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WAR BONDS

# The Centre Democrat

WAR BONDS  
MEAN MORE THAN A  
GOOD INVESTMENT

VOLUME 63, NUMBER 46

BELLEFONTE, PA., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1944

SUBSCRIPTION—\$1.50 PER YEAR.

## Fighter Pilot, 2 Others Lose Lives

Crash in Florida Fatal to Pilot Who Completed 91 Missions in Italy; Other Casualties: 1 Wounded, 2 Missing, 1 a Prisoner

A Centre county fighter pilot who in June returned to the United States after completing 91 missions over enemy territory in the Italian war area, was drowned in a plane accident late Tuesday afternoon near Bartow, Florida, where he was stationed as a pilot instructor.

He is 1st Lt. Dean Gilmore, who the day before his death observed his 23rd birthday. He is a son of Harry Gilmore, residing 2 miles west of Millheim.

Other war casualties reported this week include two Centre county men who lost their lives; one seriously wounded; two missing, and one who is a prisoner of war.

The dead, in addition to Lt. Gilmore are:

Pfc. Chester Pletcher, of Potters Mills, killed in Germany on October 17.

Pvt. Elwood R. Hahn, 20, of Mochannon, who lost his life in the fighting on Leyte, in the Central Philippines.

The wounded man is Pfc. Francis Gordon, of Bellefonte, who is reported to have been seriously wounded in France.

Missing countians are: Cpl. Richard H. Gentzel, of Boalsburg, unaccounted for in Holland since October 6, and Pfc. James Richards, 19, of Prossertown, missing in France since October 28.

The prisoner is Cpl. Edwin M. Lambert, of Millsburg, who in a card to relatives reports that he is a prisoner of war in German hands.

**Pfc. Pletcher Killed**

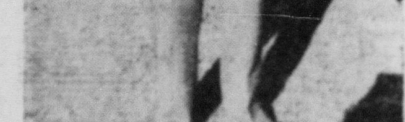
Pfc. Chester Pletcher, who would have been 20 years old on November 23, this year, was killed in action in Germany on October 17, according to a War Department message received Sunday night by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lester O. Pletcher, of Potters Mills.

During the weekend of November 4 the parents had been notified that their son had been missing in action since October 17. He was a member of the 39th Armored Infantry Regiment and is believed to have taken part in the fierce fighting at Aachen, Germany. In a letter received by his parents on October 11 he wrote: "Don't worry if you don't hear from me for a while. I'll be where I won't be able to write. I am now in Germany and have received no mail since arriving here over two months ago."

The Pletcher family lived in Bellefonte until April 1942, when they moved to Potters Mills. They occupied the Harry Rossman house on East Bishop street.

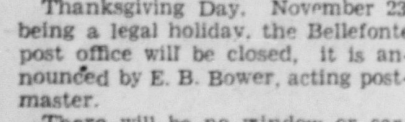
Pfc. Pletcher attended the Bishop street grade schools and for two years was a student at the Bellefonte High School. He was called for service while a senior in the Centre Hall-Potter Township High School on July 2, 1943. From New Cumberland he was sent to Camp Haan, Cal., where he was assigned to an anti-aircraft unit. Later he transferred to the infantry and re-

**Killed In Action**



Pfc. Chester Pletcher

**Prisoner of Germans**



Cpl. Edwin M. Lambert

**Postoffice Closed Thanksgiving Day**

Thanksgiving Day, November 23, being a legal holiday, the Bellefonte post office will be closed. It is announced by E. B. Bower, acting postmaster.

There will be no window or carrier service but mail will be dispatched as usual and the postoffice lobby will be open until 8 p. m.

**Bellefonte Bombardier Blows Up Jap Cargo Ship**

An enemy cargo ship can appear to be a very harmless article, unless you discover that the enemy is still busy removing considerable Japanese dry goods from its hold.

