Statement of Gunnery Sargeant Ascension R. PEREZ 1179811/0369 USMC

On February 20, 1969 at 1500 hours or abouts while on a patrol from Hill 900 into Loas, we made contact with a small enamy unit. They hit us from front and rear. I quickly set up a 360 degree defense, placing Lance Corporal BRITTIAN with his machine gun to the rear. He then spotted three enemy soldiers crawling toward us, and opened fire on them killing one. The other NVA soldiers open up on him knocking out the gun and also wounding Lance Corporal BRITTIAN and myself.

He then yelled for someone to throw him a rifle, in turn our Corpman gave him his. He then opened up with heavy fire on the enemy again, thus either destroying or wounding them. We found big traces of blood along the trail after reinforcements came. And also RPG Launcher and rounds and grenades were found.

Lance Corporal BRITTIAN with his courage and disregards for the safety of his life, he not only saved my life but also of the squad which he was attached. I as his Platoon Sergeant at the time highly recommend that Lance Corporal BRITTIAN be awarded his Nation's 4th highest award.

Ascension R. Perez

ASCENSION R. PEREZ
GYSGT 1179811 USMC

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the BRONZE STAR MEDAL posthumously to

LANCE CORPORAL CHARLES H. BRITTIAN

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For heroic achievement in connection with operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam while serving as a Machine Gun Squad Leader with Company H, Second Battalion, Ninth Marines, Third Marine Division. On 20 February 1969, during Operation Dewey Canyon, Lance Corporal Brittian was with a patrol near Hill 891 in Quang Tri Province when the rear security noticed that the Marines were being followed by hostile soldiers. As soon as contact was made with the enemy, Lance Corporal Brittian's team set up their machine gun on the trail and immediately began delivering a heavy volume of fire upon the hostile force. Alertly observing three enemy soldiers attempting to crawl toward the Marines, Lance Corporal Brittian opened fire on them and killed one hostile soldier. Returning fire, the enemy damaged the machine gun and wounded Lance Corporal Brittian and the patrol leader. Undaunted, he steadfastly ignored his painful injury as he obtained a rifle from a companion and then delivered accurate and effective fire upon the advancing hostile soldiers, forcing them to withdraw. His heroic and timely actions inspired all who observed him and were responsible for saving the life of his wounded patrol leader, who was lying in the path of the advancing enemy. Lance Corporal Brittian's courage, aggressive fighting spirit and unwavering devotion to duty in the face of great danger were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service."

The Combat Distinguishing Device is authorized.

FOR THE PRESIDENT,

H. W. Buse Jr

H. W. BUSE, JR.
LIEUTENANT GENERAL, U. S. MARINE CORPS
COMMANDING GENERAL, FLEET MARINE FORCE, PACIFIC

The Secretary of the Navy takes pride in presenting the NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL posthumously to

CORPORAL CHARLES H. BRITTIAN, JR.

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for outstanding achievement in the superior performance of his duties in the field of leadership achievement as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"While serving as a Fire Team Leader with Company H, Second Battalion, Ninth Marines, Third Marine Division in connection with operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam from 8 July 1968 to 8 May 1969, Corporal Brittian performed his duties in an exemplary manner. Participating in Operations Scotland II, Lancaster II, and Dewey Canyon, he repeatedly distinguished himself by his courage and composure under fire. Exhibiting exceptional professional ability, he skillfully supervised the tactical deployment of his men during engagements with the enemy and contributed significantly to the accomplishment of his unit's mission. Constantly concerned for the combat readiness of his unit, he tirelessly trained his men and molded them into an effective fighting force. Corporal Brittian's leadership, professional competence and steadfast devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself, the Marine Corps and the Naval Service."

The Combat Distinguishing Device is authorized.

FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY:

H. W. Buse Jr

H. W. BUSE, JR.
LIEUTENANT GENERAL, U. S. MARINE CORPS
COMMANDING GENERAL, FLEET MARINE FORCE, PACIFIC

COMPANY "H"
2d Battalion, 9th Marines
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF
FPO San Francisco 96602

June 9, 1969

Mrs. Christine Brittian
318 Taft Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30315

2401064

Dear Mrs. Brittian:

It is difficult for me to express the regrets and sorrow felt by the Marines of this company over the recent death of your son, Corporal Charles H. Brittian Jr., U. S. Marine Corps on June 5, 1969, 22 miles Southwest of Quang Tri Combat Base, Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam.

Charles, as you know, was a machine gun team leader in our 2nd Platoon. On June 5 the battalion was assigned to conduct a search and clear operation 22 miles Southwest of Quang Tri Combat Base. The company was conducting a company size patrol. Charles' squad was ambushed and came under a heavy attack by enemy automatic weapons and enemy grenades. He was seriously wounded by fragmentation penetrating the chest and succumbed immediately at 4:00 p.m. Charles received the ministrations of Lieutenant Commander J. K. Bell, a U. S. Navy Chaplain.

A Memorial Service will be held in his honor at the Regimental Chapel in the very near future.

Charles was one of the finest Marines I have ever known. His exemplary conduct, leadership, and singular determination to do every job well were qualities that all of us respected. We will miss him and hope you will find some comfort in knowing this.

If there is anything I can do, please feel free to write.

Very sincerely,

WONDER IF HE IS STILL WITH THE MARINES?

GEORGE W. SACHTLEBEN
Captain, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding