

VIETNAM

1962-1973

Bergen County's
War Dead

In Memoriam



The Record

Monday, January 29, 1973

The United States formally committed itself to the defense of South Vietnam with the signing of the SEATO treaty in 1954. From that point on, American involvement in the fortunes of that small, war-torn country steadily escalated.

That same year, President Eisenhower, despite some misgivings, began furnishing economic aid and weapons to the ill-fated government of Ngo Dinh Diem.

In 1955, the first American advisers were sent to Vietnam. In 1959, two advisers were killed in a Viet Cong raid on a barracks near Saigon, the first American casualties of the war.

1962

The general dissatisfaction with the corrupt Diem regime encouraged the Viet Cong to increase its activities and the year was marked by widespread terrorism but few military engagements. By year's end, American troop strength had climbed to 11,300.



Col. Anthony J. Tencza

GARFIELD — Only the willing were in Vietnam in 1962, and Col. Anthony J. Tencza, 42, a career Army officer and an expert in guerrilla warfare, was one of them.

Col. Tencza had served in Korea, receiving a Bronze Star for his part in the fighting at Old Baldy in 1952. He arrived in Vietnam in January 1962 to serve as senior adviser to the Vietnamese 22nd Division.

Six months later, while on a supply mission near the Cambodian border, his helicopter was hit by Viet Cong ground fire. It crashed in a jungle, killing four of the six persons aboard. Col. Tencza was one of those killed.

Col. Tencza's widow and three children now live in Virginia.

1963

The South Vietnamese were routed in the battle of Ap Bac and riots against Diem marked by the public suicides of Buddhists, raged throughout the country.

Diem, resisting American demands that he reform his government, was

overthrown and assassinated in a military coup approved by the Americans.

Despite the deteriorating situation, a Defense Department spokesman said: "The corner has definitely been turned toward victory."

Lt. Donald Mollicone

CLOSTER — Both sons of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Mollicone chose to make the Air Force their career. Donald graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1960 and, after changing to the Air Force, was one of the first Americans sent to Vietnam.

Lt. Mollicone, 26, was killed in a plane crash near Bien Hoa in December, 1963.

His brother, Maj. Richard Mollicone, returned home last September after two tours of duty in Vietnam.

Mollicone Park in Closter is named in honor of Lt. Mollicone.

1964

President Johnson, maintaining North Vietnamese patrol boats had attacked American warships in the Gulf of Tonkin, ordered retaliatory air attacks against gunboat bases in North Vietnam.

Congress approved the Gulf of Tonkin resolution, effectively giving the President a free hand in conducting the war.

By year's end, 23,000 American troops were in the country.

1965

Bombing attacks continued against the North, with sporadic halts to assess peace feelers. Heavy bombing was initiated against Viet Cong concentrations in the South.

American troop strength was drastically increased, reaching 180,000, and Americans began engaging Viet Cong units.



Sgt. Edward J. Kenney

CLIFFSIDE PARK — A professional soldier hardened by combat in Korea, Sgt. Edward J. Kenney was 33 when he arrived in Vietnam in November 1964 for his second tour of duty.

As previously, he served as an instructor and an adviser to the increasingly hard-pressed South Vietnamese troops.

In May 1965 the contingent of South Vietnamese to which he was attached was attacked by a larger Viet Cong force near the hamlet of Toi Bin.

Sgt. Kenney was fighting a delaying action when his position was overrun.

He had a Japanese wife he had married while in Korea and three children. His mother, Florence, now lives with his brother, John, in Old Bridge.

Pfc. Robert J. Betz

CLIFFSIDE PARK — Robert Betz was graduated from Don Bosco Technical High School in Paterson in June 1963, and after half a year of odd jobs, he enlisted in the Army.

Pfc. Betz, 19, arrived in Vietnam in September 1964, and began sending home souvenirs, photographs, and home movies. In letters to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Betz, he often commented on the beauty of the country.

In February 1965, three months before U.S. troops were officially committed to combat, he was in his barracks at Qui Nhon when the Viet Cong launched a rocket and mortar attack. Pfc. Betz and 19 other soldiers were killed in the explosions.

Cmdr. James LaHaye

TENAFLY — Cmdr. James D. LaHaye had flown more than 50 combat missions during the Korean conflict.

In May of 1965, he was commander of a Naval fighter squadron in Vietnam.

During a mission against Vinh airfield in North Vietnam his plane was disabled by enemy fire. A crewman reported seeing the plane crash into the water about eight miles from shore. The pilot had not ejected, and search crews could find nothing but wreckage.

The flier was 42. His wife and three children lived in La Jolla, Calif. Cmdr. LaHaye's wife, the former Gloria Morgan, formerly lived in Tenafly.



Capt. Werner E. Lutz

FAIRVIEW — Werner Lutz, 27, the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Werner Lutz, put on a Marine officer's uniform in 1960 after graduating from Jersey City College.

He became a specialist in intelligence and was assigned to Vietnam in October 1964.

In June 1965, his small scout plane was shot down while on patrol near Da Nang airbase, killing Capt. Lutz and another officer.

Capt. William Nichols Jr.

RIDGEWOOD — Capt. William W. Nichols Jr., 28, had a wife and an 8-month-old son he had never seen. He counted the days until he could return home.

In October 1965, the unit of South Vietnamese he was advising was ambushed near Phu Ly, 225 miles north of Saigon.

Capt. Nichols was dashing through Viet Cong fire, organizing the emplacement of weapons, when he was hit by a mortar shell.

Posthumously, he received a Silver Star.

Capt. Nichols's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Nichols Sr., survived him.

Pfc. Peter Ruzila Jr.

PARAMUS — The 1st Infantry Division landed in force on the southeastern coast of Vietnam in October 1965, and waited, under steady Communist barrage, to push inland.

Pfc. Peter Ruzila, 24, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Ruzila, was among infantrymen awaiting their first combat.

Two weeks after the landing, Pfc. Ruzila was killed when a truck he was driving along the beach ran over a Viet Cong land mine.



Sgt. James E. Lofgren

UPPER SADDLE RIVER — "If we don't fight Communism here, we will have to fight it in our backyards," James Lofgren said in a smeared, tattered letter, written in the field in November 1965.

A month later, the 26-year-old professional soldier, in his second hitch in the Army, was leading his squad on a search-and-

destroy mission on a Michelin rubber plantation, 35 miles from Saigon. The squad fell into a Viet Cong ambush.

St. Lofgren was hit, but continued to expose himself to fire while giving first aid and trying to evacuate his wounded men. He and seven other Americans died under the fierce fire.

For his actions, Sgt. Lofgren, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Eskel Lofgren, was awarded the Silver Star.

He left behind a wife, Clara, and a 2½-year-old daughter.

Spec. 4 Joseph La Faso

GARFIELD — Joseph La Faso, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen La Faso, had been named most valuable player on his high school's baseball team in his senior year. In August 1965, the Army sent him to Vietnam.

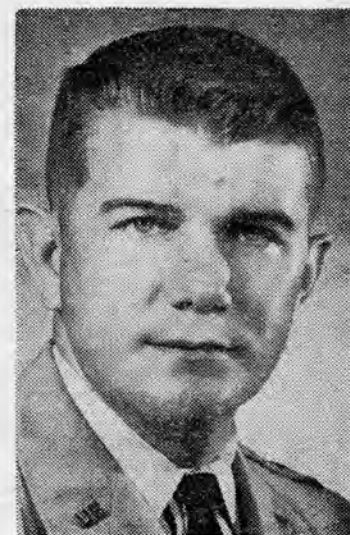
La Faso's mother was in poor health when her son went overseas. She wrote to President Johnson, asking for reassignment for her son, 23. Her answer from Washington said Spec. 4 La Faso would have to sign a request form himself. He declined to do so.

In November, he was killed at La Drang in what was the called the bloodiest battle of the war.

1966

American troop strength reached 389,000 and the Americans began major drives, gradually dislodging the Viet Cong from traditional strongholds.

B-52's began regular bombing of the North. By the end of the year 6,644 Americans had been killed.



Capt. John C. Strickler

TENAFLY — John C. Strickler was a serious-minded, college-educated career officer who joined the Army during the Cold War and stayed on as things became hotter.

He was trained as a civil engineer at Cornell. Before he volunteered to go to Vietnam he had accumulated enough credits at the University of Vermont to qualify for a master's degree in economics.

The degree had to be awarded posthumously. On Jan. 20, 1966, a sniper killed the 30-year-old captain as he inspected an engineering project in Saigon Harbor.

Strickler was also awarded the Bronze Star. "He was always a leader," his wife said.

1966

Pvt. William R. McKim

CRESKILL — William R. McKim left high school early after his sophomore year, to join the Army. He was sent to Vietnam for a year.

He sent letters to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William N. McKim, in which he considered the pros and cons of U.S. involvement there. He shared both sides of the question, his parents said, without making a philosophical decision.

In September 1965, he was part of the first wave of Americans to land at Qui Nhon. In February, on a routine search-and-destroy mission, the 18-year-old McKim was wounded fatally when he stepped on a mine.

Four months later, his class graduated from high school.

and upon his return volunteered to go to Vietnam.

In March 1966, after seven months in Vietnam, Sgt. Shields, 27, was killed in action.



Pfc. Patrick Brems

MAHWAH — The ambition of Patrick Brems, 19, was to become a Green Beret. He volunteered for 13 months in Vietnam.

He was on guard duty outside an Army officer billet in Saigon in April 1966, when a Viet Cong terrorist tossed a bomb into the building, killing Pvt. Brems and one other soldier.

Pvt. Brems' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Brems, survived him.

Pvt. David D. Higdon Jr.

GLEN ROCK — Pvt. David Higdon, 22, was known for giving everything he had as a football player at Glen Rock High School. In the Army, he sought to become a member of the Green Berets.

He suffered a series of setbacks, breaking a leg in training and then, joining his unit in Vietnam, being told he couldn't qualify because of his injury.

He was reassigned to the 1st Infantry Division. In April 1966 he was killed by a Viet Cong booby trap.

Pvt. Higdon's parents, Mr. and Mrs. David Higdon, survived him.

Pfc. James A. Taylor

HACKENSACK — When James A. Taylor, 25, was classified 1-A by his draft board in February 1964, he lost his job as a heating technician for a firm in Englewood, where he was living with his wife, Lydia.

The couple moved to Hackensack. Taylor did odd jobs and began taking a business course by mail until he was drafted in June.

Mrs. Taylor moved in with friends and waited for her husband, who was due to return in time to celebrate their third wedding anniversary in May 1966.

Pfc. Taylor was on patrol in April when he was killed by a sniper's bullet.

Pfc Douglas E. Weiss

RAMSEY — "He was the last of his family," said his aunt. "He wanted to be a soldier."

Douglas Weiss was 17 when he joined the Army, 18 when his parents both died of heart attacks within seven months, and 19 when he was killed in Vietnam on May 6, 1966.

He was to have been discharged a month later. Weiss had moved to Homestead, Fla., to live with an uncle after his parents died.



Capt. William Davis

DEMAREST — Before he left home to fly bombing missions in Vietnam William Davis had a request for his mother, Mrs. Eugene Smith: If he were killed, he wished to be buried at the Air Force Academy, where he had been a member of the first graduating class in 1959.

Capt. Davis, 30, was returning from a mission in September 1966 when the jet of which he was copilot and navigator crashed in the jungle.

His wish was honored. Later that year, he was buried at the Air Force Academy chapel.

Capt. Davis left a wife, Linda, and a 15-month-old daughter.



Lt. Clement Stevenson Jr.

RIDGEWOOD — Lt. Clement O. Stevenson Jr. joined the Navy to do what he liked best — fly.

Stevenson, 24, was copilot of a C130 Hercules transport plane that crashed in June 1966 near Cam Ranh Bay. The crew and six passengers were killed.

Stevenson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clement O. Stevenson Sr., survived him.

WO Erich R. Nordman

FAIRVIEW — Erich R. Nordman liked to be around helicopters. Before joining the Army in

1961, he had worked on them as a mechanic.

After five years in the service, he had become a helicopter pilot. He had signed up for an additional six years and was scheduled to return to the United States to teach others to fly.

The 23-year-old warrant officer — the son of Mrs. Elizabeth Nordman — was assigned to shuttle troops to the front.

In August 1966, on a routine flight, his helicopter was caught in a storm and crashed near Plei Ku.

Cpl. Daniel E. Morris

NORTH ARLINGTON — Daniel Morris shared homemade pizzas with his fellow Marines at Da Nang.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Earl E. Morris, mailed him the pies, made from a family recipe that kept them fresh for eight weeks. The Morrises and their air-mail pizzas had been featured on television and they treasured the thank-you letters from their son's buddies.

Daniel Morris, 19, arrived in Vietnam on Easter Sunday 1966. He was to have been there a year. In August, he died from chest wounds he received in a battle near Da Nang.



Pvt. Thomas R. Kyle Jr.

PARK RIDGE — In January 1966, Thomas R. Kyle Jr., 19, received his draft notice. He decided to enlist in the Marines. He told his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Kyle, that he would finish college when his duty was completed.

After completing training, he was sent to Vietnam. During his six weeks there, Kyle sent his parents three letters full of optimism. But a fourth message, received in August, was a telegram from the Pentagon.

It said Pvt. Kyle had died of head wounds received while on patrol near Da Nang.

