

Marcincin, John A.

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## Taxiing in Europe



U. S. TROOP CARRIER BASE, France.—Climbing into his hard driving rugged weapons-carrier, is Corporal John A. Marcincin of Bethlehem. A soldier in the transportation section of an overseas troop carrier squadron, Corporal Marcincin in addition to being able to handle this heavy duty Army truck easily, is also adept at applying a wrench when emergencies arise.

After two years of driving along the roads of war ravaged countries, Corporal John A. Marcincin is eagerly looking forward to the day when he will be able to steer a motor vehicle over Pennsylvania's renowned highways. Corporal Marcincin of 730 Atlantic Street, Bethlehem, is now in his third year of overseas duty, having seen active service in North Africa, Sicily, England, and at present, France. He has had invaluable experience in handling all types of Army motor transport, driving jeeps, trucks and cars with equal facility. There are occasions when Corporal Marcincin guides a jeep carefully up a set of wooden loading ramps into the ample cargo section of a large C-47 Aircraft and stays with that jeep wherever the airplane may fly it. It has been Marcincin's experience that the highways in "Fortress Europe" were not as wide or as smoothly paved as Nazi propaganda claimed prior to D-Day. In spite of the unexpected bumps and the deep ruts that violently jar the driver and his vehicle, Corporal Marcincin is a great aid in keeping things rolling for his squadron's transportation section. For all of its military business the Squadron leans heavily on its "motor pool." Crews must be delivered to widely dispersed aircraft in time for scheduled take-offs. Rations for the three daily meals must be trucked in from the various quartermaster depots. And in the morale department officers and men are carried into nearby towns for a few hours relaxation away from their responsibilities.

Prior to entering the Army Air Forces in July, 1941, Corporal Marcincin was employed by the Bethlehem Steel Company.

In the brown and green ribbon that denotes service in both the Mediterranean and European Theaters of Operations, Corporal Marcincin wears a single silver battle star, the equivalent of five bronze battle stars. He is the possessor of the highly prized blue and gold Presidential Citation Unit Badge which was awarded to all members of his Squadron for the unit's outstanding achievements in delivering airborne troops ahead of the forces invading Normandy from the sea. While Corporal Marcincin was encamped in North Africa he received the red and white Good Conduct Ribbon.

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