

Artist Identifies Son, Thought Dead, in Picture of Prisoners

The practiced eye of an artist-mother has revealed to her that her soldier-son — missing since Anzio Beachhead and presumed by the War Department to be dead—was instead taken prisoner.

Mrs. Lorenzo B. Day, 164 Woodward Ave., an art teacher in Buffalo public schools, has examined through a magnifying glass an Associated Press wire-photo reproduction of a German newspaper picture showing American prisoners marching past the Colosseum in Rome.

She is convinced from the contours of the head and face, his carriage and other mannerisms that he is her son, Lieut. Wallace C. Forbush. Artist friends have scrutinized the picture and agree with her.

Also, Capt. Baker D. Newton of the tank destroyer battalion in which Lieut. Forbush fought with distinction through eight engagements from Kasserine Pass on, does not believe his comrade is dead.

Writing to Lieut. Forbush's wife, Mrs. Jessie M. Forbush of Ithaca,



Lieut. Forbush

Capt. Newton tells how her husband left his own M-10 vehicle to scout enemy tanks and how jumping on to another, he was blown off by an enemy shell burst.

"After the enemy tanks were destroyed the sergeant worked his way back to Wally and looked him over," said the letter. "He said there appeared to be not a mark on him, but it was impossible to get him out because of machine-gun fire and within a few minutes the Germans pushed our units back."

Four months later when the captain revisited the place, he could find no trace of a grave, "and whatever faults the Germans may have . . . they take care of our wounded and bury our dead, marking the grave."

Reported missing Feb. 4, 1944, Mrs. Day theorizes that he may have been two weeks or so recovering from the concussion before he was fit to be paraded in Rome. She has marked a three-week time lag between the publication date of most German press pictures and their transmission here from a neutral source. The picture was printed here March 15.

Lieut. Forbush was graduated from Bennett High School in 1937 and from Cornell University in 1942.

The presumption-of-death letter from the War Department, a year after a soldier is reported missing, is routine procedure.