

Wilson, Alvin T.

'Missing In Action' for 18 Months Col. A. T. Wilson Now a Prisoner

SEP 17 1943

After an 18-months silence, two personal post-cards have been received by the family of Lt. Col. Alvin T. Wilson, formerly of Bethlehem, advising that he is a prisoner of the Japaneese on the Philippines and has received no bodily injuries.

Col. Wilson, who was born in Bethlehem and is a graduate of the Lehigh University Class of 1921, returned here with his family in 1929 and for five years lived at his parents' home, 1118 West Market Street. Prior to the declaration of war he had been Morale Officer of the 4th Division, based at Ft. Benning, Ga., with the rank of Captain. Early in 1941 he was promoted to Major and ordered to the Philippines as one of three unassigned field officers.

Upon arrival, Col. Wilson was assigned to the Field Artillery as an executive officer with headquarters at Cebu City until aerial bombardment destroyed this base and it was during this period that he received his last promotion. Operations were subsequently resumed on Mindiao. Mrs. Wilson, who is employed by the Headquarters of the Motor Transport District and is living at Columbus, Ga., received her last letter from her husband in early April, 1942. In the eighteen months which followed, the Philippines fell and Col. Wilson was automatically listed as "missing in action." It was not until May of this year that he was reported by the War Department to be a prisoner of the Japanese. Only now have his own postcards been received reporting that he has received concentrated rations from home and has sustained no bodily injuries.

The news is especially welcome to Col. Wilson's son and daughter, Alvin T. Wilson, Jr., and Betty Jane



LT. COL. ALVIN T. WILSON
(Photo by McCaa)

Wilson, both of whom are currently enrolled at Lehigh University.

Bethlehem friends of the Wilsons are welcome to write to Col. Wilson using the following form and marking the envelope "Prisoner of War Mail"; Lt. Col. Alvin T. Wilson, American Prisoner of War, Interned in Philippine Islands, c-o Japanese Red Cross, Toyko, Japan, via New York City.

At the time the Wilsons were located in Bethlehem, Col. Wilson represented the Eggleston firm of Upper Darby in road resurfacing and Mrs. Wilson will be recalled as being active as an executive in the Pennsylvania County Blind Association.

September 17, 1943