



"DEAR MISSILE BASE" . . . were the words with which Jimmy Warner opened his "official" letter to Colonel M. R. Ives. Surprisingly, this was all he needed to get an invitation to MARMTD's Jan. 15th missile shoot.

(Photo by Sgt Phil Witte)

MARMTD and Pasadena Reserves Hold Shoot

Each year the Reserve Missile Training Detachment requires that reserves from Pasadena, California participate in live firing exercises. In preparation for annual field exercises the reserves put in long hours, spending much of their time in classes learning necessary combat operational data.

However, practical application drill does not have to be tedious technical procedure for everyone concerned. Ten-year-old Jimmy Warner proved this with the results of his letter addressed, "Dear Missile Base."

In his letter Jimmy requested, "I would like to know when you are having a action and what you are actioning. Please write me and tell me the things have just asked you to do. My address is 13500 Calle Amapola, Desert Hot Springs. Yours Truly, James Warner."

LtCol M. R. Ives, Commanding Officer of Marine Air Reserve Missile Training Detachment, was so much impressed by Jimmy's bold request that he sent him an official reply.

"Dear James: I received your letter asking about missile activities at MCB Twentynine Palms. I would like to extend to you and your family an invitation to attend a missile firing exercise to be held on the 15th of January, 1966 . . ."

Jimmy mailed a letter of acceptance in return, liberally sprinkled with boyish enthusiasm.

On the 15th, Mr. and Mrs. V. L. Warner, their daughter Verna, and sons Roy and Jimmy, traveled from home in Hot Springs to Marine Corps Base. At the gate they were greeted by a Marine escort assigned to accompany them to the missile shoot.

Colonel Ives personally welcomed the family, and spent part of Saturday afternoon explaining complicated procedures for an excited Jimmy. Five-thirty

are open to the public and for those interested in the art of rifle marksmanship are well worth seeing.

In a separate match in Los Angeles two members of the Base Pistol Team nearly made a clean sweep of the Los Angeles Police Pistol Match.

First Lieutenant W. H. Harrison and Cpl P. C. Ficarra won the Expert class Grand Aggregate and Marksmanship class Grand Aggregate respectively while capturing more than their share of the individual matches.



HER MAJESTY'S AIR FORCE . . . now has an honorary American missileman on its team. Squadron Leader G. W. Oliver was officially appointed an honorary "launcher of missiles that work 99% of the time" at MARMTD's Jan. 15th missile shoot.

(Photo by Sgt Phil Witte)

that evening a HAWK missile leapt from its launcher to close with and destroy a target drone with such precision one might suspect the technicians were aware of their special audience.

An amusing highlight of the afternoon was the presentation of an honorary missile-man certificate to Royal Air Force Squadron Leader G. W. Oliver. The certificate, bearing a cartoon inscription signed by Brig-Gen V. W. Banning, was given to Squadron Leader Oliver as a memento of three years exchange duty at Norton Air Force Base. Sq.Ld. Oliver is returning to England as Commander of England's Air Defense Training School.

For the men of the Missile Training Detachment humorous additions to a missile shoot are rare. A pencil of flame, silence, and a rolling explosion are the only tangible rewards MARMTD officers and technicians usually receive when they successfully launch one of their deadly "birds."