

Hrichak, Michael

Three Area Soldiers With First Yank Fighting Men In Tokyo

SEP 1 1945

Lt. Warren W. Tuttle, brother of Mrs. D. E. Leatherman, 518 West Union Boulevard; Pfc. Franklin Rinker, son of Mrs. Sara Rinker, 410 First Street, and Pfc. Michael Hrichak, son of Mrs. John Hrichak, 75 Clearfield Stret, Freemansburg, were three of the first American fighting men to enter the city of Tokyo.

With the 11th Airborne Division since March, 1945, Lt. Tuttle joined the 675th Glider Field Artillery Battalion in Luzon. His battalion saw action in the rain-swept mountains of Leyte, where they fought as infantrymen. Their next action was the famous drive on Manila from the south, where they made a surprise amphibious landing in direct support of the assault and raced 65 miles to capture Nichols Field. He graduated from Houghton Seminary, Houghton, N. Y. and attend Colgate University. Upon termination of his service it is his intention to return to school.

Pfc. Rinker, also a veteran paratrooper, joined the 11th Airborne Division at its activation in Camp Mackall, N. C., in February, 1943, and has participated in the campaigns in New Guinea, Leyte and Luzon.

Pfc. Hrichak was also with the 11th since its activation at Camp Mackall. Hrichak reached Tokyo via the hard way — New Guinea and the Philippines. His regiment, the 188th Parachute Infantry, saw action first on Leyte and Manilla. He wears the following campaign ribbons; Asiatic Pacific, Leyte, Luzon, and Philippine Liberation. He also was awarded the Soldier's Medal and the Air Medal for meritorious achievement in action. Pfc. Hrichak is a graduate of Bethlehem Technical High School. Prior to entering the service he was employed by Bethlehem Steel Company as an electrician, and according to his post-war plans,

he intends to resume his former occupation.

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