

Letter From Home



By JIM DAVEY

TRIBUTE

Troy has given her sixth son in the Korean campaign. He is: Cpl. Edward J. Collins, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. George F. Collins, 762 Second Avenue.

The United States, together with other United Nations is now in its eleventh month of conflict. Six Troy men have given their lives in this struggle, and others are missing in action, and wounded. Hundreds of local youths are in every branch of the Armed Services. Trojans-- at home--are giving blood, organizing Civil Defense groups, and working hard to produce the essential items for our forces. The death of Cpl. Collins has been reported in the Department of Defense, Office of Public Information casualty list No. 289. On that one list-- for only this state of New York--are the names of 10 men killed, 14 wounded, and two injured. One man was reported returned to duty while another was reported as returned to military control. Every day, for 289 days, such casualty reports have been sent to the nation's press, itemizing the cost of freedom in the world today.

As this is being written, the Communists armies are again surging against our forces, attempting to punch a hole in our lines. It is no secret that the enemy forces are aided in every way, short of actual participation of Soviet troops by Joseph Stalin's slaves. Our men--your sons, your brothers and your husbands--are fighting in that far-off land day and night. It is a desperate thing to be so far from your loved ones, to be amidst death and destruction, and living the grueling life of a foot soldier. They do not know from day to day, whether they will be alive to see the sun come up. They live from hour to hour in the foxholes, counting out the rosary of minutes. They bayonets and bullets are the picket fence around this homeland. Their wounds and their graves, are the bitter payments America is making to keep our nation free. We say to our men out there, "You are not forgotten. You are in our prayers and our thoughts. Do not despair. Upon you we depend. Without you, we are lost. God bless you all."