

Seeker for Missing Men Is Again Stalking Battlefronts

(By Kenneth L. Dixon with the AEF in Italy)

With a pocket full of cigarettes and a handful of clues, chunky bearded Fred Zinn, is stalking around over Africa, Sicily, and Italy, doing the same grim job he did in Europe 23 years ago.

He's locating the last traces of armless missing in action.

Working alone on a volunteer mission, the 52-year-old seed manufacturer from Battle Creek, Mich., this wife now is waiting in Rosedale Garden, a Detroit suburb, is almost unknown. He has no official status for his mission, no transportation except what he begs or borrows, and no assistants.

Sometimes officers who were in the last war see him passing, his tired, owlish eyes perpetually quizzical behind hornrimmed glasses, and wrack their memory to recall where they've seen him before.

But Fred goes plodding on, questioning an Italian farmer who saw in plane crash, asking to see hospital records, erstwhile enemy air force victory reports, old registry books, hunting clues to clear up the record of another missing airman.

And while he's not mawkish or maudlin about it, the thing that drives him on is in his pocket. Someone's terse notice which says in part "we regret to inform you—missing in action—give further details—you will be promptly notified."

When the last war broke out Zinn was just out of Michigan University, a kid scrambling around Europe. In 1915 he joined the French Foreign Legion, worked up from buck private to sergeant, received the Croix de Guerre with palm leaves and star, was wounded at Champagne, listed as missing in action a while, finally rejoined his outfit.

When the Yanks started coming he transferred to the Lafayette escadrille as a captain, served as aerial machine gunner and observer, was picked by Lieut. Col. Billy Mitchell to organize aerial photo work, and then was placed in charge of assigning American flying personnel.

"I sent them to their particular squadrons and their particular planes so I got to know them all pretty well," Fred said, "and I kind of felt like I was the one who was sending them out on their mission."

Many didn't return from those missions. The "regret to inform you" messages started back across the Atlantic.

Now the percentage of armless men listed as "missing in action" is inevitably much higher than among ground troops for the fliers vanish over enemy territory and clues to their fate have become faint by the time we take that territory.

When the last war was over more than 200 American armless fliers had known still were listed as missing and there were many whose graves had never been found.

Fred had assigned them, he had their squadron records, the reports of their buddies who returned, and he knew that their folks back home were going crazy to know if they were dead, captured or in some hospital somewhere, and if dead how they died and where they were buried.

So, while thousands of Yanks sailed happily homeward, Captain Zinn, who already had been overseas more than four years, asked permission to stay and seek out the story of each missing man.

For eight months his quest led him through northern France, Belgium and Germany, through the cornfields and woods of Verdun, Chateau Thierry, St. Mihiel and the Meuse sector. He tramped through the Argonne to Sedan and into the mountains that encircled Metz and hide the valley of the Moselle. He went to Berlin and studied records of German air victories and returned to the search of battlefields.

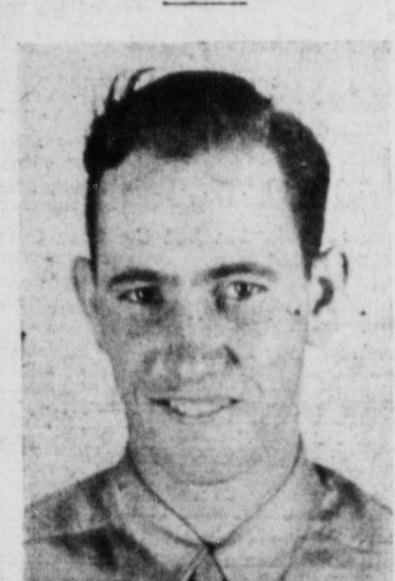
Sometimes he had only a piece of wrecked plane to localize the hunt for a grave. Sometimes it was an intimated handkerchief or a scrap of paper on which a dying flier had scrawled his name.

Often the grave, when found, had only rude crosses saying "unidentified American aviator." Then he had to make positive identification which he found by questioning and checking and sometimes was forced to open graves.

Civilians, town officials, police, peasants—all these told stories which of heroism which otherwise would have been untold, over to the war department to notify the family. In addition he wrote countless personal letters relating details which he found "neat so much."

When he finally left Europe as a major in July 1919, only six of the 200 armless still were listed as missing. Fred Zinn had done his work well. Now he's at it again.

