

Fork Union Cadet Accidentally Shot By School Friend

**Eldridge Baker Reported
In Serious Condition
At University**

**Accident Occurs At
Scottsville Station**

**Students Break Rule In
Taking Automobile
Lift On Highway**

Two boys, Eldridge Baker, eighteen-year-old Fork Union cadet, and Romulus Gentry, of Arvonla, are in the University Hospital today receiving treatment for injuries sustained in an accidental shooting at Scottsville shortly after 10 o'clock last night.

Baker, son of Mrs. P. H. Baker, of Cranston, Rhode Island, was shot in the neck, and is not expected to live, according to reports. Gentry was wounded in the mouth; several teeth were knocked out and a part of his lip torn, but his condition is not considered serious it was stated by hospital authorities.

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Cadets Thumb Ride

According to Colonel N. J. Perkins, headmaster of the Fork Union Military Academy, two cadets, who were walking down the road near the school were picked up by two Arvonla boys and they stopped by the barracks and asked Baker and another cadet to ride to Scottsville. The boys were allowed to walk two miles off campus, Col. Perkins explained, but had not been granted permission to ride in the automobile.

On the outskirts of Scottsville they stopped at a filling station to get gas. One of the boys had a pistol in the car and they were all looking at it, according to the story, when one of the cadets, whose name was not divulged, accidentally pulled the trigger, and Baker, standing next to him, was shot through the neck. The bullet passed through his neck and struck Romulus Gentry, the Arvonla boy, in whose car the boys were riding.

Rushed To Hospital

Baker and Gentry were taken to Dr. Stinson at Scottsville, who after examining them, brought them into the University Hospital. The three remaining cadets returned immediately to the academy and reported the accident to Lieutenant V. A. Smith, the officer in charge, who came immediately to Charlottesville and since been with Baker in the hospital. Colonel Perkins, who remained in the hospital for some time last night, has returned to the school.

According to Lieutenant Smith, the cadet who shot Baker was one of the boy's best friends, and is in the academy's infirmary today in a highly nervous condition.

"I want it stressed particularly," Colonel Perkins said, "that none of the cadets was under the influence of whiskey, and that the serious misfortune was purely accidental. The boys were not running away, and the only law infringement was the fact they were riding in an automobile without permission."

Baker's mother, Mrs. P. H. Baker, is expected to arrive in Charlottesville this afternoon.

"The Daily Progress,
November 23, 1936.

Fork Union Cadet Accidentally Shot

Charlottesville, Nov. 23.—(AP)—Eldridge Baker, 18-year-old Fork Union Military Academy cadet, lay near death tonight in University Hospital here as the result of what academy officials described as an accidental shooting.

The same bullet that passed through Baker's neck as the boy stood near a filling station near Scottsville, struck Romulus Gentry, of Arvonla, a companion, in the mouth. Gentry is not seriously hurt, physicians said.

They held little hope, however, for the cadet's recovery.

Col. M. J. Perkins, headmaster at the academy, said he was informed four cadets were walking along the highway near the school and were picked up by an automobile driven by Gentry. He said the boys stopped at the filling station and one of the cadets was

examining a revolver when it accidentally discharged.

Baker's mother, of Cranston, R. I., was reported en route to Charlottesville tonight.

Fork Union Cadet Dies In Hospital Of Bullet Wound

Youth Reported Accidentally Shot While Examining Revolver

Charlottesville, Nov. 24.—Eldridge Baker, of Cranston, Rhode Island, a cadet at Fork Union Military academy, died at University hospital here today of a bullet wound which academy officials said was accidentally inflicted by another cadet.

Colonel M. J. Perkins, the academy's head master, said four cadets were examining a pistol with two Arvonias on the road outside Scottsville, when it was discharged.

The bullet passed through young Baker's neck and struck Romulus Gentry, Arvonian youth, a glancing blow in the mouth, Perkins said.

Teeth Lost

Several of Gentry's teeth were knocked out and his lip cut.

Virginia state police said today they had not been asked to investigate the case.

Baker's mother hurried here and was at the hospital when the cadet died at 1:45 a. m. today.

Cadets Carry Body of Mate From Hospital

Fork Union Squad Fires Salute for Accidental Pistol Shot Victim

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Nov. 24.—The body of Houghton Eldredge Baker, 17-year-old cadet of Fork Union Military Academy, who died early today at the University Hospital from an accidental bullet wound, was borne to a Southern Railway train at 4:25 o'clock this afternoon by eight fellow students, and a salute was fired by a squad from the academy.

Two cadets accompanied the body to Cranston, R. I., where funeral and burial will take place Friday afternoon.

While the name of the cadet who, with two Buckingham County youths, was examining the pistol on the road outside Scottsville when it was discharged, has not been divulged, it was learned today that he was a former schoolmate of Baker's at the Cranston High School and entered Fork Union with Baker last September.

Young Baker was a son of the late Charles K. Baker of West Harwich, Mass. His mother was, before her marriage, Miss Maude M. Parker of Worcester, Mass. Besides his mother, the youth is survived by a brother, Charles K. Baker Jr. of Cranston, and a half-sister, Miss Grace C. Baker of Providence, R. I.

Romulus Gentry of Arvonias, who had two teeth knocked out by the same bullet that struck Baker, was discharged from the University Hospital today to return home.

CADETS BODY FOUND

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va., Nov. 24.

—(AP)—The body of Eldridge Baker, 18, a cadet at Fork Union Military Academy, who was fatally shot by another cadet, was sent by train from here today to his Cranston, R. I. home.

Baker's mother, who was with the boy when he died at the University hospital early today, accompanied the body.

Colonel M. J. Perkins, the academy's headmaster, said the youth was accidentally wounded by a schoolmate who was examining a pistol.

The bullet passed through Baker's neck and struck Romulus Gentry, of Arvonias, in the mouth, Colonel Perkins said.

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