Sgt. Roy Hutting

EMERSON — Nineteen-year-old Sgt. Roy Hutting had seen Vietnam service when he came home to his stepfather, Mrs. Frank Gartiser, in 1965 for Christmas leave.

The visit was to have lasted a month; but after 10 days, he was ordered back to the war zone.

The following September, with five months remaining in his voluntary Army service, Hutting was riding through the jungle in a personnel carrier.

The vehicle hit a land mine, killing Hutting instantly.



Pfc. Charles P. Ellis

ORADELL — In the summer of 1966, Charles P. Ellis's aunt sent him a package of candy and cake. He distributed the treats to children in an orphanage near his Marine camp at Da Nang. He had made friends with the youngsters, and had asked his parents to send his camera so that he could photograph them.

He was one of 10 children of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ellis.

In Pfc. Ellis's last letter home, he said members of his unit were probing for the enemy.

In September 1966, he was killed by a Viet Cong bullet.

Pfc. Robert C. Hauser

FAIR LAWN — Robert C. Hauser, 21, was a young man who liked hunting. He knew the dangers of firearms before he was drafted in September 1965.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hauser, he was sent to the war zone in August.

While on a patrol, his field commander heard a noise in the brush. The confused commander turned and fired, killing Pfc. Hauser.



Pfc. Patrick Campbell

FAIR LAWN — Marine Pfc. Patrick Campbell, 19, was anxious to do what he considered was his part in the war. He had said in a letter to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Campbell, that there wasn't enough action at his outpost.

He had enlisted in April 1966. In October, he was wounded by a gunshot in the stomach during action in Quang Tri Province.

To provide proper medical care, he was scheduled to be evacuated to Clarke Air Force Base in Manila. While his transportation was being arranged, Pfc. Campbell died.

Cpl. G. Smyrychynski

MONTVALE — A sniper's bullet killed George Smyrychynski



Pfc. Richard F. Nugent

WESTWOOD — Pfc. Richard Nugent, 19, returned to Vietnam for the second time in September 1965, and joined in the fierce, running fights between small contingents of Marines and Viet Cong.

He was an enthusiastic soldier, having quit high school in his junior year to enlist.

In February 1966, Pfc. Nugent's company was pinned down by a Communist machine gun in Thua Thien Province. Nugent and two fellow Marines attempted to dash over 70 yards of open ground to get the gun.

Pfc. Nugent was hit by a grenade, and the wounds later proved mortal. The distracted enemy machine gun crew was eliminated. For his actions, Pfc. Nugent was awarded a Bronze Star.

His mother, Mrs. Madeline Nugent, survived him.

Sgt. David Shields

EAST RUTHERFORD — David Shields arrived in America from Scotland in 1962 and, with a desire to serve his adopted country, he enlisted in the Marines.

"It was David who first spoke up when his sister (Mrs. Margaret Steen of Kearny) wrote us to join her in America. He said we should come," his father, Joseph Shields, remembered.

Sgt. Shields was with the troops sent to quell a rebellion in the Dominican Republic in 1965,

1966

near Da Nang. The 23-year-old Marine was on a combat mission when he died.

He was a 1960 graduate of Pascack Valley High School and had joined the service that August. He died in October 1966.

He was one of eight children of Mr. and Mrs. James Smyrychynski.



Lt. Thomas J. Holden

HASBROUCK HEIGHTS—Lt. Thomas J. Holden's most notable trait was aggressiveness. In high school, his two major goals were to play good football and enter the Naval Academy.

He made it on both counts and played for the academy in the 1963 Cotton Bowl game.

His father, Thomas N. Holden, had moved to Englewood by the time the 25-year-old Marine was sent to Vietnam in January 1966. Lt. Holden's service there won him two Silver Stars — one for taking charge when his commander was wounded in battle.

In October, he was leading a patrol against guerrillas near Da Nang. At the head of his group, he became the target of a Viet Cong shotgun.



Pfc. Anthony J. Gadda Jr.

EAST RUTHERFORD — Anthony J. Gadda Jr., 20, wanted to enlist in the Air Force when he was graduated from high school in 1965. But he changed his plans when his mother, Mrs. Anthony J. Gadda Sr., broke her leg falling down stairs.

Young Gadda was spending most of his time nursing his mother back to health when his draft notice arrived. In order to choose his own training, he enlisted in the Army in February 1966.

He was assigned to Vietnam in November, as a helicopter mechanic for a medical battalion.

On his tenth day in Asia, he was killed in the crash of the plane in which he was a passenger.



Pfc. Michael Macarell

HASBROUCK HEIGHTS — In his letters home, Pfc. Michael Macarell, 20, never hinted at any doubt that he would return from the war. He had become engaged to Betty Steele, a local girl, before being drafted in September 1965.

The son of Joseph Macarell, he had just finished studying refrigeration mechanics when he received his induction notice.

Pfc. Macarell, an Army rifleman, was reported missing in action in November 1966 after a fight near the Cambodian border. His body was found the following day.



Pfc. Robert P. Gandil

HACKENSACK — Two weeks before Christmas 1966, employees at the Hackensack post office mailed a Christmas card with 100 signatures to Robert Gandil, a former coworker, who was stationed near Dakang.

It was returned, undelivered. Marine Pfc. Gandil, 23, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Rechner, was killed by enemy rifle fire on Dec. 17.

He was survived by his wife, Karen.



**Francis J. Campeau,
Electrician's Mate 3**

BERGENFIELD — Francis J. Campeau, 22, liked to be near the water. He loved to swim and taught swimming for the local Police Athletic League and the YMCA in Hackensack.

In September 1965, he joined the Navy, hoping to go to sea. The following June, he was assigned to the carrier Forrestal. The ship reached Vietnam a month later.

The carrier had been in the Gulf of Tonkin a week when an explosion on board turned it into what was described as an inferno. More than 130 lives were lost.

In early August, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Campeau were notified that their son, first listed as missing, had died in the blaze.



Pfc. Howard Goldberg

SADDLE BOOK — When Howard S. Goldberg went into the Army, he told his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Goldberg, not to worry. Everything would be all right, the 20-year-old soldier promised them.

In 1966, there was a two-day Christmas truce in Vietnam. The day after the truce, the North Vietnamese attacked An Khe on the central coast, 280 miles northeast of Saigon.

On their wedding anniversary in late December, the Goldbergs received a letter from their son, wishing them a happy day. The following day, they received a telegram from Washington, telling them he had been killed in the An Khe attack.

1967

Bombing of the North continued and American troop strength jumped to 525,000. Nguyen Van Thieu was elected president, slightly stabilizing the government.

The Communists continued to be pushed out of many of their strongpoints and despite growing opposition to the war in the United States, the military outlook seemed fairly bright.

Lt. Edwin S. Brague Jr.

RIDGEWOOD — Barbara Brague described the military duties of her husband, a 23-year-old helicopter pilot:

"He flew almost every day to transport men, supplies, and pick up the wounded."

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin S. Brague, he had been married a little more than a year when he was assigned to Vietnam in late 1966.

He was killed in January 1967, while flying support for the infantry in Kontum, in the Central Highlands. The Distinguished Flying Cross, the Legion of Merit, and the Air Medal were awarded posthumously to Lt. Brague.



Cpl. Thomas R. Snaith

RIVER EDGE — Thomas Snaith, 23, was on his way to a relatively safe training assignment after eight months of combat. But the Vietnamese people drew him back.

"From babies to old people, they are stooping year round to get a rice crop, and then the V.C. take it away from them," he said in a tape recording to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Snaith.

While waiting for transportation, Cpl. Snaith volunteered to work in remote villages.

In January 1967, while working with Vietnamese civilians near Phu Bai, he was shot to death by a Viet Cong sniper.

Spec. 4 Timothy Daly

EDGEWATER — Timothy Daly grew up in County Limerick, Ireland. When he was 18, he came to the United States, joining his uncle, William Daly, in Edgewater.

In February 1967 he had been in this country three years and married to his wife, Donna, six months.

but the young couple could not celebrate together. Daly was in Vietnam.

The soldier, carrying a shotgun, jumped off a truck. The butt of his gun hit the ground, and it fired. Miles away from the nearest battle, Spec. 4 Daly, 21, was killed.



Spec. 4 Richard Wood

DUMONT — Richard A. Wood was working in a bank when he was drafted in 1965. He was sent to Vietnam the following year.

In February 1967, he was killed by enemy fire while on patrol along the South Vietnam-Cambodia border.

Spec. 4 Wood's mother, Mrs. Evelyn W. Hamilton, survived him.

Pfc. Vincent Weedo

GARFIELD — Vincent J. Weedo Jr. entered the Army in April 1966 and was killed in Vietnam in January 1967.

He was born in Hackensack, but lived most of his 20 years in Garfield, where he was a member of the 1961 high school football team.



Lt. Alan H. Zimmerman

MIDLAND PARK — Lt. Alan Zimmerman, 23, was a student. In college, he enrolled in the ROTC program and earned a degree in entomology (the study of insects).

In the Army, he studied medical field service and learned to pilot a helicopter.

In January 1967, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Roland Zimmerman married Margaret Williams, a former high school classmate.

The following month he was sent to Vietnam. He was there two days when he died in the crash of a helicopter he was piloting.



Pfc. Richard Boltz

RIDGEFIELD PARK — One of the last letters written by Pfc. Richard L. Boltz, 21, was to his aunt. In it, he apologized that the paper was torn and dirty, the result of a mortar shell exploding near his foxhole.

He had been drafted in 1965. He was on a search-and-destroy mission near Saigon in February 1967. As his Army infantry platoon moved through the jungle, it encountered Viet Cong fire, which killed Pfc. Boltz.

He was the son of Raymond Boltz.

Sgt. Thomas Danbo

LODI — Thomas Danbo and his wife, Judith, had lived in their Clifton apartment for three

1967

weeks before the young husband was drafted into the Army.

In March 1967, as the 21-year-old sergeant was completing a nine-month tour of combat duty, he boarded a helicopter that was to take him into battle. But he never reached the scene of the fighting.

When he left the helicopter, he stepped on a mine. He died instantly.



Cpl. Thomas Mallon

PARK RIDGE — At 17, Thomas J. Mallon passed up college to enlist in the Marines. Three years later, in March 1967, he was killed in an explosion near the demilitarized zone. Cpl. Mallon had spent 10 months in Vietnam. He was survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas D. Mallon.

Cpl. Peter E. Millar

PARAMUS — Peter E. Millar and his parents Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Millar moved from Paramus to Roxbury, N.Y. in 1966. Peter had joined the Marines and risen to the rank of corporal. In May 1967 Cpl. Millar, 19, was killed in action in Vietnam.



Lt. Robert Carovillano

RUTHERFORD — Robert Carovillano had been a second lieutenant 10 months, in Vietnam two months, when he was killed

in the Mekong Delta in March 1967.

An artillery officer, he was 20. After graduating from Rutherford High School and spending a year at Montclair State College, Carovillano enlisted in the Army and went to Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill, Okla., where he spent 23 weeks learning to command a field artillery unit.

His parents are Mr. and Mrs. James R. Carovillano.



Pfc. Rockwell S. Herron

HAWORTH — The 3,000-man 173rd Airborne Brigade was the elite of American units.

When Rockwell Herron, 19, was assigned to the casualty-ridden brigade in February 1967, his parents — Mr. and Mrs. Robert Herron — prepared themselves for the worst.

Just days after his arrival in Vietnam, Pfc. Herron was engaged in Operation Junction City, a major, 83-day effort to push the Viet Cong out of strongholds northwest of Saigon.

In March 1967, after a month of heavy fighting, Pfc. Herron was killed in a clash with a Viet Cong unit.



Lt. Joseph D. Adrian

RIVER EDGE — Lt. Joseph D. Adrian, 24, had talked about pursuing an engineering career after being discharged from the Air Force. But, as his priest remembered, he was in no hurry to end his military career.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Adrian, he had volunteered for duty in Vietnam. In December 1966, he was in the first group of combat pilots to operate from the new Tuy Hoa Air Base on the South China Sea coast, 235 miles northeast of Saigon.

Early in March 1967, he was listed as missing when his F-100 Super Sabre fighter-bomber did not return to the base. Three weeks later, the Air Force declared him killed in action. Lt.

Adrian's plane and his body were never found.



Pfc. Joseph DeJessa

LYNDHURST — The last letter Mr. and Mrs. Joseph DeJessa received from their Marine son contained a request for photographs of his two sisters in their Easter outfits. The request was never filled.

The 19-year-old Joseph DeJessa, who hoped to become a mechanic, had enlisted during his senior year in high school and entered the Marine Corps after graduation.

In March 1967, he was wounded by a mortar blast in a drive in Quang Tri Province. He died a few days later, on the first anniversary of his enlistment.



Capt. William Sipos

GARFIELD — William G. Sipos was an excellent student and a star football player at Pope Pius XII High School in Passaic and at West Point.

At 25, he was an Air Force pilot. He died in April 1967 when his plane was shot down.

Capt. Sipos had earned his varsity letter at the Academy in baseball and football and was the Army's star defensive back while there. He was also a commander of 102 cadets.

He was survived by his wife, and his infant daughter, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph D. Sipos.

Spec. 4 Raymond A. Renz

LODI — Spec. 4 Raymond A. Renz and the former Carol Mancuso were married July 29, 1966, five months before he was shipped to Vietnam.

