

SAILOR 10 YEARS, DAVIES IS 29 NOW

He Has Sailed Every Sea But The Arctic

At 29 years of age, he has been at sea in Maritime Service 10 years and the other day Lieutenant (J. G.) Thomas J. Davies of 580 Warwick Avenue, Teaneck, shipped on a Liberty ship on a 5-month trip to add to this record.

Until a month ago when he returned to the home of his mother and stepfather, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert R. Pearson, he had been on the same passenger liner that had been impressed for duty in Maritime Service.

He has sailed every sea but the Arctic. He has crossed the Equator five times. His ship has been bombed by plane and shelled by

submarine. Now, this vessel lays over in drydock.

He has sailed through Gibraltar to Tobruk, through the Mozambique Channel and the Persian Gulf to Bombay.

There was the day he gave his mother a thrill when he telephoned from Buenos Aires in Argentina. On this sea jaunt, Davies's ship did 33,000 miles often without convoy and without a gunmount on deck with which to fight plane or pig-boat.

At Cuba the ship joined a convoy and it was near the Florida straits that a submarine sank one of the ships in the convoy, 200 yards away from his own vessel.

His ship got deck guns and a Navy armed guard, as the gunners are called, in the summer last year. This was for the Tobruk-Bombay trip lasting 7 months and taking in 48,000 miles.

His ship was bombed and afire in the Indian Ocean. Submarines shot torpedoes at its great bulk but missed, came to the surface and shelled it but the ship out-maneuvred every effort to sink it. On this trip, his best friend died in his arms.

Davies came back from this trip for an assignment that took him to sea for another 6 months and he shows today, more service ribbons than he can wear.

He docked at Pearl Harbor a few days before the Japs bombed it. His ship had put in from a voyage that took him to Shanghai, Manila, Singapore, Hawaii and ports in Australia.

When he heard of Pearl Harbor he wired Washington for transfer to the Navy. He had done this once before but the Navy turned him down. For his height he needs a 130-pound belt. He still lacks 15 pounds of it. He tried several more times to snap this read tape and buttressed his appeal with recommendations and references. The Navy men read these letters and replied no-go.

His family has lived in Teaneck on and off for 10 years. Davies was graduated from George Washington High School in Manhattan, and attended a prep school for a year.

His stepfather is commander of Teaneck Post 128 of the American Legion. His mother is president of the St. Joseph's School for Boys Auxiliary in Englewood Cliffs.



LT. (J. G.) T. J. DAVIES

Graff Is A Sergeant

Harold F. Graff, 22, of James Street, Teaneck, has been promoted from private first class to sergeant technician in Sicily where he is serving Army antiaircraft. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Graff enlisted in July, 1942. Overseas he served in North Africa and at Malta. He was graduated from Teaneck High School. A younger brother, Edward, a Teaneck High School student, has enlisted for the Army Air Force reserve program.

Starts 18-Week Course

(Special to the Bergen Evening Record)
Midland, Tex., Jan. 12—Douglas G. Lawrence of 665 Northumberland Road, Teaneck, N. J., has begun training here as a bombardier-navigator for the Army Air Force. The course runs 18 weeks.

1-12-44

W. E. Sheard Promoted

(Special to the Bergen Evening Record)
Hamilton, N. Y., Jan. 12—Warren E. Sheard, son of Mrs. Henry E. Sheard of 94 Munn Avenue, Teaneck, N. J., has been promoted to platoon leader with the Bluejacket battalion of the Navy V-12 Unit here at Colgate University. Sheard is a 1942 Teaneck High School graduate and a former Rutgers University student.

1-12-44

Promoted

(Special to the Bergen Evening Record)
Rhythe, Calif., Jan. 13—William Melz, 20, of 45 Copley Avenue, Teaneck, N. J., has been promoted here from sergeant to staff sergeant in the Army Air Force. He is a radio-man-gunner.

1-13-44

MARINE KILLED, FLIER MISSING

Four On Casualty List From This Area

Today's casualty report included a West Englewood Marine killed in action in the South Pacific, a Ridge-wood flier with the Royal Canadian Air Force, missing in action, a Westwood machinist-gunner, once wounded, again wounded in battle in Italy, and a West Englewood bomber-gunner, a prisoner of war of the Germans.

