

Bethlehem Air Hero Visits Home; Won Citations, Medals as Gunner

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By LOIS GILCHRIST

With one pair of coveralls an Army man in Africa can buy 75 eggs, according to Staff Sergeant Austin Dresher, American air hero with several citations, who is spending his three weeks furlough at the home of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. William Burkhardt, 657 Taylor Street.

Sergeant Dresher knows the food situation well in England and in Africa. Now for the first time he is feeling the pinch in America. The United States soldier, he stated with an amused but apologetic laugh at the irony involved, eats better food and more of it than the English soldier, or for that matter than the United States citizen.

"The food you do without, we enjoy."

"And speaking of eggs," he added, "in England eggs are a luxury almost unknown."

EGGS PRECIOUS

So precious has the commonplace egg become in Britain that Englishmen say it is mandatory to inform King George every time a hen lays an egg.

As for fruit in the British Isles—it just isn't. "An American soldier can barter an evening of dances with an English girl for one whole unpeeled orange," he said.

The inevitable conclusion drawn after listening to Sergeant Dresher's talk is that any English girl would be thrilled to dance all evening with this handsome airman—without benefit of orange!

On the subject of his exploits and decorations, Sergeant Dresher is amazingly casual. Aloft, hemmed in by enemy planes, he has no fear.

"The first couple of missions up, you're scared! After that, you remember your guns are always between you and them. Then it's all excitement. No jitters!"

WINS DECORATIONS

Sergeant Dresher wears double ribbon bars, the Airman's award with nine clusters representing 50 missions completed over enemy territory. He also won two Silver Stars and the National Defense ribbon for three years good conduct on Atlantic convoy. August 28 he will report as a combat gunner instructor, Eighteenth Replacement Center, Salt Lake City, Utah. From this point he will be sent to var-



STAFF SGT. AUSTIN DRESHER

ious fields in the capacity of instructor, with little hope of returning to active combat flying.

Sergeant Dresher enlisted September 9, 1935. After eight years as tail gunner and bombardier, participating in two major engagements—at Kasserine Pass and Pantelleria Island and knocking out four enemy planes, two German Messerschmidts and two Italian craft, he feels so at home in the air that he believes he would never voluntarily give up flying combat duty. But he has no choice. Fifty flying missions for one man is the maximum allowed by the government. Transfer to instructor duty is arranged before the secondary stages of flying fatigue, characterized by jitters and nervousness, begin to affect the flyer.

Sergeant Dresher is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James R. Boyle, formerly of Bethlehem, now of Los Angeles, where Mr. Boyle is an R. O. T. C. instructor. Their last visit with "Austie" was with a clean-shaven boy. His moustache, of which he is very proud, is a product of the African campaign, cultivated to delude folks into believing he is older than his twenty-six years.