

Mark, Leonard P.

## Local Men, In Italy With 15th Air Force, Play Important Part In Crushing Nazis

According to latest certified reports, local flying youths with the 15th Air Force in Italy, are exerting special efforts to make 1944 a memorable year for the Nazis over there.

CPL. FRANK E. DUTT, son of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Dutt, 424 East Laurel Street, a nose turret gunner on a Liberator bomber group which has flown nearly 200 missions over strategically important targets has been overseas for over a year. His organization has taken part in the destruction of the vaunted Luftwaffe, and opened the campaign against Ploesti by leading the first daylight attack in April, 1944.

STAFF SERGEANT LEONARD P. MARK, son of Anthony Mark, 1921 Kemmerer Street, recently flew his twentieth combat mission over Europe. An aerial-gunner on a B-24, during his tour of duty, he has flown over most of the European countries including Germany,

Austria, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Greece. He is a holder of the Air Medal and One Oak Leaf Cluster for meritorious achievement on aerial flights against the enemy.

CPL. RAYMOND W. HALDAMAN, 756 Bridge Street, is on overseas duty and has been assigned to the Mediterranean's oldest medium bomber group as radio operator-waist gunner of a B-25 Mitchell. This group has been cited by both

the American and French governments for its pinpoint bombing of Nazi communications in Italy.

ROBERT K. HARTZELL, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Hartzell, 1116 Stanley Avenue, was recently promoted to Sergeant and awarded the Good Conduct Medal "for exemplary behaviour, efficiency and fidelity".

STAFF SERGEANT NICHOLAS PRESTOSH, 1800 East Second Street, recently completed two years of overseas service with a veteran engineer aviation battalion. A few days after D-Day he, and members of his battalion were with the first contingent that landed in the battered harbors of North Africa. Men and equipment were

hardly safe ashore before they were put to work building their first airfield. Recently, 24 months later, the 60th airfield was completed.

The unit then leapfrogged across North Africa, through the rain and mud in Morocco, over the scenic Atlas Mountains of Algeria, and into the stifling heat of Tunisia, building another field at every halt. Their record in Italy has continued to be outstanding.

Although building Allied airfields is now "old stuff" to the veterans, there is still the pride the aviation engineer feels when he looks up to see a bomber formation launched from a field he has built, as it wings toward another mass blow at Hitler's crumbling Reich.

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