

Cape Youth Loses Life in Korea War

Pfc. Richard Wilson First to Die in Action.

A former Central High School football star and All-Big Eight Conference guard, Pfc. Richard Wilson, has lost his life in Korea, the first man from Cape County to be killed in action in the Far Eastern conflict.

A message Thursday from the Department of Defense to his mother, Mrs. Alice Wilson, 931 Elm street, expressing condolence



Pfc. Wilson

of the Secretary of the Army, notified her and his wife, the former Miss Yvonna Lea Fowler, of his death.

It reported he was killed Oct. 21 and stated a letter giving more details would follow. Young Wilson, 19 years old, had been in the Army since his 17th birthday and was a medical paratrooper who participated in the drop in the Suchon-Sukchon area of North Korea on Oct. 20.

He was in the fighting only a day before falling in the action, which sealed off an estimated 28,000 North Korean troops. The drop itself, directed by Gen. MacArthur, was one of the largest in the history of warfare, dispatches reported. A total of 4100 men participated.

Was Excellent Athlete.

Pfc. Wilson attended May Greene School and upon finishing there went to Central High School, where he was active in athletics, particularly football. He played right guard for the Tigers and was named to that post on the Big Eight Conference team selected by The Missourian at the end of the season in 1947. The Central team

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Cape Soldier Dies—

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that year won eight of nine games.

The young soldier was born Aug. 19, 1931, at Marion, Ill., and resided there eight years before his family moved to Cape Girardeau in 1939. His father, Bert Wilson, still resides in Marion.

At the end of his junior year in high school, and on his 17th birthday, the youth enlisted in the Army and was sent to Fort Knox, Ky., for basic training. From there he was assigned to Brooks Medical School at San Antonio, Tex., for training in a medical detachment.

Had Paratroop Training.

Upon completion of the course he was transferred to Fort Benning, Ga., where he took paratroop training, completing the work in May, 1949. He went then to Camp Campbell, Ky., where he was stationed until Sept. 1 when orders for his outfit, an airborne infantry unit, sent him to San Francisco and embarkation for Japan Sept. 8.

His mother learned of his landing in Japan and that from there he and the other members of his regiment were flown to Kimpo Airport at Seoul. They took part in the Seoul area mopping up, and then made the parachute drop.

On Aug. 29, before departing from Camp Campbell, Pfc. Wilson and Miss Fowler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Asier Fowler, 123a North Main street, and a junior at Central High School, were married.

Besides his mother and father, Pfc. Wilson is survived by three brothers, Norman, Norris Dean and Ronald and three sisters, Rosemary, Shirley and Jo Ann.