

Hajdinyak, Stephen J.

**Gets Air Medal
For Attacks On
German Centers**

APR 20 1945

AN EIGHTH AIR FORCE BOMBER STATION, England—Staff Sergeant Stephen J. Hajdinyak, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen F. Hajdinyak, 841 Seneca Street, Bethlehem, Pa., has been awarded the Air Medal for "meritorious achievement" while participating in sustained bomber combat operations over enemy occupied continental Europe, it recently was announced by the commanding general of the Eighth Air Force.

The citation accompanying the award read in part. "The courage, coolness and skill displayed by this enlisted man upon these occasions reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States."

Sgt. Hajdinyak, radio operator gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress, has flown on some of the Eighth Air Force's roughest missions over Germany, including Munich, Mannheim, Nurnberg and Dresden. Other successful bombing assaults credited to Sgt. Hajdinyak are those in the Ruhr Valley area where marshalling yards, bridges and other lines of communication have been knocked out by our heavy bombers in coordination with the advances

made by the U. S. ground troops near the battle line.

Sgt. Hajdinyak, a member of the 398th heavy bombardment group commanded by Lt. Col. Lewis P. Ensign, El Paso, Tex., received his training at Sioux Falls, S. D.; Yuma, Ariz., and Avon Park, Fla. He entered the Army September 10, 1943.

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