

William Malcolm Quinley, T-48

7 February 1930 – 5 May 1953

(aged 23)



William M. Quinley of Birch Street, a naval aviation cadet enlisted by the Naval Air Reserve Training Unit at Millington has been called to active duty to begin flight training January 22 at Pensacola.

Quinley was graduated from Memphis Tech High School. He also attended Memphis State College and was a junior in majoring in business administration.

At Pensacola the Memphian will spend 16 weeks in pre-flight training, studying the theory of flight, navigation, aerology, communications and will receive basic military training.

Information from The Commercial Appeal, Sunday, January 14, 1951.

MEMPHIAN'S CORSAIR GOES DOWN IN KOREA

Ensign Quinley is Reported Missing in Action

Ensign William M. "Billy Mac" Quinley, 23-year-old Memphis pilot, has been reported missing in action after his plane crashed Tuesday in Korea. A Navy telegram reported the accident to his parents Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Quinley of 929 Birch.

Ensign Quinley was a F4U-4 Corsair fighter pilot aboard the USS Princeton (CVA-37). On May 5, 1953, while he was on a naval gun-fire spotting mission over Wonsan, Korea, his aircraft was struck by heavy anti-aircraft fire, crashed and burned.

"Ironically," his father said last night, "we got a letter from him today. He said he'd destroyed three buildings he supposed contain ammunition caches. He killed four oxen and their drivers carrying ammunition on a dirt road. He has been mostly strafing and bombing but he said they (the Reds) have been firing back at him all the time.

Ensign Quinley, an only child, has been flying missions in Corsair planes from the carrier Princeton since early March.

He was graduated from Tech High School and attended Memphis State College three years before beginning aviation cadet training in January, 1951, at Pensacola FL. Commissioned there last September, he trained three months at Moffett Field CA, prior to joining the Princeton on January 23 for the voyage to the war zone.

He is one of 39 Shelby Countians listed as missing in action in Korea. Twelve are prisoners of war.

Information from The Commercial Appeal, Thursday, May 7, 1953.