

## **Gibson, Carl Reed (Carl), 2nd Platoon**

31 May 1945 - 30 April 1968

University of VA Confederate Cemetery, VA

Carl Reed Gibson was KIA on 30 Apr 1968 in the Battle of Dai Do.

Second Lieutenant Carl Reed Gibson was born on 31 May 1945 in Washington D.C. to Dr. and Mrs. Robert Carl Gibson. Dr. Gibson was Director of Instruction in the Albemarle County School System in the late 50's and early 60's and was head of the Department of Education at George Mason College in Fairfax. Carl graduated from Radford High School in 1963 and entered the University of Virginia where he was a member of the soccer team, circulation manager of the Cavalier Daily newspaper, and on the Dean's List. He was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity, majored in Foreign Affairs, and attended UVa on a Navy ROTC Scholarship. When he graduated in 1967 he was commander of the Navy ROTC Drill Team and the Drum and Bugle Corps, which he was credited with organizing and training according to Major M. E. Morris, the 1967 Marine Officer Instructor at UVa. Gibson was rated the top man in the battalion in ability and performance, and at his commissioning ceremony on 3 June 1967 he was presented a special leadership award – a Marine Officer's Sword - in "recognition of his demonstrated outstanding leadership abilities and his many contributions which helped foster esprit de corps in the midshipman battalion."

After graduation 2Lt Gibson was sent to The Basic School at Quantico, VA and later to Artillery Officers School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Carl married Sallie Anne Guerrant of Charlottesville on 12 March 1968. She was a second year student at Mary Baldwin College in Staunton.

Carl arrived in Vietnam on 18 April 1968 and was a 0801 artillery Forward Observer with the 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, Third Marine Division, III Marine Amphibious Force. He served in support of BLT (Battalion Landing Team) 2/4. "The Battle of Dai Do was known as Tet II and involved three Regiments/major elements of the 320th NVA Division which was trying to overrun the major supply bases at Dong Ha and Quang Tri. Success would have undermined the entire DMZ (Demilitarized Zone) defenses" according to the Commanding Officer of BLT 2/4, then Lt. Col William Weise. "Second Lieutenant Gibson participated and died in the Battle of Dai Do as an artillery FO providing much needed artillery fire support for the Marine infantrymen." Carl passed away on 30 April 1968 and is buried in the UVa Confederate Cemetery on the grounds at UVa in Charlottesville.

### **USMC Resume:**

TBS Class 1-68 Alpha Company, 2nd Platoon June-Nov 1967

Artillery Officers School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma

Vietnam 18 April 1968 - 30 April 1968, 0801 artillery Forward Observer

3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, Third Marine Division, III MAF

Awarded the Purple Heart.

### **Personal Reflections about Carl Gibson:**

**From Jules Seldon:** "The Magnificent Bastards - The Joint Army-Marine Defense of Dong Ha, 1968", by Keith Nolan, 1994. This is one of the books in my library I have read many times, and it's still available in paperback. A number of our Classmates were in the battle, and are written about or referenced in the book: Peter Acley (WIA), John Basel (WIA), Michael Cecil, and Carl Gibson (KIA).

**From Sallie Herling:** I first met Carl on a blind date when he was a student at the University of Virginia. Ever since that date, Carl and I were together. We had four years together before his death. Everything he did, he went at with great enthusiasm. His happiness was contagious and we had many great times together. We got married not long before he left for Vietnam and were expecting a baby. Even though he had to leave he looked forward to returning and seeing our child. Tragically, he was killed a few weeks after arriving in Vietnam. Our daughter, Elizabeth, never got to know him. She was raised with lots of love by my second husband, Bill Herling.

Bill and I later had a daughter, Bryce. Elizabeth now has her own child, John, who reminds me so much of Carl. Bryce has two daughters so we have three wonderful grandchildren.

Elizabeth and I take John back to Virginia to see Carl's mother and his sister as often as we can.

Thank you for tracking me down and inviting me to your reunion. I hope you all have a great time together!

**From Karen Brakken (sister):** The loss still cuts so deep. I don't even remember a time when Carl wasn't my hero. Thanks for your efforts to find us, and for what you are doing.