

# SERVICE BRIEFS



Staff Sgt. George R. Vernon, an aerial gunner on a B-24 Liberator Bomber assigned to the 15th Air Force in Italy, is home on furlough following 9 months service in the European theatre of operations. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Vernon of 356 Montague Ave. Holder of the Air Medal with

three Oak Leaf Clusters and a Presidential Citation awarded his group, Sergeant Vernon has completed 47 missions.

A great number of the missions on Sergeant Vernon's combat record consisted of attacks on railroad yards and communication centers during the 15th Air Force's determined effort to disorganize the Nazi army's transportation and communication systems.

George also participated in numerous sorties against tactical targets on the Western Front in coordination with the Allied ground forces' offensive. He wears the European theatre of operations campaign ribbon with four battle stars, signifying his participation in the battles of Germany, Rome-Arno, Austria-Hungary and Yugoslavia.

Entering the service in July, 1943, while a pupil in SPSHS, he received his basic training at Miami Beach, Fla., and won his gunner's wings at the AAF Gunnery School at Harlingen, Tex. Following training at Walla Walla, Wash., he went overseas in September, 1944.

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Cpl. Michael Rossi, son of Mr. and Mrs. Canzio Rossi of Westfield Road, has been awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action during the 25th Infantry (Tropic Lightning) Division's battle for San Manuel on Luzon in the Philippines.

Michael, a member of a combat patrol in contact with a small group of Japs, went to the rescue of a wounded Filipino guerilla and succeeded in removing him to a place of safety.

The citation which accompanied the award stated: "This courageous action by Corporal Rossi in leaving his place of safety and exposing himself to enemy fire was an inspiration to the men with whom he was fighting.

A gunner corporal in a field artillery unit, Michael also fought Japs on Guadalcanal and New Georgia in the Solomon Islands. Enlisting in the Army in June, 1940, he trained at Fort Slocum, N. Y. He went to Hawaii in September, 1940. He has been awarded the American Defense-ribbon and battle stars for Guadalcanal and New Georgia.

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T/Sgt. Louis E. Nika, with 30 missions as a radio gunner on a B-24 Liberator under his belt, is home on furlough. He will report to Atlantic City for reassignment at the end of his leave.

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S/Sgt. Joseph T. Denitzio's new address is Billings General Hospital Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind.. He returned there May 8th after a 40-day visit at home during which time he met his brother William (home on furlough from Fort Benning, Ga.) for the first time in three years. Bill has been in the Army three years, a year of which was spent in Newfoundland. Joe spent 20 months of his 3 1/2 years in service overseas, returning from France in March to see his 17 months old daughter for the first time. He served with an Ordnance unit. The boys are sons of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Denitzio of Union Avenue. Joe's wife and daughter live at Arlington Ave., Plainfield.

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1st Lieut. John F. O'Sullivan has been in the Marines since Feb. 2nd, 1943. He trained at Parris Island, S. C., and New River, N. C. and then went on to Quantico, Va., to Officers' Training School after which he went to Fort Monmouth, N. J. for specialized training. After assignment to Bradley Field, Conn. and Cherry Point, N. C., he was transferred to operations in the Pacific where he is now stationed. He lives at 370 Montague Avenue with his sister, Mrs. John H. Staib and his mother, and is looking forward to a visit back home. We suspect Miss Frances Murphy of Brooklyn, N. Y. will play an important part in making that home-coming a joyous occasion.

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(Since the foregoing sketch was prepared, Lieut. O'Sullivan has been returned to this country for special training and is now detailed in Washington, D. C. On the Sunday afternoon this postscript is being added, Miss Frances D. Murphy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Murphy of Brooklyn, N. Y., and Lieut. O'Sullivan are being married in Our Lady of Angels Church in Brooklyn, N. Y.

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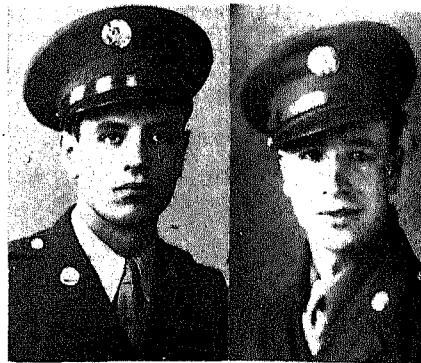


In the Army since February 3rd, 1943, Pfc. Phil J. DiNizio saw bits of the good old USA before he sailed on May 6, 1944 for England where he is now stationed. Reporting at Dix in Feb. 1943, he landed next at Camp Grant, Ill. and continued his westward trek a while later to Palm Springs, Calif., where he received his Pfc. rating. His current address is Med. Det., 22nd Gen. Hosp., APO 314, New York.

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AND SERVICE FOLKS:- Ask your people at home to see that we get your picture - won't you? We'll return it--unharmed.

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Fiore J. Checchio Anthony J. Checchio

BOTH SONS of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Checchio have been in the Army since 1942. Fiore, who signed up April 9, 1942, left twenty days later for Ft. Dix and then went on to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. After a spell at the Engineer's training school, he was sent to Mississippi for a few weeks. He shipped overseas on February 10th of this year and is now in Germany with the 526 Engr's L P Co. (APO 758, PM, NY). Late in April, as they entered a German town, he and his buddies spied a German general's car, which they 'appropriated' and thoroughly enjoyed as long as it lasted. Anthony went overseas in June, 1943, and is now in France with Co. F, of the 360th Engrs (GS) Regt., APO 772, PM, NY. After eight days at Dix in September, 1942, he went to Ft. McClellan, Ala., and later was transferred from the Infantry to the Engineers, training at Camp Claiborne, La. He was in England for one year and in France for another. Wears several overseas service ribbons and a sharp shooters medal.

During the past month we have enjoyed letters from the following:

Pfc. Charles A. Blyth 42018775  
HQ Co., 1 Bn., 175 Regt.  
APO 29, c/o PM, NY.

Pvt. Monroe Davis,  
1865 EAB, Comp. A,  
Drew Field, La.

S/Sgt Mike DiFrancesco 32925216  
Co. B, 333 Engineers  
APO 350, c/o PM, NY.

Albert K. Enz, ARM 3/C  
Box 503, NAS, Hutchinson, Kansas

Sgt. Domenico Greco 32778217  
HQ Btry. PARTC, Ft. Sill, Okla.

Cpl. John Holt 39576939  
Sqd "C" 1257 AAF BU NAFD-ATC  
APO 905, c/o PM, NY

T/5 Ken Hopfel  
109th Ord. Co.,  
APO 464, c/o PM, NY.

Sgt. W. Shults 32156171  
Box 522, Vacaville, Calif.

Pvt. Herman Wise 42018854  
3186 QM Serv. Co.,  
APO 350, c/o PM, NY

Sgt. John J. Smith 32451900  
H/S Co. 2803 Engr. GS Bn.,  
APO 244, c/o PM San Francisco, Cal.

Lt. Arthur B. Stern USNR  
c/o INDMAN, 7th ND, Pier 3, Miami,

HAHM'S PHARMACY  
George V. Hahm, Prop.  
509 Park Ave. - Scotch Plains