

Two Drown Near Dam

By WENDELL WILSON
Staff Writer

The boiling water below a small dam on Ringgold Creek apparently has taken the lives of two Fort Campbell soldiers on a Sunday afternoon outing.

One body was recovered Sunday from the frigid waters of the swiftly flowing creek and personnel from the Montgomery County Rescue Squad were still searching for the second victim this morning.

Confirmed dead is Randall Norman, 19, who resided at Lot 19, Kettles Trailer Park in Clarksville. He served with the Headquarters, Headquarters Company, Third Battalion of the 187th Infantry.

Missing and believed dead is Ken Lawson, 18, who served with Norman in the same Fort Campbell unit.

Both men were in a small silver and blue rubber boat floating on the creek just before the 5:50 p.m. accident occurred. Norman reportedly planned to steer the craft over the 10-foot-high dam to show his friend how easily it could be done.

The boat apparently capsized after tumbling over the cascading waterfall created by the dam. Suction from the falls at the base of the dam trapped the men in swirling currents.

Norman was apparently still living when rescuers first arrive at the scene just before 6 p.m.

Clarksville Patrolman James Oldham, who was sent to the creek after the drowning report was called in to local authorities, attempted to secure the aid of an onlooker.

That person, Sgt. Morris H. Bolding, then entered the water to try to swim to the bobbing remains of the small rubber boat.

Bolding was sucked under several times before swimming half the width of the creek to the then-twisted craft.

After Bolding was unsuccessful in his rescue attempt, he finally escaped the cauldron beneath the falls and swam to shore.

He was treated at the scene for exhaustion and for taking a small amount of water into his lungs. He then was transported to Fort Campbell Hospital's emergency room where he was treated and released. Bolding is assigned to the 584th Maintenance Company at Fort Campbell.

Oldham reported that Norman disappeared from sight at 6:25 p.m.

His body was recovered at 7:20 p.m. after the remains of the boat were pulled far enough from the falls by the action of the water to be caught in the rapid current down stream.

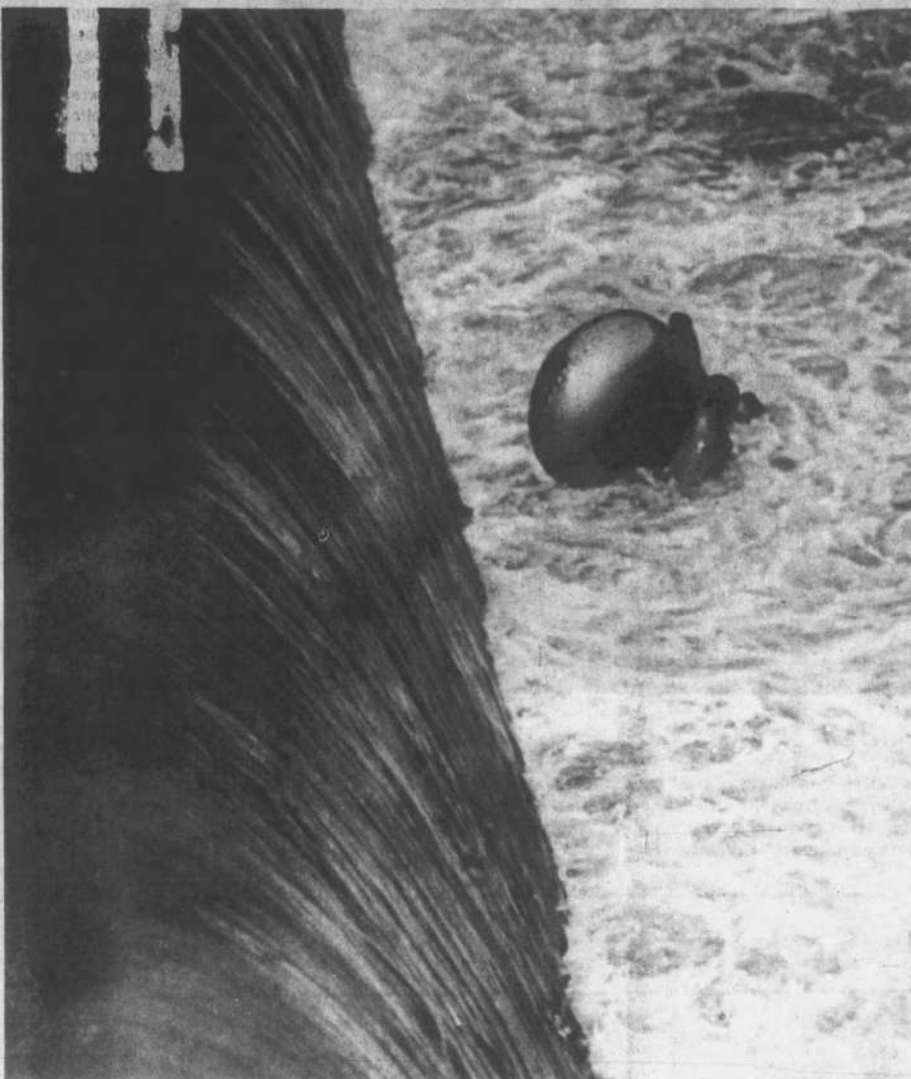
Rescue squad personnel who hurriedly jumped into a waiting boat after the small rubber craft broke loose caught up with it about 75 yards from the dam.

