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Hoosier Heroes: Seven Local Men Killed in Action, Eleven Wounded and Three Are Held Prisoners in Germany

DEAD—

Two war department telegrams arriving less than two weeks apart told Mr. and Mrs. Howard G. Christena, 1642 E. 62d st., that their younger son had been killed in action and their older son wounded.

The younger, Marine Pvt. Robert S. Christena, who was 19, died of wounds received on Iwo Jima, according to the telegram received Saturday night.

Only a few days before word had come that Pfc. George H. Christena, who is 23, had been shot by a sniper on the Aachen-Duren highway near Cologne.

Pfc. Christena, however, has written that he is improving in a hospital in England, where he spent his 23rd birthday on March 23. He has been overseas since September, entering the army while he was attending Purdue university in May, 1943, and is an infantryman with the well-known 104th division of the 1st army. Pfc. Christena is a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

Pvt. Robert Christena, who enlisted in the Maritime Service when he was 17 years old, served with that branch in the Atlantic and Mediterranean theaters before entering the Marine Corps.

Pvt. Christena had received his marine training at San Diego and Camp Pendleton, Cal., before going overseas last November. Both are graduates of Broad Ripple high school.

Approximately six days after entering combat Cpl. Elwin F. Hirons Jr., 20-year-old infantryman with the 1st army, was killed March 13, in Germany.

The war department telegram was received last night by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elwin Hirons, 264 S. Arlington ave. Cpl. Hirons had previously been listed as missing.

Overseas since November, he was a former employee of the Magnavox Co., Ft. Wayne, until entering service in March, 1943. He was a graduate of Carmel high school.

Surviving besides the parents are a sister, Mrs. Russel Kinnick, Indianapolis, and a grandmother, Mrs. Clara Hirons, Ft. Wayne.

Lt. Col. Harry F. Sellers, formerly of Indianapolis, husband of Mrs. Marie A. Sellers, Minneapolis, Minn., was killed by enemy rifle fire as he led an attack on Luzon Jan. 19.

A graduate of the U. S. Military Academy at West Point, N. Y., he had received the bronze star and the purple heart for wounds received on Manila in August, 1943. He was buried with military honors at San Fabian, Luzon.

Col. Sellers was the grandson of the late Marshall Allen Sellers, field marshal of Kingman & Co. 36 years, and the nephew of Mrs. Fraudia Sellers Warner, Indianapolis, temporarily in Phoenix, Ariz.

Other survivors are two children, six-year-old John Marshall and Johanna, 3, and his mother, Mrs. Edna Sellers, all of Minneapolis.

Pvt. Carl Parker, son of Marvin Parker, 1822 E. 62d st., was killed in action in Germany March 7.

Pvt. Parker, who was 23, had been serving overseas with a tank battalion since December. He entered service May 26, 1944, and formerly lived at Crawfordsville, where he had attended high school.

Surviving besides the father, are his wife, Barbara, two children, Diane, 2, and Billy, 1, and his mother, Mrs. Bertha Parker, all of Crawfordsville.

Sgt. Charles W. Christoph, with the 25th division, was killed March 4, on Luzon, exactly 26 months after he entered the army.

The 30-year-old infantryman was the husband of Mrs. Harriett Christopher, 134 Kansan st., and son of Mr. and Mrs. William C. Christopher, 136 E. Troy st.

Sgt. Christopher, a former employee of the William H. Block Co., went overseas last August and had previously been stationed on New Caledonia.

Surviving besides the wife and parents are a son, John Charles, 2; two sisters, Miss Margaret Christopher, Indianapolis, and Mrs. John Shelby, Great Falls, Mont.; a brother, Boatswain's Mate 1-c Robert L. Christopher, stationed with the navy in California, and the paternal grandmother, Mrs. Matilda Christopher.

Memorial communion services will be held at 10 a. m. Saturday in St. George's Episcopal church, of which Sgt. Christopher was a member.

Pvt. William D. McGee, husband of Mrs. Ruth Watson McGee, 1325 Wade st., and son of Mr. and Mrs. William McGee, 1251 W. 10th st., died March 19, of wounds received in Germany.

With a medical detachment of the 3d army, Pvt. McGee had been overseas one year. Before entering service he was with Cotton's Bakery.

Surviving besides the wife and parents are two brothers in service, Cpl. Philip O. McGee, in India and Seaman 1-c Joe McGee, in the Southwest Pacific; another brother, Rhea McGee, and a sister, Mrs. Era Francis, both of Indianapolis.

Marine Pvt. James David Dunigan, husband of Mrs. Ethel Dunigan, 1428 S. Illinois st., died from wounds received March 4 on Iwo Jima.

The 24-year-old serviceman was a member of the 5th marine division and had entered service April 8, 1944. He was a former employee of Allison's.

Surviving besides the wife are a daughter, Deanne, 5, 4 years old, and a son, James Manson, 15, days old; the father, James Dunigan, Cincinnati, and the mother, Mrs. Mary Shimp, and two brothers, Bill Dunigan and Bob Dunigan, all of Indianapolis.

