

Arthur Gerald Qualls, T-67

27 November 1948 – 20 May 1970

(aged 21)



With just a little more than a month to go on his third tour in Vietnam, and looking forward to returning home to his bride, Mrs. Janice Qualls of Hazelwood MO, and relatives and friends in Memphis, Spec. 5 Arthur Gerald Qualls, was killed last week in a helicopter crash in Vietnam. He was 21.

Specialist Qualls had survived six helicopter crashes before the fatal one May 20, his half-brother, Jerry Jeter, said.

Shell fragments struck his hand and a foot in the sixth crash last December. In a letter received last Thursday, he said that he had just had 22 stitches removed from prior injuries.

He had told his family he would only have to instruct and not be in combat after the last crash, but the Army said he was killed on a mission. A crew chief and gunner, the young soldier held the purple heart.

It was on leave last January that he married. His wife received official notification of the death Sunday, Mr. Jeter said.

He also leaves his father, Preston Qualls of 229 Merton, and his grandmother, Mrs. Thelma Colbert of Memphis.

A 1967 graduate of Memphis Tech High School, he worked for a brief period for Humko Products Division of Kraftco Corp. before enlisting in 1968.

He was the 219th fatality from Memphis and Shelby County.

Information from The Press-Scimitar, Tuesday, 26 May 1970.

