



The Centre Democrat



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11 County Men on War Casualty List

Thrice-Wounded Madisburg Soldier Now Prisoner of Germans; Missing in Action, Eight Wounded.

Two men are missing in action, another is reported a prisoner of war in Germany, and eight men are wounded, according to War Department casualty reports received in Centre county during the week.

The missing men are: Pfc. Theodore W. Ishler, 29, of Belleville, R. D., who has been missing in France since January 23. Pfc. Orvis Tierney, 20, of Belleville, missing in action in France, also since January 23.

The prisoner: S Sgt. Joseph E. Hoover, 29, of Madisburg, who was reported missing in action on September 11, 1944, and who is now in a German prison camp. Prior to the War Department's message this week his parents had received several communications from him in the camp.

The wounded: Cpl. James C. Evock, 25, Coleville, seriously in Luxembourg, January 30.

Pfc. Orren S. Orndorf, 25, Woodward, slightly in Luxembourg, January 27.

Pfc. Paul G. Walker, 19, Millbrook, slightly in Luxembourg, January 13.

Cpl. Philip D. Jones, Jr., 22, State College, slightly in Belgium, January 24.

Pvt. Randolph Kern, 20, Pleasant View, slightly in Belgium, January 16.

Pvt. Fred W. Hall, 20, Unionville, wounded second time in Germany, January 26.

Pfc. Charles Holderman, 20, Coleville, slightly in France, January 23.

Pvt. Roy L. Henry, Pine Grove Mills, wounded second time in France.

Pfc. Ishler Missing

Thrice wounded in action, twice in Italy and once in France, Pfc. Theodore W. Ishler, 29, son of Mr. and Mrs. Luther Ishler, of the Jacksonville road, east of Belleville, is now missing in action in France since January 23, according to a War Department message received by his parents Tuesday afternoon.

Pfc. Ishler was first wounded in the leg by shrapnel in Italy early last year, and on June 5 was wounded in the same leg, again by shrapnel. On September 29 in France he received his third wound, believed to have been in his right arm, and in the last letter received by his parents, dated January 4, he said he was about to leave the hospital to rejoin his unit.

Pfc. Ishler, former clerk in the Titan Metal plant here, entered the service on July 21, 1942, and was assigned to the infantry. He received training at Ft. Meade, Md., and at Camp Pickett, W. Va., before being sent overseas in November 1942. He landed in North Africa November 8, took part in the African, Sicilian,



Pfc. Orren S. Orndorf Slightly Wounded

and Italian campaigns, and then was sent into France.

As the result of his first wound he was awarded the Purple Heart and subsequently received the Oak Leaf Cluster.

Pfc. Tierney Missing

Pfc. Orvis Tierney, who was serving with the infantry, was called for service March 20, 1943, and took preliminary training at Camp Polk, La. He spent some time on maneuvers in Texas and then returned to Camp Polk where he remained until being sent to an eastern embarkation point from where he went overseas in May of last year.

The Belleville soldier landed in England and went with his group into France and Belgium before being sent back into France. He attended Belleville schools and was employed at the Public Ordnance plant at Williamsport for about a year before entering the service.

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ONLY TWO CASES LISTED FOR TRIAL

Grand Jury Reports on Inspection of County Property

Only two cases are scheduled for trial at the regular session of February 15, 1945, which will convene here Monday. It was announced by the District Attorney's office yesterday.

The two cases are: Wharton Fye, Moshannon, pointing deadly weapon.

Merrill L. Myer, Spring Mills, violation of vehicle code.

The Grand Jury which met here Monday and completed its deliberations that day with Burgess Roy R. Rowles, of Philipsburg as foreman, acted on four bills of indictment, finding three of them true and ignoring the fourth.

The true bills were those against Martin L. Cordery, escaping from Rockville; Merrill Myer, who is slated for trial next week, and Harry Fink, Clearfield, F. & B., who is now in the armed forces.

The bill ignored by the Grand Jury was that of Chester G. Bloom, of Clearfield, charged with drunken driving.

