

## Cpl. Slonecker At Combat Base In England

Cpl. Billy G. Slonecker, 19, of Waleria, is a student at the air division gunnery school at an AAF composite station in England. A tail gunner in his final phase of training, he is receiving instruction from men who have recently returned from combat.

Slonecker enlisted in the Army Air Force in November, 1943; took basic training at Amarillo Field, Tex., and attended aerial

LAWRENCE L. PRINCE... a lieutenant, serving in A.A.F., arrived last weekend for a visit with his parents. He was on route from Roswell, N. M., to his new base at Tampa, Fla.

gunnery school, Kingman, Ariz. He arrived in the European theater of operations one month ago.

Cpl. Slonecker is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Slonecker of 24430 Neece ave., Waleria. He is a graduate of Narbonne High school, Lomita.

Before entering the service, the Corporal was a duplicator operator at the National Supply Co., Torrance.

## H. H. Rittmiller Returns from Combat Duty

Ensign Herbert H. Rittmiller, U.S.N.R., 1987 Gramercy st., navigator of "Sky Cow," a Navy PB4Y Consolidated Liberator search plane, has returned from combat in the Pacific, where he flew with the "Reluctant Raiders," famous Navy squadron headed by Comdr. Norman M. Miller, U.S.N., 11th Naval District officials announced today.

The "Sky Cow," a veteran of 17 bombing and strafing missions, is credited with sinking a 10,000-ton tanker and two cargo ships. Three direct hits were scored on the tanker in a night run over Truk. The plane has damaged six additional ships—three coastal vessels, two submarines, and a 5,000-ton cargo ship.

Operating from a fighter strip on Saipan, "Sky Cow" claims the distinction of making the first land-based air attack on Chichi Jima and Haha Jima in the Bonin Islands. The plane also is credited with probably destroying four Jap aircraft and damaging 11.

In seven and a half months the "Reluctant Raiders" attacked 147 ships at masthead height, sank 43 of them and damaged 91. This figure does not include sampans, barges, fishing boats

## Memorial for Local Japanese Is Conducted

A memorial service, honoring five Nisei soldiers who gave their lives in Italy, was held last Saturday at the Rohrer Relocation Center in Arkansas.

Honored were Sgt. Togo Sugiyama, Sgt. Akira Shimatsu, Torrance, Pfc. Calvin Saito, Sgt. Zenichi Masuda, and T/Sgt. Ted Tanoue, Torrance.

They were all members of the famed 442nd Infantry, composed entirely of Americans of Japanese ancestry, which is serving with Lt. Gen. Mark Clark's Fifth Army in the Italian campaign.

Stated Project Director Ray D. Johnston: "All of us are justly proud of these boys who laid down their lives that you and I might enjoy the things we believe in."

A three-volley rifle salute was given by a squad of Japanese American soldiers, sent from nearby Camp Shelby, Miss.

and other small craft, which the squadron was "too embarrassed" to report, squadron members said.

The squadron flew 1,141 operational flights in the combat zone for a total of 12,153 hours. It executed 352 attacks on enemy ground bases and installations.

## SGT. SARTAIN IS WITH 168TH INFANTRY WHICH SPENT 291 DAYS BREAKING GOTHIC LINE

Sgt. R. C. Sartain, 364 E. 213th st., infantry section leader, has been fighting with the 168th Infantry Regiment, veterans of more than 300 days of combat, in its attempt to breach the Gothic Line in Italy.

Part of Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark's Fifth Army and unit of the 34th "Red Bull" Division, the 168th arrived in the British Isles in February and April of 1942. In its two and a half years overseas it has fought through 88 days of combat in the Tunisian campaign and has been on the line in Italy almost constantly since landing at Paestum Sept. 21, 1943, 12 days after continental Europe was invaded for the first time.

Known as the "Rainbow" Regiment, the 168th was part of the 42nd "Rainbow" Division in World War I.

Col. Henry C. Hine, Jr., of Livingston, N.J., is commander of the 168th Regiment.

A count taken in early September, 1944, showed men of the 168th had received eight Distinguished Service Crosses, 147 Silver Stars, 109 Bronze Stars and four Soldier's Medals and had, in the Italian campaign alone, received 3,024 Purple Hearts and Clusters.

The 168th landed at Algiers, Northern Algeria, on African D Day, its 2nd Battalion led the attack up the slopes of Hill 609 and is officially credited with its capture. The regiment also fought for Sened, Fondouk, Matour, Eddikella and Blerte.

Its first great battle in this campaign began Oct. 13, 1943, when its men crossed the Volturno and took Calazzo and two other towns. Ironically, the 168th suffered exactly 168 casualties in the second crossing of the Volturno.

Often meeting foes of the past, including the Hermann Goering Division and SS troops, the 168th fought through the mountains, gaining a ground north of San Angelo and San Vittore. They lost 400 men and inflicted 1,200 enemy casualties in wrestling Mount Pantana, before Cassino, from the enemy in a seven-day battle. It was the first regiment to hold a bridgehead on the north bank of the Rapido River, captured Cairo, Mount Trochilo and Cervano in a surprise maneuver and, taking Hills 56 and 213, became one of the first Fifth Army units to penetrate the Gustav Line.

The regiment debarked on the beachhead around Anzio Mar. 19, and its commander, Col. Hine, won the Silver Star for gallantry in action for having personally led the bitter hand-to-hand fight in which the 168th took Lannuvio to remove one of the last major obstacles before Rome.

Col. Hines, in a jeep, was the first American in Civitavecchia, where his regiment captured two big "Anzio Express" railroad guns that had so often made their stay on the Anzio beachhead an unpleasant one.

