

Sgt. Kim Hill Wins Foxhole 'Wrestling' Match With Jap

"His wrestling has certainly stood him in good stead," Mrs. Nathan Hill, 311 West Springfield avenue, observed when she learned of a recent narrow escape for her son, Sergeant Kimbrell Hill.

The Champaign sergeant stars in a tale of heroism filtering to the Associated Press in Calcutta from the Burma jungles where American Mars task force has been operating on the Lashio-Loiwing road. John Grover of the AP staff tells of the encounter:

"Sergeant Kim Hill, former University of Illinois student, fired on by a Japanese machinegun, dived in a foxhole and landed on top of a Japanese soldier. The Japanese tried to stab him with a samurai sword.

"Unable to reach his bayonet Hill grabbed the sword with his right hand. The Japanese dropped the weapon and began pounding a percussion-type grenade on Hill's head, apparently determined to die along with his American adversary by blowing both of them to bits.

"Just a split second before the explosion was due, Hill clawed the grenade from the Japanese soldier's hand and threw it out of the fox-

hole. He finished off the Japanese with the enemy's own sword."

Mrs. Hill received a letter from her son's commanding officer written January 4 advising her he would not be able to write to her for some time as he would be on a special mission. She was told to continue writing him as usual, but not to expect mail from him. His latest letter was written December 29.

The wrestling sergeant is one of three sons of Mrs. Hill, all in overseas service. All have been in the army since before Pearl Harbor. Captain Thomas W. Hill is believed to be in Germany now, and Private Richard Hill has been overseas with the 106th reconnaissance group for many months.

Both Kim and Richard left with the 106th cavalry in Urbana. Kim was transferred to another cavalry group about a year ago and has been overseas since last August.

Sergeant Hill wrestled for both Champaign high school and the University, winning his letter at the UI for participation in team meets. He was a sophomore when he was called into service.

Chicago Tribune