

Gangwer, Roland

S-Sgt. Gangwer At Home Here Over Weekend

FEB 26 1945
Staff Sergeant Roland Gangwer, who was repatriated on the Swedish liner Gripsholm which arrived in New York on Thursday, spent the weekend at the home of his father, R. M. Gangwer, 51 East Union Boulevard.

The Sergeant appeared in good health considering his long imprisonment in German camps, but will have a convalescent period at the Halloran Hospital in New York and may undergo surgical treatment on his left leg.

Sergeant Gangwer's 19 missions included raids over France, Norway and Germany and his crew was one of the first to make the shuttle-raids to Africa after bombing Regensburg, Germany.

The Red Cross, according to Gangwer, is the best organization of its kind anywhere. It was the Red Cross that supplied the prisoners weekly food parcels, clothes, books and various other diversions, and Gangwer could not express his thanks for the irrepayable acts of the American Red Cross.

ENLISTED IN 1942

The soldier enlisted June 6, 1942, and was assigned to the Army Air Corps. He trained at various camps in the States before he landed in Scotland in June, 1943. He attended Bethlehem High School and was employed by the Bethlehem Steel Company before enlisting. Gangwer has one brother in the service, Corporal Technician William Gangwer, stationed with a tank corps in the Philippines.

According to information received from the soldier at his home Saturday, he was shot down Oct. 10, 1942, while attempting his 20th raid over Munster, Germany. A B-17 ball turret gunner, he was struck by a 20 mm. cannon shell just before he and his crew bailed out. He lost consciousness before he hit ground, and when he came to, found himself in a pasture beside a grazing cow. He was immediately picked up by the Germans and sent to a hospital where he was operated on, suffering a compound fracture of the left leg.

The five German hospitals in which he was interned were at Munster, Frankfort, Obermassfeld, Neiningen and Annaberg. The last four were manned by an English staff of doctors, all prisoners of war. It was on Oct. 14, 1944, at Annaberg, after a little more than one year of internment, that he was selected to be exchanged and sent to the States. On Jan. 14, 1945, the repatriates were sent to Switzerland and then to Marseilles, France, where they boarded the Gripsholm.

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