

Sgt. Kenneth Bull Is Latest War Casualty Of This Area

E-4-24-69

Total of Five Have Given Their Lives In Country's Service



SGT. KENNETH BULL

Sgt. Kenneth Richard Bull, 21-year-old youth of the Blair area, is this county's latest casualty of the Vietnam war. News of his death reached the Blair area Sunday. He was injured in combat late Wednesday, April 16th. Sgt. Bull is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bull of Route 1, Blair.

Sgt. Bull's death brings the county's war casualties to five. Four men have been lost in actual combat. One has died while in the service.

Wesley Sperling, of Arlington was this county's first combat casualty. Milo Clements, of Blair, was killed in action only last month and Sgt. Bull's death, which took place while in active fighting, brings the number to three.

Mike Soderstrom, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Soderstrom who formerly lived in Blair, was also killed in active fighting in Vietnam. Mike was a graduate of Blair High School. The Soderstroms now live in Honolulu.

Randy Draper, another Blair High School graduate, died while in military training in this country. While he did not die in active fighting, the war was responsible for his being in military training at the time of his death. Randy is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Carlton Draper, former Blair residents who now live in Red Oak, Iowa.

Members of Sgt. Bull's family have prepared the following details of his life:

Sgt. Kenneth Richard Bull, son of Richard and Verna Bull of Rt. 1, Blair, Nebr. lost his life in Vietnam at 9:00 P.M., April 17, Vietnam time. Upon personal request the Army Headquarters confirmed the date and time of death according to Central Standard time in the United States would be 8:00 A.M., April 16th.

Kenneth was born in Omaha on August 16, 1947 and lived with his parents near Elkhorn. He began his education in the Elkhorn Public School. The family moved to a farm north of Valley in 1953. In 1955 the family moved to their present home north of Blair in the Pleasant View Dist. He attended Blair High School where he participated in football and took part in both his Junior and Senior Class

He was received into membership of the First Lutheran Church at Blair by confirmation in May, 1961.

In January, 1966 he continued his education at the Nebr. Vocational School at Milford, Nebr., graduating from a course in Body and Fender technology in June, 1967. He practiced his trade in Hastings and then Kearney before being called by the draft November 16, 1967.

Ken took his basic training at Ft. Lewis, Washington and his advanced training at Ft. Polk, Louisiana. After spending about three weeks leave with his family, he was sent overseas on April 29 for Vietnam. He was stationed with the 199 Lt. Infantry Brigade. For the most part he served in the area around Saigon. Ken received two R & R trips to Singapore. One last fall, and the second one in March. About March 5th he received his Sargents rating, and was in charge of his platoon when he was killed while on a combat operation when a booby trap detonated.

Ken was 21 years 8 months of age at the time of his death. He is survived by his parents, one sister Cathy of 4106 Cumings St., Omaha, two brothers Keith and Kirk at home, his maternal grandfather, Paul Kruse, of Rt. 6, Omaha, and his paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Bull of Elkhorn, Nebr.

The date for the funeral has not been set, but the services will be held at the First Lutheran Church with Pastor George Pallesen officiating. Committal will be at the Blair Cemetery. Campbell Mortuary is in charge of arrangements.