Such a discovery was made by First Lieutenant Louis L. Vogel, of Ventrer City, N. J., veteran pilot of the famed "Long Rangers," as he conducted a shipping sweep over the Makassar Straits between Borneo and the Celebes recently.

Weather had prevented Lieutenant Vogel and his crew from finding any live shipping in the now busy waters leading to the Balikpapan oil refineries, only recently set completely ablaze by 13th AAF super-distance Liberators. But rather than waste his bombs in the empty ocean, Vogel discovered the beached cargo and went down "on the deck" at 50 feet above the water to investigate. Huge stores of barrels and other supplies were stacked on the deck of the ship, apparently salvaged and ready to go ashore from the crippled freighter. So the boys in the Liberator decided to turn the salvage into debris.

On the first pass over the ship Second Lieutenant Kenneth B. Marshall of Bellefonte, the bombardier, loosed two 500-pounders that sailed right through the superstructure and carried the big stack and part of the upper cabins away. The bombs landed in the coral on the other side of the ship and exploded to pepper the whole craft with flying steel.

Marshall called for another pass

## BULLET FROM OWN WEAPON KILLS HUNTER

Edgar K. Simpson, Port Matilda, Season's First Casualty

**SLUG ENTERS HEAD WHEN RIFLE FALLS**

Accident Resulted When Hunter Tripped Over Dog Chain

The first fatal hunting accident of the 1944 season in Centre county claimed the life of Edgar Kenneth Simpson, 29, of Port Matilda, R. D., who was found dead in the mountains above Gray's cemetery, Buffalo Run Valley, Saturday, with a gunshot wound in his head.

Simpson and a neighbor, Lou Roach, had spent the morning hunting together and in the afternoon they separated, agreeing to meet later in the afternoon. When Simpson did not appear at the scheduled time and place, Mr. Roach began to search for him.

About 3:15 p. m. he found him lying in a field about 15 to 20 feet from a fence. His dog's chain was wrapped about his body and around both legs, and his gun had been fired and was lying behind him, broken apart. The dog was still fastened to the chain and was there with his master. It is believed by Mr. Roach that the man tripped when the dog chain became wrapped around his legs.

Centre County Coroner Charles Shecker of Millsburg expressed the belief that when the man fell his gun dropped and discharged, the bullet striking him in the head. He said death was accidental and no inquest will be held.

Edgar Kenneth Simpson was born at Rimersburg, Pa., on September 16, 1905, a son of Elijah and Louisa Phillips Simpson. In 1939 he was married to Roma E. May who survives with two step-sons, A. J. May, at home, and Capt. Robert May, of the U. S. Army, stationed in Texas.

In addition to his mother he is also survived by the following brothers and sisters, Miss Ethel Simpson, of Rimersburg; Mrs. Adolph Dressler, Wilkesburg; Mrs. Glenn (Continued on Page Eight)

## To Vote Again For President

Bellefonte Man Gets Second Chance—and It's Legal; Electoral College Prepares To Carry Out Assigned Chore

We'd like to introduce you to the one and only Centre county man who is going to have a chance to cast his second vote for President of the United States this year—and it's entirely legal.

He is Henry A. Brockerhoff, of West Bishop street, Bellefonte, who last week was elected as one of the 35 Pennsylvania members of the electoral college.

The electoral college is an ancient institution, and while it began as a useful arm of the government back in the days when the constitution was framed, it has fallen into a state where today it is practically nothing but an old custom.

Last Tuesday you didn't vote for Mr. Roosevelt or Mr. Dewey. You voted for electors, Joe Doakes, or Jim Spelvin, who were pledged to one or the other of the candidates. The electors of each state, under the laws of the land, meet and solemnly cast the vote in the electoral college. The results of these votes are forwarded to Washington, and on January 6, 1945, at a joint session of Congress the presiding officer will announce the returns.

If it should turn out that Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Truman are not elected by the electoral college, you can expect a national future the like of which hasn't been seen since they dumped tea off British ships in Boston harbor.

