

# MOTHER RECEIVES INFORMATION ABOUT HER MISSING SON

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## COMMANDING OFFICER TELLS OF TIME T/5 JOHN RAWLINGS WAS LAST SEEN

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Lt. Col. Ivan W. Elliott, who was the commanding officer of the quartermaster division in which T/5 John F. Rawlings served in Italy has written his mother, Mrs. Rosa Rawlings, at Bogota, telling of the incident which resulted in the Jasper county boy being reported missing in action.

"We do not know whether he was wounded, killed or captured by the enemy," Lt. Elliott writes. "At present (May 12) we have no means of knowing just what did happen to him. I would not wish to hold out to you any false hope, but in the absence of proof of his death, I think you would be justified in entertaining hope that your son is alive and will eventually return to his company.

"John was leading a mule pack train returning to the organization after completing a mission of delivering ammunition to the forward troops. During the return trip there was heavy shelling by enemy fire and a flare was shot in the vicinity of where John was last seen. The area in which he was operating was mined and although a path had been cleared there was considerable difficulty in keeping to this due to the heavy shelling. The mules were giving the men a great deal of trouble and John fell back to the rear. There was a bend in the road and he was seen to be rounding this part of the road when he was lost from sight of the forward men.

"John's action during this engagement was exemplary and courageous and I as well as the members of the battalion look upon him with great respect for such courage and devotion to duty.

"Every member of this command sincerely hopes and prays that no misfortune befell John, and that he will be able to rejoin us in the near future. If any further information is obtained about the status of your son, John, it will be immediately forwarded to you."