WOUNDED—

Pfc. Harry Lawrence, husband of Mrs. Mae Lawrence, 1129 S. Bradford st., who wounded in the Aleutian Islands Feb. 7 and has returned to duty.

Awarded the purple heart, he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lawrence, 442 E. Merrill st., and has a 3-year-old daughter, Shirley Lynn. The 32-year-old infantryman is



Marine Pvt. Robert S. Christena (left), killed on Iwo Jima, and his brother, Pfc. George H. Christena, wounded near Cologne.



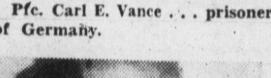
Pfc. Emerald F. Foster . . . prisoner of Germany.



First Lt. Elmo B. Hessler . . . safe.



Sgt. Charles W. Christopher . . . killed on Luzon.



Pfc. Carl E. Vance . . . prisoner of Germany.



Pvt. James D. Dunigan . . . killed on Iwo Jima.

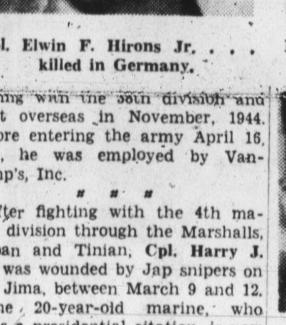


Pvt. Joseph B. Helegda . . . prisoner of Germany.



Cpl. Elwin F. Hirons Jr. . . . killed in Germany.

Pvt. William D. McGee . . . killed in Germany.



Harry-Lawrence Charles A. Higgs . . . Wounded Honored.

Pvt. Frank Daugherty, husband of Mrs. Laura M. Daugherty, 1112 S. Wadsworth ave., was seriously wounded March 3 in Germany while serving with the infantry. He is now hospitalized in Europe.

After fighting with the 4th marine division through the Marshalls, Saipan and Tinian, Cpl. Harry J. Lee was wounded by Jap snipers on Iwo Jima, between March 9 and 12. The 20-year-old marine, who had a presidential citation, is now hospitalized somewhere in the Pacific. He was hit in the neck and back, but has been able to write to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Leo, 1832 E. 62d st.

In service 23 months, Cpl. Leo went overseas 14 months ago. He attended Ben Davis high school and formerly worked for a local gardener, Louie Lempa. A brother, Lt. Jack D. Leo, is a cargo flier in India.

Sgt. Raymond Bly, husband of Mrs. Pauline Bly, 102 S. Wadsworth ave., is back with his company after recovering from wounds received Feb. 22 in Germany.

With the 50th armored infantry, he attended Technical high school, and is 22. Before entering the army one year ago, he was employed at the Polar Ice & Fuel Co. He is a former student at DePaul university, attended the University of Chicago. His wife and two daughters are living in Clemon, Fla.

Pfc. Frank Daugherty, husband of Mrs. Laura M. Daugherty, 1112 S. Wadsworth ave., was seriously wounded March 3 in Germany while serving with the infantry. He is now hospitalized in Europe.

Going overseas in January, 1944, with a quartermaster corps, Pvt. Daugherty, who is 30, volunteered to be transferred to the infantry and landed in Belgium last September from England. Before entering the army in May, 1943, he was a staff car driver here.

A brother, Melvin Daugherty, is serving with the air force in the European theater.

Previously wounded Dec. 16 in Germany, Sgt. Novis J. Harris, husband of Mrs. Bertha L. Harris, 1533 Shepard st., was wounded again in that country in a hospital 3 months ago, he was a 22-year-old sergeant.

The 22-year-old sergeant has been overseas since last September serving with the 99th division of the 1st army in France and Belgium before going to Germany. Before entering the army 26 months ago, he was employed at Stout field.

Pvt. Abe I. Levy, husband of Mrs. Rose Levy, 739 Union st., and son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Levy, 708 Russell ave., was wounded in Germany March 4 and has been awarded the purple heart.

His brother, S. Sgt. James W. Hall, is stationed in England.

Lt. Col. Floyd M. Call, commander of the 3d battalion of the 309th infantry regiment of the 78th "Lightning" division, was knocked down by a piece of shrapnel when he and his men took the town of Kommergeidt, Germany. Lt. Col. Call is a nephew of J. H. Call, 2129 Carrollton ave., and son of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Call, Rosedale.

Awarded the purple heart, he returned to duty immediately. He was employed in the banking de-

partment of the state house until he entered the army about three years ago and previously was a bank examiner in Rosedale.

The Bryant's formerly lived at 1015 E. Indiana st. Pvt. Bryant is a graduate of Washington high school.

Mr. and Mrs. William E. Bryant, of Jake-Man's Lake, southwest of Mooresville, Pvt. Bryant said he was "O. K." and hoped to go back on duty soon. It was the first word his parents had received from him in more than three months.

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