

HEADQUARTERS
NINTH AIR FORCE
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
Public Relations Office

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

A NINTH AIR FORCE TACTICAL RECONNAISSANCE BASE, Belgium: Simultaneously with the Ninth Air Force Headquarters announcement of his promotion to the rank of first lieutenant, Louis A. Murtha, Pennsylvania P-51 Mustang "tac recce" pilot, was awarded a second oak-leaf cluster to his Air Medal. The decoration was made in recognition of his "consistently meritorious achievement while participating in aerial combat."

Overseas and a member of Lt. Col. James M. Smelley's "Ramblin' Recces" since the summer of 1944, Lt. Murtha has been flying over front line and enemy territory, spotting Nazi movements and strong points. The pictorial and visual information which he obtains is used in planning Ninth Air Force bomber and fighter-bomber attacks and previews German potential for the ground forces. From his vantage point in the air, he insures greater artillery accuracy by correcting range and angle of the big field guns.

A graduate of McKeesport High School, McKeesport, Penna., he was employed with the National Tube Company, McKeesport, prior to his entrance into the Army Air Forces in February, 1943. After flight training at various air bases he won his wings and commission in December 1943, and subsequently joined his present organization, the 363rd Tactical Reconnaissance Group.

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