# FLOYD W. HARTWICK JR
# USMC

## 1966-1967

# FLOYD WAYNE HARTWICK JR

## We Honor a Fallen Hero

Floyd Wayne Hartwick Jr was born on 28-DEC 1946 in St. Charles MO. They lived in New Melle. His father was Floyd W. Hartwick Sr. (1924-2001) and his mother was Mrs. Drucilla Smith Hartwick (1923-1965). Floyd Sr. was a US Navy veteran. Floyd Wayne Hartwick graduated from Francis Howell High School in Weldon Springs MO in 1966. Floyd had two brothers; Danny Ray and Butch Campbell and three sisters; Cynthia, Barbara and Priscilla. He was serving in Vietnam with Gerald Vesel, an uncle who was more like a brother to Floyd Jr. Gerald was raised by the Hartwick family. Floyd worked at General Motors and began a leave of absence on 22-APR 1966 to join the Marines.

Floyd enlisted in the Marine Corps on the "buddy plan" and served during the Vietnam War. Gerald Vesel was one of the four buddies. Floyd was promoted the rank of Lance Corporal on 27-FEB 1969. His occupation specialty was Rifleman. Floyd served with 1st Marine Division, 7th Marines, 2nd Battalion, G Company or "Golf 2/7."

*Floyd and Gerald Vesel*

On 15-JUL 1967, with just four weeks to go on his tour, he drew point on a patrol. Floyd was "short" and engaged to be married and would be discharged in August. While on the patrol they tripped a booby trap. LCpl Floyd Wayne Hartwick was killed in action 15-JUL 1967 in South Vietnam, Quang Nam province.

Floyd Wayne Hartwick is buried at Saint Johns United Church of Christ Cemetery in Cottleville MO. Floyd is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington DC. Floyd's name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 23e, Line 75. Members of golf 2/7 are memorialized at the Marine Memorial in Quantico Virginia.

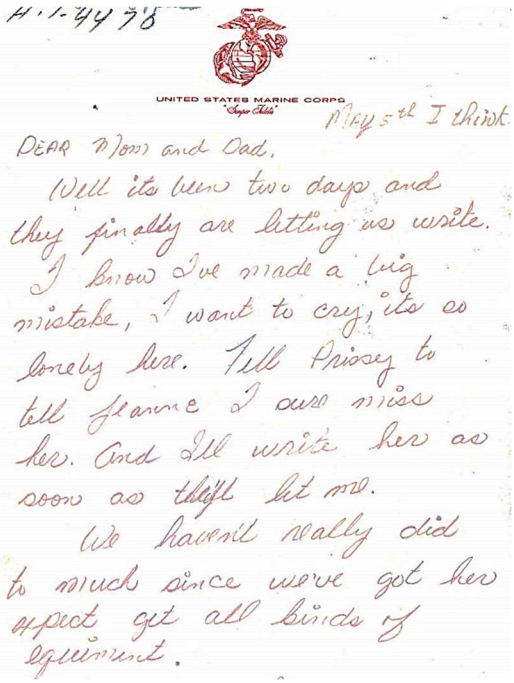
**Floyd Wayne Hartwick Letters to Home.**

***Please Note: The letters transcribed here might be considered disturbing and/or graphic to some. In some cases, letters have been summarized, or excerpts of the letters have been provided.***

**5-MAY 1966** (the first letter)

Dear Mom and Dad,

Well it's been two days and they finally are letting us write. I know I've made a big mistake, I want to cry, it's so lonely here. Tell Prissy to tell Jeanne I sure do miss her. And I'll write her as soon as they let me.


UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

May 5th I think

DEAR Mom and Dad,

Well its been two days and they finally are letting us write. I know I've made a big mistake, I want to cry, its so lonely here. Tell Prissy to tell Jeanne I sure miss her. And Ill write her as soon as theyll let me.

We haven't really did to much since we've got here expect get all kinds of equipment.

