

Curtis, Frazier

Local Woman's Son Awarded Medal Posthumously

ELLINGTON FIELD, Tex.—The Distinguished Service Medal has been awarded posthumously to First Lt. Frazier Curtis, 24-year-old Roslyn, N. Y., pilot who received his silver wings at Ellington Field, for sacrificing his life so a fellow flyer might bail out of their faltering plane on Dec. 23, 1942, near Key Field, Miss.

Word of the citation was received recently by Col. W. H. Reid, commanding Ellington.

Lt. Curtis encountered engine trouble a few minutes after taking off from Key Field. Unable to keep



LIEUT. FRAZIER CURTIS

the ship in operation, he ordered his fellow flyer to jump.

While the lone crew member was bailing out safely, Lt. Curtis remained at the controls of the plane although it was losing altitude rapidly. When he jumped, his parachute failed to open because of limited altitude.

"Lt. Curtis' action in remaining at the controls to enable his pas-

senger to leave the airplane exemplifies the finest traditions of the Army Air Forces," the citation reads.

Lt. Curtis, son of James F. Curtis, Roslyn, and Mrs. John M. Gross, Bethlehem, Pa., was graduated from Harvard University in 1940. He was enrolled in the Yale University Law School when he enlisted in the Army Air Forces as an Aviation Cadet in July, 1941.

He received training at Parks Air College, East St. Louis, Ill., and Randolph Field, Tex., before coming to Ellington. He was awarded his silver wings and second lieutenant's commission in February, 1942.

Lt. Curtis' name has been added to the Ellington Field Hall of Heroes, Col. Reid said.

August 9, 1943