

## Fay Bixler Helps To Keep Them Flying



AN 8TH AIR FORCE BOMBER STATION, England — Shown checking a supply of aircraft accessories is Staff Sergeant Fay Bixler, 24, of Newton, Ill., an Eighth Air Force sub depot supply sergeant, who has recently completed one year's overseas service with the 452nd Bomb Group's Sub Depot detachment.

This unit operates as an aircraft factory in reverse. When B-17 Flying Fortresses that almost daily attack military and industrial targets deep within the heart of Germany suffers severe battle damage, they are repaired and "put back" into the air by sub depot. Engines are "torn down" and reconditioned and other equipment such as landing gears, fuel lines and fabricated sections are thoroughly inspected. If beyond repair, all usable parts are stripped and used immediately on different Forts, or stocked for future needs.

Guided by the motto "Keep 'Em Flying" these men supply machine tools, flying clothing, life rafts, parachutes and countless other items necessary to maintain the planes in perfect flying condition. The manner with which Sgt. Bixler performs his daily assignments plays an important part in the successful functioning of his department.

The Illinois youth is a member of the Third Bombardment Division — the division cited by the President for its historic England-to-Africa shuttle bombing of Messerschmitt aircraft plants at Regensburg, Germany.

Sgt. Bixler is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert A. Bixler of Route 1, Newton. Prior to entering the AAF in December 1941, he was working on his father's farm.