

# 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 H. 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 hospital in England, where he spent his 23d 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.

Pvt. Robert Christena is a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

Pvt. Robert Christena, who enlisted in the Marine 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. Hiron 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 Hiron, 264 S. Arlington ave. Cpl. Hiron 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. Russell Kinnick, Indianapolis, and a grandmother, Mrs. Clara Hiron, 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 Munda in August, 1943. He was buried with military honors at San Fabian, Luzon.

Col. Sellers was the grandson of the late Marshall Allen Sellers, fire marshal of Kingan & Co. 36 years, and the nephew of Mrs. Paulina 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, 1832 Easy 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, 10, and Billy, 7, 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 Christoph, 134 Kansas st., and son of Mr. and Mrs. William C. Christoph, 136 E. Troy st.

Sgt. Christoph, 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 Marguerite Christoph, Indianapolis, and Mrs. John Shelby, Great Falls, Mont.; a brother, Boatwain's Mate 1-c Robert L. Christoph, stationed with the navy in California, and the paternal grandmother, Mrs. Matilda Christoph.

Memorial communion services will be held at 10 a. m. Saturday in St. George's Episcopal church, of which Sgt. Christoph 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 Shelby 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 of 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, Deanna May, 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. Broadway st., who was 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.



Pvt. Emerald F. Foster, husband of Mrs. Lorena M. Foster, 314 N. Keystone ave., who was missing in France since Jan. 9, now is a prisoner of Germany.



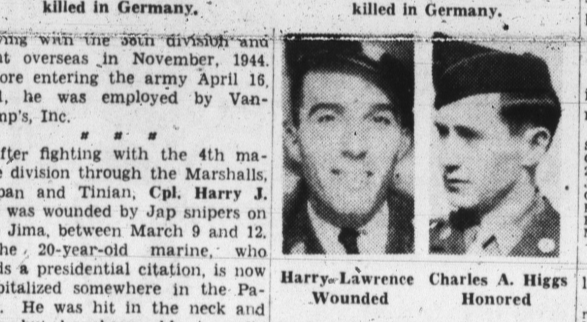
Sgt. Charles W. Christoph, killed on Luzon.



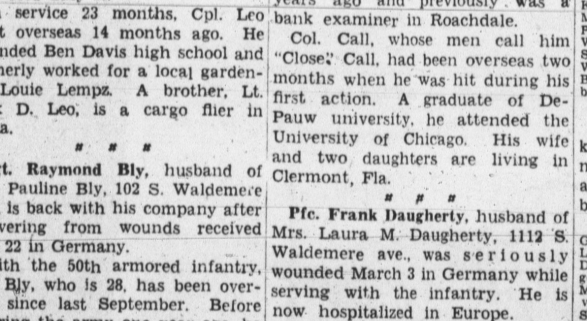
Pvt. James D. Dunigan, killed on Iwo Jima.



Cpl. Elwin F. Hiron Jr., killed in Germany.



Pvt. William D. McGee, killed in Germany.



Sgt. Raymond Bly, husband of Mrs. Pauline Bly, 102 S. Waldemere ave., is back with his company after recovering from wounds received Feb. 23 in Germany.

With the 50th armored infantry, Sgt. Bly, who is 28, has been overseas since last September. Before entering the army one year ago, he was employed at the Polar Ice & Fuel Co. He is a former student at Technical high school.

Sgt. Bly's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Willard Bly, live at 345 S. Taft st. He has three children, Patricia Ann, 8; Donna Rae, 6, and Gary Ernest, 19 months.

Marine Pfc. Herbert W. Clark, son of Clarence Clark, 2167 N. Parker ave., and Mrs. Fannie Risley, Booneville, was wounded on Iwo Jima Feb. 19.

A veteran of Guam and Bougainville, he attended Technical high school and is 22. Before entering the marine corps in August, 1942, he was employed by the Indianapolis Star.

