

Lt. Mineo Home From Berlin Raids

June 22, 1944

First Lieutenant William L. Mineo arrived in Newton Wednesday for a 26-day furlough and is resting today at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robt. T. Mineo, after five and a half months with the American Air Force in England.

Lt. Mineo won his furlough by virtue of completing thirty bombing missions over Hitler-dominated Europe and his feat was accomplished in what is believed to be record time. He arrived in England on last New Years Eve and in exactly three months time after beginning his trips over occupied Europe he had completed the thirty missions that entitled him to return to the states.

He arrived in Mattoon Tuesday night, spent the night there with his wife and she accompanied him here yesterday afternoon for a visit with his parents. His twenty-six days of liberty before going to a Florida air base will be divided between the home of his parents here and Mrs. Mineo's home in Mattoon.

"Bill" was a bit reluctant to tell of his experiences in helping to crush the Nazis from the air. He did admit however, that on six of his thirty missions he had the opportunity of raining death and destruction on Berlin.

Three citations, the Air Medal, the Three Oak Leaf Clusters and the Distinguished Flying Cross, recently awarded to him, coupled with his promotion from second to first lieutenant testify to the feats of heroism and efficiency he performed on the hazardous missions.

He was serving as bombardier on one of the large American fortresses. It is believed probable that he will be assigned to the duty of instructing others in "hitting the target" when he arrives at the Miami Beach air base.