

Fletcher, Francis P.

## Lt. Francis P. Fletcher, Bangor, Receives 4th Oak Leaf Cluster

AN EIGHTH AIR FORCE LIBERATOR STATION, England. — Award of the 4th Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in many bombardment missions while over enemy territory, has been made to First Lieut. Francis Paul Fletcher, 26 year old B-24 Liberator navigator of Bangor. A cluster is equivalent to an additional medal.

Announcement was made by Second Air Division, commanded by Major General William E. Kepner.

Lt. Fletcher flies with the veteran 389th Bombardment Group and has participated in 35 combat missions, bombing such strategic targets as Hamburg (twice), Madgeburg and Saarbruecken. Although he and the crew have met a good deal of ground opposition in the form of flak, no serious trouble was encountered.

In one of those strange coincidences that happen so often in the Army, Fletcher and his pilot, Lt. Alvin DeTurck, were practically neighbors at home. DeTurck comes from Oley, Pa., which is approximately 30 miles away. The two men did not know each other prior to their meeting in the Army and now both fly in the same crew.

In the European Theater of Operations 19 months, the 389th has flown on well over 250 missions and has won the coveted War Department distinguished unit citation for its part in the spectacular low level attack on the Ploesti oil fields. The Group has been in operations from the Middle East, Africa and the United Kingdom.

The Eighth Air Force airman is the son of Rev. and Mrs. Francis H. Fletcher of Bangor. He is a graduate of Hellertown High School and later attended Albright College. He was a student when he enlisted at Philadelphia on April

11, 1943.

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In the service he attended Air Force schools at Maxwell Field, Ala.; Ft. Myers, Fla., and received his commission at Selman Field, La., on March 18, 1944.

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