

ABOVE AND BEYOND

The Medal of Honor is the highest award for bravery that can be given to any individual in the United States. In judging men for receipt of the medal, each service has established its own regulations. The deed must be proved by incontestable evidence of at least two eyewitnesses; it must be so outstanding that it clearly distinguishes the recipient's gallantry beyond the call of duty from lesser forms of bravery; it must involve the risk of his life; and it must be

the type of deed which, if he had not done it, would not subject him to any justified criticism.

Since 1861, when the Medal of Honor was approved by President Abraham Lincoln for enlisted men of the Navy and Marine Corps, through the Korean conflict, 235 Marines have performed those acts of heroism, or bravery or whatever it is that prompts some men in the heat of battle, to accomplish seemingly impossible feats.

In all probability these men

were not aware that what they were doing was "above and beyond" the call of duty, that they would be recommended for a Medal of Honor, that they were doing any more to achieve victory than the rest of their fellow Marines; for in battle, men react automatically to situations as they occur.

Today in Vietnam, as in the past, Marines are continuing to perform those feats of valor which are "above and beyond" the call of duty. To date, four

Marines have received this highest award for bravery as a result of their actions in Vietnam. Two of these Marines were awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously and two were awarded the medal for actions in the same operation.

The following citations, although accurate in giving an account of the actions of these men, cannot possibly relate the feelings and reasons that prompted them to perform "above and beyond" the call of duty.

Pilot with the Brigade

OCTOBER 1, 1968

Capt. Dale A. Luster, 21, whose wife, Mary, 26, lives at 2200 Oakton st., Park Ridge, was shot down Sept. 26 over North Viet Nam while on his second tour as a marine jet fighter pilot.

Flew 200 Missions

He was attached to marine air group 12, 121st squadron, at Chu Lai. He had been in Viet Nam 11 months on his current tour, and had flown almost 200 missions on both tours. His first tour was from February, 1965 to April, 1966.

Capt. Luster was a graduate of Taft High school and Northwestern university, and was an R.O.T.C. battalion commander at Northwestern. He had been in the marines for six years and planned to make the service his career.

Survivors, in addition to his wife, are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wayman Luster, 6660 Raven st. and a sister, Joyce.



1st Lt. Frank S. Reasoner
Reconnaissance Patrol
July 12, 1965
Posthumous Award

"The reconnaissance patrol, led by Lt Reasoner . . . came under heavy fire from an estimated 50 to 100 hostile Viet Cong insurgents firing machine guns, automatic rifles, rifles and carbines from numerous concealed positions. . . . From the initial moments of the engagement, he unhesitatingly and continuously exposed himself to machine gun and small arms fire . . . Shouting encouragement to his men, who were virtually isolated from the main body, he quickly organized a base of fire to support the assault in the enemy positions by the remainder of the command.

"Within the first few minutes one of the Marines with First Lieutenant Reasoner was wounded. In the face of intensive fire, First Lieutenant Reasoner sought to cover the evacuation of the wounded man, himself killing at least two of the Viet Cong and effectively silencing an automatic weapons position. As casualties began to mount, his radio operator was wounded.

"After crawling a considerable distance, and before reaching a covered position, the radio operator was hit a second time and could move no further. Realizing that the man could not survive in the heavy enemy fire sweeping the open ground between him and the radio operator, First Lieutenant Reasoner courageously leaped to his feet, shouting to the man that he would carry him out. He ran through the grazing machine gun fire but was struck and fell mortally wounded at his radioman's side."

5 CHICAGO AREA GIs REPORTED KILLED IN VIET

Pfc. Smoczynski, 20,
Slain Sept. 24



MEDALS THREE—Gen. Wallace M. Greene, Jr., CMC, presents the Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart Medals to Capt. Jerry W. Ledin in Washington. Capt. Ledin earned them while serving with the III Marine Amphibious Force in Vietnam.