

DODSON WRITES WIFE, PARENTS

Last Letters Come From Viet Nam Crash Victim

By WANDA WALKER

Only a few hours after being notified Tuesday that their son, Pfc. Freddy Dodson, had been killed in a helicopter crash in South Viet Nam, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene V. Dodson of Route 4 received a letter in which he wrote that he had been working and flying about 12 to 16 hours a day.

His widow, the former Theresa Ann Butler of 2205 E. Houston, was also informed of his long flying hours in a letter from her husband received Monday, the day the Marshall airman was killed while serving as a helicopter crew chief on a resupply mission.

A telegram to the parents Tuesday advised that the craft was hit by small arms fire and crashed and burned. The telegram was signed by J. C. Lambert, major general, USA, the adjutant general.

The young widow, who became Dodson's bride in a church ceremony here last December, stated that her husband volunteered for crew chief duty only recently. He went to Viet Nam in April after graduating second in his class at the Fort Rucker, Ala., Helicopter Maintenance School. He was a graduate of Marshall High School and entered the service in Sept., 1963.

Dodson was stationed at Na Dang upon going to Viet Nam, but recent letters to his wife and parents indicated a change in his base of operations.

"We have been flying a lot of hours, nearly 100 hours this past week — working and flying about 12 to 16 hours a day," the airman wrote his parents. "Everything is happening at once," he continued.

He informed his wife and his parents also that he had been up around the Laotian border



PFC. DODSON

at Cassion for the last week on a mission.

Recently, he noted in a letter that "something is up." At that

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time he remarked that he had been flying at night from six to 12 hours and "the pilots don't like to fly at night."

In a letter received in Marshall about a month ago, Dodson said he had not had a day off in 28 days.

He was born Feb. 23, 1939 in Holly Springs, Ark., but moved to Marshall when only a few years old. He was employed by Snider Lumber Co. before entering the service and was a member of the East End Baptist Church.

Besides his wife and parents, he is survived by one brother, Johnny Hugh Dodson of Kanhack, a sister, Mrs. Thomas L. Gober, Tyler; grandparents, Mrs. Fred Gurnsey and Mrs. John H. Dodson of Holly Springs, and a number of aunts and uncles.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Sullivan Funeral Home.