



With the Colors *June 29, 1945*

Fifteenth Army Air Force in Italy. —After a tour of duty in Italy with the Fifteenth Air Force, Staff Sergeant Earl D. Miller, 21, of Yale, gunner on a B-24 Liberator, is returning the United States for training and re-equipment, according to an announcement by Brigadier General Fay R. Upthegrove, his wing commander.

Since coming overseas, he has been assigned to the 456th Bombardment group commanded by Colonel Thomas W. Steed of Etawah, Tennessee, a Liberator bomber group which has participated in numerous bombings of the German-held targets throughout southern Europe and the Balkans, and one of the groups, Nazi leaders were referring, to when they credited the Fifteenth AAF's strategic bombing for their downfall.

The veteran unit is being returned to the States for a brief period of training and receipt of new equipment before jumping into the battle against Japan. The training and additional equipment has been made necessary because of the changed tactical situations which ground and air men of the group will experience in the Pacific Theatre.

The group has flown 238 combat missions since entering the Mediterranean Theatre of Operations, having bombed such vital targets as Vienna, Austria; Wiener Naustadt, Austria; Munich, Germany; Ploesti, Roumania; costal fortifications on Southern France before D-day; as well as numerous other pin-point bombing on enemy troops concentrations in Northern Italy.

In all, the group bombed over 126 different targets, dropping nearly 14,000 tons of bombs. Gunners destroyed 130 enemy airplanes, probably destroyed 53 and damaged 65 others.

The group has been authorized six battle participations stars, and was awarded the War Department Distinguished Unit citation for its "outstanding performance of duty in bombing aircraft factories at Wiener, Neustadt, Austria, last May.

The group completed operations in the ETO with a perfect (100 per cent within 1,000 foot) bombing assault on Tarvisio Motor Transport depot in Northern Italy.

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A son of Nippon, a kamikaze or suicide pilot, name and address unknown—thought he had her, but he didn't.

The 103 enlisted crew members of the USS LST 599, with their nine officers, have brought her all the way back to a west coast shipyard from Okinawa — with several gaping holes in her deck and partly gutted by fire but getting ready to go out and take another crack at the Japs.

While their ship is being repaired in the yards of the Western Pipe & Steel Company in South San Francisco, the 599's crew are enjoying leaves in shifts at their homes.

On an early April morning at an American held harbor near Okinawa, two kamikaze planes attacked the LST. One was driven off, but the second broke through a hail of anti-aircraft through an LCT carrier on her deck, and on through the LST's main deck.

Several fires were started which the crew fought to a halt after a five and one-half hour battle, but none of the officers or men was severely injured. One officer and twenty men, including Marine passengers, suffered minor burns and cuts. After discharging her LCT "passenger" and salvagable cargo, the LST 599 with her entire complement aboard upped anchor and set off on the long trip back to the mainland for repairs.

The kamikaze pilot, who mistakenly thought he would sink a Navy ship, disappeared almost entirely — except for his hari-kari belt which is now a prized souvenir of the wife of the 559's skipper, Lieutenant P. P. Roney of Omaha, Nebraska.

Among the 103 crew members now in the United States is Gerald Wayne Chapman, fireman first class, of near Hunt City.

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Headquarters, Twelfth Air Force, Italy.—Staff Sergeant Paul E. Stanley of Newton is serving with the Twenty-second Tactical Air Command of the Twelfth Air Force, which furnished the air support for the Fifth army in the victorious Northern Italy campaign.

Preparing for the final drive in Italy, fighter bombers, night intruders and other aircraft of the Twenty-second Tactical Air Command dealt devastating blows to the German forces in the Po valley. Day after day they cut enemy supply lines, blowing up rail yards, motor transport concentrations, fuel and ammunition dumps, military equipment and factories.

When the Po valley push got underway, the Twenty-second TAC fighter bombers concentrated upon close air support of the advancing ground forces.

Both on the ground and in the air fighter control observers directed the fighter-bombers in the attacks upon enemy-held points barring the path of the Fifth army. P-47 Thunderbolts, Spitfires, A-20 Havocs, A-26 Invaders, P-61 Black Widows, Mosquitos and Kittyhawks were called as they were needed to liquidate these targets, often employing newly perfected fire bombs and rockets in the process.

Every man in the Twenty-second TAC played an integral part in the victory, including personnel of other branches of the service assigned to duty with the Air Force, such as signal and medical corpsmen, ordnance men, chemical warfare and engineers.

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Mrs. Ulie Jourdan of Newton has received a new German parachute from her son, Private First Class William H. Allen, who is in Germany.

He wrote: "I've got a little time tonight so I'll drop you a few lines to let you know I'm still o. k. I'd like to get home now that the war is over in this place. But I guess that will come sooner or later.

"We are having some beautiful weather here now. This country gets more beautiful as the days go by. The streams are cool and clear as crystal. I sure wish you could see this country, mom. I'll never regret that I got to come over here even though at times it wasn't so much fun and maybe a little dangerous. It's been one beautiful trip.

"I have never seen any of the boys from Newton yet but have hopes of doing so one of these days. I just got back from a three day pass to Paris. I had a good time and really did enjoy myself. We have a pretty nice place here, living in barracks with showers and all. I hope this will be my last home over here."

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Private First Class Merle L. Eveland, a son of Mr. and Mrs. William C. Eveland of northwest of Newton, has been discharged from the Army. He served three years overseas with the 147th Infantry, participating in the Guadalcanal, New Guinea, Northern Solomons and Okinawa campaigns. He wears the Combat Infantryman's badge, the American Defense and Asiatic Pacific theatre ribbons with three bronze battle stars.

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Lieutenant Don E. Meeker has received a discharge from the Army Air Corps after service for more than a year in the Southwest Pacific area. He and Mrs. Meeker are visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Meeker of Hidalgo.

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Corporal Roy Tracy, who has been a cook in Alaska for nearly three years, is home on a furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Tracy of near Rose Hill.

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Seaman Second Class Cecil Chesnut is now at Shoemaker, California, but doesn't expect to stay there long, he stated when he called his wife and daughter Rosalie, Sunday evening.

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Private Charles O. Nichols of Montrose has arrived at the Field Artillery Replacement Training center at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, for this basic training.

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Aviation Cadet Francis Bailey returned to Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Saturday. He will be assigned to a primary flight school.

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Ensign Correne and Morris Urfer called upon Staff Sergeant James Bailey and John Bailey, Sunday.