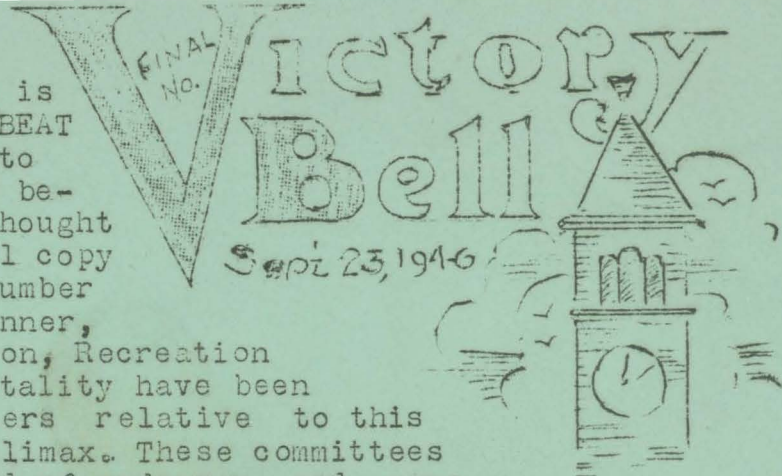


Dear friend with the colors:

The Big Victory Homecoming is just around the corner! BEAT INDIANA !!! You will want to know something of the affair beforehand, so the committee thought best to send out this final copy of Victory Bell to you. A number of committees: Publicity, Dinner, Program, Business Organization, Recreation Grounds & Service and Hospitality have been working for months on matters relative to this event, and now to a final climax. These committees comprise a rather wide field of endeavor, and more than 60 people and various organizations, besides the hundreds of students who will participate are now active in putting across your VICTORY HOMECOMING with a loud and resounding BANG !!! Faculty members, maintenance force personnel, police officers, town merchants, ministers, borough officials, boy scouts, nurses-ready for that accident we hope will not occur--athletes, and a host of others including loyal alumni, entertainers, speakers, cooks, sign painters, farmers and printers are already "on the job", and if by some fortunate contact we may corral the services of Donny Dingbat, the weather man, and influence him to deliver clear, balmy and favorable weather for the occasion, well, brother, we will "go to town" up here in little old Slippery Rock. BEAT INDIANA!!! But good weather or bad we will have a great time of it. For over two weeks we have had grand days here...more like summer than fall...but now we notice an occasional branch turning color, and perhaps by then the hill will be at least partly ablaze with crimson, old rose, deep brown and brilliant yellow....fall is glorious up here, and your trip to and return ought also be a part of the show. BEAT INDIANA.



Now for a little of the PROGRAM:

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4th.

In the evening a STUDENT PEP RALLY, bonfire, snake dance, ---there will be fun, music, surprises, and great spirit and an address by "Rosey Rosewell" in keeping with the occasion. "BEAT INDIANA" is the slogan, and we will all be out there to root for Coach Bill Storer's huskies. Incidentally, Coach Storer is in no way underestimating the Indiana club. They have a large selection down there from which to choose, and they are pointing to this game. While it is true that 80 men showed up for football here, a large number were unable to be taken care of on account of the lack of equipment, and scarcely half that number is now reporting. A tough battle looms for us. Come and help us pave the way for victory!!!

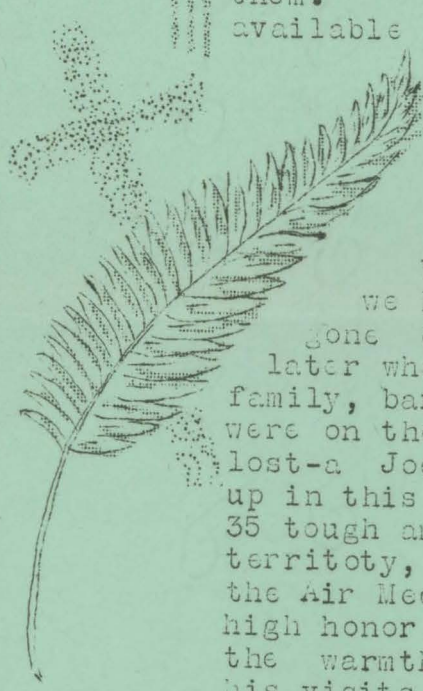
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5th. The "BIG DAY".

