

Jack Eugene Reppert, Class of 1958.



SHOT THROUGH THE HEART

Pfc. Jack E. Reppert of Memphis was fatally shot through the heart Monday night in a Ft. Gordon, GA barracks when his buddy demonstrated his fast draw with an “unloaded” 22-caliber pistol.

Young Reppert, 19-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth E. Reppert of 1571 Southern, was killed instantly, authorities said, by a SP4 of Galena Park, TX. The SP4, 19, who was

being treated for shock at the Army hospital after the shooting, had bought the pistol in Augusta, GA, the day before.

OVERLOOKED ONE

Just before his demonstration authorities said, Pfc. Reppert examined the gun and took out the bullets, apparently overlooking the one in the chamber.

Witnesses said the SP4 went into a latrine and when Pfc. Reppert came through the door, he made a fast draw and the pistol fired. Both soldiers were members of the 167th Signal Company, which only last a week was briefed on the safe use of weapons.

No charges have been filed pending an investigation.

Young Reppert’s father, in the maintenance department at Firestone Tire & Rubber Co. here, said yesterday that his son

owned two guns – a 22 caliber rifle and a shotgun and was “always very careful in using them. I imagine that’s why he took the bullets out of the gun the other boy had. All but the one that got him,”

Pfc Reppert was born in Rossville, IN and moved to Memphis with his family in 1946. He was a senior at Tech High School where he entered the service 13 months ago.

He was a communicant of Grace-St. Luke’s Episcopal Church and served as an acolyte there in the Order of St. Vincent.

He also leaves three sisters, Miss Brenda Reppert and Miss Anne Reppert of the Southern address and Mrs. Jerry W. Sparks of Indianapolis, and parental grandparents, Mr. and Mrs.

Forrest Erl Reppert of Frankfort, IN.

This information is from The Commercial Appeal, Wednesday, December 9, 1959.