Pvt. Raymond E. Hall, husband of Mrs. Evelyn Hall, R. R. 11, Box 363, was wounded in Germany Feb. 24.

Overseas since Dec. 17, he is 25 and was employed by the Link-Belt Co. before entering the army June 17, 1944. He is the son of Mrs. Eleanor Hall, Greencastle, and has two children.

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 Kommergheld, Germany. Lt. Col. Call is a nephew of J. H. Call, 2129 Carrollton ave., and son of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Call, Roachdale.

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

Mr. and Mrs. William E. Bryant, of Jake Mann'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.

The Bryants formerly lived at 1015 E. Iowa st. Pvt. Bryant is a graduate of Washington high school.

**PRISONERS—**  
Pfc. Carl E. Vance, husband of Mrs. Jeanette Vance, 1315 Ringgold st., who was missing with the 10th division since Dec. 16, now is a German prisoner.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Vance, 1115 Knox st., he is 23 and left Camp Atterbury last October. Before entering the army in October, 1942, he was employed at the A. & P. war house.

Pvt. Emerald F. Foster, husband of Mrs. Lorena M. Foster, 314 N. Keystone ave., who was missing in France since Jan. 9, now is a prisoner of Germany.

Son of Mrs. Amy Foster, Franklin, he was an infantryman with the 7th army and went overseas last November. He is 25 and formerly was employed by Kingan and Co.

Pvt. Joseph B. Helegda, husband of Mrs. Betty Helegda, 4918 W. 13th st., has sent his wife a card from a German prison camp. He previously had been missing in France since Dec. 1.

An infantryman with the 7th army before his capture, he wrote the card Dec. 28. He has a daughter, Betty Jo. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Helegda, live in Clinton.

**SAFE—**  
First Lt. Elmo B. Hessler, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Hessler, 19 N. Gladstone ave., who has been missing over China since Nov. 23, now is safe and on his way from Florida to Washington, D. C.

A bombardier-navigator with the 14th air force, he is 25 and made 50 missions. He holds the purple heart, the distinguished flying cross and the air medal. A graduate of Technical high school, he was overseas a year and was employed by the New Day Paint Co. before entering the army in August, 1941.

His brother, Cpl. Charles W. Hessler, is in France with the circulation department of Stars and Stripes.

**HONORED—**  
The air medal with oak leaf clusters together with a presidential citation have been awarded S. Sgt. Charles A. Higgs, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Higgs, 917 N. Keystone ave.

A graduate of Technical high school, Sgt. Higgs is stationed with the 406th bombardment squadron in England. Before entering service the 21-year-old air foreman was employed at Allison's.

Posthumous award of the distinguished flying cross has been made to First Lt. Herman F. Ridenour, who was killed in April, 1944, while serving as a pilot in the China, Burma, India theater.

Lt. Ridenour the son of Herman L. Ridenour, 4927 N. Pennsylvania st., also was awarded the air medal posthumously.

**STATE—**  
Nine Indiana men have been killed in action, the navy department announced today. They are:

Ensign James Crane, Hillsboro; Marine Sgt. Julius Jakelich, Gary; Marine Pfc. George McDonald, Monon; Machinist Mate 2-c William Owen, Bedford; Marine Pfc. John Rak, Terre Haute; Marine Warrant Officer William Rush, South Bend; Marine Pvt. Paul Targonski, Pekin; Marine Pfc. Ernest Trimpe, Columbus; Marine Sgt. Melvin Weiss, Winamac.

The navy department lists the following men as wounded in action:

Marine Cpl. Allan Beal, Rushville; Marine Pfc. Earl Cassaday, Hammond; Motor Machinist Mate 1-c William Darby, La Porte; Marine Pfc. Edgar Ellenbrand, New Albany; Aviation Radioman 2-c Robert Gregory, Frankfort; Marine Pfc. Richard Miller, Hammond; Marine Pfc. Theodore Pliske, Westville; Marine Pfc. Joseph Ross, Winamac; Marine Pfc. Kenneth Scott, Shepardsville; Marine Pfc. Charles Sweeney, Washington; Marine Pfc. Raymond Strawn, Bluffton; Marine Sgt. Ivan Todd, Soliherry; Marine Sgt. Harry Walter, Wataash.