When you arrive register in Old Main, purchase your tickets and be SURE to attend the "VICTORY ROUND UP" in the Chapel at 11:00 a.m. The Big Bell will ring.....for five long war-torn years they who represented us all over the world, and we who remained, have waited for this moment!!! Here you will find friends galore, former G I's whose letters you have read in the newsletter written from every where. DON'T miss this occasion...even if you have to "lay off" work an hour or so. In all probability you will remember this HOME COMING occasion all the rest of your life....the return of our college servicemen and women who went out and triumphed, TRIUMPHED..and came home VICTORIOUS !!!!! Then lunch will follow, and then a parade that is now being worked up by enthusiastic students. Then....at 2:15 sharp, the football gameand BEAT INDIANA !!!!! Sure there will be something of interest between halves; music and marching. At 6:00 comes the Cafeteria Dinner in North Hall--no speeches!! There will be plenty of time for good old-fashioned visitin', and getting acquainted once again. Then at 9:00 p.m. the BIG VICTORY HOME COMING DANCE--both Gyms, two orchestras!!!!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6th. "APPRECIATION AND REMEMBRANCE DAY".

At 4:00 p.m. the SPECIAL VESPERS. At this time we will pay tribute to those twelve members of our clan who paid the supreme sacrifice. It is planned to have their immediate relatives and close friends sit in a body. The Chapel is the place for the occasion. Dr. John W. Oliver of the University of Pittsburgh will challenge our think-

Dr. JOHN W. OLIVER of the University of Pittsburgh will challenge our thinking, and lift us through his ideals as he speaks on "IDEALS WE FOUGHT FOR". While the other parts of the program stressed the social and physical, this hour will lay greater stress on the spiritual and educational. You will not want to miss this very important event. There will be friends of yours looking for YOU at VICTORY HOME COMING--don't disappoint them. Sorry, there will be ^{no} housing reservations available on the campus, and precious few in town.



It was during Rotary meeting Tuesday evening September 17th, about 7:15 when an announcement was made that stunned us all. Joe Spataro had been killed in a plane crash at Winks, Texas.

Well, few details were available, and to date we have heard only that he and four others had gone down during a routine flight. A few days later when the writer called in to see the stricken family, barber Jim and a group of sorrowing relatives were on the side porch. Said Jim: "Well, Mr M. we've lost-a Joe!!..... Friendly Joe Spataro, who grew up in this village, made good on his own, who flew his 35 tough and dangerous missions in combat over enemy territory, who had won the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, The Presidential Unit Citation, and the high honor of a War Hero was dead. Memory goes back to the warmth of his friendship, his letters from overseas, his visits with each trip home..... Had it not been for chaps like Joe, and the great service they rendered us when time was precious, most of us able-bodied people would NOW be in Europe rebuilding Germany in just the way the Hitler gang wanted us to work. AND WHAT A WAY !!! The gifts of their services to us were so precious and so SUPER, we can't thank them enough. In these swift-moving and chaotic days, when the world is still peopled with those who are haughty, tough, ruthless, bitter and hard, even as Hitler and his unChristian henchmen were callous, may those who knew you more intimately, Joe Spataro, pause a moment in reflection and deep appreciation and earnest sincere recognition for what your young and active years have meant to us personally and to your homeland that you loved even as we..... warm sun above smile kindly on this early grave of friendly, brave Joe Spataro, chill winter winds blow lightly, blow lightly, Good night Joe----with your broad smile and your kindly humor, and in your deeds and in our burning memories we will not forget our Hero, Joe. Live on, and on, and on, and on.....

