

Fifteenth Army Air Force in Italy. —Staff Sergeant Gerald A. Fear, 24, whose grand-mother, Mrs. Mary C. Fear lives in Newton, recently joined a veteran Fifteenth Air Force B-24 Liberator bomber group in Italy as an aerial gunner.

His veteran bomber group, one of the oldest in the Mediterranean theatre, initiated its combat operations on August 1, 1942, blasting the port of Mersa Metruh, Egypt, then used as a supply base for Rommel's Afrika Korps. It then moved ahead with every major Allied advance, participating in the Egyptian-Libyan, Tunisian, Sicilian and Italian campaigns. It now takes part in the devastating attacks on Hitler's Europe.

This group has won two Presidential citations for outstanding strategic air support rendered the British Eighth army from August 1, 1942, until the Axis capitulation in North Africa and Sicily; and for participation in the historic low-level Liberator bomber attack on the Ploesti oil fields on August 1, 1943. Each member of this outstanding bombing organization is authorized to wear the Distinguished unit badge with one cluster. It is now commanded by Lieutenant Colonel S. E. Manzo of Long Island, New York.

Staff Sergeant Fear joined the AAF in October, 1940, and received specialized training in gunnery, armament, and bombsight maintenance.

*Dec 17 \* \* \* \* \* 1944*

Staff Sergeant Charles Wooden, who is in England with a United States Army Air Force Bomber squadron, writes the Press: "I've been following some of those large pumpkin tales in the Press. I don't doubt A. H. Parker's word but I'd like to know where he got a pumpkin big enough even for a guinea pig, and where he got the guinea pig.

"My father one time had a pumpkin seed in the drill boxes on his corn planter. They grew so fast a large blossom scared the team. They couldn't run away because the vines had wrapped around the spokes in wheels. A large bunch of bees started to get nectar from the blossoms, but the pumpkin grew so fast they were caught inside. We worked three days that fall collecting the honey. Not all the farm land in Laws creek bottom is that good, though."

Paul O. Baker recently graduated as a pilot and received his wings at the Blackland Army Air Field at Waco, Texas. He was commissioned a second lieutenant. He spent a few days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. I. Baker and family of Yale vicinity and is now at Barksdale field, Shreveport, Louisiana.

Paul is a Jasper county boy and enlisted in October, 1942.

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Paul Watts is home on a furlough after more than two years overseas, visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Watts of Newton. He is a sea-going soldier, having been a fireman on an Army transport out of an Australian port.

Before entering the Army, he was employed on an ore boat on Lake Superior and Lake Michigan.

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Private First Class and Mrs. Donald Max Romack of Newton are the parents of a son, born at a Robinson hospital, Tuesday morning. He has been named Carl Max. Mrs. Romack is the former Roberta LeMay. Mr. and Mrs. Hal Romack and Mrs. Emma LeMay of Newton are grand-parents. Private Romack was slightly wounded recently.

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Mrs. Gladys Warren of West Liberty has received a letter from her nephew, Captain Kent Miller, who is in the Amphibious Corps of the Army, stating that he was in the landings on Leyte island. It was his seventh amphibious landing in the Southwest Pacific.

He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Miller of Chicago, formerly of Newton.

Jesse N. Jourdan, mail man third class, was a visitor with his wife and children at Newton, this week. He returned to Chicago, Thursday and expects to be sent to the west coast today and thence aboard ship. His rating is one of the newly created ratings, replacing mail specialist.

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Mrs. Donna Emery Bailey has enlisted in the Women's Army Corps and left Wednesday for Fort Des Moines, Iowa, to receive her basic training. She will be a truck driver in the Army Service Forces. She has been residing with her brother, Preston Emery, at Chicago.

*Dec. 12, 1944*

James Robert Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. Otto W. Jones of Willow Hill, enlisted in the Navy, Tuesday morning, at the local Navy Recruiting Station. He has a brother, Wendell, who is in the Philippine area on an Aircraft carrier.

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Technical Sergeant and Mrs. Marion Burcham Jr. left for Miami, Florida, Thursday, where he will report for reassignment. He served more than two years overseas in the Southwest Pacific area and received the Air Medal.

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Mrs. Donald J. Hutson has received word that her husband, Corporal Hutson, has arrived safely overseas and is somewhere in Italy. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Kin Hutson of Hidalgo.

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Mr. and Mrs. John Scott of Newton have just received word that their



son, Donovan Dean Scott, has been promoted to seaman first class. He is on an Aircraft carrier and has been at sea thirteen months.

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Mrs. J. E. Nichols Jr. of Newton has heard from her husband overseas, telling her he has been promoted to the rank of technical sergeant. Sergeant Nichols is a diesel engineer with the Army Air Corps.

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