Renz, a 1964 graduate of Hawthorne High School, fought with the 199th Infantry Brigade until June 2, 1967. His wife was notified the next day that he was killed when he stepped into an enemy booby trap. He was 20.

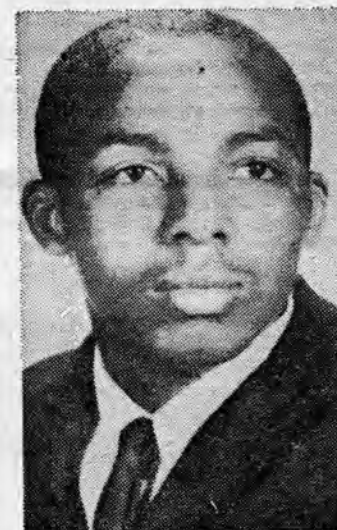


Pfc. Reginald Flack

FORT LEE — From Vietnam, Marine Pfc. Reginald Flack, 20, wrote a letter every day to his girl friend in Fort Lee. They were to have become engaged when he returned home from service.

Drafted into the Marine Corps in March 1966, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Flack was sent to the Philippines at Christmas time to learn the techniques of amphibious assault. Then he went to Vietnam.

Mail from the war zone was irregular. On a day in May 1967, his girl friend received happy letters from Pfc. Flack. She found out later that on that same day, her boyfriend had been killed in an attempt to secure a beachhead at Quang Tri.



Cpl. Harold J. Dillard

HACKENSACK — Harold J. Dillard was an outstanding athlete, a seven-letter man at Hackensack High School, described by his coach as a person who always did his best.

In early 1967, he had already served in Vietnam and was stationed in Okinawa. His aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Fields, with whom he had lived, thought his war service was behind him.

The Marine, 20, had received the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm for combat near the demilitarized zones in 1966.

Then, in May 1967, his grandmother received a letter from Cpl. Dillard saying he was going back to Vietnam. Later that month, he was killed by artillery fire in Quang Tri Province.

Lt. Malcolm F. Tassey

RUTHERFORD — Lt. Malcolm F. Tassey, 24, was in the Army by choice. After graduating from college, he entered Officers Candidate School.

In early July 1967, Lt. Tassey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Tassey, did not return from a com-

bat patrol. He was listed missing in action.

Within a few days his family had been informed by the Army that he had been killed in battle.



Pfc. Michael C. Roell

HILLSDALE — Michael C. Roell, 20, had dropped out of high school. He preferred cars to studies, but left unfinished his project of reassembling a Model A Ford.

In May 1967, his Army unit became engaged in fighting in the Central Highlands near Pleiku. The young soldier was killed — along with half of his 150-man company.

Pfc. Roell's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Roell, were notified of their son's death by a sergeant who burst into tears on their doorstep, saying it was his first experience with this type of duty.

The soldier's Purple Heart was delivered to his father a month after the death — on Father's Day.



Pfc. Jedh Barker

PARK RIDGE — Like his father and older brother before him, Jedh Barker decided to join the Marines.

In Park Ridge High School, Barker was an outstanding athlete — captain of the baseball and football teams and a member of the basketball and track teams. He also belonged to the school choir.

After graduation, he enrolled at Lycoming College in Pennsylvania, but, before completing his education there, he decided to follow the route his father, Colby Barker, and older brother, Lt. Col. Warren Barker, had taken. He joined the Marines.

Pfc. Barker and his older brother met several times while both were on duty in Vietnam. Col. Barker completed his tour of duty and returned home. Pfc. Barker 22, was killed in an artillery barrage in September 1967.

1967



Spec. 4 K. Slomiani

WALLINGTON — Mr. and Mrs. Feliks Slomiani had been in the United States five years when their son Kazimierz was drafted. The elder Slomianis, from Poland, spoke little English and requested that their son, who was their translator, be allowed to remain at home. The request was denied.

Drafted in 1965, he became a member of a helicopter combat unit in Vietnam. In June 1967, he was killed in a fire fight.

Spec. 4 Slomiani, 22, had planned to apply for American citizenship when he returned from Vietnam.



Pfc. George A. Poor Jr.

HILLSDALE — George A. Poor Jr. enlisted in the Army when he finished high school. He wanted to become a Green Beret, and was told he could become one after his 20th birthday.

He was anxious to prove himself. In March 1967 the son of Mr. and Mrs. George A. Poor Sr. was sent to Vietnam as a paratrooper.

In June he was killed in action at Dak To. He was 19 — still too young to wear the Green Beret.

Rev. Vincent Cappodano

NORTH ARLINGTON — After his ordination in 1958, the Rev. Vincent R. Cappodano, a Catholic priest, became a missionary. He served first in Hong Kong, then in Formosa. After six years, he joined the Navy.

Later, he went to Vietnam and served with a Marine unit south of Da Nang. In September 1967, he was pinned down with the Marines in a fierce fight. Al-

though wounded, he continued to administer to the wounds of the men around him until he was killed by small-arms fire.

The son of Italian immigrants, Father Cappodano, 38, was survived by five sisters and three brothers. After his death, his family made plans to build a church in Taiwan in his memory.



Pfc. Frank Lopinto

LYNDHURST — Baseball was Frank Lopinto's sport. He was chosen for The Record's 1965 all-county team and played in the national championship for the local American Legion teams.

In September 1966, he joined the Marines. In February 1967, the 19-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Lopinto was sent to Vietnam.

By the time he engaged in a major battle near Con Thien in July, Pfc. Lopinto was a seasoned combat veteran, wearing the Purple Heart. The Marines succeeded in stopping a 2,500-man North Vietnamese force near the demilitarized zone. In that battle, 51 Americans, including Pfc. Lopinto, were killed.



Pfc. Robert Viggiano

WALDWICK — A major irritation in the life of Robert Viggiano, 20, were war protesters, whom he often referred to as draft dodgers.

As a form of counterprotest, he urged his draft board to move up his induction date.

"He was so thankful and proud to live in this country. When he left he asked us not to be saddened if he died in Vietnam," remembered his sister, Elizabeth.

Pfc. Viggiano, son of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony C. Viggiano, arrived in Vietnam in July 1967. One month later, and six months to the day from the date of his induction, he was killed when his armored personnel carrier, heading for combat area, was struck by an antitank shell.



Pfc. Jeffrey Barker

RIDGEFIELD — Jeffrey Barker, 20, wanted to follow in his father's footsteps. Lawrence Barker had served heroically in World War II and had returned home to become a pipefitter.

Young Barker wanted to learn his father's trade after his military service. Although he was a draftee, he had volunteered for Vietnam duty as a paratrooper.

He died in June 1967 from the wounds he received from a grenade.



Cpl. C. F. Bigham

PARK RIDGE — Charles Bigham and Richard Wiczorek, both of Park Ridge, enjoyed a friendship in Vietnam.

Mostly, they waved to one another while traveling in different directions. Finally, in August 1967, the two Marines managed to get together for a weekend leave.

Three weeks later, Wiczorek, a sergeant, was wounded in a mortar attack. The next day, Cpl. Bigham, 21, was killed during an attack against his unit in Quang Tri Province.

Sgt. Wiczorek returned home to serve as an escort at Cpl. Bigham's funeral.

The soldier's parents are Mr. and Mrs. John G. Bigham.

Sgt. Kenneth C. Rakentine

HACKENSACK — Kenneth Rakentine was a career soldier, having served 14 years with the Army in Alaska and Germany and at other posts.

He arrived in Vietnam in December, 1966, to take part in some of the first battles of the war. In September, 1967, he was killed by enemy mortar fire in the Mekong Delta.

Sgt. Rakentine was born in Hackensack but was living in Waynesboro, Pa., with his wife, the former Beverly Starliper and his three children.

Sgt. Rakentine's brother Ralph, an Army sergeant who also served in Vietnam, escorted Rakentine's body home to be buried with military honors in Gettysburg National Cemetery.

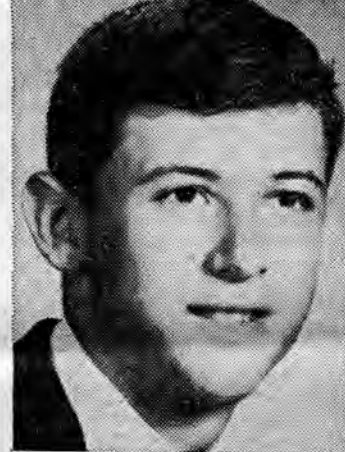


Spec. 4 J. A. Slater

EAST PATERSON — Jerald A. Slater was brought up by his aunt in East Paterson after his mother died when he was 5. He attended borough schools, but quit high school before graduating.

After working for a trucking company for 1½ years, he joined the Army, where he earned a high school diploma.

In October 1967, at Age 20, Army Spec. 4 Slater became the borough's first casualty in the Vietnam war. When he was killed, he was gunner in a helicopter attacked by the enemy.



Cpl. Ernie J. Elfenbein

HILLSDALE — Ernie J. Elfenbein, 19, had reached the highest level as a Boy Scout. He was an Eagle Scout, and had received the Brotherhood Award and the Order of the Arrow. Later, he went to college, majoring in pre-law.

An Army citation given posthumously to his mother read, "... with complete disregard for his own safety, he exposed himself to the vicious enemy fire ... as a result of his heroic action, his comrades successfully repulsed the enemy attack."

Cpl. Elfenbein, a member of the Tiger Force, an elite corps, had enlisted in February 1967. He was mortally wounded by an enemy hand grenade near Chou Lai, South Vietnam, the following October.



Seaman G. Watson

TEANECK — Gregory A. Watson excelled in sports. He joined the Amateur Athletic Union and the Bergen Pacers. After he graduated from Teaneck High School in 1964, he

joined the Navy. He served briefly in Hawaii.

On Nov. 3, 1967, when Seaman Watson was serving his second tour of duty in Vietnam, he died of natural causes aboard the USS Coral Sea.



Capt. Frank R. Kerbl

PARAMUS — Captain Frank R. Kerbl, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kerbl of Paramus, graduated from Hackensack High School in 1952 and received his commission in the Army through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps at Fordham University, where he received a B.S. degree in 1956.

He entered the Army in 1957 and arrived in Vietnam in 1967 as a platoon leader in the 188th Aviation Company. He was awarded the Army Commendation Medal and the Air Medal for heroism in support of ground combat operations.

In October 1967, Capt. Kerbl, 33, died when the reconnaissance plane he was piloting was shot down.

He was survived by his parents, and by his wife and five children who were living in Hopkinsville, Ky.



Spec. 4 Michael Romano

RIDGEFIELD PARK — Spec. 4 Michael Romano Jr., his sights set on an Army career, enlisted after his freshman year at Ridgefield Park High School. Assigned to Headquarters Battery, 86th Artillery, after advanced training at Fort Carson, he was able to complete his high school education in the Army.

Spec. 4 Romano, the son of Michael Romano Sr. and Mrs. Irene Kautz of Dumont, was stationed in Germany for two years. In 1966, he reenlisted, and in 1967 he was sent to Vietnam.

In November 1967, while on patrol in the Central Highlands, Spec. 4 Romano, 21, was struck by shrapnel. He died of his wounds.

He had been in Vietnam eight months.

Capt. Eleanor Alexander

RIVER VALE — Capt. Eleanor G. Alexander, 27, of the Army Nurse Corps is the only known Bergen woman to die in Vietnam. She was killed in the crash of a transport plane in December 1967 after seven months of duty in a military hospital in Qui Nhon.

1967

Capt. Alexander grew up in New York and was educated at D'Youville College in Buffalo, N.Y. She was an assistant supervisor at Madison Avenue Hospital in Manhattan before joining the Army in April 1967.

Capt. Alexander's mother, Mrs. Francis H. Alexander of River Vale, said of her: "Eleanor always wanted to go where she was needed. She went into the corps only after reaching an understanding with the Army that she would be sent to Vietnam."



Rev. Charles Watters

PARAMUS — Charles Watters, 40, was a Catholic priest, thrust without weapons into one of the bloodiest battles of the war.

He was the pastor of Blessed Virgin Mary Church of the Annunciation of Paramus from 1956 to 1963. He went to Vietnam an Army major to minister to the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

He was with his unit in November 1967, when Americans and North Vietnamese met in the battle of Dak To. Some 285 Americans died in the battle.

Father Watters went with his men up heavily fortified Hill 875 and at one point ran through heavy fire to drag four wounded men to safety.

Later that day he was praying with a group of wounded when an American plane accidentally bombed the position, killing Father Watters and 20 others.



Spec. 4 Norman Goble

ALLENDALE — Spec. 4 Norman R. Goble was 20 and a week away from leaving Vietnam when he died in November 1967 from wounds received in combat.

He was born in Hackensack and graduated from Midland Park High School in 1965. He had been wounded twice before.

He had worked for an East Orange auto service firm before being drafted into the Army and was with the 77th Artillery of the 25th Division.

Spec. 4 Goble was survived by his wife and their infant daughter. The child was born while he was in the Army; he had never seen her.

Spec. 4 John Kapeluck

CRESSKILL — John M. Kapeluck, 21, had been trained as a military journalist but was serving as a mortarman the day he tried to save the lives of four fellow soldiers.

He left himself open to enemy fire during a battle near Dak To, South Vietnam in November 1967, allowing four other members of the 173rd Airborne Division to return to safety.

A year later, in 1968, an Army representative came here to present a posthumous Bronze Star for Sgt. Kapeluck's heroism to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Kapeluck.



