

Joseph Frank Alston, T-37

19 July 1917 – 26 August 2003

(aged 86)



A 33-year-old Memphis Marine, Staff Sergeant Joe Alston has been wounded in action in Korea and evacuated to Japan, his mother, Mrs. Ora Mae Jackson on Park Avenue, learned yesterday.

"I was lucky," he said in a letter to his mother which told briefly of the artillery fire which killed two of his buddies and wounded him in the right arm on May 28.

Mrs. Jackson said she also received a letter from his son's doctor who said the nerves in the Marine's arm were severely injured and he would have to go to Japan for an operation.

Sergeant Alston landed in Korea early in February with the Second Marines. A graduate of Tech High School, he played football and was captain of the boxing team in his senior year. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1941 and re-enlisted about eight months after his discharge at the end of World War II.

The Marine has two sisters, Mrs. Jean Diggons and Mrs. Hope Cooper, and a half-brother, Jackie Jackson, 12, all of Memphis.

Information from The Commercial Appeal, Wednesday, June 13, 1951.