

Martin, Leonard J.

Made Staff Non-Com After Bomb Raids

AN EIGHTH AIR FORCE LIBERATOR STATION, ENGLAND—Leonard J. Martin, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Martin, of 714 Wyandotte, Street, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, has been promoted from sergeant to staff sergeant.

An engineer gunner of a B-24 Liberator, Sergeant Martin has taken part in bombing missions to Berlin, Brunswick, Paderborn, and other war production centers of Germany. He is a member of the 446th Bomb Group, commanded by Lt. Col. William A. Schmidt, of Corpus Christi, Texas, which has completed more than 250 missions against enemy targets. A veteran group in Major General William E. Kepner's Second Air Division, it had participated in the steady bombing of the Reich. On March 24th the group joined other Eighth Air Force Liberators which dropped supplies to the First Allied Airborne Army east of the Rhine. The bombers roared over the dropping area at low altitude, dropping parachutes and bundles containing provisions, ammunition and medical supplies. In forty days, from February 14th to March 25th, the group went on thirty-five missions. Early in March the group bombed naval and military installations at the German port of Swinemunde. The attack was made in cooperation with Marshal Zhukov's Russian forces in the Baltic area.

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Sergeant Martin has been awarded the Air Medal, "for meritorious achievement in accomplishing with distinction aerial operational missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by him in the face of determined opposition materially aided in the successful completion of these missions. His actions reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States."

Sergeant Martin entered the service July 26, 1943, and at the time was employed by Kurtz Brothers, Inc., Bethlehem, Pa. He received his wings at Fort Myers, Fla.

Sergeant Martin attended Bethlehem High School.

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