Spec. Thomas Grix

NEW MILFORD — Thomas Grix's mother, Mrs. William Grix, says, "He wanted to join the Green Berets, leaving Fairleigh Dickinson University and a part-time job in New Milford to serve in Vietnam. He also left behind his wife of three months, the former Carol Sawicky."

During 1967, Spec. Grix served with Green Beret Company A, Advanced Team 99, as a communications specialist. He wrote home two or three times a week throughout the year, his mother said. "It's hot, dirty, and buggy" — that's all he wrote," she said.

In December 1967, Spec. Grix died of gunshot wounds received in the hamlet of Duc Hoa, 18 miles northwest of Saigon.



Cpl. Michael Ettz

LODI — Michael C. Ettz fought with the Marines in Vietnam. A squad leader with the First Battalion, 9th Marines at Con Thien, he was killed there in June of 1967.

By October he had been awarded a Purple Heart for injuries, the American Service Medal and the Vietnamese Military Merit Medal for distinguished service.

He died at 20, fighting in Quang Tri Province.

Cpl. Ettz had graduated from Lodi High School in 1965. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ettz.



M. Sgt. Charles E. Hosking

RAMSEY — M. Sgt. Charles Hosking argued against untying the Viet Cong prisoner, something that 26 years in the Army had taught him could be unwise.

On this day, however, he was overruled. The wire was cut from the wrists of the complaining prisoner, and Hosking, possibly convinced this small consideration actually was harmless, stood casually nearby.

Suddenly the prisoner leapt at Hosking, grabbing a grenade from the soldier's belt. He pulled the pin and began running toward a small group of Green Berets across a small clearing.

Sgt. Hosking, 43 years old, jumped on the man's back . . .

Sgt. Hosking was a short wiry man, intense and taciturn in the tradition of professional soldiers. At 43, he weighed barely more than he did as a recruit.

He quit high school at 17 to join the Army and devoted himself full time to learning the intricacies of warfare.

"Even at 17," remembers his brother, Robert Hosking of Allendale, "he never thought of anything else. It was a 24-hour job for him."

In World War II, Hosking was assigned to the 509th Parachute Battalion of the 82nd Airborne Division. Of the 1,500 men, originally in this unit, only 29 survived the war without being either killed or wounded.

Hosking fought up the Italian peninsula, scene of some of the bloodiest battles of the war and was finally wounded in the leg by machine gun fire when his position was overrun during the Battle of the Bulge.

He missed duty during the Korean War because of a bazooka accident during training that broke both his legs and left him with numerous shrapnel wounds.

Hosking joined the Green Berets when that anti-guerrilla unit was beefed up by President Kennedy in the early 1960s. He began his first of three tours of duty in Vietnam in 1961. He was an expert in demolitions and proficient in three languages.

Hosking was devoted to Kennedy, the patron of the Special Forces, and like many Green Berets, viewed himself as a special agent of the President. This devotion to the President, according to his brother, was the closest Hosking even came to expressing what could be considered a political opinion about the war.

In March, 1967, in Phoc Long Province, he jumped on the back of the Viet Cong, wrestling the live grenade into the prisoner's stomach. The two fell to the ground, the grenade beneath them.

"He was an expert in demolitions. He couldn't have had any illusions about what would happen," said his brother.

The muffled explosion of the grenade killed both men, but spared the others.

Sgt. Hosking left a wife, Gloria, and four children, the oldest now in college.

In April 1967, Sgt. Hosking who had spent 26 of his 43 years in barracks, parade grounds, and battlefields, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

2nd Lt. Alden G. Mosher Jr.



RIVER VALE — When Alden G. Mosher Jr. was killed in the accidental explosion of an American land mine, his wife promptly asked that any memorial donations go to a self-help program run for Vietnamese civilians by CARE and the Marine Corps.

It was a means, she said, of carrying on her husband's convictions.

Mosher, 24, had enlisted in the Marine Corps in August 1967. He was killed Dec. 15, only two weeks after arriving in Vietnam. In civilian life, he had been a management trainee with General Motors Corp. His wife, Virginia, and a 7-month-old son — Alden G. Mosher III — survived him.

Lt. Robert Janowitz

GLEN ROCK — Robert L. Janowitz was committed to the war in Vietnam before he ever enlisted in the Army. While a student at the University of Maryland, he helped organize a group to support the cause of the war.

He joined the Army in 1966 and repeatedly requested assignment to Vietnam until he was sent there in the fall of 1967. He served as commander of Company D of the 11th Infantry Brigade in Chu Lai.

When his tour of duty was ended, he extended his stay another six months. "It was something he believed that had to be done," said his brother Marc.

First Lt. Janowitz, 24, was killed in September 1967. He was the son of Dr. and Mrs. Aaron J. Janowitz.

1968

In an effort to reverse the tide of battle, the Communists launched the massive Tet offensive, attacking a number of major South Vietnamese cities before being finally pushed back.

There are numerous reports of Communist atrocities, particularly in Hue.

President Johnson, responding to domestic pressure, ordered a halt to the bombing of the North and announced he would not seek re-election.

The Paris peace talks began.

More than 14,000 Americans died in the year of heavy fighting.

which he was riding went off a road and into a rice paddy, overturning and bursting into flames.

The 22-year-old Army specialist had been stationed at Chau Lai with the 175th Engineer Corps of the 196th Infantry.

He had been in Vietnam since June 1967 and was planning to enter Cooper Union in New York to study architecture.

He graduated from St. Anne's Parochial School in Fair Lawn and Don Bosco Tech in Paterson. He was born in Paterson and lived in Fair Lawn before moving with his family to Franklin Lakes. He was the oldest of four children of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. DeCrosta.



Spec. 4 Roger B. Crowell

LYNDHURST — Roger B. Crowell was drafted in 1966.

In January 1968, Spec. 4 Crowell, 20, was killed when an armored personnel carrier that he was driving toward a Viet Cong position was hit by rockets. His heroism under enemy fire earned him the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second highest combat award, posthumously.

In September 1968, he would have come home to Lyndhurst. But his wife said: "He knew he wasn't coming back."

The last thing she received from her husband was an envelope containing a St. Christopher's medal.

Sgt. Richard Long

GLEN ROCK — Sgt. Richard Lytle Long served in the Army for two years before going to Vietnam. He was attached to the 101st Airborne Division. His death came a month after his arrival, in January 1968. He was 23.

Sgt. Long's brother Jim described him soon after his death: "He didn't like the war. His interests revolved around his work. Simplicity was something he was looking for." Sgt. Long had studied graphics and design before joining the Army.

He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Long.

Spec. 4 J. DeCrosta

FRANKLIN LAKES — Spec. 4 DeCrosta died in Vietnam in January 1968 when a truck in



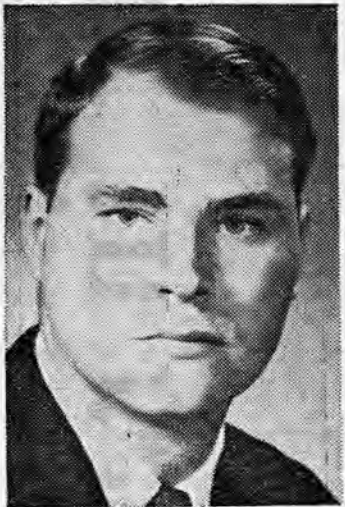
Lt. Stanley Lewis

HACKENSACK — Stanley Lewis was well on his way to becoming a neurosurgeon. He had graduated from Cornell University and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He had interned at Temple University, University of Pennsylvania General Hospital, and Miami's Jackson Memorial Hospital.

As soon as he completed his duty as a flight surgeon with the Navy, he was to begin a residency at McGill University, in Montreal.

Lt. Lewis was killed Jan. 31, 1968, at Chu Lai in a rocket attack. He was 30.

His mother, Clara, survived him.



Lt. Michael Berkery

ALPINE — For Michael Berkery, getting into medical school was important — but it could wait until he enlisted in the Marines and came back.

Lt. Berkery, 23, went to Vietnam in December 1967. Two months later, he was leading a night patrol near Quang Tri City. He had written to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John J. Berkery that they wouldn't be hearing from him for a few days. He was killed by a sniper's bullet.

Friends and neighbors had Oak Street's name changed to Berkery Place in his honor.



Spec. 4 Allen Geib

FAIR LAWN — Allen P. Geib, who had lived in Fair Lawn 14 years, graduated from Fair Lawn High School in a machine shop in Paterson. In September 1966, he entered the Army.

He was stationed in Ft. Hood, Tex., until he was assigned to combat duty as a medical corps' man in September 1967.

In January 1968, Spec. 4 Geib, 22, was killed in combat 40 miles north of Da Nang.

Spec. 4 Geib was survived by his wife, Bonnie Ann.



Sgt. Daniel Williams

HACKENSACK — Daniel Williams Jr. arrived in Vietnam on Christmas Day 1967.

He died less than two months into the new year, on Feb. 18.

He had written one letter to his aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Shedrick, with whom he had lived. "This is a different world," he wrote of Vietnam.

He joined the Army in 1964 and was assigned as a mechanic to Company A, Second Battalion, Eighth Infantry. He was born in Hackensack, moved to South Carolina with his family, and later returned to Hackensack to live with his aunt and uncle. He was 24.

M. Sgt. John D' Adamo

NORTH ARLINGTON — John D'Adamio asked his sister to accept his diploma for him. He had enlisted in the Marine Corps in May 1943, a few weeks before his graduation from North Arlington High School.

He served during World War II and the Korean war and was later stationed at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, in Cuba.

He went to Vietnam in August 1967. He was listed as missing in action on Feb. 10, 1968. Five days later, his family was notified that he had been killed in action when his aircraft was hit

by enemy ground fire as it was coming in for a landing. Sgt. D'Adamio was the aircraft's navigator. He was 42 years old.

Pvt. Francis M. Finnerty

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP — Pvt. Francis M. Finnerty Jr. was the only member of his Marine platoon to survive the Battle of Hue in 1968. In November, however, he died from bullet wounds received in fighting on the outskirts of Da Nang.

Just before his death, he had won a transfer to an intelligence unit. His mother said that her son liked and respected the Vietnamese and thought he could help them in his new assignment.

A graduate of St. Nicholas of Tolentine High School in the Bronx, he would have reached his 20th birthday 12 days after he was killed.



Pfc. Wayne Golon

BERGENFIELD — "You would never have thought he was in a war from reading his letters to us," said Wayne Golon's father, Frank. "He was looking forward to a leave in Australia when he wrote us last."

Pfc. Golon, 22, had been a therapist at Englewood Hospital. He was studying psychology at Fairleigh Dickinson University when he entered the service.

He was not happy about having to leave home, but told his family that he thought it was his duty. In February 1968, Pfc. Golon was killed during the Communists' Tet offensive.

He had graduated from Midland Park High School where he played several sports.



Cpl. James T. Gordon

ENGLEWOOD — In a letter — never sent and forgotten among his belongings — James Gordon, 21, wrote:

"I thank God I was born in a

country where I have the freedom to live as I choose. I don't want to go half way across the world to be shot at and possibly killed, but I will because my conscience won't let me take my blessings for granted."

It was Gordon's only written mention of his feelings about the war.

In February 1968, five months later, he was shot and killed while on his way to the battle of Hue with the 5th Marines.

Cpl. Gordon was survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Gordon, and his wife, Elizabeth.

Cpl. Matthew Dwyer

LYNDHURST — Lance Cpl. Matthew Dwyer, a 21-year-old Marine, completed a 14-month tour of duty in Vietnam in July 1967 and returned home. He was the son of Mrs. Ethel Dwyer of Lyndhurst and the late Matthew Dwyer.

Cpl. Dwyer had four years of service behind him. After a six-month rest in the United States, he returned to Vietnam for a second tour of duty. In February 1968, he arrived in Khe Sanh during a battle with the North Vietnamese.

His helicopter attempted to land despite heavy fire. It was shot down and exploded when it hit the ground, killing Cpl. Dwyer.



Pfc. Dennis Gleason

TEANECK — Dennis S. Gleason was drafted into the Army in 1967 on his 21st birthday.

"He didn't want to go because he hated the idea of killing," said one of his brothers, Michael. "But he wrote that he wanted to do whatever he had to do."

"Once, he wrote, 'I'm glad I haven't killed anyone yet.' You wouldn't believe the kind of guy he was."

Pfc. Gleason wrote to his parents, two brothers and two sisters in Teaneck daily — sometimes three or four letters a day.

In March 1968, less than a year after he entered the Army, Pfc. Gleason was killed defending an Army base in South Vietnam.

Pfc. L. J. LeDonne

RIDGEFIELD PARK — Lawrence LeDonne, 20, drove an armored personnel carrier through the jungle in search of enemy snipers. Seven men rode in his vehicle, and on one mission he returned with six dead and one wounded. He wasn't worried.

"He thought he was indestructible," said his mother, Mrs. Joseph LeDonne. "He said he had his Lucky 7 (the name of his vehicle) and his lucky dog (a mongrel he found in the jungle)."

Pfc. LeDonne was on one of his endless antisniper missions in March 1968, when he was killed by Communist gunfire.

1968



Spec. 4 Ross Applegate

BERGENFIELD — "He was very outgoing — an extrovert and a joiner," says Mrs. Francis Applegate when she describes her son, Ross.

