

Robert Allen Totty, T-34

18 June 1914 – 1 January 1951

(aged 36)



Robert Allen Totty, 36, Memphis soldier who got a battlefield commission last September and was recently promoted to First Lieutenant, last night was reported missing in action in Korea.

The Army telegram listed him as missing since January 1, 1951. The lieutenant's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Totty recently moved from 460 Greer to 30 Auburndale. His wife, Mrs. Gladys Totty and their 4-year-old daughter, Carol Ann, live on Forrest Street.

In his last letter home, written December 29, Lieutenant told of his new rank and said he had had a "good Christmas." He was a member of the 19th Infantry Regiment of the 24th Infantry Division.

His military career began in 1940 when the 115th Field Artillery Battalion of the National Guard was inducted into Federal services. During World War II he won seven ribbons in Europe and the Soldier's Medal for rescuing a fellow soldier from a burning airplane.

He was a sergeant-instructor assigned to the National Guard in Memphis before going overseas again -to Japan -last April. Sent to Korea with the first American troops in July, he was elevated from master sergeant to second lieutenant in September. Later he received a Bronze Star for outstanding achievement.

Born in Linden TN, Lieutenant Totty came to Memphis with his family when he was 15. He was graduated from Tech High School and worked as a baker for Continental Baking Company at 400 Monroe before going on active duty.

His wife was a military radar technician in England during World War II when they met. The Lieutenant also has a sister, Mrs. Gilbert L. Lane in Memphis.

He is the 29th Shelby Countian reported lost since the Korean War began last June.

Information from The Commercial Appeal, Monday, January 22, 1951.

