BODIES OF FOUR COUNTY HEROES BACK IN U. S.

All Lost Lives in France; Transports Reach New York

Among 111 Wisconsin World war II victims aboard two army transports scheduled to dock at a New York harbor today are the bodies of four Portage county men.

The local men are Pfc. Orville B. Clark, son of Orville A. Clark of the town of Buena Vista; Cpl. Bernard J. Szymkowiak, husband of Mrs. Leona Szymkowiak, 541 Water street, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Szymkowiak, 937 Franklin street; Pvt. Exra P. Roe, son of Mrs. Belma Roe of the town of New Hope, and Pfc. Werner C. Tiarks, son of Herman Tiarks of Almond.

5,342 Brought Back

The two transports, carrying 5,342 American victims of the European area are the Robert F. Burns and the John L. McCarley. On the Burns, carrying 2,723, of which 56 are from Wisconsin, are the bodies of Private Clark and Corporal Szymkowiak from a military cemetery at Epinal, France. Aboard the McCarley are 2,619, including 45 Wisconsin men. The remains of Privates Roe and Tiarks are on the latter vessel, having been removed from a military cemetery at Blosville, France.

Virtually all the remains aboard the McCarley are being returned from the "D-Day" military cemeteries at Saint-Laurent-sur-Mer, Blosville and LaCambe, Normandy. Those aboard the Burns are from later-established cemeteries at Henri Chapelle, Belgium, and Varois and Epinal, France.

Killed in Action

Private Clark was killed in action in France on Nov. 13, 1944. He was 21 at the time of his death. The soldier, who was inducted into service in November, 1943, was with an infantry unit of the Seventh army, going overseas in September, 1944. He was a truck driver for the Arnott Creamery company at the time of his induction. His mother died on April 25, 1947.

Corporal Szymkowiak was seriously wounded in action in France on Nov. 28, 1944, and died on Nov. 28, at the age of 27. An infantryman, the corporal entered service in February, 1942. He went overseas on Feb. 22, 1943, and took part in battles in north Africa, Sicily, the Anzio beachhead and France. His wife is the former Leona Buza of the town of Amherst. Before entering service he was employed by the Lullabye Furniture corporation.

Private Roe was killed in action in France on July 26, 1944, with an infantry unit. He had been in service two years, having gone overseas two months before his death. He was 27 years old.

First Reported Missing

Private Tiarks was listed as killed while in action in France on June 7, 1944. His father had received a message previously stating that his son was missing. The soldier, 21, was the youngest son in a family of 11. Four of his brothers were in service. He entered service in November, 1942.

Corporal Szymkowiak will be buried in the National cemetery at Rock Island, Ill., after arrival in Chicago. The body of Private Clark will be brought to Stevens Point and burial will take place following its arrival, in the Buena Vista cemetery. Disposition of the remains of Privates Roe and Tiarks has not been learned.

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