

### HOPES HER HUSBAND AMONG PRISONERS FREED IN ADVANCES

First Lieut. Thomas J. Wright, Jr. captured last December 24, may be among some of the prisoners who have been liberated by the Allies eastward drive from the Rhine, his wife, Mrs. Carolyn Erwin Wright of Chateaugus road, Fredonia, hopes. However, a let-



THOMAS J. WRIGHT, JR.

ter from him, written early in February, indicated that he was in good health and had suffered no wound at the time of his capture. Mrs. Wright thinks it likely, therefore, that the Germans marched him eastward with other prisoners in good health before recent advances in the west. When last heard from he was in Orlag XIII B which was near Hammelberg, a little more than 60 miles west of Frankfurt and also on the Main river. This is territory recently swept over by the Seventh U. S. Army before it by-passed Schweinfurt, once the great ball-bearing producing center of Germany. Lieut. Wright had previously been located at Limburg, considerably farther west.

Lieut. Wright is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wright of Cherry Creek, and was awarded the silver star medal for gallantry in action. He was serving on the western front in Belgium with the 100th division. When tanks attacked his battery position, he and 40 men were separated from the rest of the unit. Lieut. Wright led his men back through enemy lines to rejoin their unit, the 589th field artillery battalion.

At a crossroads near Baraque in Belgium he was second in command of a small group which delayed the northern advance of the German breakthrough for five days by denying the Nazis the use of the main road into Manhay.

The Cherry Creek officer took charge of three howitzers with which the defenders were opposing the Germans and exposed himself to direct fire in order to observe the attackers and effect a sufficient resistant strength to hold the increasing enemy pressure.

When the defenders could no longer hold the crossroads against the overwhelming strength opposing them, they fell back through a woods to another position. Lieut. Wright walked until the last man had left the area and as a result was unable to follow his men and was taken prisoner by the Nazis.

Lieut. Wright and Mrs. Wright has a son, Chester, who was born five days after his father was taken prisoner.

## 1945-04-14 Lt Wright - Parkers Xroad

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