Recalled to Duty

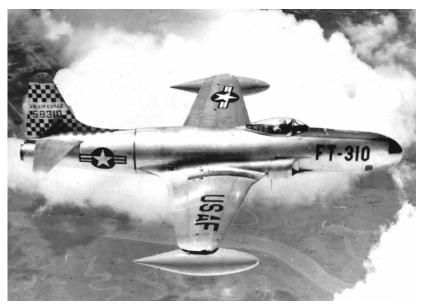
Roy Franklin Kaiser answered his country's call not once but twice. Kaiser, a mechanical engineering major from Lexington, was assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 2nd Regiment of the Cadet Brigade. He competed as a member of Clemson's Rifle team. Wartime restrictions on travel and transportation curtailed the shooters' season, with only one "shoulder-to-shoulder" match, a narrow loss to Georgia Tech, during the 1942-43 academic year. Even so, the training the Tiger marksmen received took on special significance as cadets anticipated soon joining the armed forces and being assigned to combat units.

Kaiser enlisted in the Army Air Force in late February 1943. Following basic training, he shipped out to the Pacific Theater where he served through V-J Day. In April 1946, Kaiser was discharged as a lieutenant in the Army Air Force Reserve.



FIRST LIEUT ROY F. KAISER

On February 27, 1948, five years to the day since his World War II enlistment, Lieutenant Kaiser was recalled to active duty, this time in the newly organized United States Air Force. He was assigned to the 161st Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron based at Langley Field, Virginia. Kaiser's new squadron had fought in the European Theater as an Army Air Force tactical fighter outfit during the war, equipped with the legendary P-51 Mustang. Now the 161st had taken on the role of aerial reconnaissance. Its new aerial camera platform was the RF-80, the



reconnaissance version of the Air Force's first operational jet fighter.

On December 5, 1948, Lieutenant Kaiser was at the controls of an RF-80 on a navigational flight from Kelly Field, Texas to Turner Field near Albany, Georgia. Near Jackson, Mississippi, Kaiser's aircraft experienced problems which compelled him to attempt a forced landing. Kaiser was killed in the ensuing crash. First Lieutenant Roy Franklin Kaiser answered the call to duty twice--and with two distinct branches of the American military. He was survived by his parents and three sisters.

