

Gangwer, Roland D.

# Local Soldier, Arriving On Ex Among 'Top' Ten Decorated In Ne

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## Staff Sergeant Roland D. Gangwer Gets DFC With Three Clusters As He Returns From Nazi Prison

Staff Sergeant Roland D. Gangwer, a gunner aboard a flying fortress and a prisoner of the German Government for more than a year, was among 140 American soldiers to receive decorations last night upon returning to the United States aboard the exchange ship Gripsholm.

Sgt. Gangwer was among those to receive the 10 top awards for service abroad. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross and an Oak Leaf Cluster. He previously had earned the Air Medal and two Oak Leaf Clusters.

The Bethlehem soldier was among the wounded brought back on the Gripsholm from enemy prison camps and after arrival at Jersey City, was sent to Halloran General Hospital for treatment.

Sgt. Gangwer is a son of R. M. Gangwer, 51 East Union Street. He entered the service in June, 1942, and received basic training at Keesler Field and attended gunnery school at Las Vegas, Nevada.

He received the Air Medal and Two Oak Leaf Clusters after completing several missions over Germany and occupied Europe. On Oct. 10, 1943, he was reported as missing in action and on New Year's Eve, 1943, he was announced as a prisoner of war in Germany.

Under a new War Department ruling, Sgt. Gangwer and others returned aboard the Gripsholm, will be permitted a first and second choice of hospitals near their homes, where they will receive special medical treatment.

The soldiers, who were given a sumptuous steak dinner last night



S-SGT. ROLAND GANGWER  
... arrives on Gripsholm

on their arrival at the hospital, also were outfitted with new clothing and received back pay estimated by Capt. Nile C. Schau, finance officer, to aggregate about \$500,000.

"You just can't break the morale of the American flyers, even when they're wounded and lying in a German hospital," said Gangwer in an interview today.

"The boys keep up their spirits in those German wards by telling all the old jokes and laughing at the new ones," he said. "The treatment there was much better than any of us expected."

"Those German pilots," he said, "are not afraid of a fight, and they fight fairly, too."

The first thing Gangwer said was, "Please send my love to Janet Allinger and tell her that I am coming home. As soon as I get there I want to look up some of the parents of my buddies who are still across."

Gangwer was transferred to four different hospitals, three of them staffed with English prisoner of war medical personnel. At each of the hospitals manned by English the soldiers had "a better time of it," he said. Red Cross packages, and some very old German newspapers were shown.

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