

Wives Get Word from 106th Division Members

Were O. K. at Christmas—Reference Made to German Reports.

First direct word from the 106th Infantry division was reported here today through letters and a cablegram to the wives of two members of the division, while the first official reference to the 106th Division on the Western front was made Sunday night by Field Marshall Sir Bernard L. Montgomery.

A letter was received today by Mrs. Irene Craner of 304 Fourth street from her husband, Pvt. Faris Craner of Emmett, Idaho, a member of the medical detachment of the 106th Division.

The letter was written Dec. 26, Christmas day, but did not disclose Private Craner's location.

"Look at the Date." Members of the former Atterbury division apparently had heard the claim of the Germans that they had badly mauled the 106th division and Private Craner wrote:

"If you should see anything in the papers about the war or my outfit, be sure and look at the date of my letter."

Craner also wrote that he had been to church on Christmas morning and was preparing to eat his noon meal. He said that he was getting along well and for his wife not to worry. Mrs. Craner is employed at Gauss cafe.

L. Norman Norland of the field artillery battalion of the 106th wrote his wife on Dec. 26 from an undisclosed point. He said he was unhurt, not sick and had enjoyed a turkey dinner on Christmas day.

Mrs. Norland who lives at 2236 Elm street, also received a cable Christmas greeting from her husband, but does not know whether or not it was ordered by him before the battle started.

Reporting from Twenty-first Army Group headquarters, Montgomery singled out the American 106th Infantry division, the Second and Seventh Armored divisions and 82nd and 101st Airborne divisions as doing a great job in meeting the German counter-offensive on the Belgian front.

So far as known here, it was the first official Allied confirmation that the 106th Division had taken part in the break-through fighting. The German radio previously claimed that the 106th Division had been one of those which had been wrecked by the counter-offensive.

33rd Spearheads Attack. The two other Infantry divisions which trained at Camp Atterbury also figured in the weekend news from the fighting fronts.

First Army headquarters, according to the United Press, revealed Saturday that the 83rd Infantry division was one of those spearheading the American counter-drive against the German bulge from the north in the Ardennes area.

Others identified Saturday as spearheading the big push were the Second and Third Armored divisions, 84th Infantry and 82nd Airborne divisions.

30th on Offensive. Sunday the 30th Infantry division, another former Atterbury outfit, was identified by the Associated Press as being in the First Army offensive and to be covering the west bank of the 82nd Airborne in a drive down the west bank of the Salm river southwest of Stavelot.

Today the Associated Press reported that the 30th Division had pushed its way across the Ambleve river, southwest of Stavelot, where the Germans were dug in and expected to make a strong stand.

Part of the 75th Infantry division also has been identified as taking part in the First Army's offensive.

Captain McNeel Writes. Mrs. Bettie Dietz, 1115 Union street, has received a letter from Capt. H. B. McNeel of the special service section of the 106th Division, written the day before the German attack.

Captain and Mrs. McNeel had rooms at Mrs. Dietz's home while he was stationed at Camp Atterbury. Mrs. McNeel has since returned to their home in Mississippi.

Writing from "Somewhere in Belgium," Captain McNeel said: "Since I last saw you, I've seen quite a bit of ocean, England, France, Luxembourg and Belgium. If the Germans would just move back a little I might even get my feet on German soil. Traveling is interesting but not half as much as it could be under present conditions. Everything is covered with snow here and it's plenty cold in a pup tent. Mail comes rather irregular. I have received 21 letters in the past three days which were the first letters I had gotten in over two weeks."

TWO ACCIDENTS REPORTED HERE

Car Skids on Slippery Street and Crashes Into Tree.

Minor damage resulted Saturday in two automobile accidents blamed on the slippery condition of the streets.

At 7:25 Saturday night a 1940 model Ford sedan driven by William Turmire, 408 Jackson street, crashed into a tree at Nineteenth and Maple streets.

The car, which was traveling north on Maple street, went into a skid on the ice and struck the tree.

Damage to the car was estimated at \$125 by the police. The driver was not injured.

At 4:55 Saturday afternoon a 1941 Plymouth coach driven by Carl Neal of Route 5, and a 1940 model Ford coupe driven by Henry Collier, 882 Washington street, were in a minor wreck at Fifth and Washington streets. Both cars were traveling south on Washington. Police estimated the damage at \$50.

The streets of the city were in a treacherous condition Saturday night when a drizzling rain washed the dirt from the icy surfaces.

HERN IS GIVEN NAVY RELEASE

Harrell R. Hern of this city has been given a discharge from the Navy.

Hern left here last April 8 for start of training and had been stationed in California. He was employed by Noblitt-Sparks Industries at the time of his induction.

Jurdy Phillips Rites Today; U.M.W. Executive

Terra Haute, Ind., Jan. 8 (AP)—Funeral services were scheduled for 2:30 p. m. today for George (Jurdy) Phillips, 79, who died Saturday. An executive in the United Mine Workers for 29 years, he had served the union as auditor, treasurer and member of the international board from District No. 11.

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