Killed In Action

COURTLEIGH, Private First Class Richard W., 18, son of Mrs. Edna Courtleigh, 637 Briar Cliff Road, West Englewood.

Prisoner Of War

CASSIDY, Staff Sergeant Donald G., 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Cassidy, 1361 Taft Road, West Englewood.

Courtleigh's mother is in Hollywood, Calif., where she rushed to see her son before he left for overseas last August. Courtleigh shipped out a few days before her arrival.

After entering the service a year ago, the youth received his training at Mare Island, Calif. He is a graduate of Rye, N. Y., schools and is the son of the late William Courtleigh, actor. Mrs. Courtleigh is known by stage fans as Edna Conroy. She is expected home February 1.

Courtleigh has three brothers in service. Stephen who is with the snipers guard of the Army, recently.

Two weeks after the Cassidy family received word from the War Department that Cassidy was missing in action somewhere in the European area, a letter was received from a friend of Donald's stating he was a prisoner of war. The letter was from Lieutenant Arden Young, who had been stationed with their son, and told Mr. and Mrs. Cassidy to be hopeful.

The War Department listed Cassidy as missing in action and has yet to confirm his status as a prisoner of war.

"As soon as the war with Germany has been won," Young wrote, "your son will be returned to you safely. No doubt you have received word from the War Department stating that Donald has been listed as missing in action. However, be hopeful. Although I was not on that particular mission, I was a close friend of Donald's and I want to tell you he is a prisoner of war."

Cassidy entered the Army Air Force November 18, 1942, and received his training as a radio gunner at Sioux Falls. He was sent overseas last August. He was a graduate of St. Cecilia Grammar and High Schools, Englewood.

The Dead

DEMCHOCK, Aviation Cadet Charles; 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Demchock, 167 Hillside Avenue, Teaneck.

Demchock was killed in the crack-up of an Army Air Force plane at 2:10 o'clock yesterday about a mile from his base at Majors Field, Greenville, Tex.

Demchock was to receive his pilot wings sometime in April. He was a graduate of Bayonne Senior High School and attended Newark College of Engineering. Prior to entering the Army Air Force last February 23, Demchock was employed at the Western Electric Corporation, Kearny.

He received his primary training at Atlantic City and was then sent to Syracuse (N. Y.) University. Later Demchock was transferred to Randolph Field, Texas, and then to Majors Field.

His family was notified of his death in a telegram from the War Department received late last night.

Surviving are his parents, a sister, Virginia, and a brother, Aviation Cadet Frank R. Demchock, 26, who is serving with the Army Air Force at Maxwell Field, Alabama. Funeral arrangements, under the direction of the Volk Colonial Homes, Teaneck, are incomplete.

1-13-44

Boore, Teaneck, Becomes Captain

William F. Boore, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. William F. Boore of 495 Standish Road, Teaneck, has been promoted from lieutenant to captain at Great Bend, Kansas, where he is training with the Ordnance Division of the Army Air Force.

He entered the service in June, 1942, upon being graduated from Lehigh University. Captain Boore is the husband of the former Carol Curtis of Boise, Idaho. His wife is with him in Kansas.

1-14-44

No Easy Chair; Slippers Will Do

Second Lieutenant John T. Maher of 701 Chestnut Avenue, Teaneck, opened 14 gift boxes and 27 letters in Italy the other day.

He had gone six weeks without a bath, and shaving was a luxury as the troops of his Infantry platoon plodded through knee-high mud.

His clothes dried by the heat of his body.

Some of the gifts were useful in making for comfort, especially the beautiful carpet slippers.

1-14-44

Two other local men, George O. Perraud Jr. of 272 Francess Street, Teaneck, and Anton Houlik Jr. of 22 Sabina Street, Little Ferry, have been appointed platoon commanders in Colgate's Flight Preparatory School where they have just begun training as aviation cadets.

They formerly served as members of ground crews at Naval Air Stations and are now in training as pilots.

1-9-44