

TEANECK MAN LEADS FORTS IN KONZ HIT

Lt. Wild Says It's First Time He
Got No Opposition

A Teaneck airman, veteran of 25 missions, led one group of Flying Fortresses to Konz, Germany, yesterday as 4,000 American and British war planes continued their aerial attack on the Nazis' military transportation system.

"It was the first time I haven't seen a single enemy fighter or one burst of flak," said Lieutenant Raymond Wild, 27, of 168 DeGraw Avenue, who led the Fortresses, helping to deliver one of the most devastating blows of the war.

Lieutenant Edward O'Grady, 26, of Staten Island, bombardier on Wild's Fortress said "Despite the haze hanging close to the ground, we hit the target okay and solidly, with both bombs and incendiaries."

This mission of Wild's was in contrast with a mission in which he participated in March. Then when approaching his target in his Fortress, the Lieutenant was struck by machinegun bullets fired by an attacking enemy plane. In addition to wounding Wild, the bullets smashed the windshield, shot the oxygen system out of commission and wounded his co-pilot.

With both pilots momentarily stunned, the Fortress dove out of control for nearly a mile straight down before Lieutenant Wild could bring the ship under control. Suffering from shock, he and his co-pilot managed to fly back into formation while the engineer gunner kept them supplied with oxygen from emergency bottles.

Despite his wounds, bad weather and the fact that the ship's landing wheels were shot off, Wild, after maneuvering, brought his Fortress safely back to its base.

In addition to the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Teaneck flyer has also been awarded the Order of the Purple Heart. He is the father of an 8-year-old son, Raymond Jr., and is the son of Captain Charles A. Wild, who was also decorated with the Purple Heart during World War I at the Argonne Forest, October 12, 1918.

6-3-44

Lieut. E. O. Richtscheidt

15th AAF in Italy—A door never stops a good salesman—not as long as he has a foot to stick in it—and a door failed to stop one B-24 Liberator Bomber on its way to smash the oil refineries near Breslau, Germany.

Just after the plane took off from its base, 2nd Lt. Edward O. Richtscheidt, 23, of 1320 Sussex Road, Teaneck, N. J., saw the wind tear off the small door from the nose turret and carry it into the cowl of his No. 3 engine.

"The door didn't bother the engine much; just tore up the cowl," he said, as he told how the 15th Army Air Force bomber went on to drop its bombs on the objective.

6-11-44

Now Sgt. Robert Finn

Robert T. Finn, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Finn, of 540 Cumberland Avenue, Teaneck, has been promoted to sergeant at the Pueblo Army Air Base, Pueblo Colo. Sergeant Finn entered the Army in March, 1943. He is a graduate of Teaneck High School and before entering the service was employed by the New York City Central Railroad.

6-15-44

Sgt. Clements Gets Marine Medal

Somewhere in the South Pacific (Delayed)—Marine Platoon Sergeant Robert W. Clements, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lyman P. Clements, of 1495 Newlon St., N. W., Washington, D. C., has been awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal by Admiral William F. Halsey, for heroism in helping carry ammunition from the scene of an explosion.

Platoon Sergeant Clements, at the time a Sergeant with a Marine unit here, was at a baseball game when the explosion occurred nearby. Volunteering to move unexploded shells, he worked with others for two hours in the vicinity of burning and exploding ammunition at constant risk of his life.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps in November, 1940, and served in Iceland before coming to this theater of war 15 months ago.

He was born in Washington, D. C., and was graduated from Central High School in that city in 1940. His wife, Helen Clements, lives at 361 Morningside Terrace, Teaneck, N. J.

The citation which accompanied his award reads:

"For heroism when a large advanced Naval base in the Solomon Islands area, on September 5, 1943. Sergeant Clements volunteered to assist in moving heavy caliber ammunition from the vicinity of burning and exploding shells, and for two hours carried on his dangerous task, although his life was in danger constantly from flying shell fragments and detonating high explosives.

"His courageous and tireless efforts were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

Franklin Burby Gets Wings

John Franklin Burby, son of Mr. and Mrs. James D. Burby, 350 DeMott Avenue, Teaneck, received his pilot's wings and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army Air Force Tuesday at Turner Field, Albany, Ga. He is now home on leave and will report back to Turner Field next week for further assignment.

6-15-44

P. O. 2/c Kenneth Phillips

Mrs. Robert Phillips of 748 River Road, Teaneck, has received word that her son, Robert Kenneth, has been promoted from the rank of Petty Officer Third Class to Petty Officer Second Class at his station somewhere in the Southwest Pacific with the United States Navy.

Petty Officer Phillips, a graduate of Teaneck schools and a member of the baseball and basketball squads at Teaneck High School, enlisted in the Navy in April of 1942. He received his boot training at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station in Illinois, and from there was transferred to Hawaii, where he was stationed for a year. Prior to his entrance into the service, Phillips was employed by the Bergen Auto Company in Hackensack and later by Wright Aeronautical Corporation in Paterson.

6-15-44

Capt. Reginald Rowland Chief of Chaplains Unit

Captain Reginald Rowland, Chaplain Corps, has arrived at Camp Campbell, Ky., and has been assigned as Chief of Chaplains Branch.

A resident of 170 Danta St., Franklin, Ind., Capt. Rowland was pastor of the Teaneck Presbyterian Church, Teaneck, N. J., prior to his entrance into the Army, July 22, 1942. After attending the Chaplains School at Harvard University, he was assigned as Camp Chaplain at Camp Breckinridge, Ky. Capt. Rowland came to Camp Campbell from Camp Arterbury, Ind.

Now Lt. Col. Burger

Valentine J. Burger, a veteran of action with the Signal Corps as an aerial observer overseas in World War I, has been promoted to Lieutenant colonel at Harding Field, where he is a director of administration and base services. This was announced by the War Department recently.

During World War II Lt. Col. Burger served as base executive officer at Geiger Field, Spokane, Wash., commanding officer of the air field at Camp Williams, Wis., and director of administration and base services at Peterson Field, Colo.

Commanding officer at Harding Field is Col. William G. Schauffler, Jr., with whom Lt. Col. Burger served overseas during the last war.

6-15-44

Richard Ewans Promoted To Quartermaster 2nd Class

Richard C. Ewans, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ewans, 252 East Johnson Avenue, Bergenfield, has been promoted to quartermaster second class. He is stationed in an Italian port.

Petty Officer Ewans has been overseas for a year and now wears three stars on his service ribbons. He is a veteran of the Sicilian in the more recent landings below Rome. His ship, an L. S. I. (L), received a citation for outstanding rescue work in the Mediterranean a short time ago.

In his many months of duty in the Mediterranean area, Ewans has run across friends from all over Bergen County.

Lt. Wm. F. Davis

Lieutenant William F. Davis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Davis of 1288 Hudson Road, West Englewood, has arrived at the United States Naval Air Station, De Land, Florida, for operational training. He was commissioned a lieutenant in the Marine Air Force May 2 at Pensacola, Florida, following training at Denton, Tex.; then, Ga.; and St. Louis, Mo., and is a fighter bomber pilot.

Davis, 23, is a graduate of Teaneck High School Class of '41, where he was a member of a varsity wrestling team until injured. In training he was regimental boxing champion at Lambert Field, St. Louis.

6-15-44