

Major W. E. Pictor Gets Distinguished Flying Cross

*Aug. 24
1945*

Received Flying Cross and Air Medal with Two Clusters at Ceremonies at Shreveport, Louisiana

Major William E. Pictor, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Pictor of Sainte Marie, was presented with the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf clusters at a colorful retreat ceremony at an air field at Shreveport, Louisiana, a few days ago as more than 2,000 persons looked on.

Major Pictor, who is commanding officer of squadron A of the 312th Base unit, has completed 190 missions as a fighter pilot. He was the first man commissioned in the Air Force from Jasper county after the outbreak of the war.

Led Flight Over New Guinea

Major Pictor, then a captain, led a four plane flight of P39s on an armed reconnaissance mission over the Jap held air field at Alexishafen, New Guinea, in January, 1944. An intense and accurate antiaircraft barrage was thrown up from both ends of the runway, but he led his flight down to the deck and knocked out one emplacement. Then they swept back and forth across the field and harbor on strafing runs, although the anti-craft fire was still intense. During these attacks, a grounded bomber and three barges were destroyed and a storage shed blown up. For this Major Pictor received the Distinguished Flying Cross.

The Air Medals and two Oak Leaf clusters were also awarded him for his sustained operations against the enemy. During his seventeen months with the Fifth Air Force in the Southwest Pacific, he flew 190 missions.