We haven't really did too much since we're got here except get all kinds of equipment. Please have someone write me soon. I know what Gerald went now. How's dad doing? Getting those jobs done I hope. There only giving us 15 min. to write. How are all the kids. I loved the flight out here. I'll never go any other way. Calif doesn't do a thing for me. At least here where I'm at. I guess this letter don't make much sense but I can't think good yet.

I sure do miss everybody all of us guys don't hardly even see each other. They say I've got to quit bye for now.

Love all of you,
Floyd Wayne

**6-JUN 1966**

Dear Mom, Dad and everyone,

Well it's Tuesday and I've got a few minutes so I'll write you again. I've been real good. I've only got a month left and I got to the rifle range Sat and then back here for a couple of weeks and R & R for a couple then home.

How's all the kids doing. I never thought I would miss them but I do. I sure wish I could be baby sitting again. Got a letter from Sue yesterday and their going to come see me in a couple of weeks. She said youse were coming out here pretty soon. I don't guess youse have got any pictures yet I sure wish you would. I could send some money if you need it.

And don't forget to pay that drivers ticket I got. I hear they would get me in a lot of trouble. It's due July 5. I got a letter from Gerald too. That really surprised me. He sounded good and we're both on mess duty it awful but we do get a lot of free time of our own. I wish youse would answer my letters just one. I haven't heard from youse yet. I know your all okay. I sure glad Jeanne writes are I wouldn't know anything. I sure know what Gerald meant by wanted with mail. It's the only thing you can get from the outside.

Boy Calif hasn't showed me anything yet. I sure be glad to see all of youse. Well Prissy I got your two letters and it was about time. Mom I got that one from youse and I swear I cried, I never expected it. I be glad to have youse out for my graduation it July 4th and I'm supposed to pay that traffic ticket on the fifth. I've gotten three letters from Mike and I haven't had time to answer any of them yet.

We're at the rifle range at Camp Pendleton and they really treat you good here. We're about a 100 years from the ocean. And real modern houses we sleep in. Fried eggs for breakfast. I haven't had any since I've been gone. I'll be calling in about two weeks. Next Sunday week after you get this letter sum where around the 15th I think.

Well I've got to go now so I'll close. And I'll see you real soon. Tell everyone I love them and Robin thanks for writing to and I'll answer her letter just as soon as I get a chance. Youse be good and don't work too hard. I love youse take care.

Your Son,
Floyd Wayne

**12-JUN 1966**

Dear Mom, dad and everyone,

Well its Sunday and I've got a little time to write. Well we're firing our rifles and it's not too bad here. We're run so much and long hikes I'm sore. But we've only got three more weeks of it left. I got a letter from Sue the other day. They are coming to see me next week-end. I'm looking forward to that.

Well how's everything going so far. I sure hope everything is fine. I am looking forward to see all of youse for my graduation it is the 4th of July. How's my car doing? Do youse drive it very much? I sure can't wait to get back home again. I wish I was still working and had some money.

I've been writing Gerald and he said anything we decided on my car was all right with him. Dad how's all the painting coming along? I wish I could be there to help you. I couldn't be any harder than it is here. They some kind of rush you. And you're never fast enough.

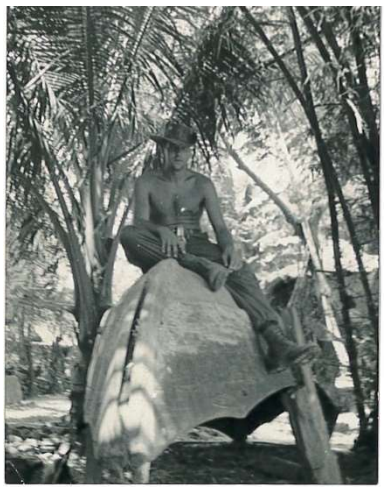
How long are youse planning on staying on vacation out here? I was thinking maybe I could go back with youse. I won't know when my leave is until graduation day. Prissy told me they are building a new road across our front yard/ What will youse have to do now? Well I'm going to quit write as soon as they say I can.

