

CARL HELMAN

USCGC POINT LEAGUE (WPB-82304) – Apr68 to Jun68

Relieved Kurtz and then Relieved by Norris

USCGC POINT MARONE (WPB-82311) – Jan69 to Apr69 – Relieved Viglienzone

Presidential Unit Citation – 6 Dec 68 to 31 Mar 69

August 12, 2021 – Bill Carr E-mail to Carl Helman

Carl - After our several e-mail conversations, I referred back to the 4 pages of your Ship's log that you sent me some time ago along with the Super 8 reel entitled "Vietnam Tour Channel Base Orphans and Vung Tau."

I also have the four audio tapes entitled:

“Vietnam – 1st Reel”

“Vietnam – 2nd Reel”

“CRB”

“New Jersey”

These are the same kind of tapes Judy and I used. Jim Andrasick and I swapped tapes a time or two as well. He and I were stationed on the Half Moon for our first sea billet for the both of us. We were in Vietnam at the same time for just the one month of December of 67.

I'll package the Super 8 and audio tapes up with the other items for the Class of 1965 Vietnam Exhibit for the Academy Museum.

August 12, 2021 – Carl Helman E-mail to Bill Carr

As I recall, the 17 May 68 was when I was CO. I was not aboard in September.

I went thru all the logs in my research in the Navy Archives. There are no PT MARONE logs in the Navy Archives for 1969 or beyond. No CG records etc. Apparently, they were all lost in turn over to Vietnamese. Long story short I don't have an end of tour brief, or other notes of my two commands in country. I have never been one for taking notes or writing up/keeping after action reports short of what was in the ship's logs, messages, etc.

Thank you for your efforts, but I cannot provide any more light on the subject. It must have been in the Cat Lo logs for the boats and whoever wrote up the award recommendation.

August 11, 2021 – Bill Carr E-mail to Carl Helman

I've been very remiss in getting with you about this project and have 3 things on my mind

1. Back in March of 2019, we exchanged e-mails with the focus of your writing up the three incidences behind your Bronze Star award - as noted in your citation.
3. Do you have your tour debrief by chance? If so, would you mind if I include that in the Scrapbook?

April 2, 2018 – Walt Viglienzzone E-mail

Dec 68/Jan 69, Carl Helman relieved me on PT MARONE and I took DIV 13 OPS.

So, Carl Helman probably relieved Dennis Kurtz on the PT LEAGUE and then Bill Norris relieved Carl when he went on Emergency Leave.

May 29, 2019 – Carl Helman E-mail to Bill Carr

1. When I went in prep for Charleston I went to NHHHC, NARA Innovation Hub for the National Archives in D.C. to scan the PT LEAGUE deck logs for April thru June 68. I found at least 4 times that we took targets/personnel under fire with Spotters and without, with KIA and damage unknown and 1 possible KIA and 2 structures destroyed and 4 damaged. I did not see where we suppressed fire in my logs. It may have been in message traffic.

For my time on PT MARONE Jan 69 thru Apr 69 NARA Innovation Hub, they do not have any deck logs for PT MARONE after Dec 31 1968. I worked with the Naval History & Heritage Command in D.C. and they do not have any NAVY or CG deck logs. They reviewed some of their Vietnam files but there is nothing related to the USCGC Point Marone for 1969 in them. The CG Historian does not have any deck logs for PT MARONE. I did not keep personal notes during my commands and obviously did not have detailed log entries. The details were in message traffic which I do not have.

I do not remember specifics to expand on my award and I do remember one or more were while CO in PT MARONE. I have copies of the 4 log pages from PT LEAGUE that I could scan and send to you, but they do not give any info on receiving fire from beach.

2. I will be mailing you some SUPER 8 movies to the address you provided and will let you know when I mail them. It may be a while.

March 28, 2019 – Bill Carr E-mail to Carl Helman

Carl – The Super 8 reels would be great. I'll dig in to see how we can save these and make them a part of the viewing of the class of 1965 Vietnam Exhibit...

March 28, 2019 – Carl Helman E-mail to Bill Carr

Thank you for the summary. I also said I have some Super 8 movies of time on patrol of some of Cat Lo and maybe the orphanage. I no longer have the ability to view them and would be happy to mail them to you.

March 28, 2019 – Bill Carr E-mail to Carl Helman

1. While we talked about how this might be difficult, you seemed to agree to take some time to write the stories behind the three separate incidences referred to in your Bronze Star Medal Citation. This was for the purpose of my being able to resubmit your nomination for the HoH/Wall of Gallantry that Jim White originally submitted back in 2011. There is no urgent deadline for this but I'd like to have those stories in the next month or two.

