

PFC Carey Wayne Ellenberger October 19, 1946 – January 12, 1967
Carey was the son of Kenneth W. Ellenberger and Nola M. Ellenberger of Bluffton IN and he enlisted in the US Marine Corps on March 1, 1966 in Indianapolis IN. In Vietnam he served with Company L, 3d Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st MARDIV (Rein) FMF.

An electrically commanded detonated device, such as a claymore mine was detonated as a Marine patrol moved along a trail near the hamlet of Khuong My (1), in the Hieu Duc of District Quang Nam Province. The blast killed PFC Ellenberger from exploding shrapnel and wounded four other men who required evacuation.



Carey Ellenberger

Date of Death: January 12, 1967

Date of Burial: January 22, 1967ell

Burial: Mount Hope Cemetery

Carey Ellenberger Killed in Vietnam

Marine PFC Carey W. Ellenberger, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Ellenberger of French Township, was killed in action in Vietnam on Thursday, January 12. The parents of the young marine, the first Adams County serviceman to die in Vietnam, received word of his death late Friday.

According to the telegram received from the Defense Department in Washington, PFC Ellenberger was killed while on patrol duty in Da Nag Province in South Vietnam. The message said more details will follow but death was caused by fragmentation wounds to the body.

The body will be returned here for burial with the Yager Funeral Home in charge. The date of the arrival of the body, or the funeral time is not known. Burial will be in the Mount Hope Cemetery, northeast of Berne. Young Ellenberger was a member of the Mt. Hope Church of the Nazarene.

He entered the service March 1, 1966, as a draftee and was assigned to the Marine Corps. He received his basic training at Camp Pendleton, California and extended training at Camp LeJeune, N.C. He was sent to Vietnam last November 6.

Before entering the service, he was employed at Dunbar and at Franklin Electric in Bluffton, where his father is now employed. His parents live near Vera Cruz, not far from the Christian Apostolic Church. The loss of their son is the second tragedy to hit the family in recent years. They lost their former home several miles east of Berne and most of their possessions in the Palm Sunday, 1965 tornado.

The young man was born in Jefferson Township October 19, 1946, a son of Kenneth and Nola Charleston Ellenberger. He is a 1964 graduate of Adams Central High School.

PFC Ellenberger was one of the detachments of Marines who took part in fighting a disastrous forest fire at Camp Pendleton shortly before he took off from there for Vietnam. While fighting the fire, three of his buddies were burned to death.

The young man was assigned to the Third Battalion of the First Marine Division.

Berne Library Heritage Room

MRE Obit Book 1966 - 1972, image 116

Transcribed by Jim Cox