Be good and take care,
Love youse,
Floyd Wayne

**20-SEP 1966**

Dear Dad, Mom and all,

Well its only me and thought I could write a few lines. I sure hope everyone's fine. I am doing good. We're all happy around here on the news that they said they will be pulling the 1st div out of Vietnam and replacing them with the fifth. Mike and I are in the 1st and we could skate out of going over. We hope we go their first then we're sure we'll make it.



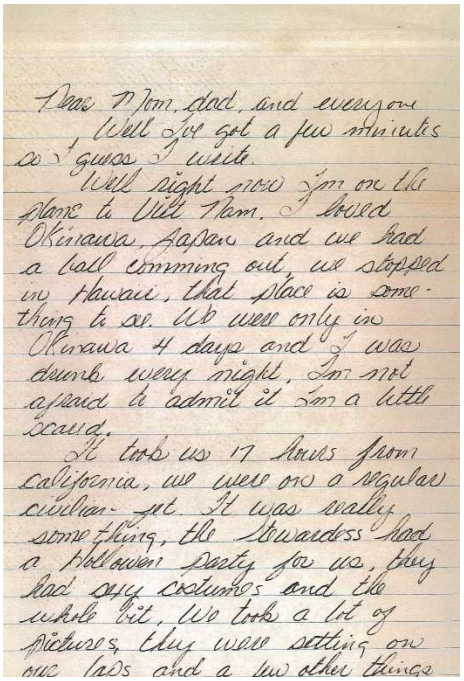
We've been training a little bit so far it hasn't been bad. I can't really complain. Did you know I'm going to the same place as Gerald same division everything. I hope I can see him. He will come out early too if they pull out the first. I sure hope it goes through. Well I know its extra short but I've got to get up at 4:00. I'll right real soon again. I promise. Tell everyone I said hello. Youse take care and I'll see you soon.

I love youse,
Floyd Wayne

**28-SEP 1966**

Dear Prissy,

Hi kid it's only me. Hows everything going great I hope. Things are about the same here. You know we're leaving the 6th at 2:00. They said it could still be


Dear Mom, dad, and everyone
Well I've got a few minutes
so I guess I write.
Well right now I'm on the
plane to Viet Nam. I loved
Okinawa, Japan and we had
a ball comming out, we stopped
in Hawaii, that place is some-
thing to see. We were only in
Okinawa 4 days and I was
drunk every night, I'm not
afraid to admit it I'm a little
scared.
It took us 17 hours from
California, we were on a regular
civilian jet. It was really
something, the stewardess had
a Halloween party for us, they
had sexy costumes and the
whole bit, We took a lot of
pictures they were setting on
our laps and a few other things

changed. I doubt it though I'm getting a little scared. It wouldn't be so bad if it wasn't so long. I'll make it though. Well Prissy I guess I'll close for now. Tell everyone I love them you take good care, see you soon.

Love you all,
Floyd Wayne

**OCT 1966**

Dear Mom, dad and everyone,

Well I've got a few minutes so I guess I write. Well right now I'm on the plane to Vietnam. I loved Okinawa, Japan and a ball coming out. We stopped in Hawaii. That place is something to see. We were only in Okinawa 4 days and I was drunk every night. I'm not afraid to admit it. I'm a little scared. It took us 17 hours from California. We were on a regular civilian jet. It was really something. The stewardess had a Halloween party for us. They had sexy costumes and the whole bit. We took a lot of pictures they were sitting on our lap and a few other things.

I'm back again and I'm in Vietnam and it's nothing like I expected it to be. I leave tomorrow for Chi Lia I'm hoping to see Gerald. From what I can tell its not bad. All the guys are really good to you. Its sure is sticky it's only 85 now but they said it rans every day. This place isn't worth fighting for at all it looks like camps until you get in the hills and mountains. Well I want to mail this so I'll close for now. I'll write again soon. I love all of youse.

