

OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN SERVICE



LYMAKER TRAINS
Charles S. Slaymaker, 1303 N. S. Reburn, 1303 Klamath Falls, is completing his training as a Liberator bomber at the Army Air Corps school at Hamilton, Ore. He is a member of the Klamath Falls Lions club and is a member of the 60th Infantry, 1st Airborne Division.

HILLIS OVERSEAS
FIFTEENTH ARMY AIR FORCES IN ITALY—2nd Lt. Joseph Z. Hillis, 28, husband of Mrs. Jeanne (Barke) Hillis, Libby, Mont., recently arrived overseas and has joined a 15th AAF B-24 group.
Lt. Hillis is a co-pilot and is awaiting his first combat mission. He entered the army in February, 1943, and graduated from pilot training and received his commission and wings in April, 1944. He underwent the training phases at Tonopah, Nev., before he left the states late in November for overseas service.

SCHMIDT GETS STAR
Herbert F. Schmidt, 25, 2333 Klamath Falls, has been awarded the Bronze Star for his gallantry in action. He is a member of the 60th Infantry, 1st Airborne Division.

Hillis attended the University of Oregon for two years, where he majored in business administration, and was employed as a manager for the Oregon Equipment company in Klamath Falls, Ore., before he entered the army. He is a member of the Lions club, Junior chamber of commerce, Elks and Sportsmen's association, all in Klamath Falls.

HOGUE TRAINS
Second Lt. Richard S. Hogue, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Wesley Hogue, Tulelake, is completing his training as a Liberator bomber at the Army Air Corps school at Hamilton, Ore. He is a member of the Klamath Falls Lions club and is a member of the 60th Infantry, 1st Airborne Division.

Second Lt. Richard S. Hogue, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Wesley Hogue, Tulelake, is completing his training as a Liberator bomber at the Army Air Corps school at Hamilton, Ore. He is a member of the Klamath Falls Lions club and is a member of the 60th Infantry, 1st Airborne Division.

LAHNS GIVEN CLUSTER
AN EIGHTH AIR FORCE BOMBER STATION, England—William Laahs, 22, of Klamath Falls, has been awarded the second Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal, equivalent to the third award of the medal, for "courage, coolness and skill" displayed while on bombing attacks over Germany. The airman is a navigator in the 490th Bombing group, a B-17 Flying Fortress unit of the Eighth Air Force. Lt. Laahs is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Laahs Jr., 1109 Pine. Prior to entering the army air corps in July, 1942, he was employed as a lumber grader for the Lamm Lumber company.

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INGERSOLL COOKS
AF BASE IN THE MAR—Roy O. Ingersoll, 21, Klamath Falls, is a member of the 60th Infantry, 1st Airborne Division. He is a cook for a unit of aviation engineers, all night after his battalion on a strategic island in the Marianas, so that his men have hot coffee for breakfast.

SACHER COMMENDED
15TH ARMY AIR FORCE IN ITALY—S/Sgt. Raymond H. Sacher, 27, of route 3, Klamath Falls, turret specialist with a B-24 Liberator bomber group, has been commended by Brig. Gen. Fay R. Upthegrove, of Olean, N. Y., commanding general of a 13th air force wing.

LANDRUM CITED
EIGHTH AIR FORCE BOMBER STATION, England—Lt. Francis S. Landrum, 27, of Klamath Falls, has been awarded the Air Medal for "meritorious achievement" while participating in combat operations over occupied continental Europe. It recently was announced by the commanding general of the eighth air force.

HOME FROM ALEUTIANS
The 13th naval district has announced names of two Klamath Falls men home on leave after nine months' service in the Aleutians with patrol bombing squadron 61. They are William W. Stuart, 2718 Derby, and Jack W. Sorenson, AK 1/c, 1101 Mitchell. The squadron flew more than 6000 hours, as much as 1300 hours in a single month, and three missions were special flights to the Japanese-held Kuriles. Two of the squadron's Catalina crews were lost during the nine months of operations in what was termed "the toughest flying weather in the world."

