

Hoffstadt, Walter

EASTON SOLDIER TELLS OF FERRYING BOMBERS

JAN 2 1943

**Pfc. Walter Hoffstadt Home After
Completing First Round Trip.**

Just back from ferrying a flying fortress to England is Pfc. Walter Hoffstadt, 24, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Hoffstadt, of 1444 Ferry st., Easton, who enlisted in the Army Air Corps on Feb. 3, 1942. Hoffstadt serves as an engineer on the bomber crew.

It was Pfc. Hoffstadt's first trip out of this country—one that he will never forget.

Weather conditions play an important part in the job of those men who ferry bombers.

The Easton lad's first ferrying trip took two months, although he returned to this country by boat in five and one-half days. The story behind the trip is one that can't be told for tactical reasons by this typical Army Air Corps man.

Hoffstadt considers himself lucky

to have been assigned to an overseas ferrying outfit.

He underwent preliminary training at New England Aircraft school, Boston, for five months.

"It was a relief to get to our destination," Hoffstadt said, "and we had a good feeling that our work was done—at least for the present."

A ferrying crew is made up of five or six men including pilot, copilot, radio man, navigator and engineer.

The job of the engineer is to keep the engines in perfect working condition throughout the trip and to check on them when the destination is reached. This is Hoffstadt's task.

"English people are returning to a normal way of living," Hoffstadt said.

"That is," he explained, "as near normal as possible. It has been said that one out of every five buildings in London have been demolished and I can believe it," Hoffstadt said. He stayed at a Red Cross club during his five days in London. That city is blacked out every night, he reports.

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