All my love
Floyd Wayne

**13-OCT 1966**

Dear Mom , Dad, and everyone,

Hi. It's Wednesday and we're got lots of time so I'll write a short letter. I just finished writing Barb she'll be glad to hear from me. At least she'll answer the letter. He! He! Well we're still here. I don't know when we'll be leaving there only about 60 of our unit left. And know one else is leaving until this Friday. Jim and the other

Mike left Saturday by ship it will take them about 20 days. I ready to leave too. All we've did for two weeks is set around her I usually sleep most of the day ad we get liberty every night. I never go out at night. I still go to Sue's on weekends it almost like home to me. They really treat me good. I am surprised I haven't eaten them out of everything.

Did you know when I come home again I'll be 21 years old. I'm getting up there huh? I can remember being in school and in trouble so plain. Well I guess I'll close fro now. Youse take care and don't worry about me. I'll see youse soon.

Love Youse all,
Floyd Wayne

**19-NOV 1966**

Dear Dad, Mom and all,

Well it only me again. It's Sunday here, Saturday there. Well not doing much today so thought I'd better write.

Well so far I haven't been doing too much. A lot of guard and we get out with the villages a lot to guard them while they work. The days here are alright but I hate the nights. I get too jumpy. I've already been shot at and that's a weird feeling. I was on the ground in a split second. It was from a sniper. Their not supposed to be able to shoot good but I wasn't taking any chances. What's been happening around home anything new? I sure wish I was there.

I live in a hole and a tent on one end of it and it rains every night. We stay in this village and help these people try to win them over to our side. I don't trust none of them. I feel sorry for these kids having to grow up like this. I wish when you send me a package you would send me some canned peach are fruit cocktail. I don't know how much it costs to send a package but it no hurry on it. I wish you could send me a shower.

I still want to get a camera and things, but I'll have to wait until I get R & R and if they ever pay me. I know that's getting old but they pay 20 and 30 dollars and when I get that I always need shaving stuff. But just as soon as I get some I'll start it on the way. I sure would like to get some mail. I haven't had any since I was home. That's not anyone's fault but the marine Corp they get everything messed up.

Well I guess I'll close. I can't think of anything else. Youse be good and take care. I love all of youse, write sometime.

All my love to all,
Floyd Wayne

P.S. I'll be send some money just as soon as they let me go into headquarters and a money order. I didn't get a chance to get a check this time. You have to tell them a week in advance and I wasn't here so they just paid me money. Don't worry though I haven't got any place to spend it.

Love,
Floyd

**18-DEC 1966**

Dear Prissy,

Well now that we'll not be doing much, I'll write a few lines. We finally moved to the air strip last week and its nice down there. I got three packages last week and I was living for a few days. So far things have been going pretty good. I'm already looking forward to going on R & R. I'll probably be around February.

I guess Christmas is coming on huh? Sure wish I could be there. Are at least send something.

Well Prissy guess I'll close for now. Youse have a wonderful Christmas and miss me. Tell everyone I love them. Don't worry.

Love youse all,
Floyd Wayne

They say the relationship between Marines and Corpsmen is special…

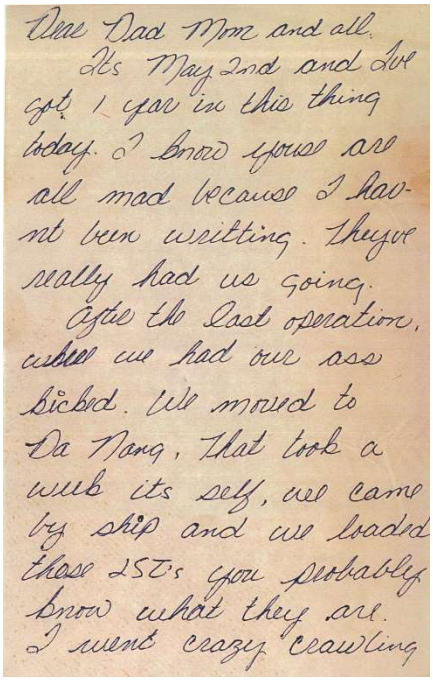
**FEB 1967**

From: John Bock, former Navy Corpsman with Golf 2/7 (1st Marine Division, 7th Regiment, 2nd Battalion, G Company)

