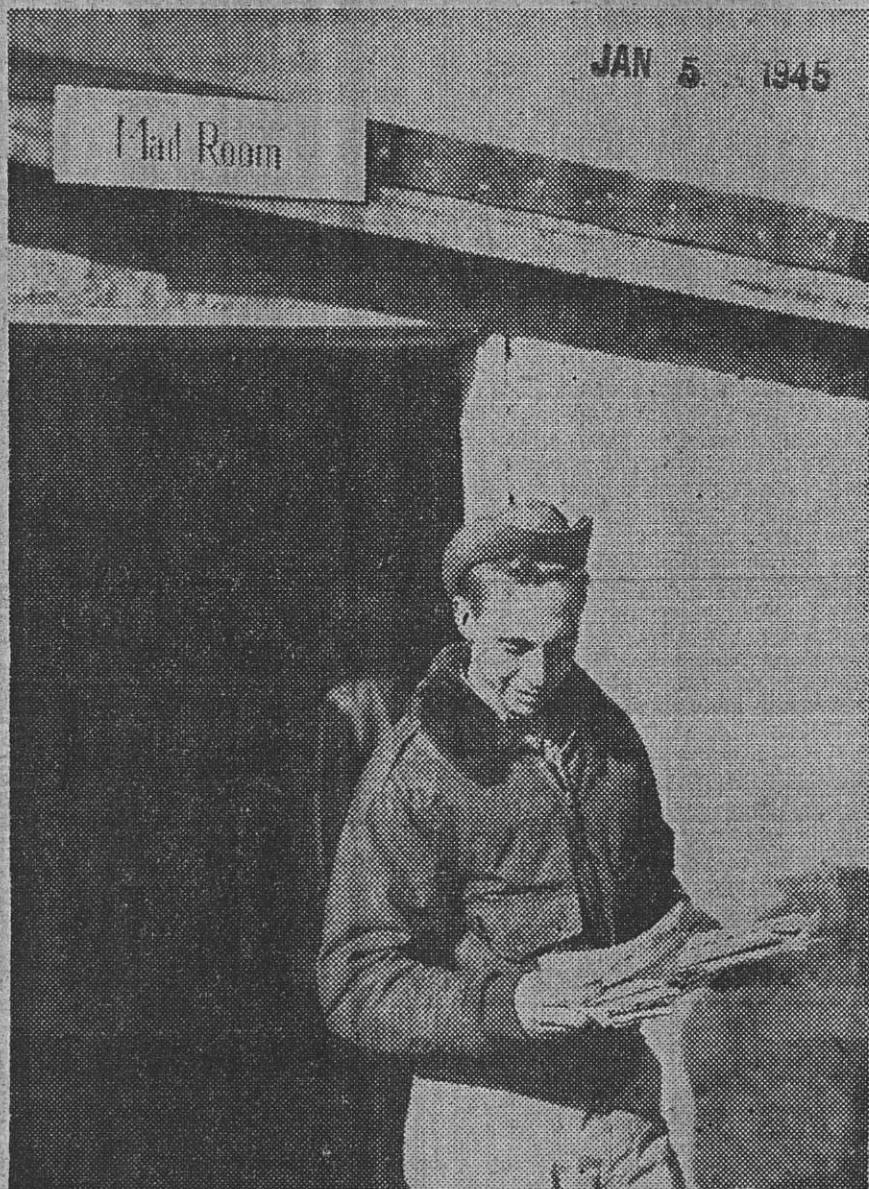


Wickert, Richard J.

Bomber Gunner Values His Mail

JAN 5 1945



15TH AAF IN ITALY—"Letters from home seem to shorten the many miles that separate Italy from Bethlehem," or so thinks Cpl. Richard J. Wickert, 19-year-old son of Mrs. Helen Wickert, 322 East Union Street, Bethlehem. Shown here after a recent mission over one of the strategic German-held targets in Europe, Cpl. Wickert, who serves as a lower ball turret gunner aboard one of the heavy bombers, scans a handful of mail—looking for letters from home. Graduate of Bethlehem's Liberty High School, the corporal entered the service in December, 1943, and received his gunnery training at Laredo, Texas, before joining this veteran 15th AAF Liberator bombardment group in Italy. (Photo by S-Sgt. R. T. Dennis, 15th AAF photographer.)

January 5, 1945