As a child, Ross Applegate belonged to the Police Athletic League and Little League. In Bergenfield High School, he joined the concert choir, band, and football and baseball teams. He also served as an acolyte in his church.

After graduating from high school in 1967, he joined the Army. In March of 1968 at the age of 18, he was killed during a heavy attack on his base camp in Vietnam.



Pfc. John J. Pall

Bergenfield — Barbara Pall looked forward to the letters she received regularly from her husband, Army Pfc. John J. Pall, in Vietnam.

In one letter he wrote: "We've been hit very hard, but so far we've been lucky."

Usually his letters were a comfort to the Bergenfield wife and mother-to-be. That letter was not. It had been preceded by a telegram informing her that Pfc. Pall, 23, had died from metal fragment wounds received in combat in April 1968.

"He didn't grumble or groan. He wanted to make the best of it and do his job well," said Pall's mother-in-law, Mrs. Carolyn Weeks. "It may sound corny, but he was very patriotic."

Spec. 4

Kenneth F. Schorndorf

GARFIELD — Kenneth F. Schorndorf had been in Vietnam for six months with the Army's 1st Airmobile Division when he was killed in combat in April, 1968.

He was the son of Mrs. Josephine Schorndorf.

Lt. John DiNapoli Jr.

WALLINGTON — John DiNapoli Jr. graduated from Rutherford High School and Rutgers University before he entered the Army.

He majored in biology at Rutgers and achieved the rank of first lieutenant in the Army.

The 24-year-old DiNapoli was killed in Vietnam in May 1968, about six months after he had begun his tour there.

He was survived by his parents and his wife.



Pfc. Brian Wedlake

MIDLAND PARK — "I was expecting it ever since I learned his battalion was in almost daily combat — so it's not a terrible shock to me," said the mother of Brian Wedlake.

He had joined the Marines in August 1967 and was with the Second Battalion of the 4th Marines by March 1968. He graduated in 1966 from Midland Park High School, where he had played football, basketball, and been on the track team. He drove a truck before enlisting.

He was 20 when he died in Quang Tri near the demilitarized zone. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Wedlake.

"I would like to think this is all for something," said his mother. "He said he hoped the peace talks would accomplish something."

Harry Bowman Jr.

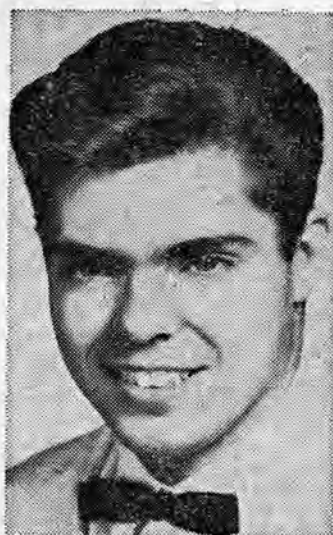
WOOD-RIDGE — Harry Bowman Jr. had studied for the ministry before he enlisted in the Navy in 1966.

He enlisted, his father said, because he was upset by the draft-card burners. He once said that although he couldn't take a human life, he could try to save one. He joined the medics.

He was a member of the Marine Medical Corps, 1st Division.

He was 22 when he was killed in action in Vietnam in May, 1968. His parents and two sisters survived him. Posthumously, he was awarded the Silver Star for bravery.

A scholarship fund was started in his name. Bowman was a 1963 graduate of Wood-Ridge High.



Pfc. Michael Caporale

SOUTH HACKENSACK — "Mike was a happy-go-lucky boy," said his father, Joseph, "if he had any worries at all, we never knew about them."

Marine Pfc. Michael J. Caporale died in Vietnam in April 1968, after being wounded. He was 19.

He had graduated in 1966 from the Bergen County Technical and Vocational School and had hoped some day to become a stationary engineer working with high-pressure boilers.

He was proud of his service in the Marines and wore his uniform when he was home on leave.

Lance Cpl. Tyrone Hill

GARFIELD — Tyrone Hill decided early in life that the Marine Corps was for him.

At the age of 18, after finishing his education in Garfield, he joined the Marines. He was sent to Vietnam after training.

On May 12, 1968, eight months after arriving in Vietnam, he died of wounds received in action in Quang Nam. He was 19.

He was survived by his father and a brother.



Pfc. Robert Murphy

RIDGEFIELD — Before entering the Army, Robert D. Murphy had graduated from New York Community College with an accounting degree, then worked for Pan American Airlines as an accountant.

Following basic training, Pfc. Murphy was assigned to duty in Vietnam. He arrived there April 6, 1968.

On May 14, 1968, he was critically wounded in battle and died several days later. He was 22.

Survivors included his father, James J. Murphy.



Spec. 4 R. Ranges

RIVER VALE — "He was proud of the fact that he was fighting for his country," said the mother of Spec. 4 Robert H. Ranges Jr. "He couldn't wait to get in so he could walk down the street, hold his head high, and know that he did his bit."

Spec. 4 Ranges had been in the service less than a year in April 1968 when he died of gunshot wounds in the Mekong River Delta near Can Tho. He was a radio operator assigned to the Army's 9th Infantry Division as a rifleman.

Three weeks before he died, he spoke to his family from Tokyo where he was on rest and rehabilitation leave.

The 20-year-old was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Ranges.



Spec. 4 J. Picarelli

HACKENSACK — Spec. 4 Joseph Picarelli received the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart for his service in Vietnam.

He was raised in Paterson and planned to open a liquor store when he was discharged from the service.

In 1968, he was killed in action. He was 24.

His wife and father survived him.



Spec. 4 J. Tomeny

HACKENSACK — John Tomeny, a native of Dublin, had lived in this country about 10 years before entering military service.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold J. Tomeny, he had arrived in the United States in 1957. He was graduated from Hackensack High School in 1965 and was a member of Holy Trinity R.C. Church in Hackensack.

He planned to become an aeronautical engineer.

In May 1968, Army Spec. 4 Tomeny died as a result of wounds received while on guard duty in Tay Ninh. He was 21.



Spec. 4 E. G. O'Connell

EDGEWATER — Eugene G. O'Connell achieved the rank of specialist four in the Army after

graduating from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts.

Spec. O'Connell, son of Mr. and Mrs. George O'Connell, graduated from Fort Lee High School and attended Montclair State College before going on to the academy, from which he graduated in 1966.

In May 1968, six months after arriving in Vietnam, Spec. 4 O'Connell was killed in action. He was 24.



Pfc. S. Richard Grimstad

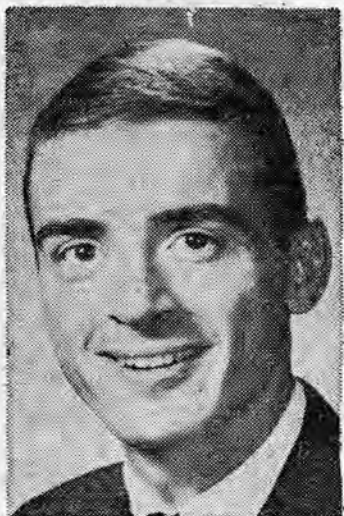
TEANECK — Pfc. S. Richard Grimstad was graduated from Teaneck High School and Bradley University in Peoria, Ill., before enlisting in the Marines in June 1967.

His mother, Mrs. Hilda Mockler, described the 6-foot-2 Pfc. Grimstad as a man who thought the Marines were the best.

Before joining the service, he studied architectural engineering at night at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn while working during the day as a draftsman.

He was killed in 1968 while on patrol near Con Thieu. He was 23.

Besides his mother, he was survived by his grandparents and several aunts and uncles.



Lt. Steven G. Ramsey

TEANECK — First Lt. Steven G. Ramsey was a member of the Green Berets in Vietnam. He was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for heroism.

He lived in Teaneck nine years. He attended the University of Tennessee and earned a master's degree at Pennsylvania State University.

He died in Plei Me on June 1, 1968, at the age of 24, and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

His wife, parents, and two sisters survived him.

Lt. Edward Maher

HILLSDALE — Lt. Edward Maher's family had sent a son to every American conflict since the Civil War.

Born in the Bronx, Lt. Maher had lived in Hilldale six years

1968

and had graduated from Pasack Valley High School. He served with the 50th Division in Texas before going to Vietnam in June 1968.

Two months after Maher, 21, carried on the family tradition in Vietnam, he was killed on an amphibious combat mission.



Maj. David J. Gunster

RIDGEWOOD — David J. Gunster graduated from Ridgewood High School, earned a bachelor of science degree in engineering, and joined the Air Force. He went on to win the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal.

He became an Air Force major and successfully completed 317 bombing and strafing missions in support of Marine forces while in Vietnam. On his 318th mission, in June 1968, his fighter-bomber was hit by anti-aircraft fire near Khe Sanh. Maj. Gunster was killed, just four days before his tour of duty in Vietnam was to have ended.

His parents, two sisters, and a brother survive him.



Cpl. Kenneth Schauble

CLOSTER — Kenneth Schauble's military career was marked with its share of honors.

While with Marines in Vietnam, he was promoted to corporal because of what his father termed his bravery in action and his resourcefulness. And Cpl. Schauble's unit received a presidential citation for its defense of Khe Sanh.

He had lived in Closter since 1964, and graduated from Northern Valley Regional High School in Demarest.

In June 1968 he was killed in the vicinity of Quang Tri. He was 20.

He was survived by his parents, two sisters, and a brother.



Capt. Michael Nawrosky

DUMONT — Michael Robert Nawrosky was a graduate of the high school here and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

While in high school, he was president of the honor society and captain of the football and track teams. In his first year at West Point, he received an award as an outstanding plebe.

In July 1968, Capt. Nawrosky died of wounds he had received three months before at Khe Sanh. He was 27.

His parents and a sister survived him.



Sgt. Craig De Vore

GARFIELD — Craig De Vore joined the service in May 1966, about one year after his graduation from Garfield High School.

Sgt. De Vore, who was associated with Shop Rite Stores in Garfield before entering the service, was the son of Jesse and Cecelia De Vore.

In February 1968, he was transferred to Vietnam from Munich, West Germany.

On July 8, 1968, Sgt. De Vore was killed in Saigon at the age of 20. He was survived by his parents and a sister.

Lt. Peter Murner

HILLSIDE — Marine Lt. Peter Murner married the former Constance Drews of River Vale in June and arrived in Vietnam in August 1968. Twenty-two days later, in Quang Tri province, he was killed.

Lt. Murner, 23, was a graduate of Don Bosco High in Ramsey and a 1967 graduate of St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg, Md. Born in Brooklyn, he lived in Hillsdale 18 years.

He was survived by his parents, a sister, and his grandmothers.



Pfc. Robert Cuccinelli

RIDGEFIELD PARK — Pfc. Robert A. Cuccinelli, a resident of Ridgefield Park since Age 6, left Bergen Tech and a job as a truck driver to enlist in the Marines in September 1967.

He was sent to Vietnam in March 1968, and a month later he received the Purple Heart for shrapnel wounds he received in his first month of duty.

In July, while on patrol in Quang Nam province, Pfc. Cuccinelli, 19, was again struck by shrapnel. Two days later, in Da Nang, he died.

He was survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Cuccinelli, two brothers, and a sister.



WO Richard Ovaatt

RAMSEY — Richard Ovaatt, 21, was a 6-foot-4 basketball star for Ramsey High and was voted to the Northern Bergen Interscholastic League, All-State, and All-County second teams. He racked up 510 points in three years.

In August 1968, Warrant Officer Ovaatt died after a helicopter in which he was riding burst into flame, crashed, and burned at Hue, where he was serving with the 101st Airborne.

His parents, two brothers, and a sister survived him.

Lance Cpl. David Freed

LYNDHURST — Rather than accept the student deferment he could have received as a student at Fairleigh Dickinson University, David Freed enlisted in the Marine Corps.

Instead of taking final exams in January 1968, Freed, the son of the Rev. and Mrs. George Freed, was fulfilling his wish to fight for his country in Vietnam. He had been an Eagle Scout, woodwind player, and high school athlete.

Lance Cpl. Freed was a rocketeer weapons specialist in the

Marines. He wrote to his parents frequently and sometimes included photographs of undernourished South Vietnamese refugee children.

In September 1968, after nine months in Vietnam, he was killed in fighting in Quang Tri province.



Cpl. Steven Foster

MIDLAND PARK — Steven Foster enlisted in the Marines on his 18th birthday. Cpl. Foster was wounded by mortar fire near the demilitarized zone early in August 1968, 19 days before his tour of duty in Vietnam was to end. He died in a hospital in Japan three weeks later.

"All through high school he spoke of signing up," his father said. "He was anxious to go to Vietnam and see what good he could do."

The seventh Midland Park man to die in Asia during the Vietnam war, Cpl. Foster, 20, was survived by his parents and an older brother.



Sgt. B. Degenaars

FRANKLIN LAKES — Sgt. Bradley Degenaars had two months left on his tour when he was shot to death in a battle northeast of Saigon.

The 24-year-old Franklin Lakes resident had lived in Paterson for 17 years before his family moved to Franklin Lakes. He was a graduate of Ramapo Regional High School.

Sgt. Degenaars was scheduled to leave Vietnam in November 1968, but was killed Sept. 1.

The Army sergeant was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. His parents, two brothers, and a sister survived him.



Cpl. Anthony Manganello

GARFIELD — "We're busting out tomorrow on our last operation for the summer. Don't worry," said the letter Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Manganello got from their son Sept. 3, 1968.

