

When Murphy Comes Home Farmersville to Celebrate

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By Associated Press

Farmersville, June 8 - Lt. Audie Murphy, one of the two most decorated men in the army is supposed to be on his way home from Europe and, conversationally speaking, the big onion crop hereabouts doesn't rate a smell.

In the words of Mayor R. B. Beaver, 20-year-old Audie is going to get the biggest reception any Farmersville boy ever got, "whether he likes it or not."

But leaders of this agricultural community are nervous as a mouse at a cat convention for fear Audie, who carries every medal a foot soldier can win, will "sneak in the back door." as he promised. Mayor Beaver scratched worriedly at his chin whiskers.

He'll have to take it.

"Well, he'll just have to take it, that's all." the mayor added, smiling. "When a boy from Farmersville wins medals all over Italy and then goes up to France and stands off a German army singlehanded and gets the Congressional Medal of Honor - he'll just have to count on making a few sacrifices when he gets back home."

"We'll make it just as easy on him as possible. We figure on roping off the square and building a big platform. It'll be strictly a local celebration, not counting the band from Ashburn General Hospital over at McKinney."

Lieutenant Murphy, a blue-eyed, good-natured member of the Third Division, won the medal of honor by climbing atop a blazing tank destroyer to level a machine gun and alone hold off 200 German infantry and six tanks. He killed 50 Germans, then reorganized his own forces and routed the enemy.

Relatives to Be There.

Many of his relatives will be in the crowd the day this community celebrates. His sister, Mrs. Corrine Burns, of Farmersville, will be there and his brother Joe Preston, 10 and his sisters Nadine and Billie from Boles Orphans Home at Greenville.

And there will be a lot more respect for Audie Murphy that day because as Mayor Beaver said: "That boy never had a thing handed him on a silver platter - he left home when he was 12 years old and he's made his own way ever since."

And Poland Burns, the lieutenant's brother-in-law, commented: "Audie's whole life has been plenty tough and he's the gamest little fellow I ever knew. About the only fun he ever had was hunting. He used a sling-shot and actually killed rabbits and birds with it. What he was able to do with a machine gun didn't surprise me at all.