Of its inspection of the county property the jury reported the County Home in clean condition, but recommended that the walls, pre-

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BLAZE MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF SCHOOL FIRE

Slight Fire in Vocational Shop Recalls Disastrous Event in 1939

Tuesday, just six years to the day after the Belleville High School was destroyed by fire, Belleville fire companies were summoned to the new high school building to fight a blaze in the vocational shoproom in the basement of the building.

A truck had been taken into the shop to be welded as a practice course. Previously the floor of the shop had been cleaned with gasoline and the inflammable liquid was set on fire by a spark during the welding operations.

A general alarm was sounded, but school officials and students succeeded in extinguishing the blaze before firemen arrived on the scene. The school fire alarm was sounded and all pupils were immediately cleared from the building. Some of the wiring of the truck was slightly damaged, but no damage resulted to the building, it was reported.

It was on February 13, 1939, that the former Belleville High School building caught fire from some unknown cause and within a few hours was destroyed. The new building is of fire resistant construction and aside from the furnishings and fixtures there is little to burn.

Car and Wrecker Collide on Water St.

A car owned and driven by Harvey Yearick, of Mifflinville, was damaged to the extent of about \$150 late Monday afternoon when it was involved in a collision with the Ring Brothers wrecker on the curve on South Water street near the Claster Lumber office.

Mr. Yearick was driving north on Water street, and the wrecker with a car in tow, was traveling in the opposite direction when the machines met. No one was injured and damage to the wrecker was slight. Chief of Police Harry Dukeman of Belleville, investigated the mishap.

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SNOW, ICE CAUSE AUTO ACCIDENTS

One Injured in Seven Mishaps in County During Weekend

One person was injured and total damage was estimated at about \$500 in a series of seven motor accidents in the county during the weekend. Most of the mishaps resulted from snow and icy ruts on streets and highways.

Paul E. Brown, 41, of Aaronsburg, suffered a bruised left knee requiring treatment by a Millheim physician as the result of an accident in which his truck and a sedan operated by Marvin Hackenberg, 41, of Laurelton, were involved about five miles east of Aaronsburg about 6:15 p. m. last Wednesday.

The machines were traveling in opposite directions and met on a narrow stretch of road. The truck was nearly clear of a narrow tunnel through a snow drift when the sedan, which had halted, slid down an icy embankment into the rear of the truck, causing about \$120 damage to the truck. Damage to the car was placed at \$40.

Highway employees shoveled snow and aided in extricating the two machines. State Police from Pleasant Gap investigated.

A machine operated by H. Hunter Olney, 40, of Detroit, Mich., and a car owned by Clair Flick of Julian, Pa., were involved in a collision on

Water street, near the Claster Lumber office.

Mr. Yearick was driving north on Water street, and the wrecker with a car in tow, was traveling in the opposite direction when the machines met. No one was injured and damage to the wrecker was slight. Chief of Police Harry Dukeman of Belleville, investigated the mishap.

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Centre Hall Girl Training in WAC

Pvt. Dorothy V. Blazer, daughter of Mrs. Ruth Blazer, of Centre Hall, is taking basic training at the Third WAC Training Center, Fort Oglethorpe, Ga. On completion of the six-weeks' basic course she will be assigned to the Army Air Forces.

Pvt. Blazer's brother, Technician (8th grade), is with a field artillery unit in Germany.

Prior to enlistment in the Women's Army Corps, Pvt. Blazer was employed at the Army Reception Center, New Cumberland, Pa.

Former Local Man Killed in Action

Calvin Miller, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Miller, of Niagara Falls, N. Y., former Belleville resident, was killed in action in Luxembourg on January 14.

The young man's father is a brother of Daniel Miller, Mrs. Robert Klinger and Mrs. Marie Wilson, all of Belleville, while his mother, the former Olive Marshall, is a sister of Mrs. Fred Haupt of Belleville, and Mrs. Guy Brooks of near Centre Hall.

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Describes Life in German Prison

"You Can Give Red Cross Any Amount of My Money You Wish," Lt. Eugene Shultz Writes. Says Food Provided by Germans Lacks Variety.

"You can give the Red Cross any amount of money you want."

