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THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1943

A Boy Died Last Night.

The following editorial is reproduced by The Mercury from the Louisa News, Lawrence County, Ky.:

A boy died last night. It doesn't make much difference now about his name. The important thing is that he died, in poignant and awful loneliness, and somewhere on a waste of sand, out in a starless silence, 10,000 miles from home.

"Missing in action," read an obscure line in this morning's communique. That was all. Now he lies there, crumpled beside the wreckage that yesterday was his ship riding high in the sunlit heavens. The fine hand and the shining face and the broad shoulders remain only in a picture that looks out upon a quiet living room on a shaded street an eternity away.

Last night in those agonizing hours in unspeakable isolation, he went through a thousand deaths without the one thing that might have helped a little—the sound of a familiar voice, the pat of a friendly hand. Mary people died last night in their beds at home surrounded by those who cared. Last night he died in utter desolation, in an unimaginable loneliness.

The pain was bad enough. But then there had to be the dreadful burden of thought in the endless last hours. Mom and Pop. The flowers blooming again on the back yard. The good old roadster parked in the driveway. The last sweetheart. The kid brothers. Those dances last summer. That half-finished letter, in his locker. All those plans for the future. Baddies back at the field, 500 miles across water, wondering. Couldn't somebody find him? That wracking pain again.

Too much for you, all this? But it really happened last night, just like that. If people would only remember that they would just grind deep into their thinking the stark, terrible reality of it, every petty, selfish interest would be swept away. There would sacrifice anything and everything, to make themselves worthy of that boy. They would hasten to the recruiting tent of revenge that would wipe from the earth the traducers in war.

If people who have basked and loafed secure in a land have felt no more than a shock at a Fourth of July Dreadnaught since 1941 would understand about this boy, they would wait no longer for government accumulations and the seizing of trillers. There would be no one left to think any more about what the war might do to their mere personal interests tomorrow or the next day.

People would rise to and demand that their government leave anything, exact everything needed, make them walk, feed them on communal lines, wear coal sacks, take away their luxuries and profit, remove uncertain every complacent comfort and easy attitude to put us swiftly that boy.

He died last night, you see. There is no way to get around that.

55 YEARS AGO

Thursday, January 24, 1888.

Abbey Dramatic Company (Prof. Tom Abbey, Manager) Concert Hall tonight.

Francis Hall has purchased from J. A. [illegible]

R. F. Sale [illegible] on his property.

Chas. [illegible] white hogs.

Carlisle Mercury $1.00 per annum.

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Rev. J. B. Greenwell, pastor of the Christian church, [illegible]

Last and Other Items—Everything [illegible] after an intermission here came the series of [illegible] with selling things at [illegible] each.

Dr. [illegible] Bridges [illegible]

Miss [illegible] Mattie—Miss Alice Bramblett and Dr. R. [illegible] of Carlisle, to be married in Paris January 24th.—Bourbon [illegible]

Mrs. Lizzie Hall and Mr. William McCormick, both of Carlisle, [illegible] on the 26th.

43 YEARS AGO

Thursday, January 18, 1900

Dr. N. H. McNew surrenders J. D. Wyatt as editor of the Carlisle Democrat and Mr. Wyatt will devote all his time to his news paper, the Ewing Inquirer.

Miss Maymie Gore of this county, manager of the Blue Grass Grocery at Midway, suffers painful burns when a pan of gasoline with which she was cleaning a dress in her room explodes.

25 YEARS AGO

Snow has been on the ground continuously since the 24th of November. The heavy snow now covering the ground fell on December 8, but at that time patches of snow were still showing from the fall of November 24.

Coal is still a scarce article, although twelve car loads have come in to local dealers in the last ten days. A load lasts but a short time, there being a large number of idols and wagons waiting when the car is set at any of the yards. Local dealers have the promise of several more cars.

Messrs. J. W. Doleville and Turney Patton, of Cynthiana, who purchased the interest of James Patton in the firm of Brayfield and Patton, are here making an inventory.

The Kentucky Post of January 11, contained a splendid likeness of Wilbur R. Bunton, of Carlisle, who is now at Camp Taylor.

The merchants of Carlisle and Nicholas county willingly closed their places of business Monday in co-operation with the rigid enforcement of the regulations set out by fuel Administrator Garfield to save fuel to help win the war.

Letters from Our boys in Service

January 7, 1943

[illegible] I still like it. I would have some news for you soon. For the past several weeks I have been in North Africa. Are you much surprised or had you guess it?

We had a nice "cruise" down, as you see I am getting to be as much of a sailor as I am a soldier. I sure am seeing some of the ocean as well as some of the world. I sure never thought that I would get to see as much of it as I have already. You know except I have been there is the first time since I have been over, seen that I have really realized that I have been in a foreign country. In the British Isles the people speak the same language as we. Many of their customs are not too different, but here everything is different. Most of the people are French. Spanish and Moslems or a mixture. At least a language of which I can't understand a word. I'm just sure I should have taken French in school. All the dress is radically different from ours. Most of the Arabs and Moslems dress very gaudily, in fact nearly a bunch of rags. They all have those white blankets or sheets wrapped around them. Especially their heads. The Moslem women all wear white sheets wrapped around them, with only their eyes showing. You see it's against their religion for men to see their faces. The Arabs and Moslems are both dark almost black. The French also dress quite differently from us. Fairly good clothes, but some of the women have their dress fairly well cut, but a lot of ridiculous. I suppose to an old fogy to dress as such. The weather has been rather rainy since we have been in fact we had the first heavy storm and touch we have had in this country to be the worst in a month. However when the sun is shining it is real warm. In fact as in swimming in the Mediterranean in December. The people here are [illegible] and I sometimes wonder how they [illegible] when sometimes are not [illegible]

[illegible] Well, tell everyone hello for me.

Lt. Everette S. Stephenson

Dear Mother and Flora:

I will try to answer your letter that I just received. It was good to hear from you. I wish I could be there to tell you all the news and tell you anything else that is going on. I will be home three days so I will be there Sept. 24.