

Mike's Accordion Silenced Forever

Michael Fitzpatrick, 23, wasn't even an American citizen. He came to this country in October, 1947, from his native Claremorris in County Mayo, Ireland.

One has to live here at least five years before becoming a citizen.

So Mike tried at least to act like a good citizen. He took out his first papers and got a job as a maintenance mechanic for the Inland Steel Co. He lived in a room at 1827 New York, Whiting Ind.

His sister and brother, Mary and James, were newly arrived here too and lived at 1610 Lunt. In a short time he became known among the city's Irish because he played his "Irish" accordion at parties throughout the city.

Then in December, 1950, he was drafted into the Army. He was shipped to Korea in May, 1951, as a medical aid man with the 23d Infantry Regiment, 2d Division.

A Chaplain wrote his sister that Mike had said, "I'm willing to die for my new country". Last September – still not a citizen – Pfc. Mike Fitzpatrick was killed in combat.

Tuesday his body arrived from San Francisco. It was brought to the chapel at 5438 S. Halsted.

At 9:30 a.m. Saturday requiem mass will be offered for Mike in the Visitation Church, 843 W. Garfield blvd. He will be buried with military honors in holy Sepulchre cemetery.

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