That sentence in a letter from Lt. Eugene Shultz, who is a prisoner of war in a German camp near Frankfurt, sums up his evaluation of the work of that organization in aiding prisoners of war.

Lt. Shultz, former pressman for the Centre Democrat, in a series of 29 letters written to his mother, Mrs. Lilla Shultz, of Lock Haven, since the Flying Fortress of which he was chief pilot was shot down over Germany-held territory on March 2, 1944, outlines what life in a German prison camp is like. He is unstinting in his praise of the Red Cross and the YMCA.

According to reports received shortly after he was reported missing in action last March, a friend in a nearby Fortress saw Shultz's plane receive several heavy hits, presumably from anti-aircraft fire. The plane began to lose altitude and finally eight men were seen to parachute from the stricken machine. The Fortress continued on, with the pilot and co-pilot apparently attempting to get home with the damaged plane.

"His records are packed in it; his cartridges are wrapped in it; his used plane, but it continued to fall and finally the two remaining occupants were seen to parachute to the ground."

It was his second experience with a badly damaged plane. Several months earlier his Fortress was seriously damaged by flak over German territory and he gave the order to abandon ship. The bombardier was badly wounded he couldn't leave the plane, so Shultz and the co-pilot decided to try to fly the plane back to England. After a harrowing journey he landed the plane safely and received a decoration for the feat. Lt. Shultz is a grandson of Mrs. William Alkey, of North Spring street, Belleville.

In reviewing his letters to his mother, he has removed material of a personal nature as well as repetitive material in an effort to show an overall picture of what Lt. Shultz was permitted to write of his life in camp. The excerpts from the letters follow:

May 19, 1944: Only thing I miss is candy and gum. In first package you send please send some can openers. Need no clothes, but in second package you might send me a heavy cap and a sweater. Was not hurt, except

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SERVICE MAN DIES OF SCARLET FEVER

Richard A. Woodring, 18, Succumbs at Great Lakes Training Center

Richard A. Woodring, 18, seaman first class, son of Mrs. Claire R. Woodring, of 220 E. Military avenue, State College, died Friday morning, February 9, 1945, at the Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill., of complications following an attack of scarlet fever.

Private funeral services were held at the Weitzel Memorial Chapel, Millersburg, Tuesday afternoon, with Rev. D. A. Sowers, Jr., of Millersburg, officiating. Interment was made in the Presbyterian cemetery, Port Matilda. Because of the nature of the illness which caused his death the services were private and there was no viewing.

Seaman Woodring, whose family moved to State College from Port Matilda several years ago, enlisted in the Navy on January 5 this year and left ten days later to begin training at Great Lakes. He was ill two weeks before his death.

He was born at Port Matilda on February 2, 1927, a son of Willis D. Woodring and Claire Rhule Woodring. Surviving are his mother and two sisters, M. Jane and B. Franey Woodring, all of State College. He was a member of the Methodist church of Port Matilda.

Wounded Veteran Visiting Home Here

Pfc. John F. Stover, who was wounded in the Po Valley engagement in Italy on November 1, arrived in Belleville last Tuesday to spend a furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Stover, who reside near the Belleville airport.

As a result of his wound, Pfc. Stover's left leg was amputated near the hip and at the expiration of his furlough February 27, he will report to England General Hospital, Aaronsburg, where he is scheduled to be fitted with an artificial limb.

The county soldier, and a Sergeant, had captured five German prisoners and were escorting them back of the lines when he was wounded. Pfc. Stover was walking

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Chicken Bone Lodges in Throat

George Shugert, of the Furst apartments on East Linn street, plant superintendent for the Warner Company here, has been off duty this week recovering from the effects of a chicken bone which lodged in his throat while he was eating dinner, Sunday.

When local efforts to remove the bone proved fruitless it was taken to Huntington where a throat specialist succeeded in removing the bone. Although Mr. Shugert's throat is still quite sore the injury is healing satisfactorily, it is reported.

HAZEL RE-ELECTED HEAD OF THRIFT COMPANY

George H. Hazel was re-elected president of the Centre County Thrift Corporation at the annual reorganization meeting held recently in the offices in the Decker building on South Spring street, Belleville.