Norman was entangled in ropes he used to tie himself to the raft and in a life jacket still buckled around his waist.

Rescue squad personnel speculated that Norman might have lived if he had had the life jacket tied on properly and had not been tied to the raft.

Later Sunday, the rescue squad began dragging the creek for the second victim but called off their search for the night about 11 p.m.

They reportedly were planning to walk the creek banks early today searching for the missing man, and then planned to resume dragging operations.

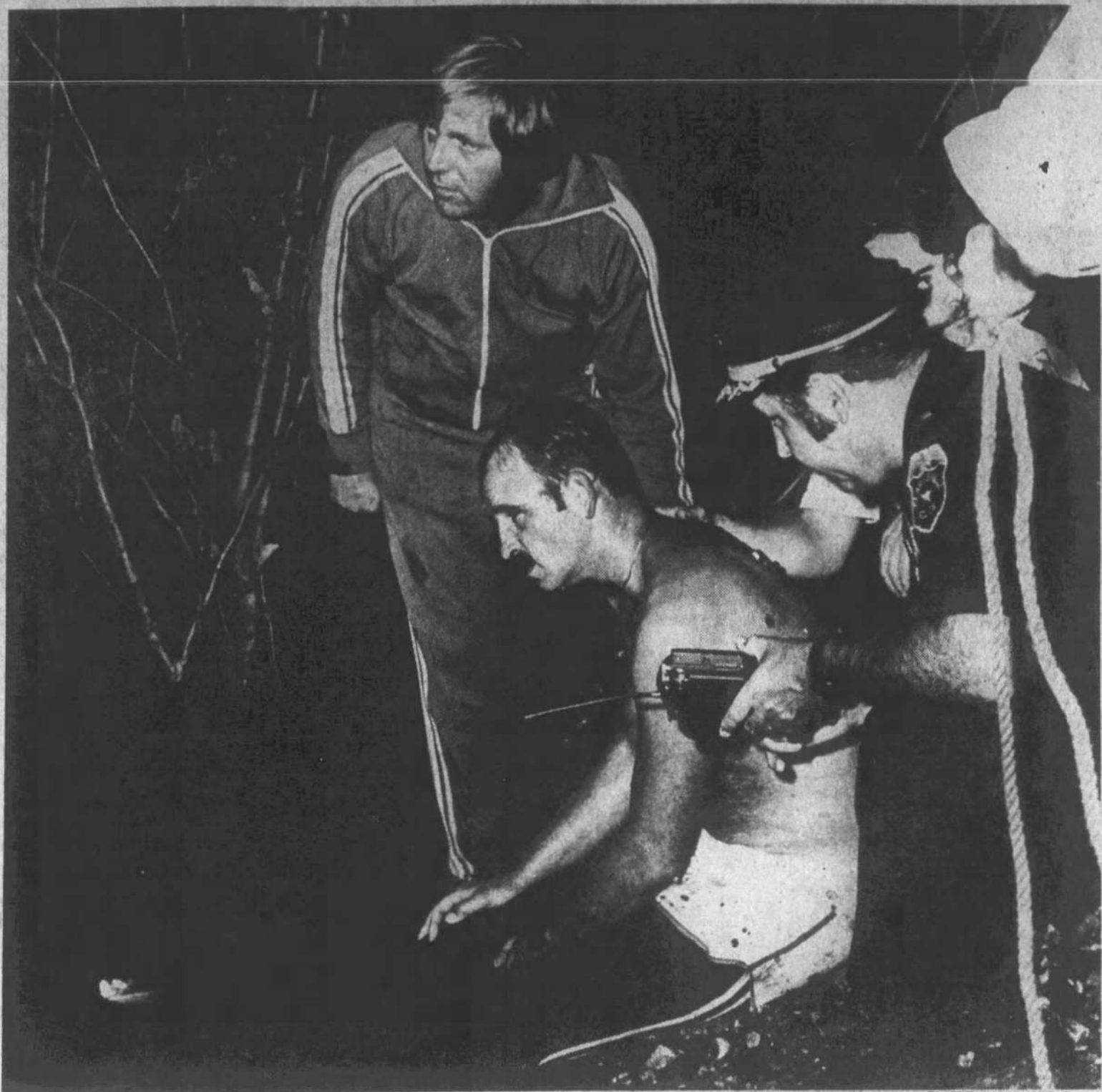


Staff Photo by W. J. Souza

Rescue Try Fails

Sgt. Morris H. Bolding, seen with his back to the camera, made a valiant attempt to save the life of Randall Norman who was sucked into the swirling waters below a dam on Ringgold Creek. Bolding later had to abandon his attempt, which

came close to taking his life. One victim of the drowning incident, Randall Norman, is tied to the raft Bolding is clinging to. Additional photo on page 2-A.



Staff Photo by W.J. Souza

Rescuer Aided

Rescuers aid Sgt. Morris H. Bolding after he tried to save one of two apparent drowning victims Sunday evening. Bolding tried to swim to the raging water beneath a dam on Ringgold Creek to assist

Randall Norman. Norman's body was found at 7:20 p.m. At left is Jimmy Giles and at right is Lt. Bob Davis of the Clarksville Police Department.



Assisting

About 25 members of the Third Battalion of the 187th Infantry Division from Fort Campbell are assisting local authorities in the search for the body of 18-year-old Ken Lawson, who is thought to have drowned Sunday in Ringgold Creek in north

Clarksville. Rescuers have recovered the body of Randall Norman, 19. Both men were members of the Fort Campbell unit assisting in the search. The soldiers in the search walked the creek bank and assisted on dragging lines.



Staff Photos by W.J. Souza

Officials View Scene

Police Chief Ira Nunley and Assistant Chief Ted Seay, left, and Sheriff Billie Smith, fourth from left, viewed the tumbling waters of a waterfall created by a small dam on Ringgold Creek in north

Clarksville. Two men were believed caught in the boiling waters. One body was recovered from the water Sunday and rescuers are still searching for the second man. Related photo on page 1-A.



Staff Photo by W.J. Souza

Search Continues