That night, two Marines came to break the news that he was dead.

Cpl. Anthony Manganello, 21, graduated from Don Bosco High School in 1966 and joined the Marines in 1967.

Survivors included two brothers and a grandmother.



Lance Cpl. R. A. Brunnow

EAST PATERSON — Lance Cpl. Richard A. Brunnow, 19, was killed in September 1968 when a mine exploded under a jeep he was driving. He had been injured twice before — shot in the shoulder and wounded by shrapnel — and he wrote to assure his parents that he would be safe driving a jeep for his company commander. By the time his parents received the letter, Lance Cpl. Brunnow was dead.

He had graduated in 1967 from Memorial High School, where he had been a varsity wrestler four years and had played soccer. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Brunnow, and two grandparents survived him.

WO James I. Schlenger

RIDGEFIELD — His father had been killed in World War II, but James I. Schlenger joined the Army all the same. He enlisted in 1956 at 19, and began the peripatetic life of the career officer — Fort Sills, Okla.; Fort Devens, Mass. (Soldier of the Month 1964); Germany, Vietnam.

In July 1968, Schlenger was given one of the Vietnam soldier's most perilous assignments

1968

— flying a helicopter in the war zone. Four months later, on Nov. 2, he was killed in action. His wife, Helga, and two daughters survived him.



Pfc. G. Szczepanczyk

SADDLE BROOK — Army sergeants often call people with names that are difficult to pronounce "Alphabet," a term usually of good-natured fun rather than malice.

For George Szczepanczyk, the term must have been a familiar one. Born in Italy, he lived 17 of his 20 years in New Jersey, first in Paterson, then, for two years, in Saddle Brook.

Drafted into the Army in October 1967, he went to Vietnam in March 1968 and by May had been awarded the Purple Heart. In September, 1968, he was killed by grenade fragments.

His parents and two sisters, survived him.



Pvt. L. Merschrod

NEW MILFORD — Larry Merschrod was killed Sept. 27, 1968, while serving with the Army's 9th Division, 16th Infantry, in Dong Tam.

He joined the Army in January and had been in Vietnam since July. Pvt. Merschrod was 20 and had lived most of his life in New Milford. He was born in Queens.

He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Merschrod.

"He thought it was his duty to go," said his mother, "but he waited to be drafted. Does anybody want to go?"

"He was an awfully well-liked

kid," his father said. "You can see that in the way the whole damn neighborhood has been torn apart."



Lt. Charles Richardson

BERGENFIELD — First Lt. Charles H. Richardson devoted his life to flying after he had his first taste of it in the Air Force. He lost his life while flying a light plane over Vietnam.

He was a leading scorer on his high school basketball team. He graduated from Gettysburg College, and at the same time received a commission in the Air Force.

His plane was equipped with a loudspeaker which broadcast pleas to surrender to North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops. He told his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Richardson, that he believed he was doing a necessary job.

He was 24 when his plane was shot down in October 1968.



Spec. 4 E. Meester

MAHWAH — Everett J. Meester was 20 when he was killed while serving with the Army in Vietnam in October 1968.

He graduated from Mahwah High School in 1965.

He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Meester and had lived with his wife Lois.

Cpl. Lanny Phipps

RUTHERFORD — Lanny Phipps was afflicted with wanderlust, and left high school in 1962 to join the Navy so he would be able to move around.

After his discharge and a series of jobs, he enlisted in the Marines in 1968. He was wounded once during the summer, and took part in a major American push later that year.

In December 1968, while on patrol, his unit was ambushed. Cpl.

Phipps, 23, led his four-man fire team toward a North Vietnamese machine gun. His three comrades were shot down. Cpl. Phipps was 30 yards from the enemy gun when he was shot and killed by a sniper.

For his actions, he was posthumously awarded a silver star.



Spec. 4 D. Brooks

GLEN ROCK — David W. Brooks was killed in action in Vietnam on Nov. 7, 1968, while serving with the Army. He had previously been wounded and returned to action.

He had graduated from Glen Rock High School, where he was a star basketball player. At 23, he was the fourth graduate of the high school to die in Vietnam.

He was the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Brooks.



Sgt. John Preziosi

EAST PATERSON — When Sgt. John Preziosi came home from Vietnam in August 1967, he had completed his tour of duty. But he volunteered to return to realize a dream.

With 17 service friends, the 20-year-old Marine had built a four-room schoolhouse. The group wanted to build another.

Sgt. Preziosi was leading a night patrol outside Da Nang on Jan. 31, 1968, when he was killed by small arms fire.

His father, Emil Preziosi, an East Paterson mailman, led the townspeople and raised money for a two-room school to be built in Xuan Duong hamlet in memory of Sgt. Preziosi.



CWO James Doran

RIDGEFIELD PARK — James Doran learned how to fly before he learned how to drive. Soon after graduating from Teaneck High School in 1966, he enlisted in the Army — with flying still on his mind. His mother, Helen Doran, remembers him as a "gung-ho soldier," who believed in the war.

By the time he was 21, Doran was a chief warrant officer and a pilot on a medical evacuation helicopter. In December 1968, ground fire hit his helicopter, and CWO Doran was killed.



Sgt. Jay Schmid

RIDGEWOOD — After graduating from Ridgewood High School, Jay Schmid attended Gettysburg College, majoring in engineering. Then he enrolled at Fairleigh Dickinson University where he majored in industrial management.

While in college, he took a job as a chemist with Julius Schmid Inc., a company founded by a relative.

In September 1967, Schmid was drafted, and, by December of 1968, he had been promoted to sergeant. Later that month, Sgt. Schmid, 25, was killed in combat.



Lt. John N. Reilly

RUTHERFORD — First Lt. John N. Reilly never got to see his son. Lt. Reilly was in Viet-

nam, flying fighter-bomber missions, in October 1968 when his son was born. A month later, Lt. Reilly was reported missing when the F4D fighter he was piloting went down. Another month later, his death was confirmed.

He received a bachelor's degree from St. Bonaventure University. After college he entered Officer Training School at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. Upon completion of his pilot training in July 1967, he married Elaine Mackin of Rutherford.

"He always wanted to be the best," his wife said, shortly after learning of his death.



Spec. 4 Joseph Morriggi

GARFIELD — At home in Garfield, Joseph Morriggi liked to shoot pool, which he did expertly, and tinker with old cars.

He was the sole support of his invalid parents and worked as a carpet installer to provide the family with an income.

Spec. 4 Morriggi was too embarrassed to fill out the forms his mother sent him to request a transfer out of combat duties because he was his parents' sole support.

"He seemed to think it was his duty to stay," his sister Marion recalled.

In mid-July 1968, with 53 days left to serve with the Army's Americal Division, Morriggi was killed in action near Chu Lai. His invalid parents and two sisters survived him.



Pfc. Alfred Critelli

EAST RUTHERFORD — Before she received the photo album of her wedding, Mrs. Sheila Critelli received a telegram from the Army saying that her husband of two months was dead.

Alfred Critelli, 23, had tried to enlist in the Army and National Guard, but was rejected for the same reasons that had prevented his playing football at St. Mary's High School in Rutherford — a bad knee and a heart murmur.

He was drafted in May 1968, while working for Western Electric in Bloomfield. He was married while on leave in September. In December, he was dead of combat wounds.

1968

Spec. 4 Eric C. Magnuson

RAMSEY — The men who worked with Spec. 4 Eric C. Magnuson, a machinist, knew that his proudest accomplishments had been on the high school baseball field. To his fellow players, he was known as "Skip," a star pitcher for three seasons.

In the summer of 1967, Spec. 4 Magnuson was sent to Vietnam. Six months later, the 21-year-old soldier was killed when he stepped on an antipersonnel mine.

On hearing of Spec. 4 Magnuson's death, his fellow employees presented a trophy to Ramsey High School, to be awarded annually in his honor to other outstanding baseball players.

the Navy 10 years. He and three other men were killed when they attempted to deactivate an enemy mine on a beach south of Saigon.

That was in January 1969, just after writing to his family that all was going well.

He was a 1956 graduate of Dumont High School. PO I.C. Melady was survived by a wife and son.



Pfc. John LaManna

FAIR LAWN — John H. LaManna volunteered for Vietnam duty as a Marine so that his brother Richard, an Army helicopter crew chief, would not have to go. The armed services have a policy that only one member of a family may be in a war zone at one time.

The two were inseparable companions. John, 21, was the adopted son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Meola.

He had graduated from Bergen Catholic High School and attended St. John's and Seton Hall Universities. He enlisted in the Marines in May 1968. He was sent to Vietnam in December and was killed in January. He died of shrapnel wounds.



Spec. 4 D. Zicchino

CARLSTADT — Joseph Zicchino had advised his son Darron, 20, against further service in the Army when he visited his son in a hospital in Japan, where the boy was recovering from wounds received in Vietnam.

But the boy told his father he believed he could help the people of Vietnam. He personally helped by sharing his food from home with some Vietnamese.

"After a while," his father said, "he grew calloused of our role in Vietnam. He couldn't stand to see so many of our guys shot over there. He felt there must be another way to get it over with fast."

Darron died in February 1969 while serving with the 82nd Airborne Division along the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

He was a 1967 graduate of East Rutherford High School.



Hospitalman M. Wilhelm

MAYWOOD — Mack H. Wilhelm, 23, was a hospital corpsman serving with the Third Marine Division in Quang Tri Province in February 1969 when that outfit participated in Operation Dewey Canyon.

Hospitalman 3.C. Wilhelm was killed in that operation.

He had graduated from Livingston High School and attended Trenton State College three years. At the college, he had a radio program on the school station.

He had enlisted in the Navy in 1967 and was sent to Vietnam the following November.

He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. Wilhelm.



Spec. 4 John Mendez

MAYWOOD — Less than a month before he was to be discharged from the Army in March 1969, Spec. 4 John W. Mendez, 21, became the first person from Maywood to die in Vietnam.

He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jeremiah Mendez. In 1966, he graduated from Bogota High School, where he was on the football team. He worked as a welding apprentice in Hackensack.

He entered the Army in 1967.

Spec. 4 Wayne H. Russell

RUTHERFORD — In February 1969, after recovering from wounds received in combat, Wayne H. Russell returned to the war as an Army helicopter gunner with the 192nd Assault Helicopter Company.

Six weeks later, he was again hit by enemy fire. This time, he died. He was 20.

Born and raised in Rutherford, he graduated from the local high school in 1967. He played a year of varsity football. He was interested in cars and worked at a service station before he enlisted in the Army in October 1967.

He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard W. Russell.



Sgt. N. Lunapiena

TEANECK — Born in Bedford, Mass., and a longtime resident of Hoboken, Nathan C. Lunapiena didn't have much time to become acquainted with his new hometown of Teaneck before he was killed on Feb. 22, 1969, in Vietnam, three months before he was to receive his discharge.

He had lived in Teaneck a year.

Margine Sgt. Lunapiena was 23.



Pfc. Randall Carlton

HARRINGTON PARK — "Two days ago you almost lost a son," an 18-year-old Marine wrote his parents about an ambush.

"Luckily, it hit me in the flak jacket and ricocheted off and went through my pack," Randall M. Carlton said of a shot fired at him.

The same day the letter arrived in February 1969, Mr. and Mrs. Lee M. Carlton were notified that their son was killed by rifle fire in Quang Tri Province. The elder Carlton had signed his son's enlistment papers so the youth could join at 17.



Spec. 5 Stanley Reed

TEANECK — Stanley M. Reed enlisted in the Army shortly af-

ter graduating from Teaneck High School in 1966.

He died of stomach wounds in February 1969.

Before entering the service, he had worked as a draftsman for the New Jersey Bell Telephone Co. Spec. 5 Reed was 19 when he died.

He had lived with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley J. Reed.



Spec. 4 J. O' Shaughnessy

CLOSTER — James J. O'Shaughnessy joined the Army in May 1968. Less than a year later, he was dead.

He was with an advanced observation party with the 1st Cavalry Division when he was wounded on a reconnaissance mission. He died the next day, at 21.

He was a graduate of St. Mary's School in Closter and St. Cecilia's High School in Englewood. He had attended Fairleigh Dickinson University and the Lincoln Technical Institute in Newark.

Pfc. William G. Burke

UPPER SADDLE RIVER — Pfc. William G. Burke left Northern Highlands Regional High School after his junior year to enlist in the Marines. He planned to finish school after completing his military service.

But after seven months with the 7th Battalion, C Company, Pfc. Burke, 20, was killed by a mine. He died in Quang Nam Province in March 1969.

He had lived with his parents until he joined the Marines.

Lt. Joseph Smith

BOGOTA — Joseph J. Smith wanted to make a career of the Army. He had spent 16 years in the service by February 1969 and had reached the rank of first lieutenant when he was killed in Vietnam. He was 33.

He lived in Bogota most of his life and attended St. Joseph's School and the Carmelite Seminary in Hamilton, Mass. He graduated from Seton Hall Preparatory School in East Orange.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Smith, survived him.

Spec. Peter T. Rasmussen

PARAMUS — Peter Rasmussen was a draftee, young enough to have a 4-month-old baby brother. When he died April 15, 1969, of wounds he received in fighting near the Cambodian border, he was 20. He had been in the war zone three months.

