

Philip B. Jones
Second Lieutenant
2nd Battalion
26th Marines
U.S. Marine Corps

Vietnam
Mortally wounded January 28, 1969



Phil (Dutch) Jones, son of Dick and Eleanor (Ole) Jones, grew up in Slater as one of four brothers, graduating from Ballard High School in 1965. Phil attended the University of Northern Iowa before enlisting in the United States Marine Corps in July of 1966.

He left for training on July 8, 1966, leaving his small-town roots for San Deigo, CA. Private First Class Jones was able to enjoy a 20-day leave in November of 1966, after the completion of training. He was Series Honorman in Boot Camp at Pendleton Marine Base in CA.

From an article in the Slater News of November 17, 1966: "PFC Phil Jones arrived Friday from Camp Pendleton, Calif. Having completed landing tracked vehicle school, he is now enroute to his duty station at Camp Lejeune, N.C. and has a twenty day leave which he is spending with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Jones, and other relatives and friends."

He received Advanced Infantry Training in North Carolina where he learned to drive an Amtrac (amphibious tractor) which was his job during his first tour of duty in Nam.

On March 10, 1967, PFC Jones began his first tour in Vietnam. On July 14, 1967, the tractor he was driving hit a mine, and Phil sustained a concussion, busted ear drum, scratches, and bruises. For these injuries, he received a Purple Heart Medal on August 1, 1967.

In a letter dated November 23, 1967, published in the December 7, 1967, Slater News, Phil wrote about his appreciation for a care package sent

by the Legion Auxiliary: "I received your package in the mail today. I really appreciated the items, but most of all I appreciated your thoughtfulness and that there are people back home who do care what is going on over here. Too often we hear of the protestors and demonstrators in the news. I think all of us here know that the protestors are in the minority, but it sure helps to be reassured every once in a while."

After completing a yearlong tour, Lance Corporal Jones returned stateside to attend Officer Candidate Training at Quantico, Virginia, where, upon completion, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant, Infantry. As a newly commissioned Platoon Leader, 2LT Jones returned to Vietnam for a second tour on January 20, 1969 during the Tet Offensive.

On January 28, 1969, 2LT Jones led his radio operator and a fire team on a rescue of a beleaguered unit of Marines. He and his radio operator rescued three injured men while under heavy fire. He and his companion returned to the enemy kill zone to continue the rescue when Phil was seriously wounded. Determined to save his comrades, he was mortally wounded as he was delivering suppressive fire on the Vietnamese positions.

In a letter written by John Horsley to Phil's brother, Ron, he provided a description of that day: "Once we were on the ground, we entered the tree line. Once we were in the tree line we started to move forward in single file. We were ambushed and lost a couple of men right away. We were pinned down and couldn't get a good position on the shooters. We were getting chewed up." Mr. Horsley continues to describe the actions of 2LT Jones on that day: "Your brother, who could have stayed out of harm's way,

maneuvered through heavy automatic weapons fire to gain position on the NVA gun position that had us pinned down. He pointed the position out and started firing upon the position suppressing the enemy fire which enabled us to remove ourselves and wounded from the immediate strike zone and rally our retaliation.”

As Mr. Horsley’s narrative continues, he comes to the fateful moment that ended Phil’s life: “Moments later as Phil was keeping the one position pinned down, another NVA soldier crawled through a tunnel and shot your brother. The NVA soldier gave up his position when he shot and was killed moments later. The NVA soldier that your brother kept pinned down while myself and others got out of the ambush zone was killed a few minutes later.” In his closing paragraphs, Mr. Horsley expresses his gratitude for Phil’s actions: “Your brother was the bravest man I have ever known. He saved my life and the lives of many other Marines that day. He gave his life for me and a bunch of

guys he didn’t even know. Whenever I hear the word bravery, or valor, and hero, I automatically think of Phil. I have been able to live a very productive life because of your brother’s bravery.”

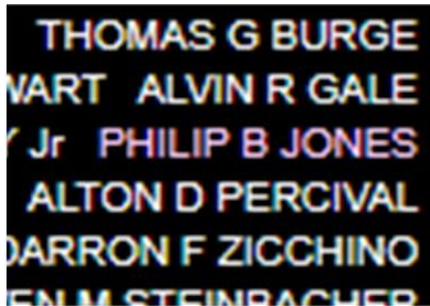
2LT Philip B. Jones was killed in action on January 28, 1969. He was 21 years old at the time of his death. 2LT Jones was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for heroism, an award second only to the Medal of Honor. He was laid to rest at the Slater Bethlehem Lutheran Cemetery.

**Greater love has no one than this:
That he lay down his life for his friends.**

His friends remember him for what he did.
We remember him for who he was.

From his brother, Doug Jones.

Phil’s name is located on the Vietnam Memorial on Panel 33W, Line 7.



**Philip Jones
Receives his first Purple Heart**

**Thanks to Doug Jones
for his help with this entry.**

