

Stern, John
(845 Kieffer St.)
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2 Local Namesakes Reported Casualties; Third One Shows Up

EIGHTH ARMY HEADQUARTERS, LEYTE, P. I.—Mistaken identity caused one Pennsylvania soldier to be reported a casualty while it sent another to a beach-head and left Eighth Army GI's scrubbing their own fatigues.

T/5 John Stern, 833 Kieffer Street, Bethlehem, has often been mistaken for his namesake and friend John Stern, 845 Kieffer Street who lives in the same block. With both John Sterns in the service the families received successive shocks when a War Department telegram announced one John Stern as a battle casualty. Recovery in both families followed when serial numbers were compared and found it was not John Stern or John Stern but a third John Stern unknown to either family.

When Pfc. Ellsworth Smith, 4418 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, went ashore as one of Lt. Gen. Robert L. Eichelberger's group accompanying the 11th Airborne Division's invasion of southern Luzon he didn't know his orders were for another Pfc. Smith. The mistake left GI's scrubbing their own clothing for Pfc. Ellsworth Smith is operator of headquarters laundry plant and it was some time before the Privates Smith could be exchanged. No mistake occurred when Pfc. Ellsworth Smith received the Good Conduct Medal.

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