When relieved July 28 for a brief rest, a few days after reaching the Arno River, the 168th had been in combat 291 days.

PAUL V. JONES... carpenter's mate, 1/c, stationed at Mare Island, spent the weekend at his home, 2030 Cabrillo ave. With Mrs. Jones he entertained at dinner Sunday for Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Thompson of Compton.

RALPH A. ANDERSEN... arrived this week from San Francisco, where he has been taking a course of instruction prior to his enlistment in Merchant Marine service. His home is at 2264 Dominguez ave.

## S-Sgt. Klepper Awarded Second Oak Leaf Cluster

S/Sgt. Frank B. Klepper, 26, formerly of 21610 Moneta ave., Torrance, has been awarded the second Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal, it was announced by 16th Army Air Force headquarters.

In the words of the citation, Sgt. Klepper was awarded the Cluster "for meritorious achievement in aerial flight while participating in sustained operational activities against the enemy." An assistant engineer and gunner, Sgt. Klepper is stationed in Italy with a veteran Liberator bombardment group, which has struck at strategic European targets with 120 missions.

A graduate of Crowell High school, Sgt. Klepper attended the University of California at Los Angeles. He entered the service Mar. 31, 1944.

## John D. Hudson Completes His Training Course

Recognition as eligible to qualify for the petty officer rate of electrician's mate third class came to Bluejacket John D. Hudson, 1230 Portola ave., during recent graduation ceremonies at the Naval Training school (electrical) on the University of Minnesota campus, Minneapolis, Minn.

Selected to attend the specialty school on the basis of his recruit training aptitude tests, Bluejacket completed an intensive course in the use, function and maintenance of electrical tools and equipment used by the Navy. A theoretical phase included fundamentals of both direct and alternating current electricity.

The new graduate now awaits further duty orders.

## Mumper Brothers Together First Time In Months

Cpl. Charles Mumper, brother of Norris Mumper, editor of the National News, National Supply Co., publication, visited Torrance on Friday, the occasion being the first time that the brothers had been together in 17 months.

Cpl. Mumper has spent most of this time in England and France, taking part in the Normandy invasion.

"They are the sons of Newlings Mumper, of the Los Angeles corporation law firm of Merserve, Mumper and Hughes."

## Service Shorts

TOM F. NUCKLES... a seaman, 2/c, has completed basic training at Jacksonville, Fla., and has been transferred to Norman, Okla., for further training.

JAMES A. POST... a seaman, 2/c, would like to hear from his friends here. His address is: Co. 560, Quartermaster School, U.S.N.T.C., Gulfport, Miss.

A/C CHARLES DALY... is at Morana Air Base, Tucson, Ariz., and is going into advance training soon. He has had 30 hours basic training. He is with Sqdn. 2-A, Box 521, Morana Air Base (Basic), Tucson.

## Major Keefer Wins Sixth Cluster

Major William E. Keefer, 25, of 2259 Torrance blvd., Torrance, has been awarded the



sixth Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster for the Air Medal, it was announced by 15th Army Air Force headquarters.

In the words of the citation, Maj. Keefer was awarded the cluster "for meritorious achievement in aerial flight while participating in sustained operational activities against the enemy." An operations officer, Maj. Keefer is stationed in Italy with a 15th AAF Liberator bombardment group which has been bombing Vienna, Steyr, Munich, Blechhammer and other vital targets throughout the network of German industrial centers in occupied Europe.

A graduate of Compton Junior college in the class of 1941, Maj. Keefer enlisted with the Army Air Corps on July 16, 1941. He received his commission on Feb. 6, 1942, upon completion of advanced pilot cadet training at Luke Field, Ariz.

Now head of combat operations planning at his group, Maj. Keefer has flown more than 50 bombing missions against German targets from bases in the Near East, North Africa and Italy.

The major's wife, Mrs. W. E. Keefer, resides at 721 Connelly st., Clovis, N.M.

## John M. Olson Completes Navy Electrical Class

John M. Olson, 24, 439 Harbor Hills, Lomita, was graduated recently from the Naval Training School (Electric) at the St. Louis, Mo., Naval Armory, and received recognition as eligible to qualify for the petty officer rate of electrician's mate third class.

Selection to attend the school was made on the basis of his recruit training aptitude test scores. The completed course of study included the practical use of electrical tools, soldering, wiring, diagramming and repairing of telephone circuits.

The graduate is now awaiting further duty orders to sea or to some shore station.

JAMES ADAMS... a torpedoman, 1/c, stationed at Norfolk, Va., left recently for overseas duty, according to his mother, Mrs. T. J. Adams of 1448 Post ave.

## Lt. H. F. Green Leaves After Visit Here

Second Lt. Harry F. Green, son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel A. Green of 1622 Carson st., left Thursday for Orlando, Fla., for duty as an instructor and demonstrator in AAF anti-aircraft artillery, after spending two weeks at home. His wife, Mrs. Maurine Green, and son, Robert, are remaining in Torrance.

The visit home was the first leave the officer had enjoyed in 42 months of service. A Torrance High school graduate, he is well known here.

His father, Samuel Green, retired as a first sergeant in the Army in 1936, and Lt. Green saw "service" in the last war, his mother pointed out, when as a child he campaigned with Lillian Russell for sale of Liberty bonds. He sold \$2,800 worth of bonds, the second highest of any child in the nation in World War I.

His address is 916 AAF BV AAF TAC, Orlando, Fla.

D. J. (PAT) SKIDMORE... is in France and finds the conditions there would make anyone appreciate home all the more. His address is Anti-Tank Co., 415 Inf., APO No. 104, care Postmaster, New York, N.Y.

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