Letter Reveals Son Wounded in Action



The following letter was received by Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Shank, of Coatesville, from their son, Pvt. Donald L. Shank, telling them for the first time of having been wounded in action:

Dear Folks:

I can now tell you why I was in the hospital in Africa. I had malaria, rheumatic fever and arthritis. But I am now back in Italy. I was platoon runner at the front when I got in an argument with a German 88. It won, and I am back in the hospital again, with a leg wound. Don't worry.

Love, DON.

The Centre Democrat also learns that Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Shank are the proud grandparents of their first grandchild, a son born to their daughter, Lois, and husband, Jay Heller, at the Coatesville Hospital, March 6. Both mother and son, David Wayne, are doing fine.

Farewell Party for Son

A farewell party was held Wednesday, March 15, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Henry of Pine Grove Mills, in honor of their son, Roy, who left Saturday for the armed services. A fountain pen among other presents was given by his old school-day friends. Those who were present were: Ruby Eron, Mary Burwell, Betty Lauck, Ethel Everst, Mary Ellenberger, Joann Harpster, Marjorie Artz, Ethel Sunday, Joyce Eyer, Charles Riley, Harry Ellenberger, Dick Kline, Jim Kline, Raymond Artz, Dave Hunter, Grover Corl, Dave Randolph, Bob Kidwell, Dick Johnson, James Kicwell, James Harpster, Gerry Henry, Dick Henry, Ronald Henry, Adeline Henry, Betty Henry, Roy, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Henry. Ice cream and other refreshments were served. All wish Roy the best of luck.

Enlists in WAYES

Miss Hazel C. Foieto, of Fourth street, Renovo, has enlisted in the U. S. Naval Reserve and will report to Hunter College, New York City, on March 23. Miss Hazel graduated from Renovo High School in the class of 1941. She was active in all school sports and also a drum major in the Renovo High School band. She was the first young lady to join the American Legion Ladies' Auxiliary at Renovo and still is a charter member of that organization. Before her enlistment she was employed by the Pennsylvania Railroad as a store attendant.

—Buy Bonds for future needs.

Hardware Bulletin!

- Fence batteries will be more plentiful
- Full Size No. 9 Columbian Coal Ranges are now available.
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- Use Barretts Roofing to replace that old roof.
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HONOR ROLL

With the Sea-Bees



C.M. I/c Charles E. Miller

Enlisting in the Sea-Bees, construction battalion of the Navy, on October 21, 1943, Charles E. Miller, 32, well known resident of Milesburg, is now a Carpenter's Mate, third class, and is stationed somewhere in England.

Upon completion of his boot training at Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va., he was transferred to Camp Endicott, Rhode Island. During the Christmas season he spent a 10-day furlough with his wife, the former Ethel Hall, of Milesburg, and after returning to camp was in charge of instructing a group of men for a time before being sent to Long Island, N. Y. That was his last station before sailing for England.

Prior to entering the Sea-Bees Miller was employed in the mines of the Warner Company, Bellefonte. He is the oldest son of Mrs. Anna Miller, of Julian, R. D.

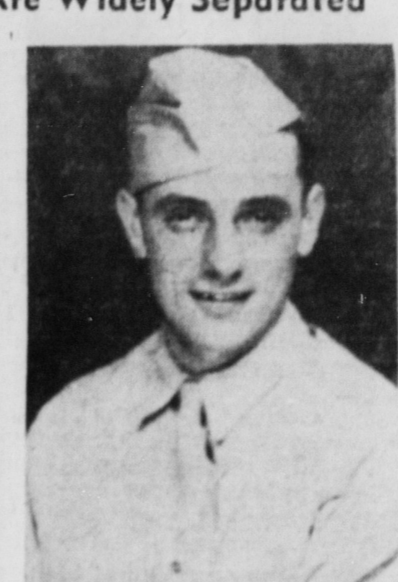
Bathurst Brothers Are Widely Separated



Pvt. William E. Bathurst, Jr.

The above Centre county servicemen are sons of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Bathurst, of Howard.

Pvt. William Bathurst, Jr. is serving with the U. S. forces overseas. He left here with the Bellefonte Troop which was sent to Camp Shelby, Miss. Having been stationed there for some time he was transferred to Camp Sutton, N. C., and furlough with his wife, the former Ethel Hall, of Milesburg, and after returning to camp was in charge of instructing a group of men for a time before being sent to Long Island, N. Y. That was his last station before sailing for England.



Pfc. Charles A. Bathurst

to England. His address is: Pvt. William E. Bathurst, Jr., (30329722) Btry B, 190th P. A. Hq. APO 230, c/o Postmaster, New York City, N. Y.