In the early days of the nation, the people really didn't vote for a President or Vice President. They voted for electors, and placed in their hands the responsibility of naming the two highest government officers in the land. Under the original set-up the man who got the highest vote from the college was made President, and the second highest became Vice President. But after a time, someone discovered that it was possible under that system for a President of one party and a Vice of the opposite party to be chosen. The danger was real. If the President died in office, the opposite party would be at the head of government.

The original procedure was changed several times through the years. Today, Pennsylvania requires that presidential and vice presidential nominees of both parties submit to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, within 30 days after the national convention, the names

## FORMER COUNTY WOMAN INJURED

Mrs. Albert Foster Suffers Fractured Nose in Accident

Mrs. Albert Foster, formerly of State College, suffered a fractured nose last Thursday afternoon when the car in which she was riding with her husband and ten-week-old daughter collided at an intersection near Clearfield with a car in which Mrs. Richard Kennard, 76, of Clearfield, mother of R. J. Kennard of State College, was a passenger.

Mrs. Kennard suffered two broken legs, five fractured ribs, fractured collar bone and a broken nose, x-rays taken at the Clearfield hospital where she is a patient, revealed.

Mr. and Mrs. Foster were on their way from their home in Sharon to State College, to visit with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Crabtree and Dr. and Mrs. J. V. Foster. (Continued on page four)

**Hunter Is Injured When Revolver Falls**

John Wolfe, of the Fawcett apartments, East Linn street, supervisor of the A. & P. stores in this vicinity, is recovering from a severe wound received November 3 while hunting small game with a group of friends near Lewisport.

Mr. Wolfe stooped over to drink from a spring and while doing so a 38-caliber revolver slipped from his pocket and was discharged. The bullet entered the back of his right leg, just above the knee, and traveled upward lodging in the hip. He was taken to the Lewisport hospital where the bullet was removed, after which he was permitted to return to his home. He is now able to move about the house but is not able to be out of doors.

**Boalsburg Boy Falls Out of Car**

Freddie Russell, aged 6, son of Lt. and Mrs. John Russell, of Boalsburg, was injured about 3:30 p. m. Sunday when he fell from his parents' automobile near State College.

The youth, whose father is with the armed forces in Italy, is believed to have opened the rear door of the sedan and was thrown out onto the concrete road. He retained consciousness and his mother brought him to the Centre County Hospital where he was found to be suffering from severe bruises of the head and body bruises. He was discharged from the hospital yesterday. (Continued on page four)

**Kiwani's Hear Guest Speaker**

Speaking on the subject "How Do We Go From Here," Rev. G. L. Seidel, pastor of the Evangelical-Congregational church at Bangor, Pa., outlined to the Bellefonte Kiwanis Club at its regular luncheon, Tuesday, six homemade rules for living a full and useful life. Members of the Rotary Club were guests of Kiwanis at the luncheon.

The speaker, introduced by Kiwanis program chairman, R. G. McDonald, as a former actor and magician before entering the ministry 21 years ago, interspersed his talk with home-spun philosophy, wit, and stories.

His rules for living were: don't worry about things over which you have no control and for which you are not responsible; stop riding and do more pushing; leave the crowd that says "It can't be done," and join the group which says "I'll try." (Continued on page five)

**Family Has Two Sons and Daughter On Honor Roll**

One of Centre county's most prominent families is aiding in the great conflict of its country by the contribution of two sons and a daughter to the armed forces. Walter, John and Betty Stiver are the sons and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Stiver of Martha Furnace.

Cpl. Walter Stiver was first sent to Camp Adair, Oregon, where he was assigned to the infantry. There he was classed as an expert driver and was assigned to drive his captain's jeep on all maneuvers. After completing training at Adair, Walter spent several months in desert training in Arizona and California. After desert training he moved on to Camp Carson, Colo., before embarking for France. Prior to entering the service Walter was employed by the Pennsylvania Railroad Co.

