

Page 8—Wednesday, June 19, 1946—NEWS-HERALD, Marshfield, Wis.

## Captain Beseler Is Home From Service in Europe



**Capt. Donald W. Beseler**

### Local Man Narrowly Escaped Capture During Battle of Bulge

Some food items may be a bit scarce in the U.S.A., but Capt. Donald Beseler has only to recall the five weeks during the Battle of the Belgian Bulge when he lived on C and K rations, to feel properly appreciative about today's diet in Marshfield.

Marshfield would look pretty good to him even if it offered only canned rations, for the 22-year-old captain arrived here June 7 after 20 months overseas, and he admits that you can get pretty lonesome for the old home town in that length of time.

Beseler, better known to his friends as "Billy," is a native of Marshfield and graduated from High School here in 1940. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Beseler, 707 E. Fourth street.

He enlisted on May 4, 1942, and was called into active service April 9, 1943. Going from Fort Sheridan to Fort McClellan, Ala., for basic infantry training, he was sent from there to the University of Illinois as an assistant instructor in ROTC.

### Overseas in 1944

Later he was transferred to Ripon to take an army college course and remained there until January, 1944, when he went to Officers Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga., where he graduated on May 25, 1944. He joined the 106th Division at Camp Aterbury, Ind., and embarked for overseas Oct. 21, 1944, landing in Scotland.

After a brief period in Scotland and at Bambray, England, his unit sailed for Le Havre, France, arriving there Dec. 10 and going into the lines at St. Vith, Belgium, immediately to relieve the 2nd Division.

Although the St. Vith sector was supposedly "quiet," the Golden Lion Division, as the 106th is known, arrived just in time to receive the brunt of Von Rundstedt's murderous onslaught in what came to be known as the Battle of the Bulge.

Beseler was with the 424th Regiment, and its companion units the 422nd and the 423rd, were virtually annihilated. The 300 survivors of the two regiments later joined the 424th, which served as a regimental combat team. Sgt. Wallace Riffeman, Rozellville, was among the 300.

### Narrowly Avoided Capture

The going was tough until Christmas Day, when the skies cleared and fog and snow ceased to hamper the operations of the defenders and their air cover. The troops had not been properly equipped to meet an assault of such magnitude.

Lacking proper clothing and supplies, they were able to obtain little material other than small arms ammunition. Their lines broken, they frequently found themselves behind the German lines, while Germans were often found behind the Allied lines in the confusion that accompanied the break-through.

For several days Beseler and eight companions were isolated in enemy territory, and their most exciting time of the war came when a company of German troops stopped to eat and unconsciously surrounded Beseler and three others who were hiding in a woodshed.

One German entered the shed and kicked at a sack, but failed to discern the hiding men. Although they escaped detection

then, the Americans were later obliged to shoot their way back to their own lines.

### With Occupation Army

After the enemy had been forced back, Beseler's unit remained in the vicinity of Manhay, Belgium, until March, when it was returned to St. Quentin, France, for further training and reorganization. After a short period near the St. Leger pocket, the unit was sent to the Rhineland to guard prisoners, and in midsummer of last year went to Coblenz for more training. He was promoted to first lieutenant on March 1, 1945, and to captain on Jan. 31, 1946.

When the 106th was alerted to go home Beseler, lacking the number of points necessary for discharge, was transferred to the 159th Regiment at Karlsruhe, and when the 159th was alerted he joined the 29th Regiment for occupation duty at Frankfurt-am-Main.

He left Germany last May 23, arriving in New York June 2 and in Marshfield five days later. His terminal leave expires on July 13 and he expects to return this fall to Ripon College, where he was a student before the war, to continue his studies in game conservation.

### FATHER M'NAMARA IS NEW PITTSVILLE PRIEST

(By News-Herald Correspondent)

Pittsville—The Rev. John A. McNamara of the congregation of the Immaculate Conception, Boscobel, arrived in Pittsville today to assume the duties as pastor of St. Joachim's Catholic Church.

He succeeds the Rev. Lloyd Geisler, who returned today after leaving here Sunday to attend a retreat at Prairie du Chien. Father Geisler served as pastor of St. Joachim's here and had charges at Babcock and Aildorf.

From Pittsville Father Geisler will be transferred to Tomah.

The Rev. L. R. Koepke, pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, and Julius Friday, delegate, are representing the church at the convention at Antigo June 17 to 21.

The Rev. W. C. Hagebusch and Mr. Becker, Ypsen, accompanied them. Dr. A. Braum, Brooklyn, N. Y., and Walter Albrecht, instructor at Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Ill., are representative and essayist, respectively, of the Missouri Synod.

Mrs. John Markee will be hostess to the Cary Community Ladies Aid Society Wednesday, June 19.

### DR. NASON CHOSEN AS OWEN'S MAYOR

### Is Appointed by Council to Succeed Madsen, Mayor Since 1929

(By News-Herald Correspondent)

Owen—Dr. M. V. Nason, a member of the City Council here for several years, has been named by the Council to fill the unexpired term of Hans C. Madsen, who recently resigned after having been mayor since 1929. The present term expires next April. Mr. Madsen has sold most of his holdings in Owen.

Gerton Hay, president of the Flat Metal Company, Chicago, and Charles E. Wallace, Chicago representative of the Master Package Corporation and the E. W. Kidd Company of this city, were week end guests of E. W. Kidd. Mr. Hay is a cousin of Mr. Kidd.

Delbert J. Kenny, candidate for the Republican nomination for Governor of Wisconsin, addressed a large audience here Monday evening.

Col. George Sherman of Madison, Wisconsin National Guard commander, addressed the Owen Kiwanis Club Monday night on the possibility of organizing a National Guard unit in Owen.

R. E. Gilchrist of London, Ontario, is a guest of W. J. Mahoney.

### COMMUNION SERVICE TO BE HELD AT PITTSVILLE

(By News-Herald Correspondent)

Pittsville—An English Service with Communion will be held Sunday morning, June 23, at 9 o'clock at St. John's Lutheran Church, of which the Rev. L. R. Koepke is pastor. Registration for Communion may be made Friday, June 21, and Sunday School is scheduled for 10:30 a. m. Bible school will be held Monday through Friday, June 24 to 28. Divine service with Communion will be held June 23 at Sherwood.

Masses at 8 and 10:45 a. m. will be read Sunday at St. Joachim's Catholic Church, Pittsville, and at 9:30 a. m. at Aildorf. First Solemn Communion will follow the Aildorf mass.

### CHURCH COLLAPSES DURING HURRICANE

Police said all stores in one block were closed. At least a

### Third Victim Gun Battle

# 1946-06-19 Capt Beseler escapes capture.

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