2. We talked about the possibility of any personal memorabilia, artifacts, photographs, etc. you would be willing to make to the Class of 1965 Exhibit that Lloyd and I are putting together for the Coast Guard Museum. You aren't sure you have anything but please do keep this in mind whenever you get around to downsizing in the future. If you do discover any items, let me know and I'll give you my business address to which to ship them.

Golden Journeys Booklet – 2015

I volunteered and served in the Vietnam War in CG Division 13 as CO of PT LEAGUE; Operations Officer and CO of PT MARONE. I earned the Bronze Star Medal. My father died just two months after I was deployed. The good news was that Paulette joined me for a second honeymoon in Sacramento while I helped my stepmother and siblings adjust to life without a husband and father.

Coast Guard Awards and Medals Board – List of CG Units Coming Under Hostile Fire

August 30, 2004

Encl. (16) to COMDTINST 650.25b MEDALS AND AWARDS MANUAL

POINT MARONE – 29 Jun 68, 21 Oct 68 and 26 Oct 68

POINT LEAGUE – 17 May 68

10 Jun 1968 – PT LEAGUE Ship's Log

0930H – Took personnel under fire position W/R 743-140 expending 10 rds 81mm HE and 13 rds 81mm VT. 1 WIA resulted.

1025H – Secured GQ. Resumed normal patrol.

4 Jun 1968 – PT LEAGUE Ship's Log

1435H – Permission granted from SEPIA.

1440H – Spotter on scene. Expended 53 rds HE, 20 rds WP and 6 rds VT 81mm. Spotter says 1 possible KIA, 2 structures destroyed, 4 damaged.

1550H – Secured GQ. Resumed normal Patrol.

2 June 1968 – PT LEAGUE Ship's Log

1320H – Sighted personnel and livestock on beach.

1335H – Received permission from 115.3 to take under fire position XR 72-77. Went to GQ. Commenced firing on beach expending 200 rds 50cal and 26 rds 81mm HE and 6 rds 81mm WP.

1450H – Secured from GQ. Resumed normal patrol. Damage done unknown.

17 May 1968 – PT LEAGUE Ship's Log

1615H – Enroute 72-65 in rendezvous to sectors enemy sighting.

1635H – Received permission to take area under fire.

1840H – Sighted personnel on beach and took under fire expending 800 rds 50cal ball A.P.I. and 23 rds 81mm HE, 10 rds 81mm VT, 6 rds 81mm WP and 2 rds 81mm ILLUM.

1925H – Secured from GQ and resumed M/T patrol. Enemy KIA unknown.

Carl Helman (League/Marone) Articles

Sent stuff; super 8 film to Jim; CB next week to confirm

Three separate incidences behind Bronze Star

Notes used for Bill Kurtz at Charleston WPB Reunion



Bill Carr <bill@getrain.com>

Re: Scrapbook

1 message

Bill Carr <bill@getrain.com>
To: Carl Helman <helman@msn.com>

Thu, Sep 9, 2021 at 1:08 PM

Regarding being awarded a Bronze Star with or without a Combat "V", I never knew there was such an award for serving a tour. I always thought they were awarded only for a specific action or notable campaign or operation. But, other than that, I don't really know the details or requirements that are behind that award.

Sorry I don't know more...Bill

On Wed, Sep 8, 2021 at 5:00 PM Carl Helman <helman@msn.com> wrote:

Bill, I noticed in current Bulletin that three of Wall of Gallantry Heroes were four awards w/Bronze Star with Combat Distinguished Device. Josephson's appeared to be same. Has the requirements changed sense mine was submitted several years ago? I was told my Bronze Star w/V was end of tour sense I did not have a major action.

Carl

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 13, 2021, at 3:24 PM, Bill Carr <bill@getrain.com> wrote:

You are most welcome Carl...

On Thu, Aug 12, 2021 at 7:01 PM Carl Helman <HELMAN@msn.com> wrote:

Bill- Thank you .
Carl

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 12, 2021, at 6:54 PM, Bill Carr <bill@getrain.com> wrote:

Carl - Here are the entries of four incidents within those four pages of logs:

10 Jun 1968 – PT LEAGUE Ship's Log

0930H – Took personnel under fire position W/R 743-140 expending 10 rds 81mm HE and 13 rds 81mm VT. 1 WIA resulted.

1025H – Secured GQ. Resumed normal patrol.

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17 May 1968 – PT LEAGUE Ship's Log

1615H – Enroute 72-65 in rendezvous to sectors enemy sighting.

1635H – Received permission to take area under fire.

1840H – Sighted personnel on beach and toke under fire expending 800 rds 50cal ball A.P.I. and 23 rds 81mm HE, 10 rds 81mm VT, 6 rds 81mm WP and 2 rds 81mm ILLUM.

