

Bodies of 11 Hoosiers Back From Pacific

Returned War Dead Includes 3 Local Men

Bodies of three Indiana servicemen are among the 925 recently returned from the Pacific aboard the U.S. Army Transport Pvt. Joseph F. Merrill. Their bodies and those of 11 other Indiana servicemen returned aboard the vessel were originally buried in military cemeteries in New Guinea, the Philippines and Japan.

The Department of the Army said their next of kin will be informed when the servicemen arrive at the regional distribution centers of the American Graves Registration Service.

Local War Dead

The Indianapolis men include S. Sgt. Ernest C. Cassette, Air Force, whose next of kin is Mrs. Nina Cassette, 2247 N. LaSalle St.; S. Sgt. Walter H. Doan, Army, James A. Doan, 727 S. Whitcomb St., and T-3c Clydes S. Howard, Army, Richard L. Howard, 152-D, Tyndall Towne.

The other servicemen from Indiana include T. Sgt. William H. Burns, Air Force, whose next of kin is Ralph Burns, Frankfort; Sgt. Charles W. Cheairs, Army, Oscar Cheairs, Gary, Sgt. Eugene Leonus Conrad, Marine Corps, Cleo L. Conrad, Crawfordsville; Pfc. Robert L. Evans, Marine Corps, Elmer L. Evans, New Albany; Lt. James B. Neighbors, Navy; Owen J. Neighbors, Wabash; Pfc. Charles E. Redmon, Army, Neal Redmon, Markleville; Cpl. John T. Remijan, Army, John Remijan, Lacrosse; 2d Lt. Lowell Jackson Sheetz, Marine Corps, Jesse R. Sheetz, Plainville; Pvt. Harlie A. Starkweather, Army, Mrs. Lena Leitzow, Brook; Sgt. Ernest E. Walters, Army, Mrs. Alma K. Walters, West Terre Haute; Pfc. Thanas L. Zoto, Army, Leonda S. Zoto, Hamblin.

Try Wire Recorders In Accident Cases

DALLAS, Tex. (UPI)—Police Chief Carl Hanson is studying plans to use wire recorders to gather evidence at the scenes of traffic accidents.

Machines would be placed in at least five accident investigators' squad cars. The officers thus would have a permanent record from witnesses and participants in accidents immediately after they occur.

Chief Hanson said court cases already are on record where wire recordings were admitted as evidence.

STRAUSS SAYS: TRADITION WITH A TOUCH OF TOMORROW!



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Missing Persons' Often Prefer Being 'Lost'

Serious Cases Are Few, Police Find

By CLIFFORD THURMAN

MOST missing persons are not missing at all.

Where are they?

Inspector John J. O'Neal, top man in the Indianapolis Detective Department, leaned backwards in his big leather chair and casually dusted tobacco shavings into a cigarette paper. He carefully fashioned a well-rounded cigarette and studied it from beneath an arched eyebrow. The inspector smokes Bull Durham.

"People are funny about missing people," Inspector O'Neal mused. "They report 'em missing, but they never get around to reporting them round. frantic mothers call to say 'Johnny didn't come home last night,' but they haven't got time to call again to say Johnny got hungry and sneaked back home two days later."

"Running a missing persons bureau is a tough job and a serious one. Sometimes they are really missing, but more often they are not."

INSPECTOR O'NEAL took a long pull at his home-made cigarette and studied its burning end. The veteran of 35 years on the Indianapolis police department who says he's "been everything on the department except a police woman" took plenty of time in defining a "missing person."

The Missing Persons Bureau in Indianapolis is now a well-organized and organized department in the Juvenile Aid Division. It is handled by JAD because policewoman usually handle the painstaking detail of tracing missing persons. It is a JAD function now because a large percentage of "missing persons" reported are teen-age boys and girls. The more gruesome and very infrequent cases of mysteriously murdered and hard-to-identify persons are few and far between.

"It wasn't always so well organized," Inspector O'Neal will say. "Missing persons, in years gone, was a sort of haphazard, hell-for-leather, do-or-don't, business. It was largely the fault of the families of missing persons and not the police, too. It's a hard thing to decide, even today, when a missing persons report is strictly legitimate."

The inspector became reminiscent. In 35 years as a policeman, detective and department executive he can remember many cases, many incidents. Some were surprisingly legitimate but most of them were panicky mothers, or highly imaginative husbands



Typical of thousands of "missing persons" reported to police every year are these faceless people. To police and friends in their own home town perhaps they are "missing persons." In reality they are "missing persons" because they want to be in that category.