Hoosier soldiers who have been killed in action in Europe are announced by the war department. In all cases next of kin have previously been notified:

Pvt. Jesse Campbell, Nashville; 4th Gr. Robert Onda, French Lick; 1st Lt. Leon Conrath, Terre Haute; Pfc. Louis Dismore, Jeffersonville; Pfc. Charles Dugger, Washington; Pfc. Marshall Eagen, Michawaka; Pfc. George Gettinger, Sullivan; Pfc. William Gowins, Crown Point; S. Sgt. Bert Hayes, New Albany; Pfc. Morris Leon, Bedford.

S. Sgt. Dennis Jackson, Evansville; Pfc. Richard Johnston, Warsaw; 4th Gr. Charles Judkins, Madison; Sgt. Louis Kaman, South Bend; Pfc. Melvin Kaser, Marion; Pfc. Howard Keith, Logansport; Pfc. Walter Mikos, Gary; S. Sgt. Devere Provinces, Auburn; Pfc. John Runkle, Richmond; Pfc. James Tuckan, Whiting.

The war department's list of men who have been wounded in Europe includes the following names:

5th Gr. Leo Alexander, Cpl. Wilbur Baker, Sullivan; Sgt. Lester Barto, Pfc. Wayne, Cpl. Orin Bauer, Gr. Sgt. Pfc. Robert Belew, Yorktown; Pfc. Deaton Bennett, Vevay; Pfc. Charles Bishop, Hartsville; Pfc. Peter Biskamp, Ellettsville; Pfc. Robert Boggs, Columbia City; Sgt. Frank Bosak, Gary; Pfc. Floyd Brannan, Lafayette.

Pfc. Robert Brickley, Petroleum; Cpl. Glen Brittain, Otwell; S. Sgt. Clarence Brock, Martinsburg; Pfc. Robert A. Brown, Prairie Creek; Pfc. William Brown, Booneville; Pfc. Joseph Bruner, Elkhart; Cpl. Harry Burd, Peru; Pfc. John Cardin, Vincennes; Cpl. Robert Carter, Crawfordsville; 1st Lt. Homer L. Clendenen, Ft. Custer; Washington; Pfc. Virgil Cooney, Evansville.

Capt. Marion Cooper, Hillsboro; Pfc. Raymond Coppock, Marion; Pfc. James C. Crotch, Indianapolis; Sgt. Louis Greenhouse; Pfc. John L. Davis, Greensburg; Pfc. David Franklin, Ft. James; Pfc. Deane Althoff, Decatur; Pfc. Dennis Denison, New Albany; Pfc. Deane Althoff; Pfc. Sgt. Louis Didier, Clinton; 1st Sgt. Ivan Ducharme, Beckley; T. 5th Gr. Earl Eaton, Sharpsville; Pfc. Earl Schierling, Hammond.

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 A. 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.

Now in a hospital in France, he is 31 and has been overseas nine weeks. He previously was stationed in Newfoundland two years. A graduate of Manual high school, he entered the army in April, 1942. He was serving with the infantry.

With the 4th Marine division, Pfc. William C. Bryant, a flame thrower, received an injured hand in action on Iwo Jima, and is now hospitalized in the Hawaiian Islands.

In a letter written to his parents,

Pfc. Lawrence Elzroth, Marion; Pfc. Ralph Estelle, New Castle; Pfc. Russell Ewing, Knightstown; Pfc. William Fazz Seelville; S. Sgt. Harry M. Fox, Terre Haute; Sgt. Robert Gurd, Warren; Pfc. Charles Gelling, Richmond; Pfc. John Genis, North Judson; Pfc. James Gibson, Austin; Pfc. Robert Glenn, Lawrenceburg; Pfc. Leland Godfrey, Portland; Pfc. Adam Graf, Logansport; Pfc. Joseph Grands, East Chicago.

