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First Vietnam casualty

LACONIA — The Vietnam War came home to Central New Hampshire in a personal way, 50 years ago this week.

Pfc Jay A. Hurd, 19, of Belmont, was killed in action in Vietnam, Sept. 1, 1966, by a sniper's bullet while returning to base with his unit from a combat mission, The Citizen reported, 50 years ago this week.

He was the first casualty of the Vietnam War from the Laconia area.

A paratrooper in the 101st Airborne Division, he had been in Vietnam for four months and in the Army for just under a year.

Born in Laconia, he was a 1965 graduate of Laconia High School.

The family had lived in Laconia until recently when they moved to a new home on Plummer Hill in Belmont.

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