

The Giddings Star

August 27, 1953

**Lt. Knippa Killed
In Air Crash**

Paul Knippa Jr. received a message from Austin at 3 o'clock Wednesday afternoon informing him that his brother Franklin, stationed at Bergstrom Air Force Base, was killed in a mid-air collision of two F 84 jet airplanes stationed at the base. Franklin was a second lieutenant in the Air Force. He was 22 years old.

The collision was reported 5 miles south of the base at 10 a. m.

The two planes collided and Franklin's went down in a tailspin and indications are that he was killed instantly. The other pilot crash-landed, had both of his legs broken and apparently suffered internal injuries but was still living Wednesday afternoon.

Franklin is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Knippa, Sr. of Lexington.