

Sgt. Bill Stringfield Displays Combat Ability Of His Grandfather

Sergeant Bill Stringfield, son of Dr. and Mrs. Sam L. Stringfield, of Waynesville, must have inherited the fighting spirit of his grandfather, the late Major W. W. Stringfield, of the Confederate Army, for whom he was named.

If the Major had lived to the present era he would have no doubt given a hearty Rebel yell for his grandson Bill, who did fifty missions over enemy territory in Europe.

In our interview with the Sergeant, however, he did not resemble in some respects his fighting grandfather, for the late Major loved to relate with vivid descriptions the superior military technique of the men in Grey and how they routed the Kankees, despite the larger numbers of the latter.

Sgt. Stringfield does not want to talk much of his experiences, and it is only through long questioning can the facts be learned. No doubt he is too close to his combat duty, but some day perhaps when time has taken the tragedy of it all away he will talk more freely. Perhaps he recalls that only too recently he saw one of his crew bail out and killed by flak. He was brought back to Italy and buried. A man cannot fight for months with another and face death without developing a deep friendship for him.

"Every time you complete a mission you are thankful to get back," said Sgt. Bill, who told of the longest bombing of his experience, which was a matter of a raid of nine hours over the oil refineries of Poland. The average time of bombing is between seven and one half and eight hours.

Sgt. Stringfield's bombing experiences in the European theatre were during the critical period beginning in the Spring of 1944 and lasting until late in the year. One has only to talk with Sgt. Stringfield to know that he has seen much during those trying months when he was helping soften up the Nazi territory for the final victory to be carried forward by the invading Infantry forces.

Sgt. Stringfield entered the service in January, 1942, while he was a junior at the State University in Chapel Hill. He reported to Fort Bragg and was assigned to the armored division and transferred to Pine Camp, N. Y.

Later he was transferred to another branch of the service, the AAF, and sent to Mitchell Field, and subsequently trained at 16 posts prior to being sent overseas last April.

Sgt. Stringfield was sent to Italy and from there took part in the bitter aerial warfare that followed during the summer of 1944. He was attached to the 400th Bomber Group of the 15th Air Force and completed 50 missions over enemy territory.

Serving as a waist gunner he saw his first actual fighting over Southern France, one of a crew of ten men on the B-24 "Glamor Girl". Like other crews of the Air Force the men came from all sections of the country, each highly trained to take his part in the bombing operations assigned to them.

Most of his flying was done in daylight, as the AAF preferred the light for bombing, rather than take to the night hours as the British do, it was pointed out by Sgt. Stringfield.

A mission was made from his air base in Italy every day when



SGT. BILL STRINGFIELD

weather permitted, according to Sgt. Stringfield, who told of how the group flew 30 planes strong on their bombing raids.

The nose gunner of his crew was killed in action in one of the three missions over Vienna. He was brought back for burial in Italy. It is hard for Sgt. Stringfield to speak of his buddies who did not come back.

He also told of another member of the crew who was shot down and got in touch with the underground and after two months, reappeared at the 15th air base in Italy and after walking for two months joined his crew again.

"The Germans put up a stiff fight," said the Sergeant as he spoke of the defense of the enemy as he told of missions over the Ploesti oil fields and his two trips over Munich, when the AAF met with hard resistance.

When asked how the men felt about home he answered: "Every man over there is homesick."

Sgt. Stringfield, after spending his allotted furlough with his parents here, has reported to Sheppard Field, Wichita Falls, Tex., where he will be stationed for a period. He has three brothers in the service, all having had overseas duty, two in the navy and another in the AAF.

Cleaning Spots

Be miserly with cleaning fluid or water — barely dampen a wad of cheesecloth, then tamp with unevenly placed strokes to avoid a ring. It's a flicking motion, a feather touch. The idea is to work quickly. Blow on the area to hasten drying. Never rub a spot, because a rubbed area highlights just like a spot even if it isn't. Pat dry with a clean dry cloth. Quick, airy hang-up helps avoid a ring.

Wife Preservers



To retouch scratched and worn corners on dark leather use shoe dye or India ink that matches the leather.

AMERICA'S BIG TOWN SQUARE CHEERS WAR NEWS



COUNT 'EM IF YOU LIKE, but anyway here are teeming thousands who filled New York City's "crossroads of the world" and overflowed throughout the big town as the first unofficial news came in that Germany's last armies had surrendered and war was ended in Europe. Nobody bothered about the war still to be won against Japan, for whistles were blowing and confetti filled the air and the celebration was on — not only in New York but also in all the world's towns — although official announcement was postponed. (International)

Pfc. Robt. E. L. Parton Serving With 8th AAF

Private First Class Robert E. L. Parton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Parton, of Waynesville, a duty soldier at the Eighth Air Force Mustang station in England, watched his group take off for Munich on two successive days a few months ago, and he checked off the missions as routine.

What Pfc. Parton didn't know was that those two missions were destined to bring the 359th Fighter Group, commanded by Colonel John B. Henry, Jr., of San Antonio, Tex., a unit citation in the name of the President.

Besides protecting American heavy bombers, the group hit Nazi airfields to destroy 43 planes and damage 53 more "utter disregard

Second Coat

When painting, never apply a second coat until the first is thoroughly dry. It takes about 48 hours for exterior oil paint, varnishes and enamels to dry. Twenty-four hours usually is sufficient for interior paint. Varnish or enamel should be rubbed with 00 sandpaper or steel wool between coats.

for the intensity and accuracy of enemy anti-aircraft and small arms fire." Serious bomber losses were avoided when the group drove off more than 100 Messerschmitt 109's, destroying 15, and damaging three.

The citation, highest award given a unit, focused attention on the "unselfish devotion to duty and the tireless energy of its ground personnel and proficiency and gallantry of its pilots."

Nuts for Fats

Since pecans are over 70 per cent fat it is often possible to substitute nuts for part of the fat in a recipe. For example, in making pie crust, finely ground pecans may be used for half the fat called for in the pastry recipe. The ground pecans are added to the fat, and the pastry mixed and baked in the usual way. This nut pastry is especially delicious with cream or custard filling.

Air Valves

Don't neglect to have worn out or obsolete air valves replaced on radiators of steam heating plants. Poor air valves are one of the most common causes of complaints about poor heating. It is a complaint that can be avoided if air valves are checked by a heating contractor once a year.

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Farmers Plan Greater Buys In War Bonds

In spite of an "off" season so far as income is concerned, farm War Bond leaders are now making preparations for selling more bonds to farmers during the Seventh War Loan than in any previous drive, according to M. L. Predmore, Chief of the Agricultural Section, War Finance Division, Treasury Department. With the help of country bankers they're out to convince the men who till the soil that they should convert their expanded bank accounts into bonds.

"Farmers, like all Americans, have been building up bank deposits and currency holdings ever since the war started," Predmore said. "On January 1, 1920, agriculture held currency and bank deposits totaling slightly over 4 billion dollars. The 1945 figure is not available, but it is expected to be in excess of 10 billion."

With larger operations and increased costs farmers must have more operating capital than in 1940, but they don't need 10 billion, in Predmore's opinion. He believes farmers can and will put a substantial portion of these cash reserves into War Bonds. When they go out to sell War Bonds to farmers in the Seventh War Finance Committee throughout the nation will stress personal solicitation. A survey made following the Sixth War Loan showed that 57 percent of the farmers who were personally solicited bought bonds.

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