



ADEL HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1949

DELBERT  
EMEHSER

SEP. 20, 1931 - JUL. 20, 1950  
19 YEARS, 10 MONTHS



KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL - WASHINGTON, D.C.



PANTHER CREEK CEMETERY - ADEL, IOWA



### Funeral Services Held Here For Adel Youth; Killed In Korean War

Largely attended funeral services were held in Adel yesterday for Pfc. Delbert Emehsler, 19 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Emehsler of Adel. The youth, who had been missing in action for 17 months; then declared officially dead, was thought to have been killed in the fighting around Taejon, Korea. His body was shipped the long way home for burial in the peace and quiet of his own country. An official military escort in the person of Sgt. 1st Class Willie P. Welch was with the body at all times.

Rev. Ben Sinderson, a former army chaplain in World War II, and present minister of the Christian Church, read the last rites at the church Tuesday afternoon. Many servicemen were on hand to pay their last respects to the well known young man - who was born and raised in Adel. Full military honors were accorded him.

An honor guard made up of members of American Legion Post was present at the depot when the train bearing the body arrived on Monday. A quartet composed of Paul Gatchell, Cras. Conger, Frank Lee Jr., and Wendell Spencer sang two numbers. Casket bearers were Keith Engstrom, Dean McAtee, Harold and Jim Butten, Dean Glenn and Robt. Poffenberger.

Military honors at the cemetery were under the direction of the Adel Post of the American Legion. Burial was at the Panther Creek Cemetery. The entire community has extended sympathy to the family of the young serviceman and Adel's first Korean war casualty.

Delbert Dean Emehsler, son of and Mrs. Clifford Emehsler, was born in Adel on September 20, 1931 and met his death on the Korean battlefield in July, 1950. He was reported as "missing in action" for a period of 17 months. Delbert grew up in Adel and left high school in his senior year to enlist in the armed service.

He began basic training at Fort Riley, Kansas in February, 1949, and completed training with the Army Engineers at Fort Belvoir, Va. Shipped overseas, he spent one year in Japan before being moved into Korea. He was a Pfc. in the 24th Infantry Division; 3rd Engineers Combat Battalion which distinguished itself throughout the early period of the war.

He was first reported missing in the heavy fighting around Taejon. Later his death was established and verified by Army reports. Immediate members of the family who survive include his parents, two brothers, Dale and Larry, and a sister, Janet. Delbert was a member of the Christian C church, having been baptized in 1940.

### The Battle of Taejon

The Battle of Taejon (July 14-21, 1950) was an early battle between United States and North Korea forces during the Korean War. Forces of the United States Army, attempting to defend the headquarters of the 24th Infantry Division were overwhelmed by numerically superior forces of the Korean People's Army at the major city and transportation hub of Taejon. The 24th Infantry Division's regiments were already exhausted from the previous two weeks of fighting to stem the advance of the North Korean Army.

The entire division gathered to make a final stand around Taejon, holding a line along the Kum River to the east of the city. Hampered by lack of communications equipment and shortages of heavy weapons to match North Korean fire-power, the American forces, outnumbered, ill-equipped and untrained, were pushed back from the river bank after several days, before fighting an intense urban battle to defend the city. After a fierce three-day struggle, the Americans withdrew.

Although they could not hold the city, the 24th Infantry Division achieved a strategic victory by delaying the North Koreans, providing time for other American divisions to establish a defensive perimeter around Pusan further south. The delay imposed at Taejon probably prevented an American rout during the subsequent Battle of the Pusan Perimeter. Also significant, the North Koreans captured Major General William F. Dean, the commander of the 24th Infantry Division, and highest ranking American prisoner during the Korean War.



### KOREAN WAR PROJECT REMEMBRANCE



PFC DELBERT D EMEHSER  
3rd Engineer Combat Battalion

24th Infantry Division

Army

Hostile, Died (KIA)

Date Of Loss: July 20, 1950

Service Number: RA17260253

DALLAS COUNTY, IA

Location of Loss: TAEJON

Year of Birth: 1931

Comments: Private First Class Emehsler was a member of the 3rd Engineer Combat Battalion 24th Infantry Division. He was Killed in Action while fighting the enemy near Taejon, South Korea on July 20, 1950.

Korean War Project Key No: 8578



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