Rescue workers this morning continued their search for the body of a Fort Campbell soldier believed killed Sunday in a boating accident on Ringgold Creek. Eight men manned the search this morning in efforts to locate the boy of Ken Lawson, 18, of Headquarters and Headquarters

Company, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry. Working yesterday were from left: Roger Vincent, Montgomery County Rescue Squad, Barry Travis, Montgomery County Ambulance Service and Rescue Squad workers John Richardson and Alex Wooton.

Search Continues For Victim

Rescue Squad workers and Fort Campbell authorities continued their search today for the body of an 18-year-old soldier believed drowned Sunday in the swirling waters of Ringgold Creek.

Eight persons this morning renewed the vigil that began after the small rubber boat steered by two Fort Campbell soldiers tumbled over a waterfall under a dam on the fast-flowing creek.

Dead at the scene was Randall Norman, 19, of Lot 19, Kettles Trailer Park.

Still missing is Ken Lawson, 18, who served with Norman in the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry.

Authorities this morning were trying to determine whether Lawson's body was pinned under the dam by the force of the current, or whether the water carried it down the rain swollen stream.

Ralph Stansell of the Rescue Squad said his men were "retracing our steps" hoping the body was hung up on vegetation on the creek bank.

"The water is dropping pretty good, so there is a possibility of finding him somewhere on the bank," he said.

Rescue Squad workers Tuesday piloted their boats as far as the Red River in attempts to determine whether the body had been carried from the scene of the death.

A Fort Campbell helicopter pilot

was given permission to land around 4 p.m. yesterday when he spied from the air something floating in the Cumberland River, Police Chief Ira Nunley said.

Further investigation of that report proved it false, Nunley said.

If Lawson's body is not discovered by Monday, Fort Campbell authorities will begin the process of declaring Lawson officially missing.

A board of officials there will meet to determine whether the man is dead, missing or absent without leave, according to Maj. Larry Bates, public information officer.

Authorities held little hope that Lawson escaped the crushing force of the swiftly flowing rapids.