Pfc. Charles A. Bathurst, 19, was drafted in March, 1943, and sent to Camp Polk, La., his present address. His address is: Pfc. Charles A. Bathurst (33756880) Co. B, 58th A. I. B., APO 236, c/o Postmaster, Shreveport, La.

To Receive Wings



Pvt. Rodman Hall

Pvt. Hall, son of Mrs. Roy Hall, of Milesburg, will receive his Aerial Gunner's wings at Fort Myers, Florida, on April 11. He then will be assigned as turret gunner on combat duty with a heavy bomber group.

Pvt. Hall entered the armed forces on July 31, 1943. Ten days later he left New Cumberland for the Army Air Base at Amarillo, Texas, where he received his basic training. In November he was transferred to Denver, Colo., where he graduated from the armorer's school two weeks ahead of schedule. In February, this year he was sent to Ft. Myers Gunner's School, which is considered the finest flexible gunner school in the country.

Pvt. Hall already has won a sharp-shooter's medal for the 50-caliber machine gun—an achievement which requires a keen mind and steady nerves.

Hall was graduated from the Bellefonte High School in the class of 1942 and for a time was employed at the Glenn L. Martin Aircraft plant in Baltimore. While working there he attended night school at the Baltimore City College. In January 1942 he accepted a position with the Sutton Engineering Company in Bellefonte and was employed here until the time of his induction.

Artillery Determined To Uphold Traditions

With honors won in the first World War behind it and long-established traditions to uphold, it, a field artillery unit somewhere in England is preparing to "do its part and a little more" in the coming assault on the Fortress of Europe.

In this fighting unit are the following Centre county boys: Pvt. William E. Bathurst, Pvt. Leroy Strunk and Cpl. Robert J. Fletcher all of Howard; T/Sgt. James H. Smith, of Madisonburg; Pfc. Malcolm D. Hall, Pfc. Gerald P. Mann, Pfc. Charles F. Sherry and Cpl. Mark E. Fisher, all of Milesburg; 1st Sgt. Earl W. Smith, of Millheim; Sgt. George J. Billy, of Moshannon.

Rugged pre-invasion training, started in the United States, is being continued in England. Daily the men of this unit take long hikes through the English countryside, "combining business with pleasure as the men see the country and harden up at the same time. A program of organized athletics also aids in the toughening up of the men.

"We'll blast our way to Berlin," is the chant of another field artillery group of which Sgt. Paul M. Watson, 27, of Bellefonte, R. D. 3, is a member.

Beech Creek Youth Missing in Action

Mrs. Paul A. Rupert of Beech Creek, the former Miss Violet Peters, received a telegram Friday from the War Department, announcing that her husband, S/Sgt. Rupert, a tail gunner in the Air Force, has been missing in action in Italy since February 12.

Sgt. Rupert is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred L. Rupert, Beech Creek township. His wife lives with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Peters of Beech Creek.

Sgt. Rupert was inducted into the Army Air Force at New Cumberland, August 3, 1941. He trained at St. Petersburg, Fla., Goldsboro, N. C., and Fort Myers, Fla., studying gunnery at the last named school.

Wounded Soldier Puts Thoughts Into Verse



Private Alfred Walk

Private Walk, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Walk, of Port Matilda, pours his impressions of life in the rain and cold swamps of Louisiana into the following poem, recently written by him. Perhaps not generally known, Private Walk, known in southern camps as "the shooting fool from Pennsylvania," was seriously wounded September 8, 1943, resulting in the loss of almost his entire left hand. His poem is titled

LOUISIANA BLUES

Down in Louisiana swamps,
North Camp Polk is the spot,
Drilling in the awful heat,
In the land that God forgot,
Just sitting here and thinking
Of what we left behind,
We hate to put on paper
And dreaming of our home.

We have washed a sillion dishes
And peeled as many spuds,
And piled our awful load,
To clean our filthy duds,
Many a mile we've walked,
And yet to leave this hole
We have to send the devil
A message of our pain.

Down with the snakes and lizards
Down where a man gets blue,
Down at the very bottom,
A thousand miles from you,
Even at night the heat keeps
Coming.

It is more than a man can stand,
No, we are not convinced,
We are defenders of our land,
We are soldiers of the 8th A. D.
Earning a black man's pay,
Guarding the people with millions
For a dollar and half a day,
Thinking of our parents,
Hoping that when we do return,
They haven't married our girls,
We don't mind Army life,
And wearing buttons of brass,
But being down in North Camp
Polk,
Is like serving in Alcatraz.

