

February 13, 1918

Prairie Grove Boy, Army Flyer, Killed In Fall From Plane

MEMPHIS, Tenn., February 12

T.C. Rogers and P.B. Cooley, flying cadets were killed at Park Field, the army aviation camp near Memphis when the machines in which they were making practice flights collided in midair today. They were flying at a height of about 250 feet when the accident occurred.

Rogers' home was in Prairie Grove, Ark., and Cooley was from San Jose, Cal.

When the machines struck the ground they were shattered to pieces and the two aviators were pinned under the wreckage, badly mangled. Both were dead when extricated from the debris of the planes.

Spectators who witnessed the accident said one of the machines was preparing to land when the collision took place. The aviators had made several flights when they came to Park Field. This is the first fatality since the field was approved for advanced students in aviation.

Rogers Well Known Here

Tom C. Rogers the army aviator mentioned in the above dispatch, was well known in Fayetteville. He attended the University of Arkansas in 1912 and has two sisters, Mrs. Tom Hart and Mrs. Roy Williams residing here. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. S.H. Rogers of Prairie Grove.

Rogers enlisted in the army aviation section in August and attended the ground school at Atlanta. From there he was sent to Camp Millington, Memphis, to train as a flyer. He had been making flight alone from the past two or three weeks.

Hugh Rogers, a brother of the man killed yesterday, also is in the army aviation section. He enlisted in August, was sent to the ground school at San Antonio and later to the school for flyers at Waco.

Young Rogers was 21 years old. He is survived by his parents: by four sisters, Maud and Clementine of Prairie Grove and Mrs. Roy Williams and Mrs. Tom Hart of Fayetteville.

Due to the uncertainty as to the time of arrival of the body, funeral arrangements have not been announced. Tom L. Hart this morning received a message from Memphis stating that the body probably would arrive Friday morning. Captain Leon R. Smith of the home Guard this afternoon stated that a squad from his company would escort from Fayetteville to Prairie Grove.