It was February of 1967 and Golf 2/7 was station at an artillery base several miles to the northwest of Chu Lai, Vietnam. We were protection for the base and at the same time ran patrols in the area to find VC in the area and kill them. Some of the patrols were fairly routine and predictable for the enemy. This meant if they didn't want you to find them, you were not going to find them. If they were busy running supplies and guns down the trails to their buddies in Saigon, they kept a low profile. If they had nothing going on, or if you were encroaching upon their base camps, they would fight an make life unpleasant. The 2nd platoon was on one of its normal patrols through predictable but dangerous areas of small villages, dense underbrush and lots of hills. The group consisted of our William Robinson (our lieutenant) Martin (our squad leader) Albert Curly, Floyd Hartwick, and Mike Hicks on radio. We have had a mortar team, two more riflemen, myself (platoon Corpsman) and a couple others I can't remember.

We went through a village that was really farther out from the base camp we normally ran. This makes for a bit of a nervous situation. We then took a right turn in the middle of the village and proceeded to the hills to the north. Once we were on top of the closest hill, we could see activity in the village. It was deserted when we went through minutes before, but now we could make out figures scurrying around from house to house (old French houses left from the rubber trade). We then circled the ridges and came back into the village from the east again. As we went down a path, lined with high rocks you could barely see over, Floyd who was the point man started running toward a path ahead. The path was in the middle of rice paddies and lead toward the village. He had seen something and was positioning himself to get a better vantage point. Then it happened. Floyd opened up with the automatic rifle (still M-14's). We all kept low until we heard from Floyd or the Lieutenant. The lieutenant finally called for me. It is always an eerie feeling. You

always fear one of your friends have been hit and you have to go there QUICK. Instead, here lie two dead VC. The lieutenant asked if I would go out and see if they be saved. I went out but they were hit dead on. So as I was picking up the rifles to bring back to the lieutenant, some enterprising VC opened up on me from the far hill. I was running back with the VC rifles and here came Floyd. He was running toward me shooting at the hillside. We ran to the nearest trail, but it didn't lead to where the others were and Floyd said, "it's not in use – good way to kick up a boobie trap." So we ran further to the trail we had come we had come out on. The incoming bullets were now from more than one VC. Our guys were returning fire, but that doesn't draw fire away from you.


Dear Dad Mom and all.
Its May 2nd and I've got 1 year in this thing today. I know youse are all mad because I haven't been writting. They've really had us going.
After the last operation, where we had our ass kicked. We moved to Da Nang, That took a week its self, we came by ship and we loaded those LST's you probably know what they are. I went crazy crawling

We got back and I asked Floyd, why in the hell he ran out there in harm's way when he didn't; have to and he answered, "somebody had to draw the fire away!" He stuck his neck out to give them another target besides me. We took the rifles (American made carbines – brand new) back to the lieutenant and then noticed. Not only were they new, but each had a brass plaque on them saying "a gift from the students of Democratic Society – Berkley CA." Floyd was one of the guys who stopped the others from shooting up the bodies more than they were. In one moment he saved me from being the only target; then next he was stopping inhumanity. He was, I am proud to say, one of my best friends.

John Bock

**2-MAY 1967**

Dear Dad, Mom and all,

It's May 2nd and I got 1 year in this thing today. I know youse all mad because I haven't written. They've really had us going. After the last operation where we had our ass kicked we moved back to Da Nang, that took a week itself. We came by ship and we landed these LST's. You probably know what they are. I went crazy crawling through holes and ladders. I banged my head every time I turned around. We supposed to go afloat still. But they moved the date up to June 25. And if we do, I've only got 50 days left here in Nam.

I guess you heard about Du Pho. That was hell. I lost some of my best friends. We had over a 100 men wounded or killed. We came back with 85 men. We were fighting hard core VC not these local farmers, they're regular army. And they are good. Well so much for that. We moved to Da Nang and we're guarding a bridge they blow up a few weeks ago. We're at the mouth of a river about a 100 yards from the ocean. I swim every day, got a good tan. We got cold beer here and even milk. I can't get enough milk.

