

News of Men and Women in Uniform
County Soldier
Wins Air Medal

AT A MAAF TROOP CARRIER BASE IN ITALY—Sgt. William D. Weber, flight engineer with the 51st troop carrier squadron, 62nd troop carrier group, based in Italy, has been awarded the air medal by Major Gen. B. W. Chidlaw, then commanding general of the 12th air force. Sgt. Weber's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Weber, live on route 2, Forest Grove, Ore.

The award was made for the part he played while the squadron was engaged in flying vital supplies to allied forces isolated behind enemy lines, the supplying of Yugoslavians, under the very noses of the Germans, and the evacuation of Partisan wounded to hospital in Italy.

Sgt. Weber enlisted in the armed forces in January, 1942, and in September of the same year, after attending the aircraft mechanics school at Sheppard Field, Texas, and C-47 specialist school at Santa Monica, Cal., was assigned to the then newly formed troop carrier command and sent overseas with the 51st troop carrier squadron.

With this squadron, which has been active in every major campaign, he has flown a total of over 200 hours, and been on seven combat missions. A veteran of 33 months' Mediterranean campaign, he has flown a total of over 200 hours, and been on seven combat missions. A veteran of 33 months' Mediterranean campaign, he has flown a total of over 200 hours, and been on seven combat missions.

A former resident of Leup City, N.H., and a graduate of Seaside, Ore., high school, Sgt. Weber was employed as a furniture assembler by the Doernbecher Furniture Factory, Portland, Ore., at the time of his enlistment into the armed forces.

Visit on Luzon
WITH THE 8TH ENGINEER AVIATION BATTALION NEAR CLARK FIELD—Pfc. Fred H. Mulkins of Vernonia, Ore., a cook in the 562nd amphibious engineers, 2nd brigade, recently visited his friend, Pfc. Lee H. Howell, of Banks, Ore., stationed with the 874th engineer aviation battalion at Porac, Luzon.

Awarded the Asiatic-Pacific campaign ribbon, three battle stars, the Philippine liberation ribbon and the bronze arrowhead, Mulkins unit received a presidential citation for the landing at Corregidor. He also took part in the main invasion of Leyte and Northern Luzon.

Wounded Vet Home On 21-day Leave
CORNELIUS—Pvt. Robert Evansen, U. S. army, arrived from Dibble hospital at Menlo Park, Cal., last week to spend a 21-day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chet Evansen. Robert has been undergoing surgery for wounds received in Holland last October. At the completion of his furlough he will return to the hospital for further treatment.

"Because thy loving kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee"—Psalms 63:3

Whosoever-Will Tabernacle
(above North Plains)

SUNDAY—10:30 a. m., Sunday School, classes for all ages.
11:30 a. m., Morning Worship, "Consecration: Clean Hands and a Pure Heart," sermon by Pastor.
3:00 p. m., Young People's Service.
8:00 p. m., Evangelistic Service, "Heavenly Sign Posts," sermon by the Pastor.

TUESDAY—8:00 p. m., Evangelistic Service, "Second Childhood," sermon by Pastor.

—REV. MELVIN E. JAMES, Pastor

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Colonel French
Awarded Medals

Col. Donald J. French of Astoria, son of Mrs. Mabel French of Cornelius, has been awarded the Croix de Guerre with Red Star, the Air Medal and the third oak leaf cluster to the Distinguished Flying cross for meritorious achievements as commanding officer of the 437th troop carrier wing in France.

The French citation was made by the government of France for outstanding military services during operations leading to the liberation of France. The air medal was awarded for accomplishments in aerial flights in the delivery of critically needed combat supplies and in air evacuation of wounded during the siege of Bastogne. The cluster to the flying cross was presented for participation in the Rhine airborne assault as an aerial flight leader.

WINS AIR MEDAL—At a MAAF Troop Carrier Base in Italy: Staff Sergeant Wm. D. Weber, flight engineer with the 51st troop carrier squadron, awarded the air medal for flying supplies to Marshal Tito's Partisan Forces in Yugoslavia, under the noses of the Germans. Sergeant Weber's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Weber, live on route 2, Forest Grove, Picture by T. S. McCloskey, 41st Service Group, 12 AFSC.