BARKER AWARDED
S/Sgt. Lawrence E. Barker, 28, Klamath Falls, waist gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress, has been awarded the second Oak Leaf cluster to the Air Medal at an eighth air force bomber station in England. Sgt. Barker is the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Alvord of Eureka Springs, Ark. Prior to entering the air force in August, 1941, Barker was engaged as a diesel operator in Klamath Falls. He received his wings in January, 1944, at Laredo, Tex.

BUTTER AT A PRICE
FARRAGUT, Ida.—Even at a military institution, butter sometimes becomes scarce, and therefore demands a high "price." At the naval hospital here recently, an accordion player was traded by one ward to another for two pats of butter.

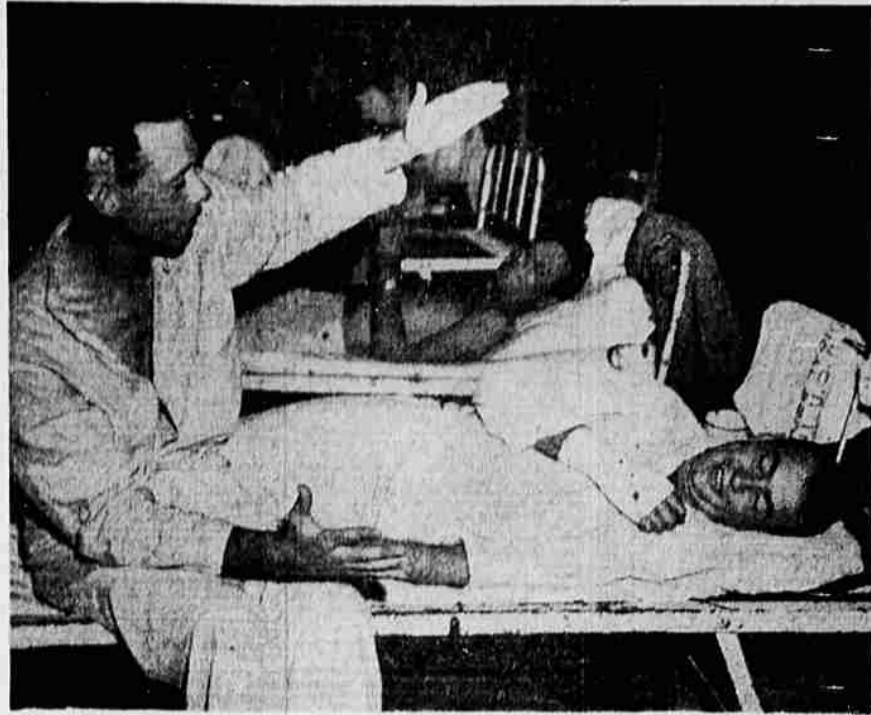
McDONALD GRADUATED
AMA CITY, Fla.—Harold McDonald, son of Mr. and Mrs. McDonald, 912 Walnut, has graduated from the Army Air Corps school at Hamilton, Ore. He is a member of the Klamath Falls Lions club and is a member of the 60th Infantry, 1st Airborne Division.

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"That Buzzard Was This Long!"



Lt. William M. Tavenner, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. K. Tavenner, 703 N. 9th, grins from his bed at Lt. William C. Pool of Rhondale, Tex., sits by his side in a U. S. army hospital in North Burma, comparing notes on the size of the buzzard that crashed through the windshield of the C-47 as they were carrying food to Chinese troops on the Bhamo front. Both officers members of a tenth air force combat cargo unit, operating under the AAF in the India-Burma theater, suffered concussions and lacerations as a result of their encounter with the large bird. Lt. Tavenner returned to his home in Klamath Falls January 5, and left January 21, for Santa Ana and Santa Monica, Calif., replacement centers.

C-9, after attending a movie at the hospital auditorium. "You'll have to go over to ward C-7," the nurse in charge told him. "You've been transferred."

"Why?" asked Baker. (He is an apprentice seaman and forgot he is not supposed to ask the reason for orders.) "Because if you don't go, we'll have to pay back the two pats of butter we borrowed from them. And besides they want to hear some of your accordion music," replied the nurse.