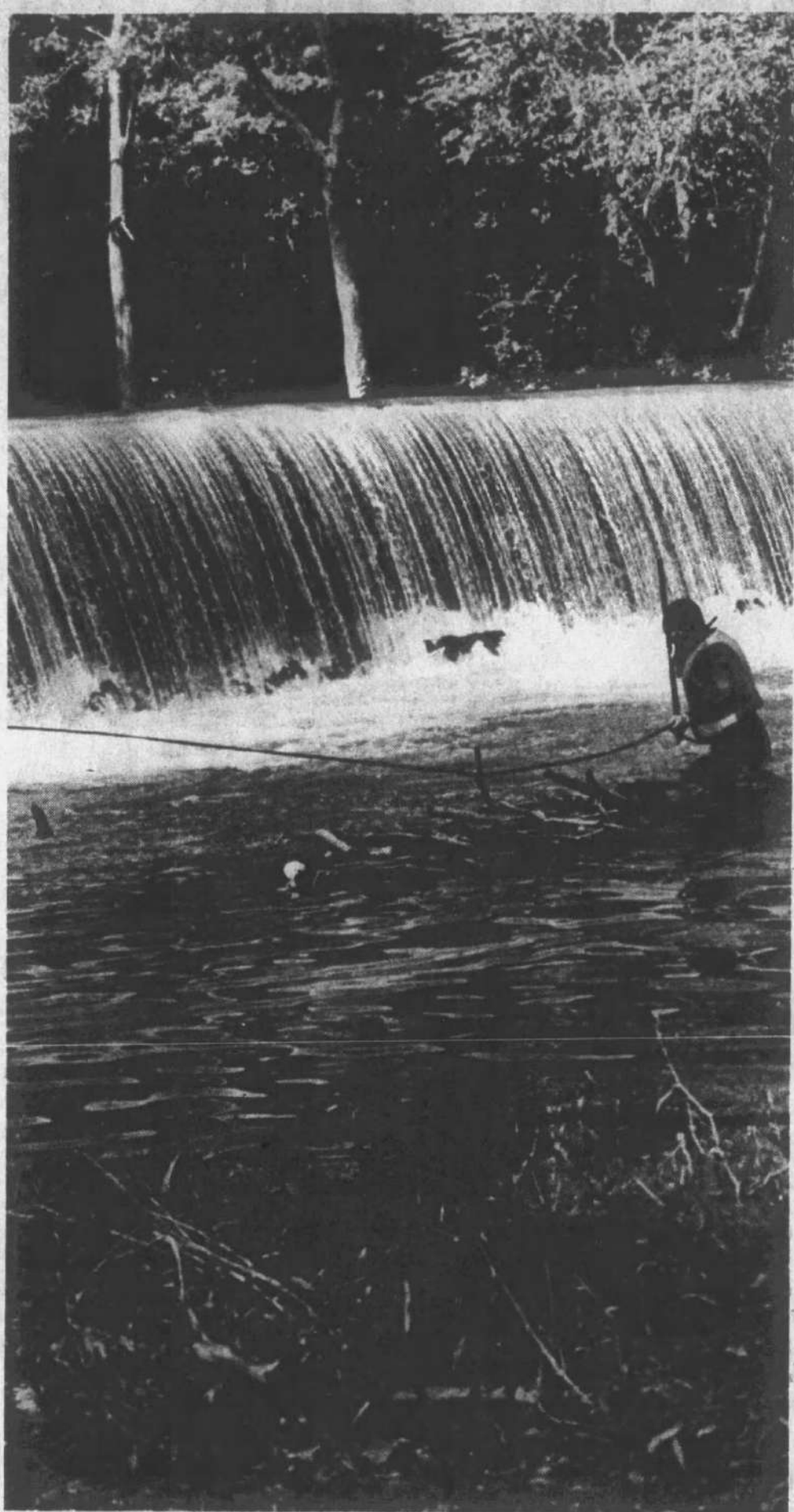
Staff Photo by W.J. SOUSA

Search Ends For Drowning Victim

Montgomery County Rescue Squad members and soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division carry the body of Kenneth I. Larsen from the waters of Ringgold Creek.

Larsen's body was recovered Wednesday after a four-day search. Larsen drowned Sunday after a rafting accident. The body

of Randall Norman, who also drowned in the creek, was recovered Sunday. Another photo is on Page 2-A.



Staff Photo by W.J. Souza

Body Found

Rescue squad diver Greg Smith found the body of Kenneth I. Larsen, 18, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry at 1:57 p.m. Wednesday under this dam on Ringgold Creek. Larsen drowned Sunday along with Randall

Norman, 19, of Lot 19, Kettles Trailer Park. Norman's body was recovered Sunday. Smith found the body by probing under the dam with the pole he is holding in this picture. Related Photo on Page 1-A.