

A Tribute to Our Boys - Missing in Action
By - Tom Forney

Here at home it is hard for us to realize that we are actually at war. However, recently, messages reached members of our community which brought the war very near to us indeed. Four boys very closely connected with us and very dear to our hearts have been reported missing in action. We may sometimes have a tendency to despair, and certainly there is such anxiety and heartache. Yet, one of these boys has already been reported as a prisoner of the German Government, and we feel sure he is well and safe. That fact encourages us about the others. These men are such that they would not give up easily, so we truly feel that all four are alive and safe, though unable to communicate with their bases. Soon we expect to hear good news of each of these boys.

Staff Sergeant Nathan L. Floyd was the first reported missing. He was a radio operator on a flying fortress. We now have definite information that Sergeant Floyd is a prisoner of the German Government. Prisoners of war in all countries usually are well treated. We can feel sure that before long Sergeant Floyd will be back with us again. Floyd worked with us here for a while after graduating from Casar High School and before entering the service. He was a good worker and had many friends here. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Rufus H. Floyd.

Pvt. Everett McNeely was the next reported missing. All that we know is that he did not return to his base after action against the enemy. We know "Whitey" well enough to predict that good news of him will reach us soon. We are fully expecting to see that familiar blond head among us after he, and others like him, have brought us victory. Everett, better known to us as "Whitey," is the son of Mrs. Julia McNeely of Lawndale. He worked with us for this company, holding several jobs of responsibility, always doing his work well. "Whitey" played base ball and loved the game. He was a good sport in whatever he undertook. Let us have faith that such a man will come back, and with him will come peace and happiness.

First Lieutenant Robert W. Martin was the next reported missing. Lt. Martin was piloting a B-19 bomber in the North African Fighting. The bomber did not return to its base. Robert probably was forced to land where he could not contact his base. Our faith in his ability and courage is such that we soon expect to hear that he has returned to his base or that, if captured, is well and safe. Lt. Martin is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clon Martin of Fallston and the grand-son of Mrs. W.D. Wesson of Lawndale. He attended Fallston High School and Lees-McRae College. Before entering the service Robert worked in the Dye Plant of our company. He was an exceptionally good employee, stepping in record time to a job of considerable responsibility. Lt. Martin's record in the service is splendid. He received his wings and became a 2nd Lieutenant in the Air Corps in short time. Later he was promoted to the rank of 1st Lieutenant. He has been in the thick of the fighting, operating from England and North Africa. A man of his qualifications is sure to come through all right. We have faith that we will soon hear that Robert is well and safe and will be with us again when glorious victory has been achieved.

Pvt. Newton P. Neely was the next reported missing. He failed to return to his base from action in North Africa. Pvt. Neely also is one in whose ability and courage we have great faith. We feel that he soon will be reported well and safe. We refuse to despair for him. While Neely had only been in our community a short time, he had made many friends and had won the love and respect of the whole community. Neely had come to us from Spindale where his sisters now live. He is a native of Waxhaw in Union County. While in Lawndale he managed the Lawndale Drug Co. and through his pleasing personality, he became endeared to the whole community. Let us trust with true belief that Pvt. Neely will return to us after freedom has been assured and again he will pass out to his customers sodas, drugs, and magazines.

(Continued on next page)