

Ottinger, David F.

Sgt. Ottinger Wins Award In Pacific Action

HEADQUARTERS, 13TH AAF, SOUTHWEST PACIFIC. — Technical Sergeant David F. Ottinger of Bethlehem, Pa., a veteran airman of over 27 combat missions, has been presented the Air Medal, according to a recent announcement from the 13th AAF.

Sergeant Ottinger is the radio operator of a B-24 Liberator in the 13th AAF's famous "Long Rangers", now busily engaged in blasting the Japs out of the Dutch East Indies, and supporting General MacArthur's drive through the Philippines. Veterans of over 2 years overseas in the Pacific, his unit has shared, along with other components of the 13th AAF, in the destruction of the Jap strongholds of Munda and Bougainville in the Solomon Islands, Pabaul, the once proud Jap bastion in the Bismarck Archipelago, and Truk, Yap and Palau in the Caroline Islands. Their most recent exploit was the daylight bombing and demolishing of the vital Japanese oil refining center at Balikpapan, in Eastern Borneo, the longest-range mass bombing raids yet made in the Pacific.

Sergeant Ottinger is a graduate of Fountain Hill High School, and prior to entering the AAF in March 1943 was employed by the Bethlehem Steel Corporation. He has been overseas since May 1944, coming over as a Staff Sergeant and has since been promoted to his present rank of Technical Sergeant. He is married; his wife, the former Miss Virginia Harlan, is now living at 44 North Eighth Street, Gaston, Pa.

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