

TOWNSHIP TOPICS

LEGION OF MERIT PRESENTED MAJOR LESLIE STAHL.

For outstanding performance of duty while in charge of a US Army Signal Corps Depot in Algeria, the Legion of Merit Award has been accorded Maj. Leslie M. Stahl, of 609 Westfield Avenue.

The coveted award was presented for "exceptional and meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service in the Signal Corps in North Africa from Sept. 5, 1943, to May 1, 1944.

Overseas for more than two years, Major Stahl returned to this country in June, 1944, following a tour of duty which included Scotland, England and Wales before he went to a base near Oran, Algeria, in Sept. 1943, where he was placed in charge of a signal depot, replacing and repairing the equipment of the fighting men in that area.

Following his return to this country he was assigned to the Signal Corps Depot at Camp Holabird, Md., and later was transferred to the Army Signal Corps Depot in Philadelphia. He is at present in the Walter Reed Hospital, Washington, D. C., recuperating from an operation.

His son, Alan Stahl, F 1/C, USN, who entered the service in February, 1944, has been assigned to an LST and is now stationed in New Orleans, La.

LIEUT. JOSEPH BLOTNER, HELD PRISONER, WINS MEDAL

Lieut. Joseph L. Blotner, AAF Bombardier, now a prisoner of war in Germany, has been awarded the Air Medal which, in his absence, will be presented to his parents at Governor's Island, New York, at a date to be announced later.

According to the citation which accompanies the award, the Air Medal was awarded Joe for "meritorious achievement while participating in sustained bomber combat operations

over Germany and German-occupied countries. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by Lieut. Blotner upon these occasions reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States."

A recent letter received from the Lieut. informed his parents that he was well and that his essential needs were being taken care of. Most of his time is devoted to reading and he told of writing and directing an original play for the entertainment of his companions.

A mimeographed supplement containing Fanwood news is being enclosed in those copies of the Scotch Plainsman mailed to all Fanwood service folks. A group of young service wives and sweethearts keeps the Fanwood mailing list up-to-date and handles the monthly mailing of the Fanwood copies.

Fred G. Meyer, a member of the Third Army Engineers, has been promoted to Corporal while serving in the ETO. His wife, the former Carmen Ibanez, celebrated their sixth wedding anniversary on December 26 thinking of Fred in France.

Under the leadership of Mrs. W. L. Sampson, of Gamble Road, the ladies of the Willow Grove area raised over \$240 for the Red Cross at a "White Elephant" sale. Nice work ladies!

Ray Corcoran built up quite a "rep" for himself as auctioneer, selling two packs of cigarettes for a buck a piece.

The Managing Editor thanks Betty Bellerjeau (Fanwood), Mrs. Joseph De Nitzio (Plainfield, wife of Sgt. Joseph De Nitzio, Sgt. Harry Kochut and Cpl. Howard H. Prunty for their rapid response to our recent appeal for copies of YANK and THE STARS AND STRIPES.

HERO'S MEDALS AWARDED FLYER HELD PRISONER

The Distinguished Flying Cross for extraordinary achievement and heroism while participating in aerial flight has been awarded Tech. Sgt. Donald Van Deusen, AAF, now a prisoner of war in Germany. He also has been awarded the Air Medal with five Oak Leaf Clusters for meritorious performances while participating in sustained operational activities against the enemy.

While en route to bomb a vitally important enemy communication and railroad center in Italy, mechanical trouble caused the B-24 Liberator of which Donald was a crew member, to fall behind protective formation. They were set upon by 10 enemy fighter planes. Unaided the Liberator battled for more than 30 minutes. Both rudders were shot away, several gaping holes were torn in the wings, elevator controls were shot away and three oxygen tanks were hit and exploded by enemy cannon and rocket fire. But the crew elected to stick with the ship and despite its crippled condition, the plane was brought to home base where by a brilliant display of professional skill, it was landed.

On a subsequent trip, Sgt. Van Deusen's ship was brought down in enemy territory and he was interned in Stalag-Luft 3 in Germany.

Inasmuch as Sgt. Van Deusen is unable to receive the decorations personally, they will be conferred upon his mother at appropriate ceremonies at Governor's Island.

And this is what General "Ike" Eisenhower says about the Red Cross:

"We simply couldn't get along without it. I consider the Red Cross an auxiliary of my army. They are doing a perfectly magnificent job in every way."

THE
Scotch Plainsman

Scotch Plains N. J.

The Servicemen's Paper of
Scotch Plains, N. J.

NEWS FROM HOME

FOR THE

MEN AND WOMEN IN SERVICE
FROM
SCOTCH PLAINS TOWNSHIP