sudden fierce attack,  
Crossing a sovereign border, only to be driven back,  
There was a time the Marines were there, never to be again,  
Flying casualties out, and reinforcements to Gio Linh and Con Thien.

The battles are long over, the campaigns have ceased to be,  
The rest is for memoirs and memories, of duty across the sea,  
There was a time the Marines were there, never to be again,  
Remember those helicopters roaring, as they flew south from Gio Linh.

William Stuart Morgan, Jr.

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On May 19, 1966, the anniversary of Ho Chi Minh's birthday, the enemy attacked Gio Linh and Con Thien in South Vietnam. This was the first major overt action by North Vietnam across the DMZ in the Vietnam War. Major William Stuart Morgan, Jr. USMC, of HMM-163 based at Hue Phu Bai, was the Helicopter Flight Leader on the mission that day at Gio Linh and Con Thien.