Others re-elected were Martin Miller, vice-president; F. L. Struble, 2nd vice-president; B. J. Grycko, secretary; and W. H. Brooker, treasurer. The one new director elected was P. A. Frost of State College.

FAVOR WING TO HOSPITAL HERE AS MEMORIAL

County-Wide Meeting on Project Planned Sometime This Month

A public meeting held in the Logan House here last Wednesday night for the purpose of discussing a memorial for veterans of World Wars I and II, voted almost unanimously in favor of the construction of a wing to the Centre County Hospital as the most suitable memorial.

While no dissenting votes were cast by the 25 or more representatives of Belleville organizations who attended the meeting, several persons failed to vote on the motion. Rev. Robert A. Knox, of State College, spoke in favor of the memorial.

The meeting was called by the special committee of Belleville Borough Council of which Walter Eberhart is chairman. W. W. Sieg, president of Council, presided at the session.

Early in the discussion it became apparent that most of those present favored a county-wide type of memorial, instead of a strictly local project such as a recreation center or playground. Sentiment in favor of the hospital wing as the most practical of the projects proposed, was virtually unanimous.

As a result of the decision to promote a county-wide memorial, Mr. Sieg called a second meeting to be held in the Court House here on Wednesday night, February 28, when all organizations throughout the county will be asked to send representatives to take part in the discussion. In the meantime local organizations who had representatives at last week's meeting will have an opportunity to take official action on the proposal.

Mrs. Robert Mills Beach, representing the Centre County Library, declared that while additional facilities are needed at the library, the proposed construction of a wing as a soldiers' memorial would result in additional maintenance expense. The library, Mrs. Beach said, would prefer an endowment which would provide a steady annual income. She heartily endorsed the hospital proposal.

James H. Caum, secretary of the Centre County Hospital, said the hospital would be glad to accept the proposal.

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SHOEMAKER TO ENTER DUNLAP SALES GROUP

Collins Shoemaker, who since September, 1942, has been manager of the Belleville Sunoco Service at the corner of Allegheny and Bishop streets, has resigned, effective today, to enter the Ford farm machinery sales department at the Dunlap Motor Company, West High street, Belleville. For a number of years Mr. Shoemaker was engaged in selling Ford products in this area.

No successor to Mr. Shoemaker as manager of the Sunoco station, had been named yesterday, it was reported.

Bulldozer Operator Painfully Burned

Robert Fye, 31, of Port Matilda, operator of a bulldozer owned by W. G. Moore & Son of Philipsburg and leased by the State Highway Department for road clearing purposes, was badly burned about the face and hands about 4 o'clock Tuesday morning while engaged in plowing snow on the road between Pleasant Gap and Zion.

Fye, it is reported, struck a match to see how much fuel oil remained in the fuel tank of the machine when the oil exploded, the flame striking him in the face.

While his condition at the hospital is reported to be satisfactory, he is understood to be quite severely burned about the eyes.

GIRL BURNED IN STOVE EXPLOSION

Flames From Range Envelop Geraldine Holderman, 11

Geraldine, aged 11, daughter of Mrs. Earl Holderman, of Woodcrest, State College, suffered first and second degree burns of the face and neck about 11:30 p. m. Saturday when an accumulation of coal gas in the kitchen range at the family home exploded and enveloped her in flames.

Curtains and drapes at two double windows in the kitchen were burned and the woodwork around the windows was scorched. Members of the family and neighbors extinguished the blaze. Smoke and water caused some damage to the home.

Geraldine was the only one near the stove at the time of the explosion. Her mother said the flames billowed out of the range, engulfing the girl for a moment. Her hair and eyebrows were burned and one eye was badly swollen as the result of burns.

Geraldine was taken to the office of a State College physician where she received treatment, returning home afterwards.

SEDAN AND TRUCK COLLIDE NEAR CURTIN

A sedan, operated by Wilbur Shank, 41, of Millersburg, and a truck operated by George McCoy, 21, of Lock Haven, crashed at the intersection near Curtin leading onto the main highway Monday morning.