Pfc. Albert Harshbarger, New Albany; Sgt. John Hamke, Vincennes; Sgt. Harry Hamke, Lafayette; S. Sgt. Harold Harper, Anderson; Pfc. Charles Harr, Anderson; Pfc. Burgess Hailey, Terre Haute; Pfc. Leland Haugh, Logansport; Pfc. Lawrence Hudson, Veedersburg; Sgt. Raymond Hudson, Hammond; Pfc. Edward Huegel, Mishawaka; Pfc. Patrick Jarboe, Tel City.

Pfc. Cecil Jones, Marengo; 2d Lt. Lowell Kennedy, Richmond; Pfc. William Y. Kinney, Evansville; S. Sgt. Harold Kinyoung, Columbus; Pfc. Richard D. Larimore, Columbus; Pfc. Francis Lepp, Gary; Pfc. Elza Lucas, Nashville; Pfc. Russell Martin, Wayne; T. 4th Gr. Thomas May, New Albany; Sgt. Gayle McKibbin, Kokomo; 1st Sgt. Meese Warren; Pfc. Robert Midden, Duff, Daleville; T. Sgt. Homer Miller Jr., Wayne; Pfc. Gerald Monroe, Osgood; Sgt. Glenn Moore, Spencer; T. Sgt. Neil Union Morris, Madison; Sgt. George Wolcottville; Pfc. Sam Neiler, Clinton; Pfc. Richard Ogle, Fortville; Pfc. Lester Owens, Vincennes; Sgt. Bert Parks, Shefton; Pfc. John W. Rahn, Vincennes; Pfc. John Batovski, Gary; T. Sgt. Jesse Red-

der, Brazil; Pfc. Willie Reding, Jeffersonville; Pfc. Everett Ringenberg, Auburn; Pfc. Charles Seger, Dubois; Pfc. Paul Shelor Jr., Anderson.

Pfc. Arthur Shirley, Franklin; Pfc. Robert J. Smith, Greensburg; Pfc. Wilbur L. Smith, Warsaw; Pfc. Richard Snell, East Gary; Pfc. James F. Snyder, Albion; T. 4th Gr. Henry Smider, Poseyville; T. 5th Gr. William Stonerock, Winchester; Pfc. Walter Thel, Gary; Pfc. Ralph Peru, Pfc. George Verbiak, East Chicago; Pfc. James Voyles, Evansville; Pfc. Sam Walls, Kokomo.

