

William L. Mineo

Graduates as

Bombardier

Aug. 10, 1943
Receives Bombardier Wings from
Childress Air Field in the West
Texas Bombardier Quadrangle

William L. "Bill" Mineo of Newton was one of a large group of men who received their bombardier wings and commissions as second lieutenants in the Army Air Forces at Childress Air Field and the three other fields included in the West Texas Bombardier Quadrangle, Thursday. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Mineo of Newton, were present for the ceremonies and he accompanied them home for a few days' leave.

Among the others who also received their bombardiers' wings and second lieutenants commissions were Albert H. Hensiek of Casey, and William K. Walling of Oblong, who graduated from San Angelo Air Field. All are known as the "hell from heaven" men.

End of Rigorous Course

For these bombardiers graduation marked the end of a rigorous twelve week course of training in the operation of the deadliest weapon of World war II, the super-accurate United States bombsight, and a host of allied subjects. These graduates, the world's best trained bombardiers, are skilled in aircraft and naval craft identification. They also learned the sciences of map reading and navigation.

Camouflage detection and the use of blinker code were among the subjects drilled into them. They have flown hundreds of bombing missions over the targets of the West Texas Bombardier Quadrangle and each man has dropped enough bombs to wipe out a Nazi submarine base or a Jap airfield.

Learned Problems

During the period of training the Axis blasters were thoroughly acquainted with the problems that will confront them over Nazi and Jap installations. They learned the necessity of the minimum "run" over the target and evasive action to avoid the enemy flak.

Behind them is a period of living and training in prairie combat camps, where the bombardiers were forced to perform all the jobs necessary to the success of their bombing missions. In the words of General H. H. Arnold, Army Air Force chief, our bombardiers are learning to "drop their bombs in the enemy's hip pocket from any altitude."