

MILITARY RITES FOR KEENER TO BE HELD SUNDAY

Body Of Youth, Shot
Down In Yugoslavia,
Brought Back Home

The body of Cpl. John H. Keener, Jr., 19-year old Macon County youth who was shot down over Yugoslavia August 7, 1944, was brought back home late yesterday, and will be given a military funeral Sunday.

Following a service at the First Baptist church here at 2:30 o'clock, the body will be interred at the Franklin cemetery, with the local American Legion post in charge of the military rites at the grave.

The young tail gunner was shot down while on his second mission.

He was reported missing by the War Department, but it was three years before his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Keener, formerly of Franklin, Route 4, now of Brevard, definitely learned his fate. Johnny Grogen, of Winston-Salem, the only man on the plane who survived, visited the Keeners in 1947 and told them how, just as he went to give the wounded youth a shot of morphine, he (Grogen) was thrown from the plane by an explosion.

Last summer the War Department notified Mr. and Mrs. Keener that young Keener's original burial place was an isolated grave in the village of Orizari-Hanrijepro, Yugoslavia. The remains later were removed to the U. S. Military cemetery at Belgrade, Yugoslavia, whence they were returned to America at the request of Mr. and Mrs. Keener.

Cpl. Keener's survivors, in addition to his parents, include two brothers, Eugene, of Brevard, and Harold, of Franklin; and five sisters, Mrs. Tommy Hayes, of Newport News, Va., and Mrs. Lawrence Fisher, Mrs. Furman Waldroop, and Misses Pauline and Viola Keener, all of Brevard.