

Torrance Men Of 8th AAF Congratulated

Among the 185,000 men and women of the Eighth Air Force congratulated on V-E day by Lt. Gen. James H. Doolittle, who assumed command of the 8th in January, 1944, and who now is transferring his command to the Pacific theatre, are the following Torrance men:

2nd Lt. Lawrence L. Prince, 1618 Acacia ave.; S/Sgt. James E. Harris, 1819 Cabrillo ave.; Sgt. Frederic C. Marsteller, 1314 Anapola ave.; Sgt. Albert V. Daugherty, Rt. 1, Box 111A; Sgt. Orval E. Golphence, 2267 Maricopa ave.; Maurice B. Fyfe, 1723 Gramercy ave.; T/5 Lester L. Wright, Jr., 907 Beech ave. and Pte. Robert W. Carlson, 1916 Plaza del Amo.

Gen. Doolittle said:

"I wish to extend my personal congratulations and my heartfelt appreciation to every one of you for the magnificent job you have done," Gen. Doolittle said in a message to all personnel.

"Each of you," he continued, "may be proud of your part in the defeat of Germany. I am proud of you. The world is proud of you."

The Eighth Air Force was the world's mightiest strategic bombing force. Its personnel of 185,000 was the equivalent of 12 infantry divisions, and it could send 21,000 airmen in 2,000 four-engine bombers and 1,000 fighters over Germany at one time, a combat effort possible only through the support of tens of thousands of non-flying specialists.

Since August, 1942, when combat operations began, Flying Fortresses and Liberators of the Eighth dropped more than 700,000 tons of bombs on enemy targets. Fighter pilots shot down 5,250 Nazi planes and destroyed 4,250 others on the ground. Bomber gunners shot 6,000 interceptors out of the air.

The Eighth dropped an average of a ton of bombs every minute of the last 12 months. Airmen of the Eighth were the first Americans to attack Germany. The early crews flew a handful of unescorted bombers against the powerful Luftwaffe, and proved the feasibility of an American idea—precision daylight bombing over the Reich.

As the Eighth grew in strength, it was assigned the task of crushing the German Air Force, which had to be done before the Allies could invade France. Bombers of the Eighth smashed Nazi aircraft production centers. Its fighters destroyed thousands of enemy planes in the air and on the ground.

After beating the Luftwaffe into relative impotency, the Eighth threw its growing weight against Germany's rail system and vital sources of oil. These campaigns, in conjunction with the British Royal Air Force and the U. S. 15th Air Force, disorganized all transport in Germany, restricted German mili-



PURPLE HEART . . . Pvt. Salvador Lopez of Torrance, who was awarded the Order of the Purple Heart by Col. Alva M. McKie, M.C., commanding officer of Baxter General Hospital, Spokane, Wash., at services recently.

National and Doak Tie in Softball Play

National Supply Company and Doak Aircraft are tied for first place in the Torrance Industrial Softball League which is playing games several nights a week in Torrance Ball Park. Each has won four games and lost one.

During the past week, Bohn Aluminum overcame International Derrick and Equipment Co., 4 to 0 and Army Hospital defeated Columbia Steel 9 to 2, both games being played on May 22. National defeated Dow Chemical 5 to 2 on May 23, and the same day Goodyear Rubber swamped Shepard Brothers 10 to 2.

On May 24, Doak took Ideco 11 to 4 and Shell Chemical defeated the Army Hospital, 9 to 4.

May 25, saw Bohn administer its first defeat to National, 4 to 3, and Goodyear take Columbia 11 to 5.

Standings to date are:

Team	Won	Lost
National Supply	4	1
Doak Aircraft	4	1
Bohn Aluminum	3	2
Columbia Steel	3	2
Goodyear Rubber	3	2
Dow Chemical	2	2
Shepard Bros.	2	2
Army Hospital	2	3
Shell Chemical	1	4
Ideco	0	5

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tary operations in the air and on the ground, and paved the way for the march of Allied armies across Europe.

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