

IN ACCEPTING THIS AIRCRAFT, IT IS OUR SOLEMN INTENTION TO BRING CREDIT TO HER AND TO OURSELVES, AND TO CARRY OUT OUR MISSION WITH THE SKILL AND TENACITY, FOR WHICH WE PRIDE OURSELVES AS MEMBERS OF THE 447TH. HEAVY BOMB GROUP AND THE ARMY AIR FORCES.

PILOT Samuel A. Parker
NAVIGATOR Ernest M. Norman

CO-PILOT Glenn J. Halverson
BOMBARDIER Thomas P. Foley

ENGINEER Harold B. Overton
RADIO OPERATOR Richard J. Moore
BALL TURRET GUNNER Walter D. Moore

WAIST GUNNER Donald E. Palmer
WAIST GUNNER Kevin D. Marrese
TAIL GUNNER William J. Moore

Veteran Flier Assigned Here

Examiner Sent
On 51 Missions

Fifty-one missions over enemy territory are behind 1st Lt. Clarence A. Perkins, 23, a B-17

bomber pilot, who has been made a member of the local air forces examining board, which is concerned with procurement of 17-year-old boys under the army specialized training reserve program.

Lt. Perkins piloted one of the ships which made the first big American raid on Berlin March 6, and in June participated in the first shuttle bombing of Germany, flying from Italy to Russia. On the latter flight his group led the bombers in the attack.

Lt. Perkins was never forced to bail out during his 51 missions, but on six occasions his plane was shot up so badly that he couldn't keep in formation and had to return from enemy territory "alone."

Explosion Feared

"That's a lonesome feeling up there," he said, "when enemy fighters are boring in and you have only the guns of your own ship to fight them off."

One of the lieutenant's most harrowing experiences occurred on an Italy-based bombing of Munich.

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Lt. Perkins kept the engine in operation while clearing the high peaks of the Alps on the return to Italy, and then feathered the propeller and went on to his base on three engines.

Pilot Trained in West

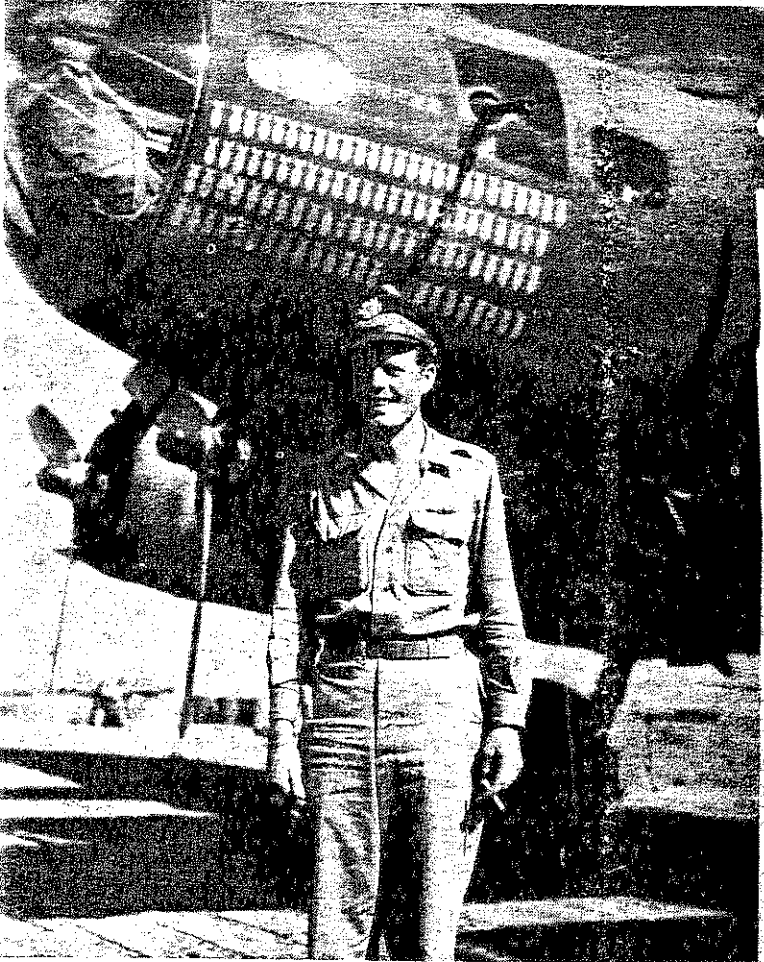
A student at Antelope Valley junior college, Lancaster, Cal., and holder of a private pilot license before the war, Lt. Perkins received his army flight training at west coast fields and at Roswell, N. M., where he received his commission. He spent nine months overseas before his return last month, five months with the 8th air force in England and four months with the 15th air force in Italy.