Before he was drafted, Rasmussen had worked for New Jersey Bell Telephone Co. He graduated from Paramus High



Spec. 4 George Baker

LITTLE FERRY — George Baker, 23, enlisted in the Green Berets. "He was very bitter when it came to draft dodgers and draft card burners," his mother said.

During training, his leg was injured. He was transferred to a light transport division. He asked for a discharge and reenlisted as a Ranger for duty in Vietnam.

Spec. 4 Baker went to Vietnam as a mechanic in September 1968. In July 1969, his parents received four medals awarded posthumously to their son.

Spec. 4 Baker was on a patrol that came under heavy fire in January 1969, and he was killed.

PO I.C. Richard Melady

DUMONT — "He looked for danger all the time," said Richard R. Melady's father, Robert. "He went to Vietnam because he volunteered. He wanted to be where the action was."

PO I.C. Melady, 30, had been in

1969

School in 1966. Besides his brother, he was survived by his parents and three sisters.

Cpl. Thomas Romaine

SADDLE BROOK — Thomas Romaine's letters from Vietnam expressed the thoughts of a 19-year-old. He wanted only to return home and to marry the girl he had left behind.

Cpl. Romaine, a graduate of Saddle Brook High School, enlisted in the Marines in May 1967, on his 18th birthday and arrived in Vietnam in August 1968.

In April 1969 he was killed in a mortar attack near Da Nang. He was survived by his parents and a brother.



Lt. William Ryan

BOGOTA — Lt. William C. Ryan Jr.'s plane was shot down in February of 1969, but he was picked up after three hours in the Gulf of Tonkin, his wife, Judy, said at the time.

As a Marine pilot, Lt. Ryan, 25, had flown more than 250 missions in F4 Phantom jets. He won 15 Air Medals, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Navy Commendation Medal.

As a halfback on St. Cecilia's football team in Englewood, Ryan scored 30 points in 1961, and during the basketball season, he scored 239 points as a member of that team. He won't be forgotten at St. Cecilia's. The school has a Lt. William C. Ryan Memorial Award for student athletes.

When enemy ground fire shot him down in May, 1969, he was not rescued. When his wife was notified, she said, "He was scheduled for rest leave tomorrow."

Pfc. L. Mahurter

BERGENFIELD — Pfc. Lawrence Mahurter had been in Vietnam only three weeks when he was killed in combat near Chu Lai.

He was serving with the 198th Light Infantry brigade of the Americal Division when he was killed in April 1969.

The 21-year-old played football at Weehawken High School. His wife, Lois, survived him.

Corpsman J. Menter

ENGLEWOOD — In May 1969, two weeks into his second tour of duty in Vietnam, Jerome Menter was killed while accompanying a search and destroy mission as the unit corpsman.

The 21-year-old joined the Navy in 1966. He was born in En-

glewood and was a graduate of Dwight Morrow High School.

He lived with his mother, Lillie Mae Menter.

Spec. 4 Gary Eggenberger

LYNDHURST — Spec. 4 Gary William Eggenberger was killed in action in Vietnam in May 1969.

Eggenberger, in his early thirties, had reenlisted in the Army after working briefly at a civilian job. He returned to Vietnam as a paratrooper. He was not married.

He was the only child of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Eggenberger.

Capt. Cornell Rogers

MIDLAND PARK — "He'd already been to Vietnam once," said a friend of Capt. Cornell Rogers, "but when they sent him again he just packed up and went. That was the kind of guy he was. He just wanted to do what was right without making a lot of noise about it."

On his first tour, Rogers was an Army adviser to a South Vietnamese unit. This time he was to see combat with his own outfit.

He was wounded by mortar fragments when his unit was ambushed. He lost an arm and a leg before he died of his injuries in May 1969.

He had been an all-state football center at Pompton Lakes High School, and had lived in Iowa with his wife and two small daughters. He was Midland Park's seventh death of the war.



Lance Cpl. Donald Arribi

CLIFFSIDE PARK — A graduate of Cliffside Park High School, Donald Arribi was planning to become a draftsman when he was drafted in April 1968.

In May of the following year, he was awarded a Purple Heart when his left hand was injured by shrapnel in Vietnam. The next month the Marine Lance corporal was on a night patrol when, again, he was caught in enemy fire.

Cpl. Arribi, 21, was killed.

Corpsman Joseph Wiltsie

WYCKOFF — Navy Corpsman Joseph C. Wiltsie, 24, was the first Wyckoff man to die in Vietnam. He was killed on Memorial Day 1969, 14 miles south of Da Nang.

The day after his wife, Mrs. Marion Wiltsie, received word of his death, she gave birth to their second son.

Wiltsie had been a Navy corpsman for six years, five of them attached to the Marines. He considered the armed forces his career. He met his wife in 1967, when she was a Wave in the medical corps at St. Albans Hospital in New York.

As a result of Wiltsie's death, his wife decided to study for an

education degree so that she could become a teacher at an American military base.

"I like the military," Mrs. Wiltsie said.

Pfc. Robert J. Hoffman

RIDGEFIELD PARK — When he was drafted in March, 1968, Robert Hoffman declined to tell Army doctors about a bad back that could have kept him out of the service.

"He felt someone had to fight," remembers his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hoffman.

Pvt. Hoffman fought in Vietnam for a year, before he died of a noncombat injury. He contracted malaria and while at a base hospital fell and suffered a fatal head injury. He was only a few days away from his 21st birthday.



Spec. 4 McArthur Gaffney

TEANECK — McArthur Gaffney was born in Alabama and taught school in St. Louis. His mother, Mrs. Addie Gaffney, moved North and was living in Teaneck while her son served in Vietnam.

In June 1969 Spec. Gaffney, 24, was killed during a night attack against his position. He had been in Vietnam six months.

Capt. Karl W. Mills

PARAMUS — Four days after he was promoted to captain and little more than a month before he was to leave for home, 23-year-old Karl W. Mills was killed in fighting at his artillery base near Chu Lai.

It was June 11, 1969, two years to the month after Mills's graduation from West Point. His wife, Nancy, later that week told a visitor that her husband had planned to go back to school when he returned home.

"He wanted to go for an M.A.," she said in a low, numbed voice.

They had met at West Point when he was a cadet; she was from Paramus, he was from Columbus, Ohio. What they planned to do after he won his master's, where they planned to live, they hadn't decided.

"Like most young couples," his mother-in-law said, "they hadn't planned a lot."

He was buried at West Point, not far from the chapel where he had been married.

Pfc. Robert J. Kein

RUTHERFORD — Robert J. Kein Jr. was 20 in August 1969 when he stepped on a land mine in Vietnam and was killed by the explosion.

He had been in the Army for just over a year. He was born in the Bronx and had lived in Rutherford for 14 years. He was a 1967 graduate of St. Mary's High School. He was the son of Mrs. Dorothea A. Kein.



Capt. M. Parmerter

MIDLAND PARK — It was the second tour of duty for Capt. Michael J. Parmerter in Vietnam.

"He had a lot of compassion for the people there, and he was appalled by their living conditions," said the father of the Army captain.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Parmerter had tried to talk their son out of going back to Vietnam and the war and the danger of death. But the 24-year-old told them that he was upset by disturbances on college campuses and that he had to return because of his desire to stop communism and his concern for the Vietnamese people.

His death in June 1969 brought to eight the number of Midland Park men killed in the fighting.



S/Sgt. Herbert C. Frost

BERGENFIELD — Staff Sgt. Herbert C. Frost was the man with the longest service in the Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol unit of the 9th Division. His crack outfit worked gathering information in enemy-held areas, beyond the perimeter of U.S. bases.

Sgt. Frost was a professional, a paratrooper who had enlisted after his high school graduation and served with the 101st Airborne in Korea. Later, he attended Hofstra University and then worked as an insurance salesman. But something drew him back to the Army, and in 1966 he reenlisted.

On two tours with Long Range Reconnaissance, Frost won a Silver Star and five Bronze Stars. On the third tour, on June 21, 1969, he died.

He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery with full honors. His parents, brother, and sister requested that donations be made in his name to the Delaware Valley Association for Children with Learning Disabilities.

Sgt. John F. Crikelair

RIDGEWOOD — John F. Crikelair participated in hundreds of mock fights before he went to

war. In college, he was a champion fencer, ranking 10th among U.S. students in the sport.

He was the son of Dr. and Mrs. George Crikelair. He joined the Army immediately after receiving his degree.

In Vietnam, he became a Ranger paratrooper. He was cited for bravery on 11 occasions. For the 11th meritorious mission, Sgt. Crikelair, 24, was a volunteer doing reconnaissance near Saigon.

On that mission, in August 1969, he was killed in action.



Capt. James Amendola

CLOSTER — Capt. James Amendola, 24, was a Green Beret trained in intelligence work. He spoke Vietnamese.

In July 1969, his wife went to Hawaii to spend a six day rest-and-recreation period with Capt. Amendola, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Amendola. The captain told her he was considering making the Army his career. She talked of their three-month-old son, James Jr.

In Vietnam when his son was born, Capt. Amendola had never seen the baby.

Two weeks after she returned from Hawaii, Mrs. Amendola was informed that her husband had been killed in action.



Cpl. David Albert

PARAMUS — After his Marine duty was over, Cpl. David Albert, 20, wanted to become a state trooper.

He first went to Vietnam for a year, beginning in July of 1967, and was stationed in Da Nang. While there, he contracted malaria.

Then he was transferred to the Presidential Honor Guard. But he told his parents, Mr. and Mrs. David Marans, that life was dull and slow in Washington. He said he wanted to be back where the action was, and he volunteered for another Vietnam tour.

In September 1969, he was killed by rocket fire when his patrol was ambushed in Quang Nam Province.

1969



Pfc. Glenn Truex

PARK RIDGE — The Marine Corps spent six months training Glenn E. Truex, 18, for the four months he was to spend in Vietnam.

He completed special courses before going overseas.

In August 1969, he was returning from a successful combat mission with a small party of Marines near Da Nang. Other American troops, hearing the approaching group, mistook them for the enemy.

Pfc. Truex was killed by American rocket fire. His mother, Genevieve Linder, survived him.

Sgt. Norman Hetzel

MAHWAH — Army Sgt. Norman F. Hetzel had been in Vietnam just three weeks when he was mortally wounded in combat. He was 20.

He had graduated from Mahwah High School in 1966 and had worked with a welding firm. He went to Vietnam in August 1969.

He was survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Hetzel.



Lt. Albert S. Graf Jr.

BOGOTA — Albert S. Graf Jr. was fast on the ground before he was fast in the air.

In 1961 Graf won the New Jersey cross-country track championship for Bogota High School and the next year he won the Bergen County Scholastic one-mile track event.

He graduated in 1962 and went on to earn a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Fairleigh Dickinson University in 1966.

But in September 1969 his speeding Phantom jet fighter was hit by enemy fire and the 24-year-old died in the crash about 12 miles from DaNang. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Graf.

Pfc. Jerry Sylvia

PALISADES PARK — Jerry Sylvia was usually in the thick of things, and in the thick of things he was usually a standout. At Cliffside Park High School he was popular and a good athlete; in Marine basic training at Parris Island, S.C., he won the highest mark in rifle marksmanship.

Sylvia was 18 when he arrived in Vietnam, and before eight months were out he had been wounded twice and won two Purple Hearts. The third time, in action in South Vietnam Sept. 13, 1969 he was killed.

He was survived by his parents, a sister, and two brothers — one of them captain of the high school football team, the other a sailor on a Navy submarine.

Lt. William M. Lyons

FORT LEE — Lt. William M. Lyons, a paratrooper, was in Vietnam just two weeks when he was killed in September 1969.

The 23-year-old was the only son of Margareta F. Lyons. He had planned to make his career in the Army.

He graduated from City College of New York in 1968.



Pfc. James B. Woods

NEW MILFORD — When the spinal cord of Pfc. James B. Woods Jr., 19, was severed by a Vietnamese bullet, the Army sent his father, James Sr., a telegram. The father flew 9,000 miles to his son's bedside at a Da Nang hospital.

"They don't encourage you to go there," the elder Woods said, "but they don't stop you either. I'm told I was one of a very few to make the trip." He arrived in Vietnam in September 1969.

For eight days, Woods sat beside his son. James Jr. recognized his father, but could not speak because of a breathing tube in his throat. On the eighth day, without a word, Pfc. Woods died.

Pfc. Lewis B. Gill

HACKENSACK — Pfc. Lewis B. Gill was 20 years old in November of 1969. He had been in Vietnam seven weeks and had been married months before.

Before he graduated from high school in North Carolina in 1967, he had volunteered to play trumpet and saxophone in the band.

With his mother and brother, he later moved to Hackensack.

Pfc. Gill, a supply specialist, was en route to Dak Sak Nov. 2, when the convoy was ambushed. He was killed by small-arms fire near Buon Dak Gang in Quang Duc Province.

He was buried in Carolina Biblical Gardens with full military rites.



Pfc. Emilio Rivera

BERGENFIELD — Emilio Rivera was born in Puerto Rico, but he moved with his family to New York when he was nine. He lived and worked in Bergenfield 18 months before enlisting in the Marines in April 1969.

In October 1969, Pfc. Rivera, 19, was killed in action.

He was survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Emilio Rivera of Beacon, N.Y., and five sisters.

Spec. 5 M. Stephanac

GARFIELD — Spec. 5 Mark J. Stephanac, 22, was killed in September 1969 when the truck in which he was riding struck a land mine and exploded.