The accident is said to have happened when Mr. Shank was in the act of entering the highway from the road leading to Curtin. He suffered a laceration of the nose and head and was treated at the Centre County Hospital. State Police from the Pleasant Gap sub-station investigated.

Mother, Children Escape Slow Death

Illness of State College Family Found Caused by Carbon Monoxide Gas in Apartment; All Recover at Local Hospital.

A State College mother, her three children, and three nurses called in to care for them were spared possible death by carbon monoxide poisoning, Sunday, when it was discovered their illness was caused by gas escaping from a defective water heater.

Mrs. Pearl Harshberger and her three children, Samuel, 6; Betty, 9; and Helen, 11, who occupy an apartment above the Donut Shop on South Pugh street, became ill early last week, suffering from intervals of dizziness, nausea, and severe headaches. The attending physician called in three nurses and within several hours after arriving at the apartment they too exhibited the same symptoms as the members of the family.

Sunday morning the physician ordered the family brought to the Centre County Hospital by ambulance and asked State College Fire Marshal, Bruce Homan, to investigate for possible contamination of the air in the apartment.

The Alpha Fire Company secured the services of D. C. Jones, gas specialist for the Penn State Coal Mining extension department, who has special equipment for detecting gases.

A small cook stove on the first floor was found to be operating satisfactorily, but an automatic gas hot water heater in the bathroom on the second floor was found to be releasing carbon monoxide gas when the heater was in operation. While the heater was burning, sufficient carbon monoxide floated through the apartment to make its occupants ill. During intervals when the burner was shut off the air cleared sufficiently for the members of the family to improve.

Mr. Jones reported that one-tenth of one per cent of the gas is fatal in an hour's time and added that his tests showed that a time the heater caused from one-half to one per cent of gas. He expressed the belief that the Harshbergers owe their lives to the fact that the burner was shut off.

He was stationed in England and while participating in a major raid over Germany on January 7, 1944, his plane was shot down.

His mother received a War Department message January 16 reporting that he was missing in action in the raid and later the War Department notified her that his name had been placed over a German broadcast and that he was listed as a prisoner of war.

In recent weeks his mother, and his sister, Miss Betty Edmiston, who lives at home, and his aunt, Mrs. Earl K. Stock, of East Bishop street, have received letters from him from a German prison camp. In his letters

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German Prisoner

Sgt. Edmiston, son of Mrs. Nellie Edmiston, of South Spring street, Belleville, who has been a prisoner of war in Germany since January 1944, entered the Air Force on August 12, 1942, and received training at St. Petersburg, Florida; Sioux Falls, S. D.; Delhart, Texas; and Fresno, California, before being sent overseas in the late fall of 1943 as a radio gunner aboard a Flying Fortress.

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TEACHER RESIGNS, SUCCESSOR NAMED

Frank Bennett Goes to Ingram; Mrs. Harry Fraser to Fill Vacancy

Frank Bennett, teacher of health and physical education at the Belleville High School, resigned, and Mrs. Harry Fraser, of Belleville, was named to fill that position, at a regular meeting of the Belleville School Board, Monday night. Mrs. Elinor McDowell, of Belleville, was appointed to take the school census this year—a position she has held for a number of years.

Mr. Bennett, a teacher here for two years, resigned to accept a similar position at Ingram, near Pittsburg, Mrs. Fraser will teach health classes formerly taught by Mr. Bennett, and Gray Pury will be in charge of physical education classes. Henry Fraser will coach the Jay-Vee team for the rest of the season.

Board Member Samuel D. Rhine-smith reported all band uniforms have been altered and that some of the garments have been cleaned and repaired. He announced that the combined High School and American Legion Bands will present a public concert in the high school auditorium on Sunday afternoon, February 25, at 2 o'clock.

A request by the Teachers' Association for changes in regulations regarding teachers' absences from work was referred to the personnel committee with instructions to submit a report at the next meeting. Supervising Principal E. K. Stock

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Clear Over \$100 At Benefit Game

Mrs. Barbara L. Kline, chairman of the local Infantile Paralysis committee, reported yesterday that approximately \$110 was cleared after expenses at the benefit basketball game held Monday night in the Belleville High School gymnasium between the Olmstead Field team and a Belleville team. The service team won the game, but the contest provided an excellent display of exceptional basketball on the part of both teams.

