

Kilpatrick, Robert

## Local Men Get Oak Leaves <sup>MAR 29 1945</sup> To Air Medals

According to a recent announcement by the commanding general of the U. S. Eighth Air Force in England, First Lieutenant James W. Payne, Flying Fortress navigator, and Staff Sergeant Robert J. Kilpatrick, Flying Fortress radio operator, have been awarded an Oak Leaf Cluster to their Air Medals.

Lt. Payne, son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel E. Payne, 57 West Fairview Street, won his second Air Medal Cluster for "meritorious achievement" in a series of combat missions while flying with the 92nd Bombardment Group of Flying Fortresses. He attended Liberty High School and Pennsylvania State College, and was employed by the Bethlehem Steel Company before entering the Air Corps in 1943. He won his navigator's wings and commission in July, 1944. His wife, Mrs. Claire Jackson Payne, resides at Ridgway, Pa.

Sgt. Kilpatrick, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank H. Kilpatrick, 827 Hawthorne Road, won the Air Medal Cluster for "meritorious achievement" in a series of combat missions over Germany while flying with the oldest Fortress group in England. He graduated from Bethlehem High School in 1942 and worked in the telegraph office of the Lehigh Valley Railroad before entering the Air Corps in August, 1943. He won his gunner's wings in May, 1944. Sgt. Kilpatrick arrived overseas in October, last year. His wife, Mrs. Anabelle Heft Kilpatrick, resides at 810 Linden Street.

March 29, 1945