

Mark, Leonard P.

Combat Record

JUN 23 1945



FIFTEENTH ARMY AIR FORCE IN ITALY. Technical Sergeant Leonard P. Mark, 26, son of Anthony Mark, 1921 Kemmerer Street, Bethlehem, Pa., flew his fiftieth combat mission against the Germans as an aerial engineer-gunner on a 15th AAF B-24 before V-E Day.

Sgt. Mark arrived overseas last August and had participated on many of the 15th AAF's smashing and historic bombing attacks against enemy oil refineries, industrial centers and lines of communications throughout the countries of occupied Europe from Hungary and Roumania to Poland, Germany and France. "Vienna, Austria," said Sgt. Mark, "was probably the roughest target we ever hit, and I felt a hundred per cent better the day the Russians took that place. Linz and Graz, Austria, were also rough targets as were Munich, Friedrichsafen and Regensburg in Germany and other targets in some of the other countries. I can truthfully say I've never flown on a so-called milk run. I always felt that as long as I had to fly in a bomb and fuel loaded B-24 and have Germans shooting at you, it wasn't an easy mission."

Sgt. Mark attended high school in Bethlehem and was employed as a machine operator by the Bethlehem Steel Co. before he entered the army in July, 1942. He is the holder of the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters for meritorious achievement on aerial flights against the enemy.

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