Cpl. John Stiver first spent some time in Fort Lewis, Wash., then moved on to Moscow, Idaho, where he received college instructions in rehabilitation work. John then went to Pullman, Wash., where he was assigned to a supply unit. From Pullman he was sent to Camp Roberts, Calif., and was there assigned to the heavy artillery unit of the infantry. John next spent some time in Fort Ord, Calif., then on to Camp Phillips, before embarking for some-

where in New Guinea. Before entering the service John attended Penn State College and then worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad Co.

Cadet Nurse Betty Stiver is now stationed at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, and will soon be assigned to an Army unit. Betty is a graduate of the Port Matilda High School.

A third son, Elmer Stiver, spent eighteen months in the Army and received a medical discharge. A fourth son, Norman Stiver, has been enrolled in the Army Air Cadets and will be assigned to duty after his graduation from the Port Matilda High School next June.

**State Official Is Injured at College**

Raymond H. Smith, deputy secretary of the State Department of Commerce, is reported to be recovering at his home in Boalsburg from injuries received Saturday, November 4, when he was struck by an automobile at State College.

His view was obscured by packages he was carrying and Smith failed to see the car as it backed toward him from a parking lot, it is reported. Only the fact that the driver of the car was able to stop promptly prevented him from being injured seriously.

His injuries have been diagnosed as extensive bruises of the shoulders and back.

**Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Yarnell Observe Golden Anniversary**

Yesterday was the 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Clayton E. Yarnell, of near Bellefonte, and in celebration of the occasion a roast ham dinner was served Sunday at the Nittany Mountain Coffee Shop.

Two tiered wedding cakes held prominent positions on the dinner table which was decorated in a color scheme of gold and white. One of the cakes was topped with a miniature bride and groom. Other table decorations included two bowls of chrysanthemums, which carried out the gold and white theme, and gold colored favors.

Mr. and Mrs. Yarnell received many greetings and gifts and friends and relatives called on them during the day in recognition of the anniversary.

Those who attended the dinner, Sunday, were: Clara Harnish, sister of Mr. Yarnell; Mr. and Mrs. Warren Confer, of Tyrone; Mrs. Henry Miller and son, of Philadelphia; Mr. and Mrs. Lyman White and family; Mr. and Mrs. John Fishburn and daughter; Mr. and Mrs. Paul Young and family; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Yarnell, Mrs. Boyd Yarnell, Rhoda and Jacob Yarnell, of Bellefonte. A son, Sgt. Boyd Yarnell, is with the U. S. Army in the European theatre of war.

## 6th War Loan Drive to Begin

Campaign Opens Monday; County Quota is \$1,950,000. Aikens Announces Quotas for Various Districts

Centre county's share of the nation's 14 billion dollar quota for the 6th War Loan campaign which begins Monday, November 20, is \$1,950,000, it was announced Monday night by Claude G. Aikens, chairman of the War Finance Commission, at a meeting of the county organization at the State College Hotel.

Although the county's assignment in the new drive is \$288,000 less than the record quota of \$2,238,000 assigned and oversubscribed in the 5th War Loan campaign in June, Mr. Aikens cautioned his aides against the assumption that the current task will be lighter.

"I believe this drive is the most important one yet," Mr. Aikens declared. "In it we have the chance to prove to the world that regardless of a heated national political campaign just ended, the United States is really a united nation. The need for funds to carry on the war is more urgent than ever—and the end of the war is not yet in sight."

**District Quotas Fixed**

In announcing the quotas for the county's nine districts and for the 24 township agricultural committees, Mr. Aikens explained that all of them are slightly less than the quotas for the 5th campaign.

The various quotas follow:

BELLEFONTE: Horace J. Hartman, chairman—E bonds, \$190,000; all other types sold to individuals, \$170,000; bonds sold to corporations, clubs, etc., \$380,000; total \$740,000.

STATE COLLEGE: Harold R. Gilbert, chairman—E bonds, \$210,000; others to individuals, \$170,000; corporations, \$58,000; total \$438,000.

