

Dunn Sergeant Loses Life In Viet Nam War Friday

Staff Sergeant John O. Finnicum, the 44-year-old husband of Mrs. Belvis Finnicum of 211 W. Broad St., Dunn, lost his life in Viet Nam Friday afternoon while engaged in a combat mission against hostile forces.

Word of the death of the well-known sergeant, a veteran of one

world war and two major conflicts, was delivered to Mrs. Finnicum at her home here by two Army officers, Friday night

He had been in Viet Nam only for about 10 days after having spent 30 days here on furlough with his wife and 15-year-old son, Randy.

Saturday Mrs. Finnicum, who works at the Dunn Rite Bakery, received further official notification of her husband's death when the following telegram arrived: "The secretary of the Army has asked to express his deepest regret that your husband, Staff Sgt. John C. Finnicum died in Viet Nam on June 3, 1966 as a result of gunshot wounds received while in combat operations against a hostile force. Please accept my deepest sympathy. This confirms personal notification by representatives of the Secretary of the Army. Signed, J. C. Kambert, major general, U. S. Army, the adjutant general."

Funeral arrangements are incomplete and it will be about ten days before his body is returned to the state for burial.

Sgt. Finnicum left California several weeks ago for the world's most troubled spot. He entered the Army in October, 1942, and was a native of Gallipolis, Ohio.

During World War Two, he was a prisoner of the Germans for one year and three months. When the Korean conflict came along in the 1950s, Sgt. Finnicum once again was the scene to serve his country.

In June, 1965, Finnicum received a Silver Star award for gallantry in the Santo Domingo Crisis.

According to his Army records he led his platoon in a coordinated attack into enemy territory last year where he was ordered to take a defensive stand.

Disregarding his own safety, he ran into the open and gave oral and visual command to encourage (See DUNN SGT. Page 4)



STAFF SGT. JOHN FINNICUM

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Dunn Sgt,

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his men on, and kept the speed of his attack moving.

Despite the fact of heavy casualties, his men captured 15 prisoners and destroyed an enemy, attack. He was a member of the 82nd Airborne.

Sgt. and Mrs. Finnicum had been married sixteen years.

Military 'officers were in Dunn today to start making plans for the funeral services which will be announced later. The body will be returned to Dunn for the services and burial.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Belvin Finer Finnicum of the home; one son, Raaidy of (he home; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wade Finnicum of Gallipolis, Ohio; two brothers, Frank of Mason City, West Virginia, Jack of Kanauga, Ohio; five sisters, Mrs. Alton Aycocock of Lorraine, Ohio; Mrs. Ernie Denning of Lon.TM Beach, Calif., Mrs. Larry Eaves of Santa Anna, Calif., Mrs. Holly Jane Lambert of Gallipolis, Ohio and Miss Martha Ann Finnicum, also of Gallipolis, Ohio.