

Many Missing Men of 106th Reported Prisoners

Halleck Told By War Department Lists Being Compiled.

The War department revealed Sunday that many of the men on the missing list of the 106th Infantry division, which suffered heavy casualties in the German breakthrough last December, are now being reported from Geneva as prisoners of war.

The announcement by the War department was made at the request of Rep. Charles A. Halleck of Indiana.

"The casualty section of the War department told me," said Halleck, "that each passing day is bringing to the United States now lists of men from the 106th Division whose names are being transferred from the missing lists to those of prisoners of war."

Two Bartholomew county soldiers in the 106th Division, which trained at Camp Atterbury, are listed as missing. They are Basil R. King, son of Mrs. Bonnie Tucker of 2437 Chestnut street, listed as missing since Dec. 21, and Donald Lee Clark, son of Mr. and Mrs. James C. Clark of 423 Jones street, listed as missing since Jan. 27.

King was listed as missing during the break-through, but Clark apparently escaped in this action and it is not known definitely whether he was still serving with the 106th when listed as missing Jan. 27.

Several reports have now been received here concerning men of the 106th who have been identified as prisoners. A letter was received this morning by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Warner of 817 Maple avenue from Mrs. John Molzer of Crete, Nebr., reporting that she had received a card written by her husband from a German prisoner of war camp. Private Molzer had been listed as missing since the break-through in Belgium. Private and Mrs. Molzer resided at the Rolland Price home, 720 Fifth street, while he was at Atterbury.

She was employed at Columbus Specialty company.

In reporting on the War department announcement, Halleck said that he did not want to raise any false hopes, "but to those for whom good news is in store, I offer the felicitations both of a grateful nation and myself."

Halleck said that he had been told lists coming in from Geneva frequently contain as many as 50 and 75 names of men from the 106th Division.

"As the casualty section runs through the lists they are first verified against the present missing reports; the serial numbers and other data are matched to make sure there has been neither error nor falsehood in the information," he said. "The families are then notified as rapidly as possible."

Lists Being Prepared.

"Lists now being prepared for publication contain the names of many of the men who were captured in those five lurid days from the night of Dec. 16 to the morning of Dec. 21."

Halleck said that he had been informed by the casualty section that a considerable number of prisoner of war reports from the "battle of the bulge" may be expected within the next few days.

The 106th Division was holding the American line near St. Vith when the Von Runstedt advance struck first on the night of Dec. 16. First among the American units hit by the German advance was the 424th Infantry Regiment.

Another Reported Safe.

The 424th, 423d and part of its artillery support, and other units of the 106th Division suffered a total of more than 8,000 casualties.

Another member of the 106th has been reported safe, according to word received here from his wife. He is Lt. C. W. Lauman, pilot of an artillery observation plane with the division artillery. Mrs. Lauman wrote Mrs. George King of 2221 Chestnut street, with whom they formerly resided, that her husband was safe and well. Mrs. Lauman and their infant son, Robert Peter, reside at St. Louis, Mo.

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