BAKER AND HIS ACCORDION
Baker and his accordion went to the hospital auditorium. "You'll have to go over to ward C-7," the nurse in charge told him. "You've been transferred."

MUELLER GETS MEDAL
15TH AFF IN ITALY—Shown above is Sgt. John W. Mueller (right), 19, receiving the Air Medal from Lt. Col. Jack L. Randolph (left), group commander of Fort Worth, Tex., "for meritorious achievement while participating in sustained operational activities against the enemy."
Son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Mueller, 231 N. 6th, Klamath Falls, Ore., he is serving as ball turret gunner with a 15th AAF B-29 Liberator heavy bombardment group based in Italy. Mueller joined the USAAF June 6, 1943, and won his gunner's wings at Kingman, Ariz., May 1, 1944. He arrived in Italy last September.

HAMILTON TRAINS
PFC Bert W. Hamilton, tall gunner, of San Bernardino, Calif., will soon complete an intensive course in combat flying at the Alexandria army airfield, Alexandria, La., and in the near future he will go overseas to a combat area.

HOUSE BREAKS RECORDS
AN AIR SERVICE COMMAND DEPOT IN ENGLAND—When new battle tactics dictate last-minute changes in combat airplanes, Sgt. Ervin D. House, son of Mrs. Violet House, of 1814 Etna, Klamath Falls, steps up his record-shattering output. Before joining the army in November, 1942, he was employed as a hooker by William Raymond, logging contractor. His brother, Sgt. Vernon E. House, is serving in the marine corps.

STEWART CITED
15TH AAF IN ITALY—S/Sgt. Robert P. Stewart, 25, Klamath Falls, radio-gunner in a B-24 Liberator squadron, has been authorized to wear the distinguished unit badge as a member of a heavy bombardment group which was recently cited by the war department for "outstanding performance of duty in armed conflict with the enemy."

BOGNER TRAINS
SAN ANTONIO AVIATION CADET CENTER, TEX.—At the San Antonio aviation cadet center, potential pilots, bombardiers and navigators are receiving pre-flight training to prepare them for aerial instruction and duties as aircrew members in the army air forces.

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Burma Buzzard Blasts Way Into Cockpit, Injures Three

(Ed. Note: Lt. Tavenner arrived home January 5 to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. K. Tavenner, 703 N. 9th. He left Sunday with his bride, the former Kay Schlothauer. Jap planes and the monsoons aren't the only enemies pilots of the army air forces in the India-Burma theater have to battle. A large buzzard recently crashed through the windshield

of a plane high over dense Burma jungle, struck the co-pilot's head, knocking him unconscious, glanced off to strike the pilot and scattered splinters of glass that caused a third man severe eye wounds.

A food-dropping mission to the Chinese troops on the Bhamo front was the objective of Lt. William M. Tavenner, Klamath Falls, and Lt. William C. Pool, Thorndale, Tex., members of a 10th air force combat cargo unit, when the Burma buzzard suddenly smashed into the cockpit of their C-47.

The two lieutenants had just changed seats, Pool taking the pilot's seat and Tavenner the co-pilot's. Lt. Pool saw the bird just in time to shout at Tavenner, who jerked away, thus avoiding being struck full in the face by the buzzard.

Lt. Pool, although bleeding profusely, stayed at the controls while T/Sgt. Rudolph Medina of Weston, Neb., and the "kicker" crew carried Lt. Tavenner, who was knocked unconscious by the blow, to the rear of the plane.

After administering first aid, T/Sgt. Medina returned to the cockpit and took the co-pilot's seat. In spite of painful eye injuries, he took over the controls of the plane for about 20 minutes.

After completing the food-dropping mission, the men flew more than 100 miles to a 10th air force strip, where an ambulance was waiting. Both lieutenants were treated for concussion and severe lacerations at the field hospital.

Whether the buzzard was convinced that the U. S. 10th air force has achieved air superiority over Burma could not be determined. It lay dead in the cockpit.

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