

Ackerman, George S.

Lieut. Ackerman Prefers Bomber To 'Fox Hole' Hiding

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MARINE CORPS AIR DEPOT, MIRAMAR, Cal.—Crouching in a foxhole hoping that his name was not on one of the bombs during a Jap raid on Roi Namur Island in the Marshalls, was more of an ordeal than any of his dive bombing missions, according to Marine First Lieutenant George S. Ackerman, 24, of Bethlehem, Pa., who has returned here for a leave and reassignment.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Marion S. Ackerman, Jr., 903 Prospect Avenue, Bethlehem.

"I hit my foxhole and wished I was flying on a safe dive bombing mission," said the Marine airman whose bomber never was damaged in 200 hours of combat.

The bombing occurred last February a few days after his squadron, the "Doodle Bugs", arrived on the island. They lost most of their equipment when a bomb exploded an ammunition dump nearby.

"On a small island like that all bomb hits are pretty close to you," Lieutenant Ackerman said. "However, I was not injured."

From bases in the Gilberts and Marshalls, he participated in 11 dive bombing raids on Jaluit, Mill and Wotje, Jap-held Marshall Islands. He also made numerous reconnaissance hops and enemy shipping searches.

Lieut. Ackerman was graduated from Hill School, Pottstown, Pa., in 1939, and from the Babson Institute, Babson Park, Mass., in 1941.

He won his wings at Pensacola, Fla., in February, 1943, and was promoted to his present rank in September, 1943.

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