PHILIPSBURG: John Lux, chairman—E bonds, \$180,000; others to individuals, \$140,000; corporations, \$135,000; total \$455,000.

CENTRE HALL: Frank V. Goodhart, chairman—E bonds, \$25,000; others to individuals, \$25,000; corporations, \$2,000; total \$52,000.

HOWARD: Donald B. Gardner, chairman—E bonds, \$34,000; others to individuals, \$34,000; corporations, \$2,000; total \$70,000.

WINDYBROOK: Mrs. M. G. McDonald, chairman—E bonds, \$25,000; others to individuals, \$25,000; corporations, \$2,000; total \$52,000.

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## SOLDIER VOTE TO BE TALLIED ON WEDNESDAY

Secrecy of Vote Is Preserved Under State System

**OFFICIAL COUNT COMPLETED MONDAY**

Final Figures Checked Closely With Unofficial Totals

The official count of the vote cast in Centre county in last Tuesday's election was completed Monday afternoon, and the next step in completing the election returns will be taken on Wednesday, November 22, when the County Commissioners will open and tabulate the military ballots.

Totals of the official count are substantially the same as the unofficial tallies as reported in the tabulation published in last week's issue of The Centre Democrat.

In several districts the official count board called in precinct election officials to verify figures on the tally sheets but in no instance was any major error found. The count was made by a board consisting of Mrs. Harrison G. Kline, Mrs. Nelle Decker, and Miss Helen Schaeffer, all of Bellefonte; Mark W. Williams, of Bellefonte, assistant clerk to the County Commissioners, and Mrs. George Peters, of Phillipsburg.

Counting of the military ballots will begin in the Commissioners' offices at 10 a. m. next Wednesday, under a procedure established by the Pennsylvania legislature for handling the votes of those in military service.

All those in the service, regardless of whether they voted in camps or stations in the United States, in foreign countries, or in their home precincts while home on furlough, used special military ballots. If the ballots were cast last Tuesday in home precincts, the sealed ballots were ignored by election officials and were forwarded to the Commissioners' office unopened. There they

(Continued on page 6)

**V.F.W. INITIATES 21 NEW MEMBERS**

Name Committee to Supervise Annual National Essay Contest

Twenty-one members were initiated into the Auxiliary of Jackson-Crisman-Saylor Post Veterans of Foreign Wars, Bellefonte, at a meeting held Tuesday night at the post home on South Spring street. Eighteen others were balloted upon.

The membership campaign of the National Auxiliary is known as the "March to Victory" and began on August 1. It will continue through June 30, 1945.

Past President Elizabeth S. Marshall has been appointed local chairman of the National Auxiliary essay contest to be conducted in the public schools, and the title of the essays this year will be "What Americanism Means to Me." Members of the committee include Past President Barbara L. Kline; Senior Vice President, Mrs. Ruth Miller, and

(Continued on page four)

## NAVY NURSE AND EDITOR MARRIED

Ensign Fischer Bride of Charles A. Mensch, of Keystone Gazette

In the Magruder church at Camp Peary, Va., beautifully decorated with white chrysanthemums, ferns and white candles, Ensign Irma W. Fischer, nurse corps, USNR, and Lt. Charles A. Mensch, USNR, were married Friday evening at a candlelight service. The single ring ceremony of the Presbyterian church was performed by Lt. T. Russell Nunan, Chaplain Corps USNR, of New Orleans, La.

The bride was given in marriage by Lt. Garnet L. Radin, nurse corps, USNR, Chief Nurse at Camp Peary, while Ensign Bob Hansen, USNR, served as best man for the groom. Ensign Ruth Meiler, nurse corps, USNR, of New York City, was maid of honor.

