

SERVICE BRIEFS

JANNEY NICHOLS CLIPPED ON 60TH MISSION. AWARDED AIR MEDAL

On his 60th mission in a B25 Bomber, Janney Nichols, of Old Raritan Road, was shot down behind the German lines in northern Italy on April 25th. The flak which brought his ship down also wounded him - a penetrating wound of the right thigh. Strangely enough, the Germans among whom he landed did not take him prisoner, probably because of the speed of the American advance.

He describes his care in the American hospital at which he eventually landed, as "out of this world", and reports that he is recuperating at Ancona, Italy, basking on the sands of the Adriatic and browning like an Indian. He was flying as bombardier on the ill-fated trip.

Janney has been awarded the Air Medal and the citation which accompanied the award reads, "For meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight as radio gunner of a B-25 type aircraft during an attack upon military objectives at Rovereto, Italy, on 15 January, 1945. Cpl. Nichols' proficiency in combat reflects great credit upon himself and the Military Service of the United States."

Since then, Janney has been made a sergeant.

NAVY DIVER DESCRIBES UNDERSEA PERILS



Perils in the South Pacific as a deep sea diver for the U S Navy hold no fear for young Charles Pospisil, ship fitter, first class, who was home on leave recently visiting his sister, Mrs. Wm. D. Cross of Old Raritan Road. So enthused with his work

is the 23-year old Navy salvage diver that he plans to make it his life career after the Japs have been subdued. That is what he said recently as he modestly related his experiences off the Solomons, Tulagi, Guam and Leyte.

Instead of the trigger-quick Japs in the Pacific area, Charlie often encountered marauding barracudas and sea porcupines in his line of duty. Working under fire from the enemy was not unusual, however, and he related a story surrounding the invasion of Guam when he was called upon to inspect Jap-installed buoys for booby traps. The buoys were a short distance from shore, where the battle was raging and considerable time and effort was to be saved if the Navy vessels could use them.

Fear the the buoys had been mined, however, led the CO to send the young diver and his partners under sea to inspect the moorings. The precaution was well worthwhile as many were found to be booby traps that would have caused considerable damage to the American ships.

Charlie's closest shave in his two years service occurred when he experienced what is known in diving circles as "blowing-up", caused by the admission of too much air in the diving suit. He yanked the emergency signal - was hauled to the surface - and then lowered again to the same depth so that decompression could be accomplished according to schedule to avoid his getting the "bends".

As the result of an encounter with a sea urchin, a mammal resembling a porcupine, Charlie lay in a hospital with a leg injury. On another occasion, while exploring a sunken Jap sub off the Solomons, he retrieved maps and other information about the enemy that proved valuable to our forces. He did considerable work on the transport Coolidge sunk off New Hebrides in Nov. 1943, when she struck a mine, and also did some salvage work on the New Orleans and the Minneapolis, helping to construct a new bow for the latter.

His longest time under water was 4 1/2 hours and his deepest dive was 265 feet.

A former football and basketball star at Westfield High, Charlie entered the service in Feb. 1942. He received his recruit training at Newport, R. I., shipfitters' training at Great Lakes and was transferred to San Diego, Calif., where he became interested in diving and requested transfer to that part of the service.

At San Diego, he received 10 weeks in welding instruction before being sent to the South Pacific in February, 1943. His mother, Mrs. Louisa Pospisil, lives in Short Hills.

BRONZE STAR GIVEN SERGEANT KILLED IN ITALY.

Sgt. James C. Muir, who was killed in action in Italy February 23, has been awarded the Bronze Star posthumously for heroic achievement in action on the Fifth Army front, according to an announcement from headquarters of the Fifth Army in Italy.

The citation which accompanied the award read in part: "When heavy enemy fire forced his company to halt and prevented proper emplacement of their only remaining machine gun, Sergeant Muir seized the gun and rushed into the hail of fire to put it into position and action. Two days later, Muir was out in front of his section reconnoitering a position for his gun when his company was again halted by enemy fire.

"Observing this, he rushed back, picked up the machine gun and urged his men to go forward with him to the position chosen. Putting the gun into action, he was directing its fire when an enemy artillery shell landed near his position and killed him.

"His heroism and aggressiveness are indelibly stamped in the memories of his comrades and will always be an inspiration to them," the citation concludes.

Jim was a member of Company E, 85th Mountain Infantry Regiment of the 10th Mountain Infantry Division and had been in action but a few weeks prior to his death. Bob Lee is a Staff Sergeant in the same Division.



Anthony Perrucci

MISSING YOUTH REPORTED KILLED IN ACTION

Pvt. Anthony Perrucci, an Infantryman with the 63rd Division of the 7th Army, who was reported last month as missing in action in Germany since March 19th, was killed in action on that date according to a telegram received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Angelo Perrucci of Westfield Avenue.

From information received from a buddy of Anthony's, Mr. and Mrs. Perrucci are of the opinion that their son was killed in combat at Saarbrucken, Germany.

Entering the service in September 1944, Anthony received 12 weeks training at Fort Bragg, N.C., before being transferred to Fort George G. Meade, Md., prior to going overseas in the latter part of January.

In his last letter written on March 13th, Anthony stated he was in France and in good health. Before entering the service he was associated with his brother John in a trucking business. He was born in Scotch Plains and attended School One and SPHS.

Two brothers are in service, Pvt. Angelo Perrucci stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., home on an emergency furlough; and Pfc. Arthur Perrucci, formerly attached to an Ordnance unit and recently transferred to an Infantry Division now in Germany. He has been overseas 17 months.

In addition to his parents and his two brothers in service, Anthony is survived by two other brothers, John and Ernest, and two sisters, Amelia and Gloria, all at home.



Angelo Perrucci Arthur Perrucci

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