

5 NEWTON BOYS GET DOOLITTLE PRAISE

CONGRATULATED FOR PERFORMANCE IN EIGHTH AIR FORCE

May 31 1945

An Eighth Air Force Station, England — Among the 185,000 men and women of the Eighth Air Force congratulated after VE-Day by Lt. Gen. James H. Doolittle, their commander, were Staff Sgt. Vernon L. Wyatt, 504 E. Morgan St.; S/Sgt Fay G. Bixler, R 1; Sgt Raymond F. Ratcliff; Cpl. Harry N. Dartz, 423 W. Reynolds St. and Cpl. Charles F. Hall, RFD 2.

"I wish to extend my personal congratulations and my heartfelt appreciation to every one of you for the magnificent job you have done," Gen Doolittle said in a message to all personnel.

"Each of you," he continued, "may be proud of your part in the defeat of Germany. I am proud of you. The world is proud of you."

The Eighth Air Force was the world's mightiest strategic bombing force. Its personnel of 185,000 was the equivalent of 12 infantry divisions and it could send 21,000 airmen in 2,000 four engine bombers and 1,000 fighters over Germany at one time, a combat effort possible only with the support of tens of thousands of non-flying specialists.

Clyde Routt's Division Cited For Luzon Action

With Sixth Infantry Division on Luzon — Pfc. Clyde R. Routt of Newton is one of eight Illinois men of the Sixth Infantry Division quartermaster company which has been awarded the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque for "superior performance of duty" in connection with military operations in New Guinea and Luzon.

The citation said the company at all times maintained a high standard of discipline and military courtesy and executed its orders efficiently and enthusiastically.

The Sixth Division holds the continuous combat record in the Pacific.

Local Girl Serves As Army Nurse In Italy

Peninsular Base, Hdq., Italy — 1st Lt Bessie B. Wilson, of Newton, Illinois is now serving with the 70th General hospital of the Peninsular Base Section. The unit was the nearest general hospital to the Fifth Army front lines. It has had almost two years of overseas service.

Lt. Wilson is the daughter of Newton A. Wilson, of Newton, was commissioned in the Army Nurse Corps. She has been overseas since August 1943. Before entering the military service she was a Public Health Nurse for Missouri State Health Dept. She was graduated from the St. Louis City Hospital Training School for Nurses, St. Louis, Missouri, 1926.