For wives who see only the dramatic side of a casual disappearance. Age of the missing person has a great deal to do with each case, the Inspector points out.

"WE PAY particular attention to little girls who are missing, of course," he said. "We never fail to follow through on a report of an elderly man or woman reported missing. It is surprising, however, to consider the number of adults, over 21 and their own boss, who are reported missing by casual friends or perhaps relatives.

In some of these cases, while giving them all a routine check, we study all angles before becoming excited. In many instances the report of a "missing person" is not a concern of the police. It is merely a case where an adult desires to be missing.

"A man, or a woman, is tired of his present existence and wants a change. Maybe they're harassed by debt, perhaps they just don't like their environment or they just feel the urge to make a new start.

On the contrary, people who have been reported as "missing" aren't all wanted. It simply means that a relative or friend wants to find them, does not understand why they disappeared, or, in some cases, fear foul play might have entered into the case.

"THESE PEOPLE aren't actually missing. They're adults and they've gone elsewhere. They're missed, perhaps, by creditors and friends but literally they do not come into the category of missing persons.

Inspector O'Neal rolled another cigarette and explained between missing persons and fugitives from justice. Criminals are frequently missing, very much and wanted all over the country. They are fugitives from the law and make it their business to be missing, always missing from any place at all where a policeman with a warrant might be waiting.

On the contrary, people who have been reported as "missing" aren't all wanted. It simply means that a relative or friend wants to find them, does not understand why they disappeared, or, in some cases, fear foul play might have entered into the case.

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WITH MODERNIZED police systems, social security numbers, federal income tax reports and Army, Navy and Marine Corps records of two world wars, it is becoming increasingly difficult for people to disappear, the inspector points out.

Time has been surprisingly short, however, since haphazard records or no record at all and a lack of a followup system made it possible for people to disappear and stay missing forever.

Just a few years ago a man, woman or even a child could "disappear" into a distant city, change names and avocations, live different lives and remain missing persons forever. It was only on rare occasions that a person who actually desired to be "missing" was ever found.

"We had a book back in the early days," Inspector O'Neal recalls. "The desk sergeant would write in it, 'Jane Doe, 17, reported missing by her

Majority Turn Out To Be Runaways

mother, Mary Doe.' Policemen would look at the book daily. Sometimes bicycle police would go out in a couple of weeks to check up. They'd usually learn that Jane came home in three days and her parents didn't say anything about it. I wanted to keep down publicity."

THERE ARE cases in the record where people were reported missing and their bodies were found much, much later. Some, indeed, had been murdered. Others had simply died of natural causes and inadequate identification methods made their death a mystery.

"I remember one," O'Neal said as he rolled another cigarette, "when I was a sergeant I got a report of a missing man. It stands out in my memory because the wife kept insisting that 'my husband does not drink, he hasn't come home and something HAS happened to him.'

"Well, back in those days that sort of report was pretty unusual. Wives were always reporting their husbands missing and some of them secretly hoped to get him arrested.

"But in this case it was different. By golly, we did find his body. We found out that he'd gone to the store and expected to be back in 15 minutes. Instead he'd a couple of guys who forced him into a car, took him out here and murdered him. No, sir, you can never tell."

THE INSPECTOR continued to point out the difference between the old way of doing things and the present system.

"Nowadays," he said, "when a wife reports her husband missing she gets immediate attention. Every possible angle is checked and we soon know whether the disappearance is legitimate or if he's just out on a bender."

"Husbands often report wives missing. They know they are not missing. The wives have just gotten tired of the whole setup and flown the coop. It may be a case of desertion for the civil courts but it certainly isn't a legitimate missing person report."

Inspector O'Neal said modern police methods pay special attention now to reports of girls missing, particularly little girls. If the girls are of age, however, it is entirely possible and quite probable that they've decided to seek out a new kind of life away from family ties.

Many boys and young men are reported missing, it was pointed out. If young they are usually runaways and will turn up some place very anxious to return home to mother and dad. If over 18 they very likely are much older than their mother considers them and have simply set out on their own.

Wives, searching for missing husbands, are very often pathetic but there isn't much the police can do. All too frequently it is just plain desertion.

Inspector O'Neal says, "Husbands grow tired of the responsibilities of a home and a wife. Perhaps they cease to love their wives. They just disappear . . . from choice."

THEN THERE are the wives who are reported missing. Most always there's a love triangle or a new and glamorous affair. They run away with other men because husbands get careless and aren't very attentive. It's just a case of broken homes."

"Murder?" the Inspector asks with a slight twinkle in his eye. "It is very, very seldom that a missing person turns up as a murder victim. Sometimes, yes, but more often he's just missing because he wants to be missing."