1925H – Secured from GQ and resumed M/T patrol. Enemy KIA unknown.

On Thu, Aug 12, 2021 at 6:43 PM Carl Helman <HELMAN@msn.com> wrote:

Bill - Did the 4 pages have any more information on the three gunfire incidents? I do not have them readily available any more.

Paulette & I used them as well while in VN.

Carl

Sent from my iPhone

> On Aug 12, 2021, at 6:16 PM, Bill Carr <bill@getrain.com> wrote:

>

>

> Carl - After our e-mail conversations, I referred back to the 4 pages of your Ship's log that you sent me some time ago along with the Super 8 reel entitled "Vietnam Tour Channel Base Orphans and Vung Tau."

>

> I also have the four audio tapes. These are the same kind of tapes Judy and I used. Jim Andrasick and I swapped tapes a time or two as well. He and I were stationed on the Half Moon for our first sea billet for the both of us. We were in Vietnam at the same time for just the one month of December of 67.

>

> I'll package the Super 8 and audio tapes up with the other items for the Class of 1965 Vietnam Exhibit for the Academy Museum.

>

> Have a good evening...Bill

>

From: Carl Helman helman@msn.com
Subject: Re: Our Conversation Tuesday
Date: May 29, 2019 at 3:05 PM
To: Bill Carr bill@getrain.com
Bcc: Carl Helman helman@msn.com



Bill,

1. When I went in prep for Charleston I went to NHHHC, NARA Innovation Hub for the National Archives in D.C. to scan the PT LEAGUE deck logs for April thru June 68. I found at least 4 times that we took targets/personnel under fire with Spotters and without, with KIA and damage unknown and 1 possible kia and 2 structures destroyed and 4 damaged. I did not see where we suppressed fire in my logs. It may have been in message traffic. For my time on PT MARONE Jan 69 thru Apr 69 NARA Innovation Hub they do not have any deck logs for PT MARONE after Dec 31 1968. I worked with the NAVAL HISTORY & Heritage Command in D.C. and they do not have any NAVY or CG deck logs. They reviewed some of their Vietnam files but there is nothing related to the USCGC Point Marone for 1969 in them. The CG Historian does not have any deck logs for PT MARONE. I did not keep personal notes during my commands and obviously did not have detailed log entries. The details were in message traffic which I do not have. I do not remember specifics to expand on my award and I do remember one or more were while CO in PT MARONE. I have copies of the 4 log pages from PT LEAGUE that I could scan and send to you, but they do not give any info on receiving fire from beach.

2. I will be mailing you some SUPER 8 movies to the address you provided and will let you know when I mail them. It may be a while.

3. Attached are my notes on Bill's VIETNAM info. I also attached your PDF file on Bill.

4. Attached is my "Becoming a Cadet" info.

Hope this finds you well and meets all that we talked about.

Thank you for all your difficult work for me and the class.

Carl



Notes on Bill
Kurtz/...m.docx



Becoming a
Cadet...al.docx



0864_001.pdf

*Bill here is Super 8 reels
and the 4 log pages from PT League*

Carl

On Mar 28, 2019, at 1:11 PM, Bill Carr <bill@getrain.com> wrote:

Good Afternoon Carl; thanks for taking time with me on the phone.

To make sure we are on the same page, I thought I would list the the next steps:

1. While we talked about how this might be difficult, you seemed to agree to take some time to write the stories behind the three separate incidences referred to in your Bronze Star Medal Citation. This was for the purpose of my being able to resubmit your nomination for the HoH/Wall of Gallantry that Jim White originally submitted back in 2011. There is no urgent deadline for this but I'd like to have those stories in the next month or two.
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3. Please share with me the notes you put together for Bill Kurtz you shared with the group in Charleston - so I can upgrade what little I already have for his Vietnam story.
4. We also talked about the "Becoming a Cadet" project that budded out of our time with Les High for his 95th birthday. I said I would send you the general guidelines for that story which follows below. There is no urgent timeline for this but getting this relatively soon would be ideal.

"Although there were common elements, we each arrived at the Academy in our own way. We would like you to tell us your story. We have not provided any format or structure because we are interested in how you made your decision and what influenced you to make it, your reasons and motivations as you remember them , and in your own words."