The lieutenant's wife accompanied him to Portland.



Lt. Perkins

Completes 50th Bombing Mission



Lt. Clarence Perkins beside Flying Fortress of which he is the pilot

15TH AAF IN ITALY—First Lt. Clarence A. Perkins, 23-year-old B-17 Flying Fortress pilot of 252 Ave. Q-9, Palmdale, Calif., recently flew his 50th long-range bombing mission, some from England and some from Italian bases in the Mediterranean Theatre.

Beginning combat flying January 1, Perkins has ranged over targets in Italy, Germany, Austria and the Balkans. He wears the Air Medal

Lt. Clarence Perkins Was Pilot Of One of First Shuttle Bombers Flying From Italy to Russia

Radio listeners in Palmdale were amazed Sunday night, while listening to a news broadcast over a major network, to hear the commentator state that Lieut. Clarence Perkins, son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Perkins of Palmdale, was the pilot of one of the first big American bombers in the shuttle raid from Italian bases over Germany, and landing on Russian occupied territory.

The news broadcast came over the air at 9:00 p. m., and among those hearing the news were Mr. and Mrs. Claude Clark.

From the Los Angeles Examiner we reprint the following Associated Press account on the raid:

Russians gave an opened-armed welcome to men of the U. S. 15th Air Force—the first Allied flyers to land in the U. S. S. R. while on actual military operations—when they set their heavy bombers down at this American airfield deep in Russia Friday.

En route to the air base from Italy, the Americans had bombed freight yards and locomotive shops at Debrecen, a communications junction in Rumania for the Axis front facing Russia.

Russian officers and soldiers, who with the Americans at this base helped make this mission possible, rushed forward to greet the flyers as they alighted.

"Why, they are just like us," said one Red Army sergeant. "Look how they laugh and act."

After reporting to intelligence officers, these men—whose bombs blasted yards where stood more than 900 cars loaded with Axis military equipment—marched across the field to living quarters.

A small boy, not over ten, timidly walked toward the first group and handed Sgt. William L. Steadman, Newberg, N. C., a former Atlanta, Ga., radio commentator, a bunch of flowers.

"For the American," the youngest said with a broad grin.

Among the American flyers completing the mission were Lieutenant Clarence A. Perkins of Palmdale and Lieutenant James Davies of Los Angeles.

Lieutenant Colonel William Jackson, from South Pittsburg, Tenn., who is in charge of the base hospital, escorted the flyers to the nearest village.

A whole crowd had gathered. A Russian who spoke English addressed the crowd:

"These boys are American flyers. They have just landed here after dropping bombs on some of Hitler's



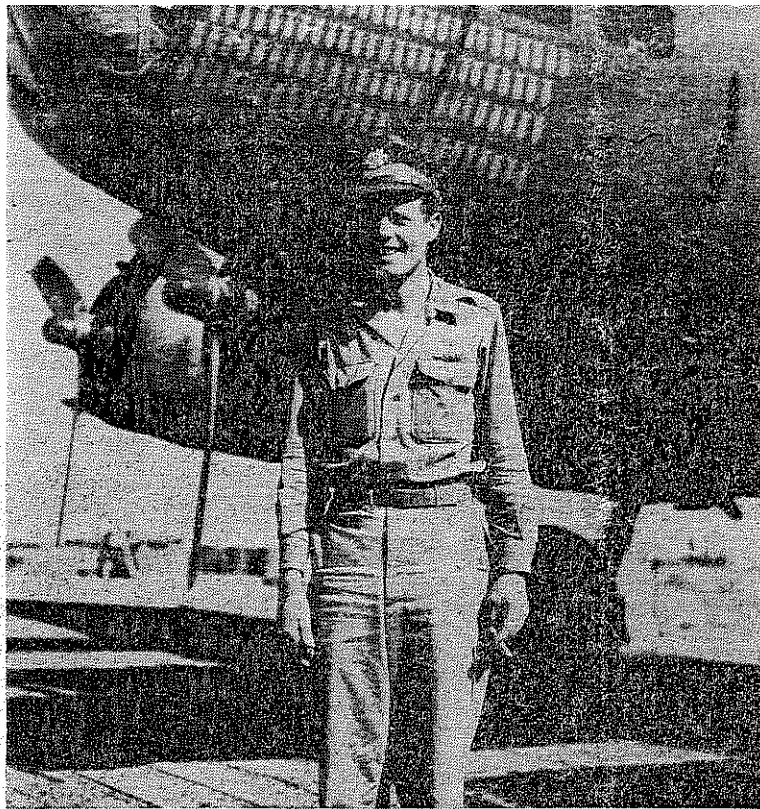
FOUR HUNDRED SIXTEENTH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
 NINETY NINTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ARMY AIR FORCES
 Office of the Operations Officer