AND now a message from our PRESIDENT :

TO OUR VETERANS ON CAMPUS AND AMONG ALUMNI--Welcome to our Victory Home Coming. The campus committee under the leadership of George T. Miller with the cooperation of our Alumni President, Earle Stoops, and of our Student Body President, Jim Weaver, and also with the hearty cooperation of the Slippery Rock community, have worked together for a real Home Coming Party. At the Friday night Bonfire, in addition to the music and stunts of our local groups, Rosey Rowswell will appear at the Bonfire for a few moments to challenge our thinking as well as to give us some of his usual supply of good humor. Saturday's program of fun and frolic has been planned with the sincere desire to show our appreciation to those who have returned. I am glad your committee has accepted the recommendation agreeing not to hold the Baby Contest. The sponsoring of bundles as prizes as these en masse throughout the day was considered by the administration as too great a responsibility. Also, a little bird whispered to me that some of the wives of veterans would be happy to know that their little juniors were parked safely with in-laws or friends while they returned to the campus to make whoopee with the boy friends of their choice. Sunday's Vespers is planned as a service to give thanks for those who have returned and to provide a period of silence in memory of those who did not come back. May our Home Coming chall-

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September 23, 1946.

enge our thinking, give us moments of happy relaxation, and give each of us an opportunity to express proper thanks.

September 23, 1946

Dale W. Houk, President

BY the close of the war and on account of economic conditions in general, every college in the land is full to overflowing, and such is the case here at Slippery Rock where close to 750 students are now enrolled and another 45 coming in from Butler to special classes. To take care of this great load some 22 new faculty members have been added; and to faculty and new students, each and all, Victory Bell says "WELCOME". There is much news of new babies, and new marriages like the one last Saturday in Harrisville where Mary Jane Hall and Charles Smith (Sharon) were betrothed before lovely ferns. One of Mary Jane's fellow clubmobile workers, who had toured Western Europe with her, serving thousands of G Is with coffee and donuts, came as a bridesmaid....but then you will hear all the news as it is passed around on HomeComing Day, and we think the important ones should reach Charles Halt for the BULLETIN. And now as we come to the close of this, the final copy of Victory Bell---for it was born of an emergency, was nurtured for purposes of morale-building and to bring a little joy into the lives of those college people who were far away from home in danger of their very lives, who were fighting that ruthlessness, bitterness, hardness and callousness be downed, and that love, kindness and peace would endure in our daily lives....well, that danger part of the conflict is now over, and now the last copy of this small voice is in your hands. Whether or not this monthly newsletter served its purpose, whether or not it was worth the effort to you the individual, who received it as a sailor on a rocking, P.T. boat in the South Pacific, as a soldier in the scorched desert of Africa, as a WAC or a WAVE in some hot and stuffy office in southern Alabama, or as a Marine in the stinking, steamy jungle of Guam or maybe in the freezing trenches of Belgium during the Bulge or as a trainee in in some busy camp....this is for you, not the writer to decide. The writer can only say that now as this project comes to a close that he has had a genuine life experience from being connected with it, and among the fondest memories that he will cherish as long as he lives will be the kindness shown him by those both at home and abroad who received it, and he would not forget the willing work rendered by countless students who volunteered aid in their off periods, and for the cooperation of those faculty members who aided in words as well as deeds in an endeavor to bring a little touch of unselfish joy once a month into your lives when you were among strangers, homesick, lonesome or hospitalized with a wound. We sincerely felt that a little news from this green-laded campus might bring you a lift...and its purpose from first to last has been one of lifting...never, never to drag down. Now most of you are back home among loved ones. You are busy at work either finishing college or at a job. Some of you are rearing families, establishing homes, and now you are entitled to to every advantage that you fought for. There is little need of this newsletter now, and this project has run its life and its course.

BUT, think not that your college has lost interest in you !!! On the contrary your college is still here to help and aid you. What can we do for you? And so Godspeed, and a firm friendly handclasp, and so long until we meet all together in a few short days.

A friend Geo. T. Miller

P.S. Of course we expect you all here ...but in some very extreme case if such becomes impossible it would be appreciated if you wrote in, or sent in a telegram. And now I must hustle this manuscript off to Dr. Spotts for his expert help---in this he has never failed me.