

HEADQUARTERS  
NINTH AIR FORCE  
EUROPEAN THEATER of OPERATIONS  
Public Relations Office

Mr. and Mrs. John T. Murtha,  
Ross Street  
Boston, Penna.

AN ADVANCED NINTH AIR FORCE TACTICAL RECONNAISSANCE BASE,  
German, in recognition of his "meritorious achievement" in combat flight,  
First Lieutenant Louis A. Murtha, P-51 Mustang "tac recce" pilot from  
Boston, Penna., has been awarded a fourth oak-leaf cluster to his Air Medal.

A member of Col. James M. Smelley's 363rd Tactical Reconnaissance  
Group, the first air force organization to operate from a base in Germany,  
Lt. Murtha covers his assigned area over enemy territory to detect Nazi in-  
stallations and movements. His photographic and visual reports are used in  
planning attacks by Ninth Air Force Bombers and Fighters-bombers and to pro-  
vide the ground forces with advance information on potential German resistance.  
He has also conducted many missions adjusting American heavy artillery. Weav-  
ing between the flak over the target sector, he radios range and angle correct-  
ions to the crews of the big field guns, thus assuring greater accuracy and  
concentrated fire power.

A graduate of McKeesport high school, McKeesport, he was employed  
as a clerk with the National Tube Company, McKeesport, when he entered the  
Army, Air Forces in August, 1942. After his flight training at various air  
bases in the South, he won his wings and commission in December, 1943. He  
has been overseas since the summer of 1944, and has flown from bases in France,  
Luxembourg, Belgium and now Germany.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. John T. Murtha, live on Ross Street,  
Boston, Penna.