It is becoming increasingly hard to be a missing person. Modern police methods can track down most anybody anywhere they want to find someone. There are still many legitimate cases of missing persons but alert Indianapolis policemen don't let them stay missing very long.

Moreover, under modern ways of checking, if a person is reported missing the police know when, where and if he turns up again. The follow-through checking system assures a complete report.

Missing person? Are they murder victims?

No, Inspector O'Neal reasons, more than likely they just want to be missing persons.

Here's Last Dog to Identify In Times Puppy Contest

Mail Entries Before Midnight

By ART WRIGHT

Here is the last dog for youngsters to identify in The Times Puppy Contest. All entries should be mailed to Puppy Contest Editor, The Indianapolis Times, 214 W. Maryland St., Indianapolis, before midnight tonight. Clip this picture and paste it on a sheet of paper. Underneath write the dog's breed and tell some of the facts about the breed, its origin and characteristics. Also complete this statement in 25 additional words, or less: "I like a (breed of dog) best because . . ."

The boy and girl submitting the best entries each will receive a \$100 pedigree puppy and will be king and queen of the Hoosier Kennel Club's annual All-Breed Dog Show in the Manufacturers building at the State Fairgrounds. The boy and girl submitting the second best entries each will receive a \$50 pedigree puppy.

The contest is open to all youngsters through 19 years of age except employees of The Times and members of the Hoosier Kennel Club, their affiliates, and members of their families.

Puppy Contest Entry No. 7

... The last dog for youngsters to identify in The Times Puppy Contest.

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Eva Peron Sends Food Abroad

Times Foreign Service

MANILA, P. I., Sept. 24—Eleven tons of Argentine good will are due by sea shortly, thanks to the generosity of its first lady.

The wife of President Peron, Dona Eva Duarts de Peron, has dispatched a cargo of food via the Dutch steamer Boissevain, for

"Evita's" gift comes as another in her spectacular international donations as president of the Argentine Social Aid Foundation.

Flood Control Jobs She's Not So Vicious

Show Progress

\$20 Million in Projects Under Construction

Flood control and water projects in excess of \$20 million are under construction in various sections of Indiana, Richard S. Robertson of Brownstown, executive secretary of the Flood Control and Water Resources Commission, said yesterday.

Of this total more than \$10 million is from federal funds in work being carried on by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Approximately \$773,000 is from local contributions in the form of rights-of-way and easements.

Over \$1 million is being spent on new bridges on W. 10th St. and W. Michigan St. over the White River in Indianapolis. Other projects include:

Cannelton flood wall, \$2,355,000, practically complete; Muncie levee protective works, \$943,000, with \$187,876 for pumping installation almost completed to finish this project; New Albany flood wall, \$465,000, one section Unit No. 8, \$893,000, one-half complete; New Albany flood wall, \$8,265,000, one section nearing completion; Cagles Mill reservoir project, \$6 million, outlet tunnel completed, work on control tower under way and contract for actual dam construction to be let in December.

Tinder to Head VFW Delegation

John G. Tinder, Indiana commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, will lead a state VFW delegation to the "Indiana Day" celebration Oct. 9 at Eaton Rapids, Mich.

More than 1000 VFW members and their wives are expected to attend the annual observance at the VFW home where widows and orphans of members are quartered.

Indiana VFW members already have donated more than \$22,000 to erect a \$40,000 building at the home, to be known as the Indiana building. Completing of the fund-raising campaign is one of the VFW's major objectives for the coming year.

Auxiliary members of the state's third district will distribute food and refreshments to orphans during the observance. All Indiana department officers and their wives will attend.

FIRE Razes 4 Buildings

PARK CITY, Ky., Sept. 24 (UPI)—Four buildings were destroyed today when a fire of undetermined origin swept the downtown section of this small town. Mayor Comer Denton estimated damage at between \$25,000 and \$30,000.

STRAUSS SAYS: TRADITION WITH A TOUCH OF TOMORROW



Landlady Saves Roomer From Gas

A 65-year-old man yesterday

owed his life to a landlady who broke his door down when she smelled gas and found him unconscious from the fumes.

Police said Herschell Sullivan, of 654 E. Market St., was brewing a pot of coffee on a gas plate in his room and relaxed on his bed while awaiting the coffee to boil.

He fell asleep, police said, and the coffee boiled over and extinguished the flames on the burner. Escaping gas soon filled his small room and he was overcome.

Mrs. Muriel Beckman, who operates the rooming house, discovered the gas after she broke the locked door open and called the fire department. The victim was revived at the scene.



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