Lieut. Watkins Home On 30-Day Leave
CHARLESTON, S. C., PORT OF EMBARKATION: June 21.—First Lt. John L. Watkins, 21, of Portland, bombardier of a heavy bomber crew with the 15th Army Air Force in Italy, arrived here today by transport plane en route home for 30 days.

While here, he and other air forces men who arrived overseas and then given a luncheon feast. Telephone and telegraph facilities were available for first calls home. After their 30 days home, almost all members of the group will be leaving for overseas again—this time to the Pacific.

Lt. Watkins was inducted into the army in April, 1943, and went overseas to a base in Italy in October, 1944. He has been awarded the following decorations: Air medal with three oak leaf clusters, and four bronze battle stars for his European theatre ribbon.

He lived with his wife, Marjorie M., in Portland at 1438 12th street. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Amos Watkins, route 3, Hillsboro.

Infantry Officer Home for Holidays
Arriving in time to celebrate the holidays at home, First Lt. Donald Spiering is spending his 30-day convalescent furlough at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Spiering of Roy, recently returned from combat duty in the Pacific area. Lt. Spiering is stationed at McCaw General hospital at Walla Walla, Wash.

While overseas he was on active duty with an infantry division in the Hawaiian Islands, Saipan and lastly Okinawa, where he spent three days behind the enemy lines. Lt. Spiering was shot in the leg the first day and then wounded in the shoulders and chest by shrapnel the second day, for which he was later awarded the purple heart with a cluster. Prior to overseas duty, Infantryman Spiering spent six years with the 41st division, transferring from the 41st division to the 27th while training at Fort Lewis. He was commissioned overseas in 1943 and received his advancement to first lieutenant in February of 1944.

Two brothers also in the service are: Robert Spiering with the 41st division overseas and David Spiering in navy radar, now stationed in Seattle.

Lt. Simpson Pilot of Skytrain in Europe
VILLACOUBLAY AIRDROME, France—Pilot of one of the 27th Air Transport group twin engine Skytrains over Europe, 2nd Lt. Frank H. Simpson, Jr., of route 2, Cornelius, transports cargo and important military personnel from this air technical service command field to key occupation points on the continent and rushes high priority wounded combat men from the front lines inside Germany to ports of embarkation.

For his participation in the supply and medical evacuation missions flown by his 302d transport wing unit during the campaign of northern France and Germany, Lieutenant Simpson was awarded two battle stars. In service since September, 1942, he arrived overseas in August, 1944.

Before joining the air forces he worked with his father on their farm near Hillsboro.

He is the son of Frank H. Simpson, Jr., of route 2, Cornelius.

Officer Candidate Home on Short Leave
Pvt. Norman Mann Jr., USMC, left Saturday after spending a five-day furlough at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Mann, Sr., of R. 3, Hillsboro.

While at the Marine Base in San Diego, Mann was awarded a certificate for being the outstanding man of his platoon. He then went to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, where he received officer's training. He now reports to University of California for further officer's training.

Curtis Riley Gets Advance in Rating
Curtis Riley of route 3, Beaverfoot, has been promoted to aviation electrician's mate first class in the naval reserve at the auxiliary air station at Quillayute, Wash., where he is on duty in operations. Before promotion, he was an AEM 2/c.

Riley, whose parents are Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Riley, has been in the navy three years. Before joining he was a fireman employed by the Southern Pacific railway. He is a graduate of Beaverfoot high school.

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Africa-Italy
Veteran Back

Veteran of 32 months overseas duty in North Africa and Italy, most of this time in combat, Lt. Ralph Hess, local infantryman, arrived in Hillsboro last week to spend a short leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred G. Hess. Lt. Hess holds the combat infantry badge, the silver and bronze stars, the Purple Heart, good conduct medal, European-African campaign ribbon with stars for six campaigns, the pre-Pearl Harbor ribbon and the presidential unit citation.

The local infantryman participated in the invasion of North Africa on November 8, 1942, and fought through the campaign that followed. He went into Italy with the 34th division north of Salerno 12 days after the initial invasion and continued through until Italy was surrendered by the Germans last May.