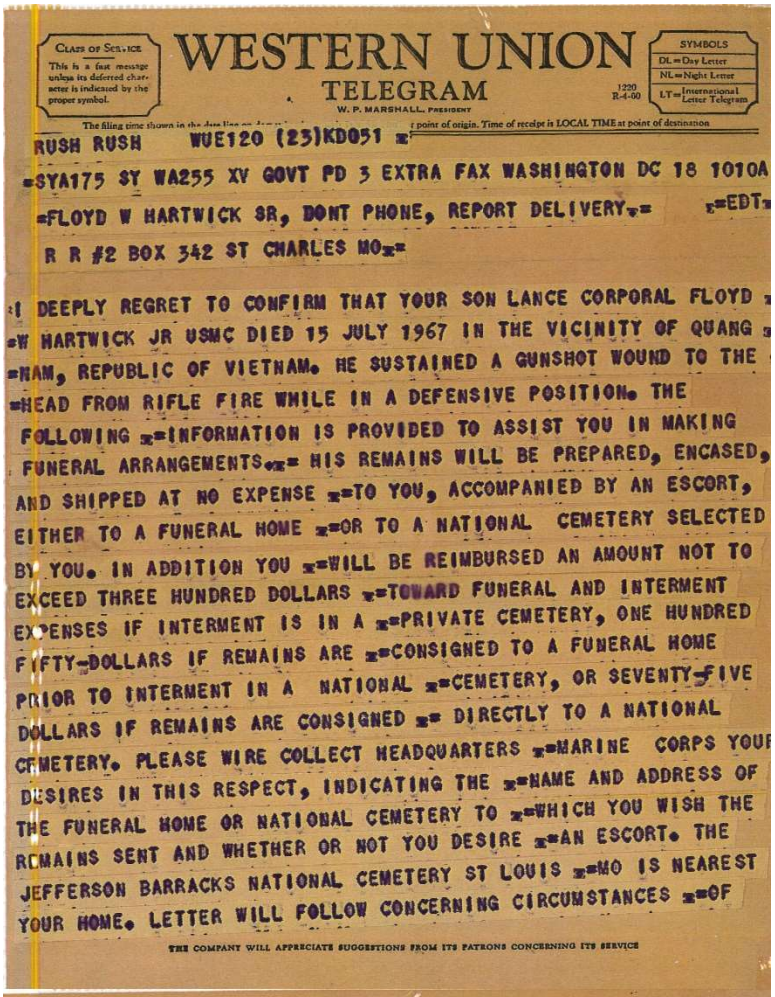
You know I went t Hong Kong. I took two months' pay there. $300 dollars. I had a wonderful time. I've never had so much fun. We partied all day and at night. I spent another week here before I went back to Chu Lai. I had to get out of there so I took the R & R when I did people were getting hurt. That R & R made me homesick. I was used to it and when I got back it started me thinking of home.

Well that about brings me up to date. Now I'll ask you some questions. What have all youse been doing? I guess it's starting to warm up. And the kids are anxious to get out of school. I sure miss them. I'll bet Cindy is really big now. I sure hope she remembers me. Robins grown up huh? Danny's probably still mean as hell fighting with Debbie. I can hardly picture them. It won't be much longer. 170 days. This Christmas I won't miss.

Well this is getting long so I'll close for now. I write more often I promise. Write me too.

