

Leiderman Jr., Fred F.

Local Turret Gunner Gets Leave After 240 Hours of Air Combat

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Fred F. Leiderman Jr., Aviation Machinist's Mate Second Class, U. S. N., of 524 Ontario Street, Bethlehem, has returned from a tour of combat duty in the Pacific, where he flew with Torpedo Squadron 32.

Leiderman was the turret gunner of Grumman Avenger (TBF) and participated in 32 strikes against Palau, Truk, Hollandia, the Marshalls, Marianas and Philippines. He flew 240 hours in the combat zone.

The 21-year-old aircrewman is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred F. Leiderman Sr., of Bethlehem, and was educated at Bethlehem High School.

Air Group 32, based aboard a carrier of the Independence class, destroyed 109 enemy planes in the air and on the ground and sank or damaged 79 Japanese ships.

The Air Group's most spectacular engagement occurred last April when eight of its Hellcats shot down 21 of 30 Jap Zeroes and returned to their carrier without a single casualty.

When their leave is completed, the pilots and aircrewmen of Air Group 32, who have received 65 decorations in recognition of their battle exploits, will re-form and return to combat operations.

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