

'THEY'RE DARN GOOD BOYS'

# 4 City Buddies Serve In Viet; 1 Killed, 3 Injured

A story of death and injury involving four Indianapolis young men—all buddies—who joined the U.S. Marine Corps because they liked it rough, was unfolded yesterday by a mother who recently buried her oldest son, a victim of fighting in Viet Nam.

A Marine Corps representative had broken the news a day before the telegram arrived. "I deeply regret to inform you that your son . . ." the telegram began. It was signed by Gen. Wallace M. Greene Jr., Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps.



S. Butler

R. Butler

Dyer

Bewley

**SGT. ROBERT H. BUTLER JR.**, 22 years old, had been killed by enemy fire near the village of Kim Dau Binh in Quang Tri Province.

"He was leading his squad in an attack on a heavily entrenched enemy machinegun position," a letter from his commanding officer said.

He died July 18, without

ever seeing his first son, Robert H. III, who was born just 12 days later.

A Marine of five years, working on his second enlistment, Bob had urged a younger brother, Steven D. Butler, 18, 2221 North New Jersey Street, to join the Navy "because this fighting (in Viet Nam) is too rough

for any of us," his mother said.

**HOWEVER**, Steve and a buddy, George Allen Bewley, 19, 2252 North New Jersey, did enlist in the Marines and would have made it a threesome but Wayne C. Dyer, 19, had difficulty getting the necessary paperwork finished and enlisted a few weeks later.

All three now have been injured in combat and all are well on the way to recovery.

Lance Cpl. Steven Butler, who enlisted after one year at Arsenal Technical High School, said recently that he had the end of his nose shot off as he stood to check on the condition of an injured comrade who had been shot.

"I DIDN'T HAVE enough

sense to fall down," he told his mother. Then, while still standing, he was shot in the left shoulder, then fell to the ground only after making sure that his wounded buddy was taken care of.

Steve's shoulder injury was sewn up, but complications developed and further surgery was later required.

After a year overseas and recovered, Steve was granted the usual leave to visit home—and escort his older brother's body home.

Pfc. Bewley, son of Mrs. John C. Lakin, carries a bullet with him, lodged near his spine at the base of the skull. He has recovered from the year-old injury but further jolts might dislodge the bullet and cause instant death, ac-

cording to Mrs. Butler.

**PFC. DYER**, son of Victor Dyer, 4403 Madison Avenue, was injured almost a year ago with bullets striking him in the back, the right wrist and an ankle. He is expecting leave to visit home, soon.

What kind of boys are these who have been shot up after dropping out of school to join the Marines and protect their country? Mothers are usually a bit biased but Mrs. Butler says everyone who knows these boys will agree with her that "they're darn good boys."

"You couldn't find better," she adds with a smile.

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