These obstacles we have con-
tained,
They are very hard to tell,
Let's hope it is nice in heaven,
For we've served our time in
hell.

Thomas A. Edison was born at
Milan, Ohio.

Training For Aviation

Pvt. Harold L. Neff, 29, son of Mr. and Mrs. Irvin G. Neff, box 544, Bellefonte, has arrived at Washington State College, Pullman, Wash., for a course of instruction to last approximately five months in the Army Air Forces Flying Training Command. Upon completion of the course he will be classified as a navigator, pilot or bombardier and go on to schools of the Flying Training Command for training in these specialties.

Gets Silver Wings



Lt. Robert Edgar Francis

Lt. Francis of Bellefonte on February 8 received the silver wings of an Army Air Forces pilot and was sworn in as a second lieutenant at ceremonies held at Naper Field, Alabama, an advanced single-engine pilot school of the Army Air Forces Training Command.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong L. Francis, 378 East Bishop street, Bellefonte, Lt. Francis is a graduate of Bellefonte High School. Prior to his enlistment, he was a student at Pennsylvania State College where he was a member of Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity. He entered the Army Air Forces for flying training May 31, 1943.

Receives Promotion



T/Sgt. Archie E. Igen

The promotion of Archie E. Igen to the grade of Technical Sergeant has been announced recently. Sergeant Igen at present works in the sheet metal shop of an organization assigned to the IV Air Service Area Command, Fifth Air Force Service Command, somewhere in New Guinea. Sergeant Igen trained for this work at the Air Corps Technical School at Chanute Field, Illinois.

Before joining the army, Sergeant Igen lived with his mother, Mrs. Igen, in Rebersburg, and was employed as a mill worker in the Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation plant.

He has been on overseas duty for two years, of which time 18 months has been spent in New Guinea.

With Engineers



Pvt. John Lockard

Pvt. Lockard, well known Pleasant Gap resident and former employee of the Pleasant Gap Fish Hatchery, was inducted January 6, 1944, and was sent to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, as a member of the Engineering Corps. He is the husband of the former Miss Nellie Batten of Pleasant Gap. The couple have three children, Esther, 15, Frank, 13, and Lucille, 10. Pvt. Lockard was one of the popular players on the Pleasant Gap baseball team.

Red Cross and Aides Busy in War Work

With materials furnished by Bellefonte Chapter, American Red Cross, and labor provided by the Junior Woman's Club and other volunteers, the Bellefonte area has shipped out a most imposing array of materials so far this year for use by the armed forces, a report yesterday indicated.

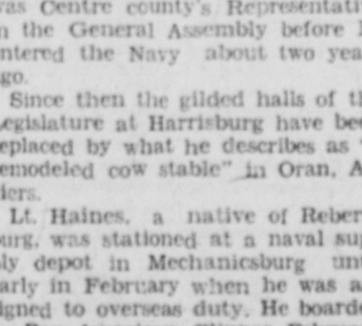
Among the items sent were 75 bedsize bags, 300 wash cloths, 194 sewing kits, 200 kit bags, and 6 afghans, all of which were sent to veterans' hospitals.

In addition 432 filled kit bags were sent on their way. Supplies were furnished and kit bags filled by the members of the Junior Woman's Club. The women of Zion made 185 of the bags, Miss Sadie Mahon made 165, and the remainder were made by volunteer women from Bellefonte.

Promoted to Major

Formerly a captain with the U. S. Army Air Force in England, William W. Brown, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fount L. Brown of Mill Hill, has been promoted to major. As pilot of the bomber "Mohawk," he has completed ten missions over Germany. He has also served as operations officer at his base. Major Brown was hospitalized with a throat infection on March 1 and while convalescing received his promotion.

Now 'Short Snorter'



Lt. Kenneth G. Haines

The service man pictured above was Centre county's Representative in the General Assembly before he entered the Navy about two years ago.

Since then the glided halls of the Legislature at Harrisburg have been replaced by what he describes as a "renovated cow stable" in Oran, Algeria.

Lt. Haines, a native of Rebersburg, was stationed at a naval supply depot in Mechanicsburg until early in February when he was assigned to overseas duty. He boarded a Pan-American Clipper February 10 and arrived in Oran on February 16 after what he described as being an eventful journey, although censorship prevented him from elaborating further.

At any event, the trip across the Atlantic entitled him to membership in the "Short Snorter," and he also became eligible for membership in the Order of Jupiter Rex, through having flown across the Equator.

