National Archives & Records Administration War Department Files

2LT Samuel L. Cole Class 55-43

ID: 01178740 Branch of Service: U.S. Army Hometown: Miami County, IN Status: DNB September 15, 1943



Graduated from OCS at Fort Sill on March 3, 1943. Assigned to the Field Artillery School at Fort Sill with orders to proceed TDY to the Harte Flying Service, Denton Texas to attend the basic flight training course. Upon completion of the course he may have entered into advanced training or was assigned to a Field Artillery unit.

A newspaper report indicates that he died at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He and another officer were killed when the aircraft they were in suffered an engine failure at 300 feet and crashed. The other officer in the incident is believed to be 2LT Guy R. Brown (FA OCS Class 43-42), since he died in a plane crash at Fort Leonard Wood on the same day.

Peru Pilot Killed. Lieut, Samuel Cole, nephew Mrs. Andrew Kimpel of Urbana, was killed at Fort Leonard, Missouri, Wednesday when an airplane crashed shortly after he and another officer had started on a flight. The engine failed when they were about 300 feet in the air, and they were both killed in the crash. The body was brought to Peru Sunday and the funeral was held Monday forenoon at ten o'clock. Lieut. Cole was a son of Mrs. Ruth Cole of Peru and was 22 years old. He graduated from Culver Military Academy in 1940, and enlisted in the air corps a year or more ago. His father, Samuel Cole, Sr., was killed in an automobile accident several years ago. He was an only son.



Daily Oklahoman September 16, 1943



Buried in Saint Charles Catholic Cemetery, Peru, Indiana