

Missing In Action Army's Great Casualty Problem

Securing definite and accurate information on which to determine the fate of American soldiers listed by their commanders as missing in action constitutes the greatest problem confronting the Army, the War Department announced today.

Modern battle tactics, such as large-scale landings, the mobility and scope of armored warfare, and the far-reaching aerial offensives of global conflict, have greatly increased the percentage of casualties falling into this category. Hundreds of them later are reported by enemy governments as prisoners of war, some are located in Allied hospitals, and still others rejoin their units from which they have been separated by the ever-changing battle line.

For this reason, in a great many cases it has been impossible to supply the next of kin with information relative to the circumstances in which the soldier disappeared. Every effort is made by the Casualty Branch of the Adjutant General's Office, by the theatre and the organization commanders to get this information.

Many Difficulties

The reason for this difficulty is simple. The soldier has disappeared in or over territory held by the enemy, and there is no way for the unit commander to find out just what happened to him. Consequently, the War Department must rely almost entirely upon information which the enemy government is required to furnish through the International Red Cross under the terms of the Geneva Con-

vention. This dependence upon governments with which we are at war for information on the American dead, wounded or prisoners falling into their hands obviously results in great variations in the length of time elapsing before the reports are received by the War Department.

As soon as word reaches the War Department that a man is listed as missing in action, the Adjutant General's Office of the Army Service Forces sends a telegram to the next of kin or emergency addressee which the soldier previously has designated. In this telegram the date he was reported missing, as well as the theatre of operations in which his unit was engaged when he disappeared, is given.

Shortly afterwards, under present procedure, a letter over the signature of the Adjutant General is dispatched to the next of kin confirming the telegram and explaining the difficulty in securing information, but giving assurance that when the War Department does receive any information it will be forwarded at once. In addition, the letter points out that "recent legislation makes provision to continue the pay, allowances and allotments of personnel being carried in this status."

Reports To Be Made

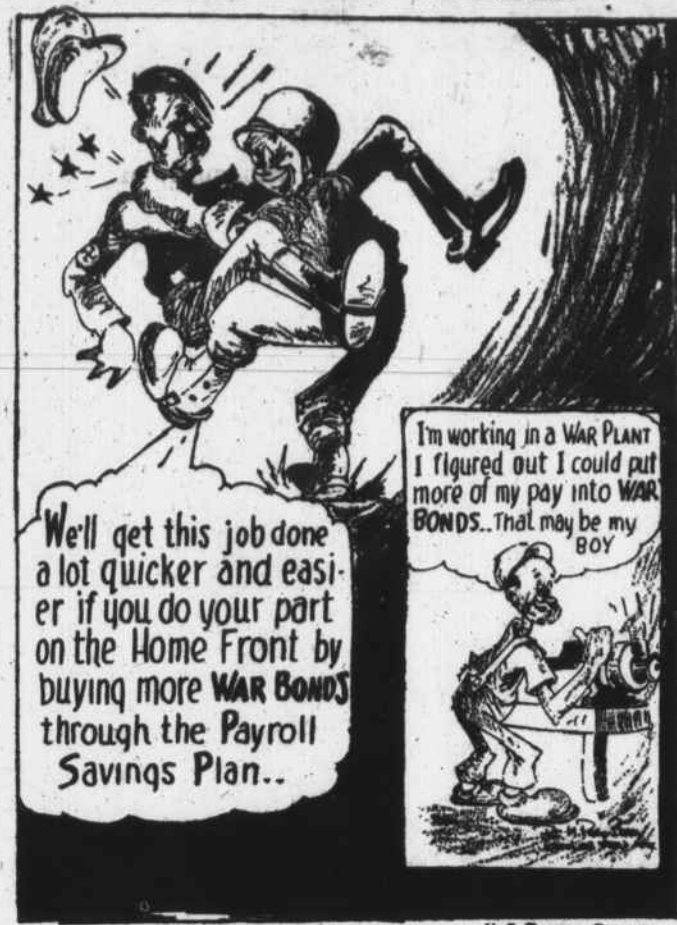
Starting this week, the Casualty Branch of the Adjutant General's Office will make a report by letter at three month intervals to the next of kin and emergency addressee advising them of the status of the individual case until final determi-

nation is made. However, should any information be received throwing light on the soldier's fate it will be forwarded immediately without waiting for one of the three month periods.

Some idea of the size of the casualty problem of the missing

in action which the Army is facing may be gathered from the fact that 52 per cent of the casualties announced fall into missing in action and prisoner of war categories. In other words, together they account for 46,546 of the 89,650 casualties.

