

John D. Turongian, Pfc
422nd Regiment, Heavy Machineguns
106th Infantry Division

He was in the 422nd Regiment. I don't know what Company. He was a heavy machine gunner, captured on Dec 18, 1945 at the Bulge.
John Turongian

—Joy Reigns in 2 Homes—

Americans Not Missing, but One Is Prisoner

There's rejoicing today at 518 Blandina, for two families at that address who had received War Department telegrams that their sons were missing in action have been notified that both are safe.

One of the soldiers, Pfc. John Donald Turongian, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Turongian, is a prisoner of war in Germany.



The other, Pfc. Anthony Saponaro, 26, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Saponaro, was wounded in the hand and is now in an Army hospital, recuperating.

The War Department had notified Private Turongian's parents that he was missing in action in Germany Dec. 16, and on Saturday Mr. and Mrs. Turongian received another telegram stating that he is a prisoner.

It was on Feb. 28 that Mrs. Mary Saponaro, wife of Private Saponaro, got word that the soldier was reported missing in action in Germany Feb. 10.

On Saturday, the same day that Mr. and Mrs. Turongian got their good news from the War Department, Mrs. Saponaro received a letter directly from her husband, dated Feb. 17, saying that he had been wounded and was in a U. S. hospital.

In the Army since Jan. 28.

VER-DISPATCH

Utician Freed From Nazi Prison Camp

Pfc. John D. Turongian, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Turongian, 518 Blandina, was liberated from a German war prison Easter Sunday and he has just notified his parents that it was the happiest day of his life.

Captured in the battle of the Belgian bulge Dec. 16, he was first reported missing in action by the War Department and later the Red Cross informed the parents he was a prisoner.

Two letters, one dated Apr. 4 and the other Apr. 5, told of his joy at liberation from Stalag 9B, located at Badorb, Germany.

His first letter to his parents said:

"I really don't know what to say because I am so happy, that I am a free man again after leading a miserable life under German hands. Well, you don't have to worry because I am in very fine health and I will be home in about a month or so.

"I have a very big story to tell you when I get home, about the Germans. Boy, it is great to eat American food again, after eating one cup of soup and a small piece of bread for 106 days. That is

be home. Now that should be great news for you all.

"I hope the kids are coming along fine. I do miss them all, in fact I don't know my new niece's name yet. Kiss them all for me.

"We were 6,500 prisoners here and we were freed on Easter Sunday by an American Army."

In his second letter he said:

"Boy, it was great to see those Yanks come rolling in here. It was the happiest day of my life, when I saw that we were free again."

Private Turongian has been in the Army since Jan. 28, 1944. He went overseas in October.



Pfc. Turongian

Write to Me, Prisoner Urges

Pfc. John D. Turongian, 19, in his first letter home since becoming a prisoner of war, asks his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Turongian, 518 Blandina, to have all his friends write him.

"I can't say very much," he wrote in part, "but believe me when I say that I am safe, well and all in one piece. So please don't worry much any more. Give everybody my address. Don't expect many letters. I am limited."

He also requested his parents to send as many and as heavy packages as possible, preferring in the first one sweets, home made pastries, cookies, chocolate covered peanuts, candy bars and cigarets.

His address is Pfc. John D. Turongian, U. S. Prisoner of War No. 24728. Stalag 9-B, Germany, via New York.

Masses Slated For 3 Soldiers

Memorial Masses will be celebrated in Utica churches this week for two men killed in action in Germany and a Mass will be offered for a third soldier who is a prisoner of the Nazis.

A requiem high Mass for Sgt. Ralph Paladino, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Paladino, 510 Bacon, who was killed Dec. 14, will be celebrated at 11 this morning in St. Anthony of Padua Church. Representatives of veteran organizations will attend.

A Mass will be offered at 10:30 this morning in St. Basil's Church for Pfc. John D. Turongian, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Turongian, 518 Blandina. Reported missing Dec. 16, his parents received word a week ago that he is a prisoner.

A requiem high Mass will be celebrated at 10 Thursday in Our Lady of Lourdes Church in memory of Pfc. David Barry Higgins, son of William D. Higgins, 18 Bonnie Brae. Private Higgins was killed Feb. 23, 1945.



Page last revised
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