

Weitknecht, Walter W.

## Cited for Bravery



STAFF SGT. W. W. WEITKNECHT

## Present DFC To Sergeant Weitknecht

MAR 4 1944

Mrs. C. Weitknecht, Bethlehem R. D. 4, was in receipt of a letter yesterday from Lieut. General George C. Kenney, of the Headquarters Fifth Air Forces, telling of her son, Staff Sergeant Walter W. Weitknecht being decorated with the distinguished flying cross, an award made in recognition of courageous service to his combat organization, his fellow airmen, his country.

He was cited for heroism in flight for exceptional and outstanding accomplishment in the face of danger above and beyond the line of duty in the Southwest Pacific area from September 28 to October 27, 1943.

The letter from Lieut. Kenney read in part: "Your son took part in more than fifty missions, dropping supplies and transporting troops over territories that were continually patrolled by enemy fighter aircraft. Often landings were made on fields which were only a few miles from Japanese bases. These operations aided considerably in the recent successes in this theater.

"Almost every hour of every day your son, and the sons of other American mothers are doing just such things as that here in the Southwest Pacific. Theirs is very real and very tangible contribution to victory and to peace.

"I would like to tell you how genuinely proud I am to have such men as your son in my command, and how gratified I am to know that young Americans with such courage and resourcefulness are fighting our country's battle against the aggressor nations.

"You, Mrs. Weitknecht, have every reason to share that pride and gratification," he concluded.

March 4, 1944