

Bobby Jack Pharr, T-49

3 January 1931 – 18 August 1952

(aged 21)



The family of Bobby Jack Pharr believed that he drowned in a flash flood that engulfed part of the 45th Infantry Division in Korea on August 18.

They base their belief on an Army telegram reporting Private Pharr “missing in Korea” as of that day and on his last letter reporting him well-behind the front, four days earlier. The telegram did not say he was missing in action.

In his letter written August 14, Private Pharr said he was in a valley surrounded by mountains. His unit is Company E, 2nd Battalion, 279th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division. He reached Keres August 1. Press reports last weekend said 22 bodies had been recovered from the flood.

The soldier was graduated from Tech High School in 1949 and later worked for Blair of Virginia Warehouse & Distributing Company, a cosmetic firm of Kentucky, and for the Hunter Fan & Ventilating Company at 400 South Front. He was drafted last October.

The 21-year-old soldier is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cleveland of 65 North Evergreen in Memphis, and the husband of Mary Etoyle Sparks Pharr, who lives at 2082 Courtland. Private Pharr’s sister, Mrs. Marjorie Moore of the Evergreen address, said he had been near Chuncheon, South Korea, when he last wrote home.

He leaves four brothers, James T. Pharr of Kansas City MO, Dalton Jack Pharr, of Charlotte NC, Paul T. Pharr of Grand Rock WY, and Thomas C. Pharr of Memphis TN; five sisters, Grace Goodenough of Yuma AZ, Vivian Hatcher of Burnsville MS, Mary Silva of Oakland CA and Bettie Yarbrough of Memphis TN.

Services for Private Bobby Jack Pharr, who died in Korea of accidental drowning on August 18th, were held in Belmont MS Methodist Church. Burial was in Belmont City Cemetery with McPeters Funeral Home of Corinth MS in charge. Full military honors were given by the National Guard of Tupelo MS.

Information from The Commercial Appeal.