Thanks again for your time Carl. Looking forward to working through these items with you.....Bill (563-529-3982)

From: Bill Carr bill@getrain.com
Subject: Re: Our Conversation Tuesd
Date: March 28, 2019 at 3:20 PM
To: Carl Helman HELMAN@msn.com

BC

Carl - The Super 8 reels would be great. My mailing address is:

Bill Carr
Beyond DMS Division
4215 E. 60th Street
Davenport, IA 52807

I'll dig in to see how we can save these and make them a part of the viewing of the Class of 1965 Vietnam Exhibit.....Bill

On Thu, Mar 28, 2019 at 2:10 PM Carl Helman <HELMAN@msn.com> wrote:

Good afternoon Bill,

Thank you for the summary. I also said I have some Supper 8 movies of time on patrol some of Cat lo and maybe the orphanage. I no longer have ability to view them and would be happy to mail them to you for the project if you send me your mailing address.

v/r

Carl

Sent from my iPhone

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Thanks again for your time Carl. Looking forward to working through these items with you.....Bill (563-529-3982)



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
WASHINGTON 20591

17 November 1969

Dear Mr. Helman:

It is noted with pride that the Commander United States Naval Forces, Vietnam has awarded you the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V". You have been cited for your meritorious service while serving as Commanding Officer in USCGC POINT LEAGUE (WPB 82304) and USCGC POINT MARONE (WPB 82331) engaged in armed conflict with opposing foreign forces in the Republic of Vietnam from April 1968 to April 1969.

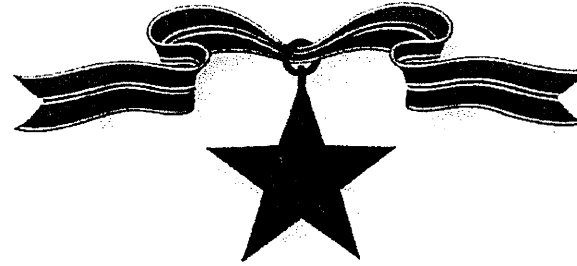
I take this opportunity to express my personal congratulations on this well-deserved recognition of your meritorious conduct. The credit you have brought upon the Coast Guard by your devotion to duty and adherence to the traditions of the Service is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "W. J. Smith".

W. J. SMITH
Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard

Lieutenant Carl H. Helman III 7569, USCG
c/o Commander, Twelfth Coast Guard District
630 Sansome Street
San Francisco, California 94126



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
HAS AWARDED THE

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

(WITH COMBAT "V")

TO

LIEUTENANT CARL H. HELMAN, III, UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

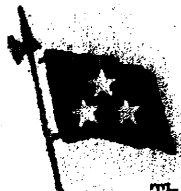
FOR

MERITORIOUS SERVICE FROM APRIL 1968 TO APRIL 1969

GIVEN THIS 28TH DAY OF OCTOBER 1969



John H. Chafee
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY



COMMANDER
UNITED STATES NAVAL FORCES
VIETNAM

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Bronze Star Medal to

CARL H. HELMAN, III
LIEUTENANT
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD


for service as set forth in the following

CITATION

"For meritorious service while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in armed conflict against the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong communist aggressors in the Republic of Vietnam from April 1968 to April 1969. Lieutenant HELMAN served as Commanding Officer of the United States Coast Guard Cutters POINT LEAGUE and POINT MARONE conducting Operations MARKET TIME patrols in the South China Sea. His decisive and courageous actions enabled his units to suppress enemy fire on three separate occasions, inflicting substantial losses to the enemy without material damage or personnel casualties to his own units. Serving later as Coast Guard Division THIRTEEN Operations Officer, his exceptional leadership and professionalism increased efficiency of the division through better internal and external coordination. In addition, he incorporated significant improvements into the division training program. Lieutenant HELMAN's outstanding performance in meeting all challenges reflected great credit upon himself and was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

Lieutenant HELMAN is authorized to wear the Combat "V".

For the President


E. P. ZUMWALT, JR.
Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy
Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam

Helman 68

12-12-68

Seasons' Greetings!

Carl will return from Viet Nam in April 1969.

Then we're off to Monterey Calif for 2 yrs of post-graduate school in Communications Management for Carl.

I'm joining him in Hawaii Jan 10-16 for his R+R.

Best wishes,
Paulette Helman

Helman 67

Carl reports to Alameda Mar 11 & then to Viet Nam approx Apr 127. He's done very well on the Cape Hatteras as CO.

Signed Max Carl H. Helman III

Dear Mr & Mrs. High

Just a short note. I had a very good tour on the CAMPBELL. I wanted flight but, I was disqualified due to my eyes. I now have a very rewarding and enjoyable job. I feel like I am finally doing real COAST GUARD work with the 95 footer.

I got married on 10 Oct 1966 to PAULETTE J. SPARACINO whom I met in N.Y. She was a student dietitian with Public Health Service.

I hope your new year as XO is a good one. Perhaps our paths will cross again in our careers. I hope to try for flight again before I go to Viet Nam.

Sincerely
Carl Helman

Helman 68

With
Best Wishes
for
CHRISTMAS
and the
NEW YEAR

Paulette and Carl Helman