

Smith, Robert W. A.

## Pilot Advances



COMMAND, PHILIPPINES — Robert W. A. Smith, son of Mrs. Robert A. Smith, 418 Main Street, Bethlehem Pennsylvania, who is serving as a pilot with a Troop Carrier unit of Major General Ennis C. Whitehead's Fifth Air Force, was recently promoted to the rank of first lieutenant.

Before enlisting in the Army Air Forces, November 26, 1942, Lt. Smith had been attending the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science. Upon graduation from the AAF Advanced Flying School, Turner Field, Albany, Georgia on March 12, 1944, he was commissioned and assigned to the Troop Carrier Command. He flew to overseas duty in July, 1944.

Lt. Smith's unit, a member of the Troop Carrier force under the command of Brigadier General Paul H. Prentiss, is now operating in the Philippine campaign. Troop Carrier units are performing outstanding service in expediting the movement of important personnel and supplies and the evacuation of wounded from the front to well-equipped hospitals in the rear. It is Troop Carrier planes which have actively supported loyal Filipino guerrilla troops by flying guns, ammunition, and emergency medical supplies into crude, isolated airstrips on Mindanao, Cebu, Negros, and Panay.

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