

Kometric, Frederick

## Northampton Sgt. Member Of "Vampires"

A Northampton boy, Staff Sergeant Frederick Kometric, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Kometric of 221 West 14th Street, Northampton, is crew chief with the Vampire squadron of the 13th AAF, Jap-killer group credited with destroying 154 Jap aircraft.

In addition to the treacherous Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Sergeant Kometric also witnessed the Guadalcanal battle of June 16, 1943, in which the Vampires alone shot down 20 Jap planes.

Sgt. Kometric received a commendation from the commanding general of the Hawaiian AAF for his exemplary behavior and bravery under fire at Pearl Harbor, and also has been awarded the Army's Good Conduct Medal, the American Defense Medal and two Battle Stars to the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre Ribbon.

Prior to entering the armed forces, Sgt. Kometric was a machine operator and plans to continue his aviation career following the war.

Three other brothers are also in the service: Staff Sergeant Nick Kometric, with the Infantry in Italy; Pfc. Andrew Kometric and Pfc. Mike Kometric, both with the AAF in the States.

August 4, 1944