

### Men in Service

**COMMANDS PLANE CREW**  
**ARMY AIR FIELD, Casper, Wyo.**—Second Lieut. Charles V. Booth, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. C. V. Booth, Fairfax road, Birmingham, Mich., is an airplane commander on a B-24 heavy bombardment crew now in its final stage of training at the Army Air Field, Casper, Wyo. Following completion of his training, he and his crew will be sent overseas to a combat area where they will help take up the fight against the enemy.

**IN NAVAL AVIATION**  
 Fenwick Smith Geggie, son of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Geggie, 500 Ann street, Birmingham, Mich., was graduated recently from the Naval air technical training center located at Norman, Okla. While at the Norman school he studied the aviation specialty field and is now eligible to earn a petty officer rate. The newly graduated man is now awaiting further duty orders either to sea or to a naval base.

**BROTHERS MEET IN ITALY**  
 All the rain, mud, and German couldn't hinder the planned reunion recently of Pfc. Willie Pearsall, Jr., and Cpl. Lee W. Pearsall, who met in Italy. This was their first meeting in two years. Willie has been overseas 18 months and Lee, one year. Another brother, S/Sgt. Garth D. Pearsall, is now in the States.

In Heilshub, having been in France and Holland recently. He has been overseas 18 months. They are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Pearsall, formerly of this city and now of Fort Lauderdale.

Robert L. Brown, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Brown, 27855 Lincoln road, Birmingham, was graduated recently from the Naval Air Technical Training center located at Norman, Okla. He is now awaiting further duty orders either to sea or to a Naval base.

Frederick E. Booth, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick E. Booth, Sr., 960 Harmon avenue, Birmingham, is receiving his initial Naval indoctrination at the U. S. Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill.

**GREAT LAKES, Ill.**—Among those graduating from an intensive course of basic engineering training at recent service schools here was Thomas Henry Mildebrandt, 16, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Mildebrandt, 1929 S. Adams avenue, Birmingham, Mich.

Bill Gibbs, fireman 2/C, has returned to Great Lakes, Ill., after having spent a 10-day leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Gibbs, of Beechwood road.

George J. Ely, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Ely, 411 South Adams, who recently enlisted in the navy, has left for Great Lakes, Ill., for his best training at the naval training station.

Jack E. Bithrope, officer candidate at Fort Belvoir, Va., and son of Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Bithrope, 1939 Rivenook, Birmingham, has recently returned from visiting his wife at Los Angeles. The young service man, who studied photography with the army engineers for 12 weeks, had been sent to Fort Lewis, Washington, but was there only a week or two before being sent back East to Officer Candidate school.

Pvt. Richard J. Wilson was home recently on a 16-day furlough from Fort Bliss, Texas, to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Wilson, 446 Parian. From here he went to Columbia, Mo., to be the guest of Violetta Andrade of Birmingham, a student at Stevens college. Pvt. Wilson has completed his basic training in anti-aircraft and has been ordered to report for advanced training at Camp Maxey, Texas.

Paul Maelen Heinsohn, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Heinsohn, 404 S. Bates, writes that he has been sent to San Bruno, Calif., for further naval training. The young seaman 2/C has this address: Division 19, Barracks P-39, Platoon 4, U.S.N.—A.B.P.D.

Sgt. G. W. Uptagraff has returned to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, after completing a specialized course at Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. He visited his wife and his mother, Mrs. W. H. Uptagraff, at their home at 375 North Woodward, enroute back to Jackson.

**AWARDED UNIT CITATION WITH AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS**  
 Forty enlisted men from Michigan are part of the P-47 Thunderbolt fighter group which was recently awarded a distinguished unit citation for smashing two German armored columns near St. Lo on July 11. First Lieut. Joe F. Richmond of Birmingham is a member of this air force.



**Knighthood Back in Flower**  
 Soldiers marching bulldozers on the front are sitting ducks for enemy fire, so they now wear bullet-proof vests. Donning the new "armor" in Germany are Pfc. Bernard Bathy, left, Oceana, Va., S/Sgt. Edward Johnson, New York City; Sgt. Victor Viam, Virginia, Minns, and sergeant 2/C the bulldozer, 7-3 1/2 day Westergren, Holdrege, Neb.

### Lt. Jack Burket On Flying Fortress

**AN 8TH AIR FORCE BOMBER STATION, England**—Now undergoing a pre-combat training period of 10 days, Second Lieut. Jack E. Burket, 22, of Birmingham, Mich., is preparing to take part in bombing attacks over Germany as a pilot in the Eighth Air Force B-17 Flying Fortress group commanded by Colonel Frank E. Bostrom of Bantock, Mo.

Already highly trained by the Army Air Force as a pilot at Moody Field, Ga., Lt. Burket is now getting the benefit of the combat experience of veteran flyers.

The father of the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Burket, 731 West Brown street, Mt. Pleasant, Mo., is Winfield S. Burket, 1908 at 800 Riverview street. Prior to entering the Army Air Force in Colorado 1942, he was employed by the Mackay Corporation of America in Colorado.

The Fortress plane to which he has been assigned is one of the Third Bombardment Division in the United States Army Air Force. It is a superbly equipped plane at Remond, France, Germany.

(Continued on Page 7)

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### Second Oak Leaf Cluster Awarded Sgt. John Williams

**14TH AAF in Italy**—Sgt. John W. Williams, of Hilltop lane, Birmingham, Mich., an armorer in the oldest fighter groups in the AAF, has been authorized to wear a second oak leaf cluster on his pilot's wings.

The original citation was for a gallant attack on an airfield at Poggio, Italy, before the Salerno landing. The group's fighter pilot destroyed 35 enemy planes and damaged 40 others in the first such fighter group in the first such tactical strength.

An Oak Leaf Cluster was added for an escort mission over enemy pillboxes at Averla, Italy, where the P-51s shot out of an enemy attacking force a formation of 70 planes, enabling a 14th AAF heavy bomber formation to reach the target.

The second cluster was for a vital ground cover mission in support of a heavy bomber attack on the Romolo Americano oil refineries at Ploesti, Rumania, where they shot down 80 enemy planes at the bombs at a loss of only one P-51. Ten enemy planes were shot down in the battle.

**Sgt. Elmer L. Meeker With The 15th Army Air Forces In Italy**

**14TH AAF in Italy**—Sgt. Elmer L. Meeker, Birmingham, Mich., is a member of a 14th Air Force Liaison group which has completed more than 100 combat sorties.

A machine, Sgt. Meeker has been with Lt. Col. John P. Tom's heavy bombardment group since its first mission against communication and supply lines in northern Italy. The group has come a long way since with missions over Florence and the coastal batteries of southern France and the more recent bombing of German oil refineries and general factories.

Sgt. Meeker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer R. Meeker, 287 Wallace street, Birmingham, Mich., entered the Air Force in April, 1942. Now in Italy, he has proven himself of invaluable assistance to his group.

William B. Crooks, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Crooks, 708 West Lincoln, who recently enlisted in the Navy, was called for duty last September and left that day with a large group from Detroit to begin boot training at Great Lakes Naval Training Station. He is a Baldwin high school graduate of last June and was 18 years of age in November.

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### Keepin' 'Em Seen'

The Army has G. I. specs, too. Here is Pfc. Edward Schmalzhaft of Alton, Mo., doing his job as a pair at the 12th Medical Supply Mobile Optical Unit in Italy, which supplies one-way

### Another big rush on Long Distance lines this Christmas

It was a big rush last year. It may be even bigger this Christmas. So please help keep Long Distance lines clear for essential calls on December 24, 25 and 26.

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