

Lady Luck With Lt. C. J. Jewell, Veteran Of 120 Combat Missions

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Marine Corps Air Depot, Miramar, Calif., (Special to the Globe-Times) — Marine First Lieutenant Clarence J. Jewell, Jr., 25-year-old fighter pilot from Bethlehem, Pa., has returned here for leave and reassignment after winning the Distinguished Flying Cross and three Air Medals for outstanding action against the Japanese during the Palau campaign.

Striking against enemy installations in the northern Palaus, Jewell destroyed a large dam, cutting off completely the island's supply of water and electricity. Raiding every key Jap stronghold in the Palau group, his squadron annihilated ground installations and troop concentrations. On several fighter sweeps, Jewell's flight attacked and sank troop-laden barges attempting to reinforce the battered Jap garrison on Peleliu.

The Japanese resistance in the Palaus was stubborn and fanatic and every mission brought

defensive anti-aircraft fire from the enemy. On one strike Jewell's plane was hit 14 times.

"Lady Luck was with me that day," the flier recalled. "While dropping my bombs, the Nips blasted away with both barrels. Shell fragments ripped into the engine, severed the cowling and tore several holes in the wings. One large piece ripped through my gas tank and lodged in the top of the tank. I had to open my hatch in order to escape the fumes flooding the cockpit."

Flying an average of two strikes a day, Jewell compiled 120 combat missions during his overseas tour.

He was graduated in June, 1939, from Bethlehem High School and spent two years at Park Air College, East St. Louis, Ill. Prior to enlisting in June, 1942, Jewell had an opportunity to study the Corsair fighter, as he spent eight months with Vought-Corsair Corporation in Stratford, Conn. He received his wings in June, 1943, at Pensacola, Fla., and was promoted to his present rank in March, 1944.

His father, Clarence J. Jewell Sr., lives at 935 Fifth Avenue, Bethlehem.



LT. CLARENCE J. JEWELL JR.
... Lucky Leatherneck

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