

Gold Stars
from
World War II
and
Vietnam



Pvt. Harold Lee "Red" Shaver was raised on the Clampitt dairy farm near New Providence. He attended country school at Chester and high school at New Providence Community School—graduated there in 1942.

He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in February 1944 and had basic training at San Diego, California (Camp Miramar). After basic he was in 1st Marine Division and sent to the Pacific. His older brother, "Larry" Shaver, had enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps following high school graduation in 1940. Red wanted to follow in his brother's footsteps. He was "hit" four hours after the 1st attack on Iwo Jima and was taken aboard a hospital ship. Prior to going on Iwo Jima, a chaplain visited with him and later when he was taken aboard the hospital ship critically wounded, the same chaplain recognized him and the time he had spent with him—"especially remembering his carrot fiery red hair, cheeks that required no shaving, him sharing his life on the farm in Iowa and a deep request that he never would be buried at sea." This chaplain strongly urged this request be allowed. He was buried on Saipan. We have a picture of that plot with a cross bearing his name and serial number on the Saipan Island until the war was over and then his body was returned to the States. He is buried on the family plot in Melbourne Cemetery. The chaplain wrote a poem titled, "The Red Haired Lad from an Iowa Farm," which was printed in the Marine Corps magazine, "The Leatherneck." Red loved the farm, the animals and working outside. He was known as a fun loving, happy, friendly person.



DARREL GENE BITTNER

ER26 B24-054; SGT; USAR;
BTRY C, 6th EN, 15th ARTY, 23rd ARTY GP, Vietnam

Born 28 June 1943, Eldora, Iowa

Died 8 May 1969 in Vietnam as the result of wounds received
while on a military mission when a mine detonated.

Commenced tour in Vietnam 29 September 1968

SP4 Darrel G. Bittner was promoted posthumously to grade of SGT E-5,
AUS, as of 7 May 1969 under provisions of PL 680,
77th Congress, as amended.

He was awarded the Purple Heart.

Bittner was survived by his mother, Evelyn Bernadine Bittner; his father,
Eugene Bittner; one brother and one sister, Robert and Debra.