I love Youse all
Floyd Wayne

**From Western Union Telegram 18-JUL 1967:**



WESTERN UNION
TELEGRAM
W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

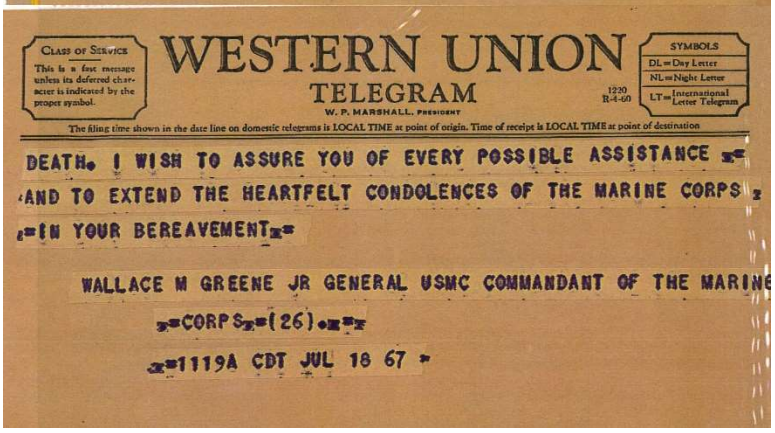
CLASS OF SERVICE: This is a fast message unless its deferred character is indicated by the proper symbol.
SYMBOLS: DL = Day Letter; NL = Night Letter; LT = International Letter Telegram
1220 R-4-60

The filing time shown in the date line on domestic telegrams is LOCAL TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is LOCAL TIME at point of destination

RUSH RUSH WUE120 (25)KD051 =
=SYA175 SY WA255 XV GOVT PD 3 EXTRA FAX WASHINGTON DC 18 1010A
=FLOYD W HARTWICK SR, DONT PHONE, REPORT DELIVERY= =EDT=
R R #2 BOX 342 ST CHARLES MO=

I DEEPLY REGRET TO CONFIRM THAT YOUR SON LANCE CORPORAL FLOYD
=W HARTWICK JR USMC DIED 15 JULY 1967 IN THE VICINITY OF QUANG
=NAM, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. HE SUSTAINED A GUNSHOT WOUND TO THE
=HEAD FROM RIFLE FIRE WHILE IN A DEFENSIVE POSITION. THE
FOLLOWING =INFORMATION IS PROVIDED TO ASSIST YOU IN MAKING
FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS.= HIS REMAINS WILL BE PREPARED, ENCASED,
AND SHIPPED AT NO EXPENSE =TO YOU, ACCOMPANIED BY AN ESCORT,
EITHER TO A FUNERAL HOME =OR TO A NATIONAL CEMETERY SELECTED
BY YOU. IN ADDITION YOU =WILL BE REIMBURSED AN AMOUNT NOT TO
EXCEED THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS =TOWARD FUNERAL AND INTERMENT
EXPENSES IF INTERMENT IS IN A =PRIVATE CEMETERY, ONE HUNDRED
FIFTY DOLLARS IF REMAINS ARE =CONSIGNED TO A FUNERAL HOME
PRIOR TO INTERMENT IN A NATIONAL =CEMETERY, OR SEVENTY-FIVE
DOLLARS IF REMAINS ARE CONSIGNED = DIRECTLY TO A NATIONAL
CEMETERY. PLEASE WIRE COLLECT HEADQUARTERS =MARINE CORPS YOUR
DESIRES IN THIS RESPECT, INDICATING THE =NAME AND ADDRESS OF
THE FUNERAL HOME OR NATIONAL CEMETERY TO =WHICH YOU WISH THE
REMAINS SENT AND WHETHER OR NOT YOU DESIRE =AN ESCORT. THE
JEFFERSON BARRACKS NATIONAL CEMETERY ST LOUIS =MO IS NEAREST
YOUR HOME. LETTER WILL FOLLOW CONCERNING CIRCUMSTANCES =OF

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE



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DEATH. I WISH TO ASSURE YOU OF EVERY POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE =
AND TO EXTEND THE HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES OF THE MARINE CORPS
=IN YOUR BEREAVEMENT=

WALLACE M GREENE JR GENERAL USMC COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE
=CORPS=(26).=

=1119A CDT JUL 18 67

**<u>14-AUG 1967</u>**
**From: Winters N. McComas**

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Hartwick,
I will make this letter very short. I don't wish to make you anymore unhappy than you all ready are from the loss of your son. I was his squad leader and I had these slides of him that I thought you would like.

Your late son was my number one man of my squad & I'm deeply sorry that such a thing has happened. We were very good friends. I will say goodbye now. I hope these pictures do not bring too much more unhappiness to you. They are pictures of a happy Marine.

Sincerely yours,
Winters McComas SGT USMC

The pictures were taken near the Namo Bridge