

Men In The Service

PROMOTED TO SERGEANT

15th AAP in Italy—Guy P. Griffith, 35, of Birmingham, Mich., engineer runner on a Liberator bomber stationed in Italy, has been promoted to the grade of technical sergeant. It was announced by 15th Army Air Force headquarters, St. Griffith received his gunner's wings at Tyndall Field, Fla., on May 1, 1944. He has been overseas with the Air Force since Sept. 1, 1944, and has flown missions over such targets as Munich, Vienna, Oertel, Bleichenauer and Linz.

GETS COMBAT TRAINING

2nd Lt. Richard L. Gracey, son of Dr. and Mrs. Clayton H. Gracey, 248 N. Bates Street, Birmingham, Mich., is now stationed in an army training school at the Sioux City, Ia., army air base where he will take operational training with his crew before going overseas. Lieutenant Gracey, a pilot on a heavy bomber, was a student in the University of Michigan before entering the service January 28, 1943.

Pvt. John W. Swain, Jr., 362 Baldwin avenue, was recently awarded the Good Conduct Medal at Westover Field, Mass., where he is presently on duty. The medal was awarded for "exemplary behavior, efficiency and fidelity."

Pvt. Byron Ellis is spending a 15-day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Ellis, 816 Oakland Street, who is an aviation mechanic, is stationed at Davis-Monthan Field, Tucson, Ariz.

John W. B. M. C. left Sunday for San Diego, Calif., after having spent a 15-day leave with his wife and two small daughters in Detroit. John is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Bell, of Bates Street. His brother, Pfc. Robert J. Bell, is serving with the infantry in the Philippines.

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Birmingham Marines In Surprise Meeting

In a recent letter to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Tucker, Jr., 1590 Dorchester, Tom Tucker writes:

"Well I have finally gotten around to raking my cobwebbed brain for some news that will be approved by the censor. The big event was a very coincidental meeting tonight of myself and Edgar Riddell. We were playing host to a boxing and football match at a very familiar face strode past me in search of a seat. He was rewarded by finding a chair in a location directly in front of me!!!"

"My cue—I tapped him quietly but firmly and he turned around, and then the reunion began. We didn't, I'm afraid, see much of the fight for our reminiscing. We talked of the Old Town Clubbets and the A. O.'s and all the colorful characters from Birmingham, where they are and in what and why. Anyhow two more surprised young Birmingham lads you never did see."

"I think Mrs. C. Allen Valpy, Baldwin street, would like to know Mr. Tucker as Ed is one of her favorite boys and tell her his face is redder than ever and he's well (and me too)."

The boys plan to see quite a bit of each other as they are stationed only half a mile apart "somewhere in the Pacific."

Tom is a hospital apprentice 1/c attached to the Third Marine Division and Edgar is a corporal in the Marine Corps. He is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Ross R. Riddell, 364 Baldwin.

S/Sgt. Murray Kiley

Busy At Job With Air Force Crew, England

AN EIGHTH AIR FORCE BOMBERS STATION, England—Staff Sergeant Murray Kiley, 25, 2301 14-Mile road, an Eighth Air Force clerk recently completed one year's service overseas with the 152nd Bomb. Group's Depot detachment.

Guided by the motto, "Keep 'Em Flying," these men supply machine tools, flying clothing, life rafts, parachutes and countless other items necessary to keep the planes in perfect flying condition.

The manner with which Sgt. Kiley performs his daily assignments plays an important part in the successful functioning of his department.

The Michigan sergeant is a member of the Third Bombardment Battalion—the division staffed by the President for its own historic England-to-Africa shuttle bombing of a Messerschmitt aircraft factory at Regensburg, Germany.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. William F. Kiley, he was employed by the Fisher Body Corp., Detroit, before entering the AAP in January, 1942.

Capt. Geo. Armstrong

Of Willits St. Helps Teach Motor Repair

HEADQUARTERS, AAF SERVICE COMMAND, Italy—Captain George Armstrong, 487 Willits Street, Birmingham, Mich., now serving with the Army Air Forces in Italy, was a member of the "Red Devils" at the "Red Devils" school—first of its kind overseas.

"I've held a lot of strange assignments overseas," said Capt. Armstrong. "But devising homework for my officer-students has been the strangest."

The school, which became known to the students as "Truck Tech," was the first in a series of overseas training courses to be conducted by the AAF Service Command. This vast maintenance organization is responsible for nearly 50,000 Air Force vehicles now operating in the Mediterranean area and ranging in size from motorcycles to 20 ton prime movers.

The difficulty of keeping such a fleet of vehicles in perfect operating condition overseas was the main reason for holding classes in maintenance.

The "graduates" are now back with their units, anxious to be enlisted men in the training they received at the Air Service Command "Truck Tech" school in Italy.

By Col. Edw. H. Roper.

Sgt. N. Flemington

Working With Supply Division In England

AN AIR SERVICE COMMAND DEPOT in England—Sgt. Norman N. Flemington, of 1047 Chester Street, Birmingham, Mich., is a key man behind the scenes of the supply war in Europe.

Serving with a station complement squadron in an Air Service Command depot in England, he is working long hours wrestling with the thousands of complex problems that arise in keeping equipment moving to the men of the combat air forces.

A soldier since February, 1943, he has been overseas for 19 months. He attended Baldwin high school and in civilian life was employed by Ford Motor Company, Dearborn, Mich.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. D. D. Flemington, of 1047 Chester Street, Birmingham, Mich.

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