

Ralph Minker Made First Lieutenant

The promotion of Ralph L. Minker Jr., 20, from the rank of second lieutenant to first lieutenant has been announced. Lt. Minker is a pilot of a B-17 Flying Fortress with the Eighth Air Force in England.

The son of Rev. and Mrs. Ralph L. Minker of Ferris school, Lt. Minker before entering the AAF in November, 1942, was a student at Dickinson college at Carlisle, Pa. He received his pilot's wings in March of last year, at Pecos, Texas.

Minker Completes His 35 Missions

Writes Family Not Taking 2 Month Leave; Returning to Combat

Lt. Ralph L. Minker Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph L. Minker of the Ferris Industrial school, has completed his required 35 missions over Germany, from his Eighth Air Force base in England.

In a letter received yesterday morning by his parents, Lt. Minker said that he will receive a two-month leave which he plans to spend in England in further combat operations.

The letter, written from a rest home in England on March 5, said he expected to be home on July 4.

THREE FROM STATE PROMOTED IN ARMY

Ralph L. Minker, T. D. Weldin and W. L. Tindall, Jr., Are Advanced in Rank

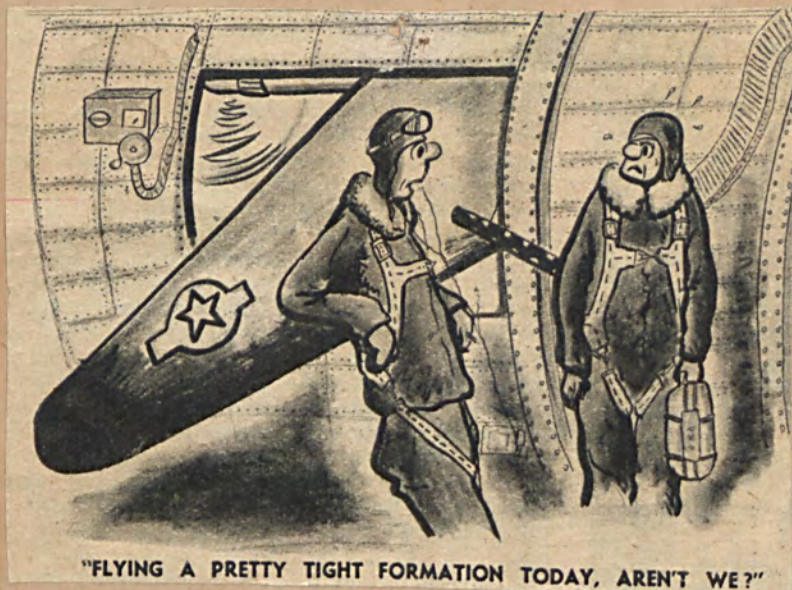
Three Delaware Army officers, two in the Air Forces and the other in the Quartermaster Corps, have been promoted. They are:

Capt. Ralph L. Minker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph L. Minker, Sr., of Brindley Road; Capt. T. Downham Weldin, son of Mrs. Anna Downham Weldin of Alopocas, and Lieut.-Col. Walter L. Tindall, Jr., husband of Mrs. Margaret Lynam of Gordon Heights.

By coincidence, the two new air captains are sons of school heads in this locality. Mr. Minker being superintendent of Ferris School for Boys, while Mrs. Weldin is principal of Yorklyn School. Both young men are B-17 pilots with more than 30 missions to their credit.

Captain Minker, based with the Eighth Air Force in England, has been overseas since last October, serving with the 447th Bomb Group of the Third Bombardment Division. He has been on one special flight in his 37 missions.

Captain Minker, who christened his fortress the "Blue Hen Chick," in honor of the famous Delaware regiment of the Revolutionary War, has seen action over the Rhineland, Ardennes and central Germany and has been awarded the Air Medal and five Oak Leaf Clusters. In his last letter home he said he hoped to be back soon.



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