FIGURE IT OUT YOURSELF



Church Services

December 12, 1944

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. J. F. Marchman
10:00 a.m.—Bible school.
11:00 a.m.—Morning worship.
7:30 p.m.—P. T. U.
8:30 p.m.—Preaching service.
8:00 p.m.—Wednesday, Prayer Service.

FRANKLIN METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. J. L. Stokes, II.
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School.
11:00 a.m.—Worship Service.
8:00 p.m.—Young People's Fellowship.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. R. E. McClure
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School.
11:00 a.m.—Services.
5:00 p.m.—Christian Endeavor.

ST. AGNES EPISCOPAL

Rev. A. Rufus Morgan
2nd Sunday:
10:00 a.m.—Church School.
8:00 p.m.—services.

MACON METHODIST CIRCUIT

V. M. Allen
2nd Sunday:
11:00 a.m.—Union.
2:00 p.m.—Hickory Knoll.
7:30 p.m.—Asbury.

ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH

Waynesville, every Sunday 11 a.m. Franklin, every 2nd and 4th Sunday, 8:00 a.m.

FRANKLIN METHODIST CIRCUIT

Rev. C. W. Judy
2nd Sunday:
11:00 a.m.—Iotia.
8:30 p.m.—Snow Hill.

JACK ANGEL ACTIVE IN COLLEGE CLUB
Jack Angel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Zeb Angel, and a freshman at Western Carolina Teachers College, gave a talk on "Freedom of Worship" Friday, December 3, at the International Relations Club in the Student Union Building at the college. The program at the club was based on the "World of the Four Freedoms."
Mr. Angel is a graduate of Franklin High school, where he was a member of the Journalism Club, Dramatics Club and the Correspondence Club. On the college campus he is also active in the Journalism Club and the Western Carolina Players, and played in the recent fall production, "The Great Big Doorstep."

SUGARFORK and NEWMAN'S CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Robert Williams
2nd Sunday:
Saturday, 8:00 p.m., Newman's Chapel.
11:00 a.m.—Sugarfork.
2:30 p.m.—Sugarfork.
Sunday, 8:00 p.m., Newman's Chapel.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH
Rev. Fred N. Sorrels
Cullasaja:
10:15 a.m.—Church school.
11:15 a.m.—Worship service.
7:30 p.m.—Worship service.
Mt. Sinai:
10:00 a.m.—Church school.
2nd Saturday:
7:30 p.m.—Worship service.

CATHOLIC SERVICES
8:00 a.m.—Mass, Dec. 12 and 26, at home of John Wasilik, Orlando Apartments.
10:00 a.m.—Christ-mass Dec. 25, American Legion Hall.

The Biggest Event of the Year...

On January 1, 1944, the DEDICATION of the "ROLL OF HONOR" BOARD, containing the names of every man and woman from Macon Co. in the Armed Services, will take place in Franklin, sponsored by the Lions Club with other organizations and hundreds of citizens of Macon assisting. In order to make this occasion a memorable one in honoring our boys and girls in the Service

THE FRANKLIN PRESS and THE HIGHLANDS MACONIAN will publish on January 1, 1944, a SPECIAL EDITION COMMEMORATING THE EVENT

THE EDITION WILL CONTAIN APPROXIMATELY

- 3** full pages containing the names of every man and woman from Macon county in the Armed Service as they appear on the Honor Roll Board in Rankin Square, Franklin.
- 10** pages of pictures of our men and women, whose pictures have appeared in previous issues of the Press, with others added.
- 2** pages will be devoted to personal greetings to your boys and girls in the Service in the form of sponsored space.
- 5** pages will be devoted to News of the Dedication, special articles and news of general interest to the people in this community.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

This edition will go to Macon county citizens all over the world as well as our large list of civilian subscribers in and out of the county. We ask your cooperation by engaging space early.

To Mothers, Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and Friends of our Men and Women in the Service from Macon County:

In order that your personal greeting can be printed in this edition, we are planning to run 2 or more pages with the name and address of individuals or parents. Will you come in our office and give us your name or fill in the entry blank below. To defray expense, the cost will be \$1.00. This includes a copy of the special edition sent to any address.

Date.....

The Franklin Press and
The Highlands Maconian,
Franklin, N. C.

Gentlemen:

Please enter my name on the Special Edition Greeting Page, for which I enclose \$1.00. It is understood that a copy will be sent to the address given on other coupon.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

R. F. D. No..... Box No..... State.....

(Print Name and Address Plainly).

Please send a copy of your Special "Roll of Honor" Edition to the address of the Service Man (Woman) given below:

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

Fold Here — Do Not Detach
Mail Both Coupons Together