Steele, Carl Cole

KOREAN WAR PROJECT
A1C Carl Cole Steele

22nd Troop Carrier Squadron
Air Force
Non-hostile, Aircraft Crash
Date Of Loss: June 18, 1953
Service Number: AF15255627
Born: August 12, 1931
Home Or Place Of Enlistment
Winchester, Kentucky
Location Or Battle Zone: Japan
Town Or Area: Tachikawa Air Base
Burial Location
Camp Nelson National Cemetery
Comments: Airman First Class Steele was the flight engineer of a C-124A Globemaster transport with the 22nd Troop Carrier Squadron, 374th Troop Carrier Group stationed at Tachikawa Air Base, Japan. On June 18, 1953, he was enroute from Japan to Korea when his aircraft crashed about three miles from Tachikawa killing 129 servicemen on board.

Life Magazine - June 29, 1953
Worst Air Crash
One rain-filled afternoon last week a giant Air Force C-124 Globemaster lifted off the runway at Tachikawa airport near Tokyo and disappeared into the murk. The tower heard one brief radio message from the plane: "One engine dead; returning for G.C.A. landing." A few minutes later, in a flat spin, the C-124 crashed into a muddy farm field northeast of the airport. There were no survivors: the plane carried to death 129 persons, seven members of the crew and 122 servicemen returning to their units in Korea after leave in Japan. It was, by a margin of 42 deaths, the world's worst disaster in the history of aviation.
Son of Andrew Preston Steele and Mary Cynthia Steele. He was married to Bernice A. Steele, who was living in Santa Ana, California, at the time of his death.

Tyler-- **Steele, Carl Cole**
Carl Steele was a graduate of the Winchester High School, and served in the Air Force for five years. After serving in Japan for eighteen months as an Airman First Class, he was killed on June 18, 1953, in an airplane crash near Tokyo, Japan, that claimed 129 lives. Steele had been flight engineer of a C-124A Globemaster transport, with the 22nd Troop Carrier Squadron, 374th Troop carrier Group. Awarded many medals for his service in Korea, he was survived by his wife, Mrs. Beatrice McGuire Steele, his mother, Mrs. O. F. Baxter, his sisters, Betty Steele, and Mrs. Georgia Barnett, as well as five brothers, Fred, Luther, Charles, John, and Travis Steele.



Carl Cole Steele
(Click picture for a larger view)

The Winchester S
14 Mar 1950, Tue -Pa

Undergoes Operation

Pfc. Carl C. Steele, son of Mrs. O. F. Baxter, of Clark county, underwent an operation last week at Langley Field Air Force base in Virginia.

The Winchester Sun
04 Jan 1951, Thu -Page 3

Miss McGuire Weds Cpl. Carl Steele

The wedding of Miss Bernice McGuire of Santa Anna, Cal., and Cpl. Carl C. Steele, of the U. S. Army Air Force, son of Mrs. Mary Steele Baxter, of Irvine, was solemnized Dec. 25 in Tia Juana, Mex.

Cpl. Steele is stationed in Long Beach, Cal. where they will make their home.

The Winchester Sun
20 Jun 1953, Sat -Page 1

Carl C. Steele Crash Victim

A 1/c Carl C. Steele, 22 of Winchester, was one of three Kentuckians killed Thursday in an airplane crash near Tokyo, Japan, which cost 129 lives.

Airman Steele, the son of Mrs. O. F. Baxter, 119 Winn Avenue, was a graduate of Winchester High school and had been in the Air Force for five years. He had served 18 months in Japan.

Other survivors include his wife, Mrs. Beatrice McGuire Steele, of Long Beach, Calif.; two sisters, Miss Betty Steele, Clark county, and Mrs. Georgia Barnett, of Los Angeles, Calif., and four brothers, Fred Steele, of Winchester, and Luther, Charles, John and Travis Steele, Detroit, Mich.

Other Kentuckians listed by the Associated Press as victims of the crash, which claimed more lives than any other in history, were A 1/c Donald R. Rudolph, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis P. Rudolph, St. Matthews, and A 3/c James R. Basham, son of Mrs. Virgie Risner, Salyersville.

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21 Sep 1953, Mon -Page 1

Airman's Body Due Here Tonight

The body of Airman First Class Carl C. Steele, 22, who was killed in a transport plane crash in Japan on June 28, will arrive here tonight at 9:22 o'clock and will be taken to the Scobee Funeral Home. Funeral arrangement had not been completed.

A/1C Steele ,son of Mrs. O. F Baxter of Winchester, and the late A. P. Steele, had been in the service since Aug. 12, 1947.

In addition to his mother, survivors include his wife, Mrs. Bernice McGuire Steele; five brothers, John, Travis, Charles and Luther Steele, all of Detroit and Fred Steele, Anderson, Ind., and two sisters, Mrs. Georgia Barnett, Oakland, Calif., and Miss Betty John Steele, Winchester.

The Winchester Sun
22 Sep 1953, Tue -Page 1

Rites For Airman Planned Wednesday

Funeral services for Airman First Class Carl C. Steele, 22, who was killed June 28 in a plane crash in Japan, will be conducted at 10 a.m. Wednesday at the Northside Baptist Church by the Rev. William Reed, pastor. Burial will be at the Camp Nelson Military Cemetery near Nicholasville, where military services will be conducted at the grave.

Pallbearers will be Buddy Hopkins, Alfred Ashley, Harvey Smith, Charles Gardner, Frank Morris and Charlie Daugherty.

The body arrived here last night and was taken to the Scobee Funeral Home where it will remain until 9 a.m. Wednesday when it will be removed to the Northside Baptist Church.