The expenses included payment of \$33.13 in federal amusement tax. Mrs. Kline said.

New First Aid Chairman Elected

Tedd Colgrove has been appointed chairman of the First Aid and Water Safety and Accident Prevention program by the Belleville Chapter of the American Red Cross. Mr. Colgrove, with his committee of Fred Hayes and Jay Smith, are planning an advanced course of first aid to be followed by an instructors' course beginning March 5.

Persons interested may communicate with Mr. Smith, dial 761 or 2318, before March 5 for information concerning this course.

Library Continues To Grow, Report Reveals

At the fifth annual meeting of the board of directors of the Centre County Library, February 1, the librarian, Mrs. Carl Iversen, reported an increase in the circulation of books of more than 14,000 volumes over 1944.

Of the 94,000 volumes circulated in all parts of the county, 63 per cent were read by children, 49 per cent by pupils in the township (schools) and 25 per cent by adults. This large increase in the circulation was made possible by the co-operation of the teachers of the county and by the regular visits of the bookmobile during the first six months of the year. The bookmobile driver, Chandler M. Walk, who volunteered much of his time for this work, was called into the ministry in October and no regular bookmobile schedule has been possible since that time.

The County Library now owns a collection of over 15,000 volumes. In addition to this number the Pennsylvania State Library in Harrisburg loaned 2,000 volumes for general use and 141 volumes on subjects especially requested by borrowers.

An increasing number of young people between the ages of 15 and 21 are visiting the library for school reference work, reading the 65 periodicals received regularly by the library and borrowing books for home use. Books on hobbies, careers, adventure and personal reminiscence of the war are the subjects most sought after by this age group.

The library has been designated as headquarters for Boy Scout reading material. There is on file a complete collection of merit badge pamphlets which are in constant use. Boy Scouts in all parts of the county are welcome to use this material.

The treasurer, Miss A. Blanche Underwood, reported that the total expenditure for the year was \$6,831.48, or an average of about \$14 per year for each person in the county. The American Library Association specifies a minimum of \$10 per year for each person for library

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Complete 'Holiday' For Wrapping Paper Planned

"Don't bother wrapping it," will be the slogan for patriotic citizens of Centre county as an intensive campaign to save paper bags and other wrapping material will open throughout the county on Monday.

Plans for the conservation drive, or "paper holiday" were announced today by R. J. Kennard, chairman of the Centre County Salvage committee, in an effort to combat the critical shortage in wrapping paper supplies.

Merchants in the county will ask their customers to accept packages unwrapped or without bags whenever possible.

The "holiday" plan, expected to relieve the paper shortage, will remain in effect throughout the county for at least a month. Mr. Kennard said, and is being staged in response to an urgent request from the War Production Board. No paper will be used in any retail store, except for articles that require wrapping for sanitary and protective purposes, he stated.

Working with Mr. Kennard are the local paper salvage chairman who call upon all patriotic citizens

to carry their bundles and purchases unwrapped for the 30-day period. They are John Henszey, of State College; Mrs. Mary Scott, of Belleville; W. C. Springer, of Philipsburg; Curtis Watts, of Spring Mills; Baker Weber, of Howard; Margaret Stern, of Unionville; James Frye, of Pine Grove Mills; Scott Crane, of Port Matilda, and Ira Hall, of Snow Shoe.

During the paper holiday shoppers are asked to take baskets, carry-alls and other conveniences with them so they can handle unwrapped parcels easily. Baby carriages, bicycle baskets, sleds, toy express carts, and shopping carts should be put into use in handling unwrapped packages, the chairman suggested.

To send more paper to the fighting front, citizens must use less wrapping paper and salvage more waste paper on the home front, the chairman stated. He said that "from the day a soldier goes to war, he is dependent on paper. From his draft card to his honorable discharge, his records are kept on it."

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Pfc. Theodore W. Ishler Missing in Action

Pfc. Theodore W. Ishler, 29, of Belleville, R. D., who has been missing in France since January 23, according to a War Department message received by his parents Tuesday afternoon.