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Four Marines Lost as the War in Vietnam Ends

Darwin L. Judge

The youngest of three children, Lance Cpl. Darwin L. Judge, 19 years old, of Marshalltown, Iowa, joined the Marines after graduating from high school last June and was put in an honor detachment. He was proud to be a Marine and had volunteered to serve in Vietnam.

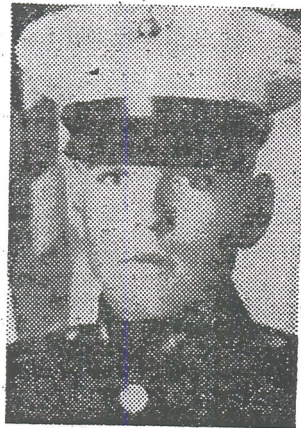
Last Monday, under a rocket and artillery attack, he and another Marine were killed at Tan Son Nhut Air Base.

Corporal Judge, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Judge, had been assigned temporarily with the defense attaché's office at the air base to help evacuate refugees.

The corporal's father, now a mail carrier, was a tail gunner in Europe in World War II and was rescued after being shot down over the North Sea. "It hurts, it hurts, but we're real proud of our son," Mrs. Judge said in a television interview.

A brother of the dead Marine, Loren, is stationed with the Air Force at Colorado Springs, Colo., and a sister, Mrs. Lorraine De Saulniers, lives in Marshalltown.

A spokesman for the family said that Corporal Judge, after enlisting in the Marine Corps last June, received basic training in California



and then attended a Marine Corps Embassy Guard School in Virginia. He went to Vietnam with an honor detachment from the Virginia school.

Robert McCormack, assistant principal of Marshalltown High School, said: "He was a good student, very cooperative and had an excellent school record. He was a good friend. His attitude was very positive. He gave me the impression he liked the service very much."

Greg De Saulniers, a Marshalltown policeman and brother-in-law of Corporal Judge, said: "I think we should have gotten the Americans out of Vietnam sooner."

William Craig Nystul

Capt. William Craig Nystul was one of two Marine officers listed by the corps as missing in the crash Tuesday of their helicopter near the carrier Hancock in the South China sea during the evacuation in South Vietnam.

The officers were aboard a CH-46 helicopter that was on rescue duty during take-off and landing of other helicopters that had gone to Saigon to pick up refugees. Two Marine enlisted men who also were aboard the helicopter were rescued, according to the corps announcement.

In Coronado, Calif., the parents of Captain Nystul were notified by the Navy that their 29-year-old son, a

pilot, was "unaccounted for" and that an extensive search was on.

Captain Nystul's father, Oliver Nystul, is a retired captain of the Navy dental corps.

The son's wife, Carol, and their 23-month-old son, Sean, who have been living in Okinawa, are scheduled to return to their home in Los Angeles today, according to a family spokesman.

Captain Nystul, who had been on duty in the Western Pacific for eight months, graduated from Coronado High School in 1963, enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve in 1964 while a freshman at San Diego State College and had been on active duty since 1968.

Charles McMahon Jr.

Four years ago, a year before he graduated from high school in Woburn, Mass., Charles McMahon Jr. was named by the Woburn Boys Club as its "boy of the year." Three weeks ago, Charles and Edna McMahon said good-by to their son, a 22-year-old Marine corporal, but they were not worried — the war in Vietnam was just about over.



On Tuesday, two Marines walked up to the McMahon's pink and white house in the Boston suburb, and the message they carried could not have been worse. Their son was dead, one of the last two Marines to be killed under enemy fire on Vietnam soil, less than 12 hours before the start of the final evacuation of Americans from Saigon.

Corporal McMahon, who had been in Vietnam two weeks, was killed last Monday in a rocket and artillery attack on Tan Son Nhut Air Base outside Saigon as he stood guard over the United States defense attaché's office.

After receiving the news of Corporal McMahon's death, his parents went into seclusion with their two other sons and a daughter.

Last April 5, when he was

home on leave, Corporal McMahon attended the annual dinner of the Woburn Boys Club, where he was singled out as a former holder of the club's model boy award. He had been on leave after embassy duty in Washington. He spent some of his leave at Tenney Mountain in Plymouth, N. H., a favorite skiing resort.

When he left Woburn on April 17, he told friends he was to be assigned to the United States Embassy in Lima, Peru. However his orders were changed at the last minute and he was ordered to report to Hawaii. Friends said that was the last they heard from him.

Michael John Shea

First Lieut. Michael John Shea, a Marine Corps pilot listed as missing in the crash Tuesday of a helicopter, went to flight training after college graduation "to serve his country and fly helicopters," according to his wife.

In an interview at her home in El Paso, Tex., Jennifer McCabe Shea, 21 years old, said that her husband, who turned 25 on April 7, had been "dedicated to the Marines" but had thought of returning to college to earn a degree in electrical engineering.

Lieutenant Shea, a native of Milwaukee, was the son of Clarence J. Shea, a retired chief warrant officer who now is a civil service employe at Fort Bliss.

At Parkland High School in El Paso, young Shea was captain and quarterback of the football team, played basketball, was the starting catcher for the baseball team and ran the high and low hurdles in track.

One of his high school coaches said of him: "He was a natural leader. He was a fierce competitor in anything he did." In his senior year in 1968, the faculty voted him "most outstanding boy."

In 1972 he graduated from the University of Texas with a major in mathematics and a minor in physics.

In addition to his wife, parents and two sisters, Lieutenant Shea leaves two sons, Matthew John, 3, and Mark Darren, 11½ months.