Ushers were Lt. (jg) Ernest W. Kruse, USNR, of Dayton, Ohio; Lt. Charles L. Bacon, USNR, of Marshall, Mo.; Lt. William M. Koenig, (Continued on page four)

**Local Residents Asked to Aid in Meeting 1750 Tyrone Quota**

The Bellefonte Chapter of the American Red Cross has been asked to aid the Tyrone Red Cross chapter in gaining a quota of 1750 blood donors. The mobile unit of the Red Cross Blood Donor Service will visit Tyrone from January 22 to 27, inclusive.

At a later date registrations will be taken at the local Red Cross chapter headquarters in Petrik Hall for all persons interested in giving a pint of vitally needed blood, which may save the life of one of our boys in the armed forces.

The local Red Cross Board is permitted to issue gasoline for the necessary transportation to Tyrone. Anyone willing to offer a car to take the blood donors to Tyrone is asked to get in touch with Mrs. Keith Anderson, Dial 2726.

This is one of the small things we who are left at home can do to aid in the welfare of our soldiers and sailors. It is earnestly hoped by the local Red Cross chapter that many will turn out on the day of registration.

## SCHOOL BOARD HOLDS SESSION

Miss Kilpatrick Resigns; Mrs. Litke Named to Commercial Dept.

Miss Edna J. Kilpatrick's resignation as dental hygienist and appointment of Mrs. William Litke as teacher of the commercial department of the high school were among items of business conducted by the Bellefonte School Board in regular session Monday night.

Miss Kilpatrick, who has been employed by the school district for the past seven years, resigned to assist her father, Dr. J. J. Kilpatrick, in his office at his home on Curtin street.

Mrs. Litke was named to the position formerly held by Miss Ellen Rhinard, who resigned last month to accept a similar post in the Lewisburg High School.

(Continued on page five)

**EASE BUILDING RULINGS HERE**

Allow Remodeling, Alterations to Relieve Local Housing Shortage

Remodeling or conversion of existing buildings to provide additional housing units is authorized in the Bellefonte area without any limitations of war-time quotas or occupancy by war workers, it was announced today by Charles S. Ascher, regional representative of the Administrator, National Housing Agency, the local Chamber of Commerce reports.

"As a step in relinquishing wartime controls, the War Production Board has agreed with the National Housing Agency to let NHA determine areas in which 'undue stress of living conditions' is being caused by the lack of housing," Mr. Ascher explained. "In these areas remodeling and alterations to provide more dwellings will be freely permitted without requiring that they be held for any particular group of occupants and without setting any fixed maximum rents."

"We are acting promptly to declare that 'undue stress' exists in the Bellefonte area and we have the assurance of those familiar with the local situation that there is sufficient building trades labor in the area to undertake this type of work without interfering with the needs of essential war industries which have first claim upon manpower and materials," the spokesman said, continuing, "It is believed alterations of this type will make comparatively small demands on materials

(Continued on page three)

**Kiwani's Quartette To Sing at Centre Hall**

The Bellefonte Kiwanis Quartette will appear as guest musicians in a program of music at the Centre Hall High School auditorium, Monday evening, November 27, at 8 o'clock.

The program, sponsored by the Music Section of the Centre Hall Woman's Club as its annual evening of entertainment for the club, is open to the public this year.

Other guests scheduled to appear on this program are Mrs. Josephine Nash, reader, and Angelo Vespa, violinist, of State College; and Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Good, pianists, of McClure.

The Woman's Club will meet briefly at 7:30 o'clock before the musical program begins, according to Mrs. George K. Rimmey, club president, who also calls attention to the change in date from Tuesday, November 28, to Monday, November 27.

## Bellefonte Bombardier Blows Up Jap Cargo Ship

An enemy cargo ship can appear to be a very harmless article, unless you discover that the enemy is still busy removing considerable Japanese dry goods from its hold.

Such a discovery was made by First Lieutenant Louis L. Vogel, of Ventrer City, N. J., veteran pilot of the famed "Long Rangers," as he conducted a shipping sweep over the Makassar Straits between Borneo and the Celebes recently.

Weather had prevented Lieutenant Vogel and his