He received his silver star award for heroism in carrying a wounded man to safety under enemy fire on Anzio beachhead, and was later awarded the bronze star for his part in camouflaging a dismounted tank. Lt. Hess was drawing enemy fire on a Yank position. He received a thigh wound at Mt. Belmonte from shrapnel and was hospitalized for a month. He was assigned to the 34th division, serving with the same division but a different company than he had been assigned as a staff sergeant.

Lt. Hess entered the service on February 19, 1941. He went to North Africa with the Third division but was transferred to the 34th division after the Casserine Pass engagement. The 34th division has the record of being in the European campaign the longest—399 days.

Hess stated that the mountains of Italy made the campaign tough and declared that the Germans kept right on shooting until the end. He stated that the knowledge that blood plasma and the finest medical system gave American fighting men a feeling of confidence.

The local soldier had been away from Hillsboro for 39 months. He will report back to Camp Butler, Ala., August 1.

Sgt. Merx Winner Of Two Bronze Stars
COOPER MOUNTAIN—Sgt. Robert Merx, husband of Pansy Weaver Merx, received two bronze stars for meritorious service in the European theatre of war. Sgt. Merx has been in the army since March, 1942, and is now somewhere near Luxembourg.

At Camp Wolters
CAMP WOLTERS, Texas—Lyle Robert Smith, husband of Clara Katherine Smith of route 2, Beaverfoot, Ore., and Theodore B. Salo, husband of Charlotte J. Salo of Aloha, Ore., have arrived at this infantry replacement training center to begin their basic training as infantrymen. They have been assigned to battalions stressing special training.

Straughan Transferred
Sgt. Gerald D. Straughan, who has been at the army air base at Hobbs, New Mexico, for several years, has been transferred to Sheppard Field, Texas, according to word received from his wife, the former Betty Rosecrans. Mrs. Straughan and little son are still in New Mexico.

Hahn on Furlough
Pvt. Martin J. Hahn arrived last Friday from the Madigan General hospital, Ft. Lewis, Wash., on a 60-day furlough to visit his wife and son, and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Barachman.

Eldon Pauli Promoted
Eldon Pauli, 24, whose wife Marjorie resides at 744 East Main in Hillsboro, was recently promoted to the rank of sergeant at Walla Walla Army Air Field, a base of the Fourth Air Force in the state of Washington.

His duty at this field is radio operator on a B-24 Liberator bomber. It is at this field where combat crews for these bombers are formed and where final training is given.

Prior to his entrance into the AAF, Sgt. Pauli worked at Boeing Aircraft. He attended Pacific university, and Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Pauli of 2144 North Summer, Portland.

In Special Course
KEESLER FIELD, Biloxi, Miss. Pvt. Zemyer Randall, son of Mrs. Laura Randall, 549 E. Cedar St., Hillsboro, was enrolled this week in the AAF Training Command's basic airplane and engine mechanics course at Keesler Field. The course will extend over a 76-day period during which time he will receive instruction and actual experience in aircraft maintenance.

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COMMERCIAL IRON WORKS
PORTLAND, OREGON

Former Banks Soldier
Out on Point System

Robert Pilcher received a discharge from the army on the point system and arrived home Saturday from Fort Sill, Okla., where he attended field artillery school since October.

Pilcher, overseas with the 25th Division for 33 months, was at Pearl Harbor at the time of the Jap attack and later was on Guadalcanal, New Caledonia, and the New Hebrides.

His home is now at Gervais, before entering the service he lived near Banks.

Dick Hillis Visits
S. L. Dick Hillis, veteran of almost three years' service in the South Pacific with the coast guard, arrived in Hillsboro Thursday morning to visit his brother, E. Howard Hillis. He will leave next week to visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Hillis, at Wallburg, Wash. The young coast guardman has been in four major engagements.

Completes Course
KEESLER FIELD, Biloxi, Miss. June 23.—Sgt. Leonard H. Peschka, son of Mrs. Flora C. Peschka, 457 W. Oak St., Hillsboro, this week was graduated from the world's greatest educational program—one of the AAF Training Command's airplane mechanics training courses at Keesler Field.

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