Born in Pittsburgh, he attended St. Stephen's Parochial School in Passaic and graduated from Garfield High School in 1965.

He served 22 months with Army units in Germany before being shipped to the Far East.

He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Stephanac.

Pfc. Richard Brenner

TEANECK — "I can't tell you what he wanted to be," said Sandy Brenner of her brother Richard. "He just wanted to be happy and grow up. Like everybody wants to be."

Pvt. Brenner, 21, was killed in Vietnam in April 1969.

He graduated from Teaneck High School, where he was on the track team, and briefly attended Northland College in Ashland, Wis. He was sent to Vietnam in January 1969.

He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Brenner.

Pfc. Gerard J. Walker

CARLSTADT — Pfc. Gerard J. Walker graduated from Hoboken High School in 1967 and then moved to Carlstadt.

In July 1969, he joined the Army. In December, two weeks after he arrived for active duty in Vietnam, he was killed by mortar fire. He was 20 years old.

His mother, Mrs. Helen W. Vander Heide, survived him.

Lt. Stephen MacVean

RIDGEWOOD — After graduating from high school in Ridgewood, Stephen S. MacVean went to Dartmouth College to study engineering. He earned a bachelor's degree and had completed the course requirements for a master's when he joined the Navy as an ensign in June 1966.

Sent to Vietnam, Lt. MacVean continued to be a high-achiever. He received six military honors — including the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, and the Navy Achievement Medal.

In October 1969, Lt. MacVean, 25, was killed by enemy fire. His mother, Mrs. Homer G. MacVean, and brother, Navy Lt. Comdr. Charles R. MacVean, survived him.

1970

American and South Vietnamese troops crossed into Cambodia to destroy Communist supply depots and give the South Vietnamese, taking over much of the fighting, a needed edge.

An unsuccessful commando raid was made on a prisoner of war camp outside Hanoi in an effort to free some of the approximately 400 prisoners then held by the North Vietnamese.

Pfc. R. De Mercurio

ALLENDALE — Rocco J. De Mercurio always wanted to be a Marine. When he enlisted at 18, he told his family how much he loved it.

A year after his graduation from Northern Highlands Regional High School in Allendale, he was wounded in Vietnam and remained in a coma for five months. He died at the Veterans Administration Hospital in The Bronx in January, 1970.

He was born in Albany, N.Y., and lived in Paterson before moving to Allendale. He was the son of Savario and Ruth De Mercurio.



Lt. John A. Griner

WYCKOFF — John A. Griner, 26, handled his Skyhawk jet as if it were part of him, weaving his way through ground fire in countless support missions for American troops.

His skills brought him through 250 combat missions, and in September 1969, he won the Distinguished Flying Cross, the second highest military award, for leading a successful air attack against a heavily defended North Vietnamese regimental headquarters.

In February 1970, Lt. Griner was on one of his last missions and was only a few days away from being reassigned to the United States as a flight instructor when one of his own bombs became jammed beneath his plane.

Rather than abandon the plane, Lt. Griner attempted to land at Da Nang air base. In the landing, the bomb exploded, and he was killed.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Griner, survived him.

WO Anthony Battel

ORADELL — In February 1970, Anthony Battel, 22, died

when his helicopter was shot down on a combat mission northwest of Saigon.

Battel was born in Hackensack and lived most of his life in Orade, where he graduated from River Dell High School. He attended Wagner College on Staten Island, before entering the Army in June 1968.

He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Battel.



Pvt. Charles E. Diamond

SADDLE BROOK — Mr. and Mrs. Harry Diamond had moved to Philadelphia by the time their son, Charles, began serving with the Army in Vietnam.

In February, 1970, after he had been in Vietnam two and a half months, Diamond was killed in action. He was 20.

Besides his parents, he was survived by two brothers and a sister.

Spec. 4 J. P. Henry

MAYWOOD — Spec. 4 John Patrick Henry and his wife, Lonny, were married for two weeks when he received orders sending him to Vietnam. He was killed nine months later, a week before his 21st birthday in March of 1970.

He was born in Jersey City and lived in Paramus 15 years. He attended high school there, graduating in 1967. He enlisted in the Army in October 1967.



Capt. A. DeAngelis

RAMSEY — Capt. Adamo DeAngelis didn't talk much about his service in the Army, and it was only after he was killed in a helicopter crash that his family learned he had earlier been awarded Silver and Bronze Stars for gallantry in Vietnam.

So anxious was he to join the Army that twice before he was old enough he enlisted under an

1970

assumed name and lied about his age. The first time he was only 15.

He was a member of the National Guard and 36 years old in 1968 when he volunteered for active duty and was sent to Vietnam. He was just 40 days from being sent home to his wife and five children when he was killed in April 1970.

Spec. 4 J. Abbatemarco

HACKENSACK — In May 1970, American and South Vietnamese troops crossed the Cambodian border.

The invaders, forced to move rapidly, were subjected to many ambushes, and losses were heavy. John B. Abbatemarco, 21, was killed in one of these fights. He was the first Bergen County casualty of the Cambodian campaign.

He graduated from Hackensack High School in 1968, and enlisted in the Army the following year.

His mother, Anna S. Abbate-marco, survived him.

Cpl. James Giegel

WYCKOFF — James Giegel tried two colleges after graduating from high school, but the campus life was not for him. He enlisted in the Marines, following an older brother who had been decorated for Vietnam service.

He was sent to the war zone and assigned to supply duty. In late May 1970, Cpl. Giegel, 20, was carrying supplies to Marines in the field when he was killed in a Viet Cong ambush near Da Nang.

News of Cpl. Giegel's death reached his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Giegel, two days before Memorial Day. Local ceremonies were amended to include a tribute to the young Marine.



Pfc. Patrick Lawlor

OAKLAND — Patrick E. Lawlor was the pitcher in Indian Hills High School's first baseball victory, in 1965. The following year, he was in the school's first graduating class.

Four years after graduation, he became Oakland's first Vietnam war casualty.

In June 1970, Pfc. Lawlor, serving with the Americal Division, was killed in a mine explosion.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Lawlor, survived him.

Spec. 4 Antonio Grau

LODI — Antonio Grau, son of Mr. and Mrs. Javier Rodriguez, was born in Cuba. He came to the United States at the age of 5.

After entering the Army, he served more than a year in Korea, then volunteered for duty in Vietnam.

In September 1970, Spec. 4

Grau, 19, was killed in action near An Khe.



Pfc. Thomas Schiess

EDGEWATER — In July 1970, Thomas Schiess came home on leave from Army duty to celebrate his 20th birthday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Schiess.

Shortly after the visit, he was sent to Vietnam.

Two months to the day after he arrived in Vietnam, Pfc. Schiess was killed when he stepped on a booby trap in Chu Lai.



Lance Cpl. K. Humphrey

PARK RIDGE — Kevin R. Humphrey was 18 when he entered the Marine Corps after graduating from Pascack Hills High School in Montvale in 1969. By Christmas he was on his way to Vietnam.

He was 19, when he was killed on patrol in Quang Nam Province a year later, in November 1970.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Humphrey, he was born in Teaneck and had lived in Montvale for 15 years before moving to Park Ridge.



Lt. David Kozak

HACKENSACK — David Kozak, 23, would not have been drafted. He had high blood pressure. But he voluntarily underwent Army training during college and was commissioned as an officer upon graduation.

In May 1970, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Kozak, received a letter from their son. He told them he was on duty near Chu Lai, guarding three bridges.

A few days after the letter was written, the bridges were attacked. Lt. Kozak was killed.

1971

South Vietnamese troops, attempting to destroy supply sanctuaries in Laos were rebuffed.

President Thieu destroyed American hopes for South Vietnamese democracy by intimidating his election opponents.

To support South Vietnamese troops, President Nixon resumed heavy bombing of North Vietnam.

CWO K. M. Jackson

CRESKILL — Keith M. Jackson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley W. Jackson, had prepared to be a helicopter pilot by studying aeronautics in college for two years.

The chief warrant officer had been assigned to Vietnam immediately after training.

After successfully completing a one-year tour of duty in the war zone, CWO Jackson was assigned there for a second time. In February 1971, at the age of 21, he had just finished two years with the Army when he was killed in action.

Spec. 4 Bruce Wohlrab

SADDLE BROOK — In the Army, Spec. 4 Bruce Wohlrab was a medic, charged with helping keep others alive.

In January 1971, his mother, Mrs. Elaine Marrone, received a letter written while the 19-year-old soldier was on leave in Taiwan.

He told her he was stationed at Chu Lai, on the South Vietnamese coast. Mrs. Marrone never heard from her son again.

In March, he was killed by a land mine.

Spec. 4 Paul Serven

RAMSEY — Paul E. Serven was active in scouting before entering the Army. He became an Eagle Scout with a Ramsey troop and later joined an Explorer post, where he served as an assistant scoutmaster and an adviser.

Spec. 4 Serven, 23, was killed in April 1971.

After graduating from Newark College of Engineering, he entered the Army, serving as an infantryman.

The son of Nelson and Pauline Serven of 760 East Crescent Ave., he was born in Hackensack and had lived in Ramsey until entering the Army.

Spec. 4 C. M. Winters

RUTHERFORD — Christopher M. Winters, son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Winters, was born and raised in Rutherford. At 19, after graduating from high school, he enlisted in the Army.

By joining up, Spec. 4 Winters followed the examples of his two brothers — John, who served in Vietnam, and Anthony, who was stationed in Germany when Christopher went to Vietnam.

After eight months in Southeast Asia, Spec. 4 Winters, 21, was killed in action, in May 1971.

Lt. Richard Green

GLEN ROCK — Richard Green was in Vietnam less than two months. The West Point graduate's parents, Mr. and

Mrs. Howard Green, have a bronze star, with V for Valor, which he received on Nov. 13, 1971, for exposing himself to fire during an ambush in Tay Ninh province and for leading his people to safety. "His excellent leadership resulted in no casualties to his men," it read.

On Dec. 3, 1971, he was killed in action. His death was the result of misdirected fire of forces engaging the enemy, an Army spokesman said. It was called a battlefield mishap.



Capt. Normand T. Aubert

PALISADES PARK — Normand T. Aubert's 28-year career began and ended on the sea. It spanned three wars—he joined the U.S. Army Transport Corps in World War II and was transferred to the Military Sealift Command for Korea and Vietnam — and included more than its share of heroism.

"He performed an heroic rescue of a WAC washed overboard into the Atlantic and received the Distinguished Sea Rescue Award in 1965," says an account written for The Record after his death, at the age of 48, on May 27, 1971. "He came to the assistance of the USNS Suamico and took it in tow under extremely adverse conditions to safe anchorage."

He died of an apparent heart attack aboard his ship, the USNS Greenville Victory, in the waters off Vietnam. His wife and a daughter, both of Palisades Park, survived him.

Spec. 4 Michael McHale

DUMONT — Michael J. McHale, 22, drove an Army jeep in Vietnam.

In March 1970 he was almost back to camp with supplies when a South Vietnamese truck cut him off on a one-lane road. He swerved the jeep into a rice paddy.

It was April when he called his parents, Henry and Mary McHale, from a Naval Hospital in the states. They hadn't heard he'd been injured. Eventually, he tried to return to work.

He died in October of 1971 in Englewood Hospital. His back had been broken when the jeep fell on top of him in the rice paddy.

S. Sgt. Robert Vennik

WYCKOFF — S. Sgt. Robert N. Vennik, 26, was the third Wyckoff man killed in Vietnam. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Vennik, he graduated from Ramapo Regional High School.

After joining the Army in April 1965, Sgt. Vennik served in Alaska and was sent to Vietnam in 1968. He was a heavy-equipment operator from November 1969 to February 1970 and received the Purple Heart for a leg wound.

In August 1971, Sgt. Vennik was killed when an armored personnel carrier was struck by a rocket grenade.

Sgt. Vennik was married and the father of a son.

1972

With almost the last of American ground troops withdrawn, the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong launched the largest offensive since 1968. South Vietnamese troops were routed in the first month.

President Nixon ordered the mining of Hai-phong Harbor and heavy bombing in the north. Russian and Chinese ships were hit but the mild protest made it clear that the large Communist powers did not want to become involved in a confrontation over Vietnam.

A combination of American air power and possibly stiffer resistance by the South Vietnamese finally halted the North Vietnamese advance, but much of the lost territory was not regained.

The year drew to a close with first a promise of peace and then shattered hopes as Nixon ordered waves of B-52's over Hanoi in the heaviest bombing of the war.

Capt. B. L. Tebault

ORADELL — The ground troops were well on their way home or secure in protected enclaves in 1972, but the pilots continued to fly.

Benjamin Tebault, 29, was on his second tour. He was a veteran pilot who had been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart.

He was returning from a bombing run in Binh Dinh province last June, when his F-4 Phantom jet crashed in the jungle.

Capt. Tebault was married to the former Patricia Jones of Oradell.

He was the last known Bergen resident to die in the war.

1973

With the outlook again dark, President Nixon halted the bombing of Hanoi and peace negotiations resumed. Abruptly, on Jan. 23, Nixon announced a cease-fire agreement had been reached and would go into effect on Saturday, Jan. 27.

In 11 years, the longest war in American history, 46,000 Americans had been killed.



This supplement was compiled by members of The Record's staff. It is as complete and as accurate as records and files of many government agencies permit. These agencies include the Department of Defense, the Veterans Administration and their subagencies, among others.