

## "Soldier of Production"

# Edna C. Layton

**Death: November 5, 1942**

## Inland Manufacturing

During his career in the later years of Inland, Club member Ronald Dalhamer acquired a photocopy of what he believed was a page from either their employee magazine, *Inlander*, or a safety poster. It announced the death of an Inland employee and included a letter authored by a supervisor of the Carbine Assembly Department to her husband expressing employee condolences for the accidental death of his wife at Inland. At the time of her death Edna was approximately 34 years of age.

The letter was addressed to Private Leonard Layton, 417th Infantry Regiment, 76th Infantry Division, Fort George Meade, MD. The history of the 76th Division indicates from October 1942 until the end of March 1943 the division processed and trained replacements through Fort Meade for the invasion of North Africa and the North African Theater. A copy of the letter is on the next page.



**Friday, November 6, 1942**

## BULLET WOUND FATAL

DAYTON, O.—Mrs. Edna C. Layton, 25-year-old war worker, died last evening from a bullet fired from a gun that was being tested 12 feet away. The bullet struck her heart. Army officials said the shooting appeared to be accidental.

## Mystery Bullet Kills Woman War Worker

Dayton, Nov. 6.—(AP) — Mrs. Edna C. Layton, 25, was accidentally shot to death as she worked in the gun assembly department of a war plant here yesterday. Company officials said she was shot through the heart by a bullet from a breech-testing station where dummy shells containing no explosives have always been used. The dummy shells are shipped to the factory in sealed packages. They asserted.

The letterhead is of The Inland Manufacturing Division, Dayton, Ohio

INLAND MANUFACTURING DIVISION

November 14th - 1942.

Private Leonard Layton,  
417th Infantry,  
76th Division,  
Fort George Meade, Maryland.

Dear Mr. Layton:-

Nothing has so deeply stunned and saddened every one at Inland as the distressing accident which cost the life of your dear wife, Edna.

As the representative of the employees of the Carbine Assembly department I feel incapable of conveying to you, with words alone, the sincere sympathy of every one of my fellow workers.

We, in this department, knew Edna as a particularly friendly person -- a loyal and capable worker, who was proud of you and your service in the Armed Forces and proud also to make her contribution to her country. We had ample reason to admire Edna for her courageous and cheerful acceptance of her wartime responsibilities.

It is our sincere hope that you will find some solace in the knowledge that we, Edna's fellow workers, hold firmly to the belief that she made the supreme sacrifice in the service of her country, in her line of duty.

It becomes clear that we, whose task it is to assemble carbines, must carry on to the very limit of our ability. This we pledge ourselves to do in honor of our missing soldier of production.

And may the thoughts which prompt this letter and which our words have so feebly expressed, give you understanding of a profound sympathy for you and admiration for her.

Sincerely yours,

Supervisor, Carbine Assembly Department.

N/t

Submitted by Jim Mock