This is to certify that, CLARENCE A. PERKINS, 1st Lt, O-742601, has completed the following Combat missions and hours:

| <u>Mission No.</u> | <u>Target</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Hours</u> |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1 | Belgrade A/F | 17 Apr 44 | 5:40 |
| 2 | Venice H | 20 Apr 44 | 5:35 |
| 3/4 | Wiener Neustadt | 23 Apr 44 | 6:15 |
| 5/6 | Braunschweig, Germ. | 11 Jan 44 * | 7:00 |
| 7/8 | Nobald, Fr | 21 Jan 44 * | 4:30 |
| 9/10 | Brunswick, Germ | 30 Jan 44 * | 7:00 |
| 11/13 | Wilhelmshaven, Germ | 3 Feb 44 * | 7:30 |
| 13/14 | Frankfurt, Germ | 4 Feb 44 * | 7:30 |
| 15/16 | Romilly, Fr | 5 Feb 44 * | 4:30 |
| 17/18 | Brunswick, Germ | 10 Feb 44 * | 5:45 |
| 19/20 | Nobald, Fr | 13 Feb 44 * | 4:40 |
| 21/22 | Tutow, Germ | 20 Feb 44 * | 10:30 |
| 23/24 | Diepholz, Germ | 21 Feb 44 * | 7:45 |
| 25/26 | Recall | 4 Mar 44 * | 7:00 |
| 27/28 | Berlin, Germ | 6 Mar 44 * | 8:45 |
| 29 | Toulon | 29 Apr 44 | 7:45 |
| 30 | Varese, A/C factory | 30 Apr 44 | 6:30 |
| 31/32 | Floesti | 5 May 44 | 8:00 |
| 33/34 | Bucharest M/Y | 7 May 44 | 7:15 |
| | Wiener Neustadt | 10 May 44 | 5:45 |
| 35 | Tarquina A/D | 12 May 44 | 4:30 |
| 36 | Germ Hq | 12 May 44 | 4:25 |
| 37 | Trento M/Y | 13 May 44 | 6:00 |
| 38 | Floesti | 18 May 44 | 5:25 |
| 39 | Porto Marguera | 19 May 44 | 5:15 |
| | Farentino | 23 May 44 | 4:30 |
| 40/41 | Atzgersdorf A/F | 24 May 44 | 7:00 |
| 42 | Avignon, Fr | 27 May 44 | 8:00 |
| 43/44 | De Braczen M/Y | 2 June 44 | 7:00 |
| 45 | Galati A/D | 6 June 44 | 6:30 |
| 46/47 | Foscani A/D | 11 June 44 | 7:00 |
| 48/49 | Oberpfaffenhofen | 13 June 44 | 7:00 |
| 50/51 | Shell-Kollas- Fanto | 14 June 44 | 8:30 |
| | Total Hours | | |

214:15

Robert J. Griffin
 ROBERT J. GRIFFIN,
 1st Lt, AC,
 Operations Officer.



First Lieutenant Clarence A. Perkins

Veteran Bomber Pilot From Palmdale Transferred to Aviation Examining Board at Portland, Oregon

After serving nine months overseas as first pilot of a B-17 bomber, and with fifty-one missions over enemy territory behind him, First Lieutenant Clarence A. Perkins, 23, of Palmdale has been made a member of the air forces examining board at Portland, Oregon.

Following a short furlough spent with his family here, Lt. Perkins and his wife went to Utah. From there he was transferred to Portland, Oreg., where he replaces Capt. Albert D. Dahlgren, president of the aviation board. The examining board of which he is a member is concerned with procurement of 17-year-old boys under the army specialized training reserve program.

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Lt. Perkins kept the engine in operation while clearing the high peaks of the Alps on the return to Italy, and then feathered the propeller and went on to his base on three engines.

Lt. Perkins is a graduate of the Palmdale Grammar School, and graduated from Antelope Valley Joint Union High School and Junior College. He was the holder of a private pilot's license before the war and received his army flight training at west coast fields and at Roswell, New Mexico, where he received his commission.

He spent nine months overseas before his return last month, five months with the Eighth Air Force in England, and four months with the Fifteenth Air Force in Italy.

He wears the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, and has three battle stars on his European theatre ribbon.