Fire Schools Open In 2 County Towns

Fire schools in which the fundamentals of modern fire-fighting are taught, are being opened in Bellefonte and Snow Sho, Charles Saxton, of Bellefonte, instructor of the classes, announced yesterday.

In Bellefonte the classes began Monday night with 43 "students" present. Classes will be held every Monday night from 7 to 10 o'clock at the Undine House. All persons interested in the work are invited to attend, regardless of whether they are members of a fire company. There is no charge for the course.

Mr. Saxton is to conduct the initial meeting of a similar class at Snow Sho on Friday night, March 24, and to date 37 men have signed their desire to become members of the class.

Mrs. Rella Jones to Head VFW Auxiliary

Mrs. Rella A. Jones was elected president of the Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 1600, Bellefonte, at a regular meeting held at the post home, South Spring street, Monday night.

Other officers chosen were: Mrs. Mary Sager, senior vice president; Mrs. Ruth Buller, junior vice president; Mrs. Claire McMurtie, chaplain; Mrs. Barbara L. Kline, conductress; Mrs. Gertrude Young, guard; Mrs. Elizabeth Marshall, trustee, 3 years; Mrs. Helen E. Neff, trustee 2 years; Mrs. Florence Haupt, trustee 1 year.

Officers will be installed at ceremonies to be held at the post home on Thursday, March 30.

At the business session, over which Mrs. Lena Garis, president, presided, it was voted to purchase a \$100 war bond, and to contribute \$5 to the Scotland Home. Various reports were read and approved. Forty-nine members were present.

Flint that provided arrows for Indians served American pioneers for grinding grain.

Arrives Safely in England

Pfc. Ralph M. Hillard has landed safely in England, according to a letter received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Hillard, of Coleville. Pfc. Hillard entered the service January 19, 1943, and was stationed at Camp George G. Meade, for 11 months. He is in the M. P. Escort Guards.

Former Altoona Priest Led Marine Assault

Rev. Emmett T. Michaels, former assistant at the Altoona Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, senior navy lieutenant serving as a chaplain, was the first man ashore in the third assault wave on Marines to land at Namur in the Marshall Islands. A mine near him exploded and then a little later a Japanese ammunition dump blew up. He was on hand to minister to the dead and dying.

Father Michaels, a native of Portage, was ordained in the Altoona cathedral on May 28, 1938, by his excellency, Most Rev. Richard T. Guilfoyle, D.D., bishop of the Altoona diocese. He enlisted on Sept. 21, 1942, serving at Parris Island, S. C. the chaplain's school at Norfolk, Va., and Pendleton, Calif.

Spent Furlough at Home

Corp. and Mrs. Ralph E. Walzer of Drew Field, Tampa, Fla., spent a 15-day furlough with Mrs. Walzer's family, Mr. and Mrs. Willard Yensick of Mill Hill, R. D. 1, and with Cpl. Walzer's father, F. J. Walzer, of Lock Haven.

Plants

You can hasten the growth of house plants by making a mixture of 1 tablespoonful of Epsom salts and 1/2-gallon of cold water. Dissolve thoroughly and pour over the roots.

Father's Day is the third Sunday in June

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Three Marines Meet In S. Pacific Reunion

Three Lock Haven boys, members of a Marine Corps unit fighting somewhere in the South Pacific, had a satisfactory surprise reunion recently at their base and enjoyed shooting the bull (as one aptly reported it) about Lock Haven for over an hour.

Sgt. Walter A. Nixon, son of Mrs. Cora W. Nixon, who recently won his promotion from the corporal rank, had gone to get a drink of water when he ran into Pfc. Joseph Mancini, who had the same intentions. Pfc. Mancini is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Mancini, 6 North Hanna street, and brother of Corp. Bernard Mancini of the army, reported missing in action two years ago, after the fall of Corregidor.

Mancini informed Nixon that another Lock Haven boy, Pfc. Franklin C. Rauch, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Rauch, 26 Commerce street, was also on that same base so the three got together.

Bellefonte Soldier Promoted

Private First Class Charles W. Kustanbaur, son of Mrs. Emeline Kustanbaur, 242 East High street, Bellefonte, has been promoted to corporal, according to information received. He is serving with an anti-aircraft unit of the Fifth Army in Italy.

Selected For Motor Course

Corporal Nevin C. Corman, son of W. Earl Corman, Bellefonte, R. D. 3, has been selected to attend the enlisted Motor Course of the Field Artillery at Fort Sill, Okla.

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