

MAN OF THE MONTH

NINE YEARS' ARMY SERVICE, DURING WHICH HE HAS SERVED SUCCESSFULLY AS A DIRIGIBLE RIGGER, AN ARMORER-GUNNER, A BOMBARDIER, AND A PILOT, WAS CLIMAXED FOR 1ST LT. GEORGE P. BRADLEY OF SPRINGFIELD, MO. WHEN HE RECEIVED THE SECOND OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS. TWO OF THE THREE DFC'S HAVE BEEN AWARDED FOR BRINGING BADLY CRIPPLED BOMBERS BACK FROM EUROPE.

THE LATEST AWARD WAS PRESENTED TO LT BRADLEY, AND ALSO TO HIS BOMBARDIER, 1ST LT JAMES W. EVANS OF CORNING, N. Y. AND HIS ENGINEER, T/SGT ALLEN V. TUTEN OF BAXLEY, G. FOR SUCCESSFULLY BRINGING THEIR FLAK-RIDDLED LIBERATOR HOME FROM EUROPE AFTER GASOLINE LINES, HYDRAULIC LINES AND RADIO HAD BEEN SHOT OUT. IT WAS DURING THIS MISSION THAT LT. EVANS, WHO IS FIVE FEET TALL AND WEIGHS 100 LBS, WAS LEFT DANGLING BY A 12 FOOT ROPE WHEN HE LOST HIS FOOTING WHILE REPAIRING BROKEN FUEL LINES IN THE OPEN BOMB BAY. GUNNERS PULLED HIM BACK TO THE CATWALK. SGT. TUTEN, WHO ALSO WAS WORKING ON THE BROKEN FUEL LINES, NARROWLY ESCAPED DISASTER WHEN HE LOST HIS FOOTING ON THE SLIPPERY CATWALK AND CAUGHT HOLD OF A SAFETY ROPE IN THE NICK OF TIME. LT. BRADLEY LANDED THE A/C WITH THE USE OF PARACHUTES IN LIEU OF BRAKES.

THE DFC WAS FIRST AWARDED TO LT BRADLEY AFTER HIS FOURTH MISSION, WHEN HIS LIBERATOR SUSTAINED A DIRECT FLAK HIT ON THE RIGHT WING NEAR THE NO. 4 ENGINE. A HOLE WAS TORN COMPLETELY THROUGH THE WING, THE MAIN SPARS WERE SEVERED, AND THE SIDE OF THE A/C PEPPERED WITH HOLES. WITHOUT AILERON CONTROL, BRADLEY FLEW BACK TO BRITAIN AND LANDED ON A SHORT FIGHTER STRIP IN SO. ENGLAND WHEN A CREW CHIEF CLIMBED OUT ON THE WING TO INSPECT THE DAMAGE, THE ENTIRE WING TIP FELL OFF.

LT BRADLEY HAS FLOWN 34 MISSIONS OVER EUROPE WITH THIS GROUP. THE MISSOURIAN SAYS HIS AMBITION NOW IS TO FLY A TOUR IN FIGHTERS. HE ENLISTED IN THE ARMY IN 1935 AND HIS FIRST DUTIES WERE WITH A LIGHTER-THAN-AIR SQUADRON AT SCOTT FIELD, ILL. LATER HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO A FLYING FORTRESS OUTFIT AT LANGLEY FIELD, VA. AND FLEW AS A GUNNER IN B-17'S. HE THEN TRAINED AS A BOMBARDIER AND FLEW WITH AN ANTI-SUBMARINE SQUADRON BASED IN PUERTO RICO AND PANAMA, AND FINALLY IN DECEMBER STARTED PILOT TRAINING. HE RECEIVED HIS COMMISSION AS A SECOND LIEUTENANT AND PILOT'S WINGS ON OCT. 1, 1943. HE WAS PROMOTED TO 1ST LT, JULY 8, 1944. LT BRADLEY HAS BEEN OVERSEAS SINCE MAY 1, 1944.

LT BRADLEY IS THE SON OF MRS. LUCY P. BRADLEY, MORGANFIELD, KY. HE IS A GRADUATE OF MORGANFIELD HIGH SCHOOL. HIS WIFE, MRS. PATRICIA BRADLEY RESIDES AT 1431 E. MADISON ST. SPRINGFIELD, MO.



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