

# SIX MORE SEND WORD THEY ARE NOW LIBERATED

**Boegaholz Writes 'It's Like Dream'—Is First of 4 Airmen Heard From.**

**MILLER IS ON WAY HOME Says He Is O. K. — Local Wife of 106th Member Also Gets Message.**

Joyous word from Bartholomew county men liberated from German prisoner of war camps continues to arrive, but the messages are coming through slowly and parents and relatives of those still not heard from should not believe failure to hear means they are not well.

Thirteen Bartholomew county soldiers last reported held prisoner have not yet been heard from since V-E day, but more and more letters are being received each day. In a number of cases a month or more elapsed after the soldier has been liberated before the relatives received word.

Twenty-five local soldiers were originally listed held by the Germans. Twelve have been reported liberated definitely, while two other men listed as missing in action have been reported freed after being prisoners.

**Boegaholz Homeward Bound.**

The first post-V-E word reported from one of four Bartholomew county airmen believed held prisoner in the same camp in Germany was received Saturday from Staff Sgt. Harry Boegaholz, Jr., who reported he had been freed and "will be homeward bound for the good old U. S. A. in a few days."

Others from here who were in the same camp as Boegaholz at last reports were Staff Sgt. Richard Thayer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard R. Thayer of Flatfoot township; Sgt. Robert Harry Stuartwood of Ogilville and Sgt. Charles Harold Leslie, Jr., son of Charles H. Leslie of 1812 Newton street. No word has been received from them and Boegaholz did not mention them in his letter.

Boegaholz's letter to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Boegaholz of 216 Ryckmore street, was not dated and did not reveal his location, other than Reformation center No. 1. It read as follows:

**Text of Letter.**

"Am O. K. and in the best of health. Hope you are the same. Will be homeward bound for the good old U. S. A. in a few days. It sounds too good to be true. It seems like a dream after all that time a P. O. W. but that's all over now. It sure is going to be a good time of the year for a fortnight. Will be able to do some fishing and lay around a swimming pool and take it easy."

"Tell everyone I said hello and will be seeing them before too long. We sure are being treated swell over here. Plenty of good food, etc. Don't know any more to try and write about so I'll close for now. Will write again in a few days. Don't worry any longer I'm O. K."

Boegaholz, who is 25, a B-17 tail gunner, was first reported missing in action in a raid on Dec. 29, 1943, over Europe. On April 19, 1944, his parents received word from him written in a German prisoner of war camp.

**Eluded Capture 4½ Months.**

Later they learned that Boegaholz had eluded capture by the Germans after he had bailed out of his fortress by posing as a Frenchman for 4½ months. His plane was shot down over Runnes, France. The last previous letter received from him was written Feb. 28 from a German prisoner of war camp.

Word that the four local airmen, all gunners on Flying Fortress shot or forced down over Europe, were in the same prison-

## LIBERATED

Prisoners of war from whom word was received here over the weekend announcing their liberation were as follows:

Sgt. Harry Boegaholz, Jr., of Columbus.

Cpl. William Hurley Miller of Columbus.

Capt. Julius R. Chitwood, husband of a local woman.

Lt. Donovan Finch of Edinburg.

Capt. Bertram C. Finch, 106th Division, former resident here.

Tech. Sgt. Wesley A. Weaver, 106th Division, son of an East Columbus woman.

er or war camp located near Vienna in Austria was brought back here last October by a repatriated Hoosier soldier from the same camp. Boegaholz also had mentioned Stuartwood in one of his early letters from the prison camp.

**Miller on Way Home.**

Cpl. William Hurley Miller, 22, a prisoner of the Germans since last fall, has been liberated and is on his way home, according to word received today by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sylvan Miller, 624 Eighth street.

Miller, a forward observer with a field artillery outfit, was taken prisoner Nov. 12, 1944, and was held in Stalag 3-B.

His letter to his parents, written May 9, follows:

"Dearest Folks—I haven't heard from home since Oct. 12, 1944, so I'm hoping this finds everyone healthy and happy. I am now back in the hands of the good old U. S. Army and on the way home."

**Plane Ready to Leave.**

"My plane should leave tonight or early tomorrow, then the hot ride from coast to coast. I'll drop a penny into a nearby phone and say 'Howdy' when I hit the states. Be seeing you soon."

Miss Lenora Finch, north of the city, also received a letter from him today.

Corporal Miller, a graduate of Columbus high school and former Bull Dog football hurler, entered the service in February, 1943. At that time he was employed at the postoffice as a special delivery messenger.

He trained at Camp Gordon, Ga., Fort McClain, Ala., and Camp Wheeler, Ga.

Since receiving his prisoner of war address, Mr. and Mrs. Miller had written their son at least once each week.

**Chitwood Expected Soon.**

Capt. Julius R. Chitwood, who was taken prisoner on Dec. 16 in the German breakthrough, has been liberated from a German prison camp and is expected home soon.

He is the husband of Mrs. Allen Newsum Chitwood, north of the city.

Captain Chitwood's mother, who resides in Arkansas, received a cablegram from him Sunday, extending Mother's day greetings, and immediately telephoned his wife.

Captain Chitwood was with the 42nd Infantry regiment of the 106th Division.

He married the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Terrell Newsum while he was stationed at Camp Atterbury with the 106th last summer.

**Captain Finch Released.**

Capt. Bertram C. Finch, who resided in Columbus last summer while stationed with the 106th Division at Camp Atterbury, was liberated on May 12, according to word received by his wife, who is now residing at Sportsburg, S. C.

Mrs. Robert Freeman, 2302 Newton street, received a letter today from Mr. Finch saying she had received a cable that her husband who was previously reported missing, had been liberated, but it did

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Sat, May 13, 2017