

Horr, Wayne

## Bethlehem and Allentown Men. In Crew Which Downed 3 Planes

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A U. S. EIGHTH AIR FORCE BOMBER STATION, ENGLAND—A 23-year-old Auburn, N. Y., pilot's Flying Fortress, "Mission Belle", knocked down three of Goering's prize fighters over Germany on a recent mission.

First Lt. Wayne Horr was heading his big bomber for a target well inside Hitler's homeland, when flock and fighters hit, together.

T. Sgt. John W. Thaxton, 38-year-old radio operator-gunner, of 16 Prospect Park, S.W., Brooklyn, N. Y., got the first "prize", explained his experiences thus: "I waited patiently while an No. 110 came swinging out of the clouds, then cut across our tail. I picked him up as he started to bank out. After firing a couple of bursts into his wing, he jerked up and wobbled like a drunk. Then he started smoking and burning, and headed for the ground."

The second luftwaffe fighter was hit by the ball turret gunner, S. Sgt. John J. Vanck, 22, of Allentown, Pa. "It was a Focke Wulf

190, and I picked him up at about 600 yards and held the triggers down 'til he went down smoking. I'm sure I planted my bullets right smack in the cockpit."

Before the fight was over, S. Sgt. Donald L. Tuck, 20, of Philadelphia, Pa., got one, too. He was in the tail of the "Mission Belle", and said, "They were lining up on me, six at a time. I opened up on the lead fighter, hit his engine, and saw him roll over twice then head for the ground out of control. The others had a little more respect for us—they beat it."

Other crewmen were: Co-pilot, 2nd Lt. Arthur G. Neal, 24, 321 West Sixteenth Street, Little Rock, Ark.; navigator, 2nd Lt. David H. Banks, 23, 9339 Queens Village, New York City; bombardier, 2nd Lt. Leslie S. Norgard, 25, 2021 North 6th Street, Omaha, Neb.; top turret gunner, T. Sgt. Matthew S. Leo, 22, Orange, N. J.; and waist gunners, S. Sgt. Walter J. Zabower, Bethlehem, Pa.; and S. Sgt. Melvin Kauffman, 26, Thompson Town, Pa.

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