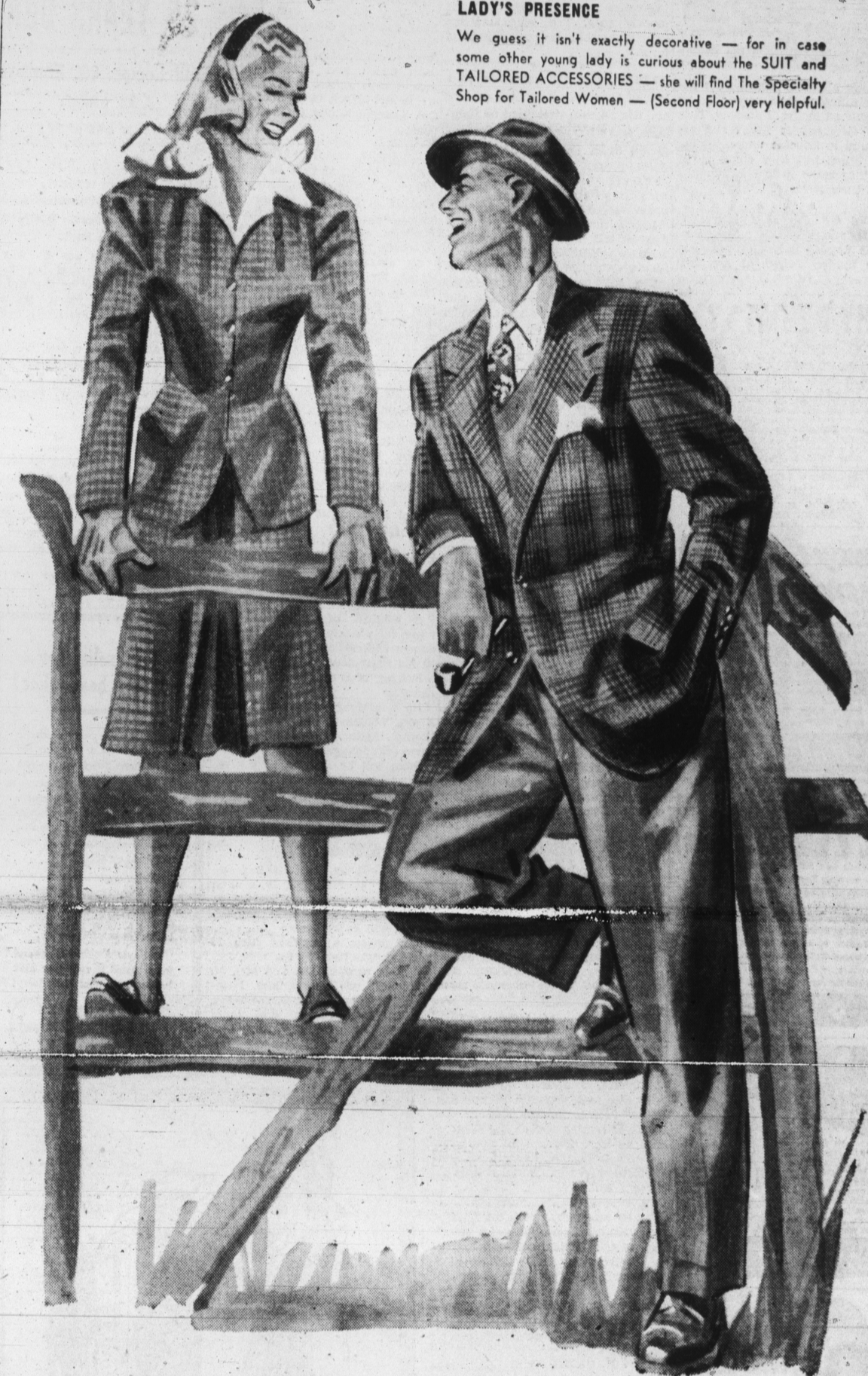
Pfc. Earl White, Columbus; Pfc. Frank J. White, Logansport; Sgt. Russell Whitler, Union City; Sgt. William Witholt, Rochester; Pfc. Billy Wolfe, Bloomington; Pfc. William Woodworth, Bensenville; Pfc. Raymond Zimmerman, Remington; 2d Lt. Ernest Zink, Paducah.

**PRISONERS OF GERMANY**  
Pvt. Vincent Broyles, Terre Haute; Pfc. Victor Carey, Evansville; 2d Lt. Douglas Minick, South Bend; Pfc. Albert Delano, New Market; S. Sgt. Roland Douglas, Paris; Pfc. Carl Ho Drake, Hardinsburg; Pfc. George Gophart, Lafayette; Pfc. Clarence Palmer, Pfc. Marion House, Hammond; S. Sgt. Paul Kenneth Kiammer, Hammond; S. Sgt. Paul Montgomery, Anderson; Pfc. John C. Neumas, Anderson; 5th Gr. Mike Papendick, Crown Point; T. 5th Gr. Lawrence Patton, Evansville; Pfc. Gratchel Blange, Shelby; Pfc. Wilbur Rudder, Vevay; Sgt. Norman Smith, New Castle; Pfc. Louis L. Tucker, New Albany.

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