

# City's 'Lost Battalion' Becomes 'Lost Army'; General Starts Probe, Offers His Apologies

By EARL MAZO

What started out to be Greenville's own "lost battalion" has become a "lost army."

On Saturday 1,000 soldiers from the Chester maneuver area were to come to Greenville in convoy for a week-end of entertainment.

They have not yet appeared. Similarly, Clinton, expecting 250 men, and Laurens, looking for 500, last night were searching in vain for uniformed men.

Newberry, which expected 750 soldiers and had streets roped off, girls aplenty and bands waiting for a street dance, had to content itself with 170 men who trickled in almost too late for the affair.

Woodruff, another "victim," asked

for 500 men. Altogether 123 showed up.

And last night Maj. Gen. Charles F. Thompson, commander of the First Army corps at Chester, issued a statement explaining that he would begin a thorough investigation "immediately."

The statement said:

"We are deeply chagrined over this affair and tonight have started an investigation to determine why this Greenville convoy did not report as expected. I assure you no stone will be left unturned to find out why Greenville's splendid hospitality was not accepted. Please ask the Greenville newspapers to publish my sincere apologies."

Yesterday morning Capt. Guy B.

Foster, chairman of the committee planning the entertainment, wired the commanding general:

"Upon invitation of the army, Greenville prepared to entertain 1,000 soldiers over this week-end. We were advised over the telephone that they would definitely be here yesterday. We went to considerable expense and lots of trouble to get them delightful entertainment. Several hundred of our housewives prepared suppers and sleeping arrangements, and churches prepared refreshments and socials for them. Actually four reported. We request an explanation."

From army headquarters in Chester, Lieut. Robert White, live-wire public relations officer, said a pre-

liminary survey showed that the men had left, as requested, for Greenville and other South Carolina places. Specifically, the 13th field artillery brigade was to send men to Greenville.

"The details will be brought out in an investigation that has begun tonight," the lieutenant said.

Whether the "lost army" had returned to the Chester bases early this morning could not be determined.

Some observers felt the "boys" might still be milling around Greenville, Tenn., or, perhaps, Greenville, Miss.

But army headquarters assured the Greenville officials that the  
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