

CO. 573 MEN REST AFTER BATTLE WON

Victory Saddened By Loss of Friend and Comrade in Pack River Fire

The smoke has cleared away. The last glowing embers of the great fire on the Pack River, Idaho, has died out. Sleep, rest, relaxation and the knowledge that a tough assignment has been finished—these are the rewards that came to the 186 Ohio boys who responded when Company 573, the Experimental Station camp, was called to fight the spreading flames that menaced one entire section of Northern Idaho.

No soldier who went over the top ever fought with a more valient courage than these boys. For eight long days and night, they were in the thick of it. Facing an inferno of fire, smoke and ashes; sometimes working for 16 hours at a time; carrying on when tired bodies cried for sleep; and in the end, the taste of victory. Drawing the praise of J. E. Ryan, supervisor of the Kaniksu forest, the spirit of the men as well as their effectiveness in battling the fire was outstanding.

Only one tragic event dampened the enthusiasm of the boys. John D. Bromet of Boise, Idaho,

one of the most popular members of 573, died on August 19 as a result of injuries sustained the day before. But enthusiasm gave way to grim determination to conquer the flames that had cost Bromet's life.

Today there is a great 10,000-acre section of blackened snags and ashes—a sombre reminder of the flames of a few days ago. Against that gray background, written in blood, and sweat and heartbreaking labor, is the record of Company 573. In camp, near Priest River, Idaho, the flag flies at half-mast, in memory of a man who symbolized the courage and the patriotism of every man in Camp F-127.

Clede McGinnis Alive; In LaCrosse, Wis. Wednesday; Believe Victim From Ottawa

McCall Magazine Company Talked With Former Ke- waneean Yesterday

Clede McGinnis, formerly employed in the Parkside hotel here, reported to have been burned to death in a forest fire in a CCC camp in northern Idaho Tuesday, is alive and in LaCrosse, Wis., according to authentic information today to The Star-Courier.

Confusion over identification of the victim led to further inquiry by the Star-Courier today.

In LaCrosse Wednesday

Ward Gosselin, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Gosselin, former proprietors of the Parkside hotel, now proprietors of the Hotel Aurora at Aurora, was a personal friend of Clede McGinnis. The younger Mr. Gosselin today called the McCall Magazine Co., Chicago, with whom McGinnis was said to have been last employed and that company informed him that McGinnis is still in their employe and that they had talked to him yesterday in LaCrosse.

McGinnis was in Kewanee several weeks ago and at that time was selling magazines. It is quite apparent therefore that the former Kewanee boy is not the fire victim reported in Tuesday's story.

Believe Ottawa Boy

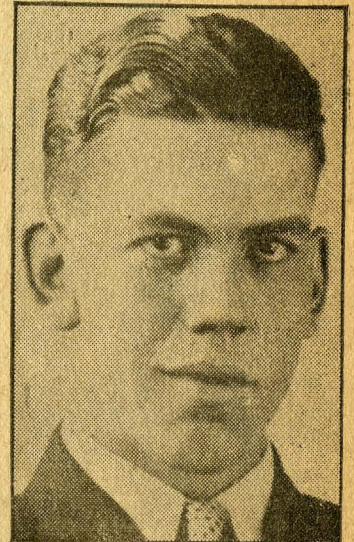
The body of the victim is now believed to be Leroy McGinnis of Ottawa, Ill. There comes a story today that the victim is a nephew of Mrs. C. E. White of that city. Attorney White, husband of Mrs. C. E. White, told The Star-Courier today that Leroy McGinnis enlisted in the CCC July 3 and went to the camp in Idaho. He said the last information they had from the boy was last Friday night when he wrote that his outfit had not been fighting forest fires, but were due to leave shortly for Pierce, Idaho.

Body to Ottawa

Attorney White said he had information from the department at Washington today that the body of Leroy McGinnis was being sent to Ottawa and would arrive there at 1 p. m. next Saturday. Attorney White is communicating with the congressman from the Ottawa district at Washington today to ascertain more positive identification if possible.

The Star-Courier received a wire from Associated Press in Spokane, Wash., Wednesday as follows: "Sending McGinnis body to Kewanee today." Today the Associated Press carried a message to the effect that families notified by war department from Ninth Corps area were Mrs. Margaret McGinnis, Rd. three Ottawa, Ill.; Mrs. Anna C. Johnson, 839 Arnold St., Galesburg, Ill.

Killed Fighting CCC Forest Fire



(Courtesy Peoria Journal)
LESTER L. JOHNSON

Lester L. Johnson, 26, Galesburg, was killed while fighting a forest fire in the CCC camp near Lewistown, Idaho Tuesday morning. Two other CCC men, Leroy McGinnis, Ottawa and William Mattison, Los Angeles, Calif., also met death while combatting one of the worst forest fires in Idaho since the fire of 1910 when several towns of northern Idaho were destroyed.