

## 1st Lt. Robert Sleeth Jr., Recovering From Serious Wounds, Visits Family

Sufficiently recovered from serious battle wounds to walk unaided, 1st Lt. Robert Sleeth, Jr., enjoyed a four-day visit at his home last weekend, the first since returning as a hospital case after 22 months in the E.T.O. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Sleeth, 1616 Post ave.



Lieut. Sleeth was company commander in charge of 17 tanks in the Third Armored Division of the famed U. S. First Army. This armored division spearheaded every drive made by the First Army since the Normandy landing; and as a result Lieut. Sleeth wears ribbons for five campaigns, namely: the Normandy Landing, Northern France and Belgium, Germany, the Ardennes "Battle of the Bulge," and Central Europe east of the Rhine. His ribbon has a silver star equivalent to 5 bronze stars denoting action in 5 major battles.

It was during the final days prior to the unconditional surrender of the Germans that Lieut. Sleeth received the wound that sent him home.

While out of his tank on a reconnoitering mission near Kohnen, Germany, about 15 miles from the Elbe River, on April 14, 1945, a German sniper shot Lieut. Sleeth through the abdomen. The bullet was fired from a .38 calibre streamlined German pistol, familiarly known to men at the front as a "P-38." The wounded lieutenant was carried by medical personnel to the battalion first aid station a half mile in the rear and given preliminary treatment and blood plasma. He was later driven 120 miles over rough roads to an evacuation hospital where a delicate operation was performed, removing the spleen. The bullet also caused stomach and diaphragm injuries and collapsed a lung, necessitating the removal of two ribs. In spite of his serious injuries, Lieut. Sleeth is now able to walk without the aid of crutches and his complete recovery is predicted by Army medical officers. He is undergoing treatment at Birmingham Army Hospital at Van Nuys, but is anticipating a 30 day convalescent leave in about a week.

While modestly declining any details of the actions which won him distinction in his 22 months battle experience, Lieut. Sleeth has a Silver Star Medal and Cluster, awarded in lieu of a second Silver Star. It is the fourth highest award given by the Army for gallantry in action and valor beyond the call of duty. He was also awarded the Purple Heart. All awards were given for action east of the Rhine.

Lieut. Sleeth entered the service January 13, 1942 and was shipped overseas September 1,

HERO HOME... With a Silver Star and Cluster, the Order of the Purple Heart, and stars for participation in five ETO campaigns, 1st Lt. Robert Sleeth, Jr., was home last weekend. He is a patient at Birmingham General Hospital, Van Nuys, undergoing treatment of wounds received in the final days before the unconditional surrender of the Nazis and Germany.

## Foundation to Disburse Races Charity Formed

Organization of the Santa Anita Foundation, dedicated to the disbursement of war relief and charity funds, was announced today at Santa Anita Park where the resumption of racing for the first time since Pearl Harbor is expected to pass all previous contribution records.

So important have donations and contributions to charitable activities become that Los Angeles Turf Club, Inc., approved the foundation, at the request of the U. S. Treasury department as the best means of handling of this important activity.

During the current meeting, the concluding week of the Glorious Fourth—July 3-7, is earmarked entirely for war relief and charity. The \$50,000 Santa Margarita Handicap and the \$50,000 San Juan Capistrano will be outstanding features.

Notable civic and business leaders of Southern California have given hearty acceptance to serve as trustees of the Santa Anita Foundation, which will not commence to function until a chairman is named. These trustees are:

Leo M. Battson, Porter Bruck, The Most Rev. Joseph T. McGucken of Pasadena, Harvey S. Mudd, George J. O'Brien, P. G. Winnett, and Charles H. Strub.

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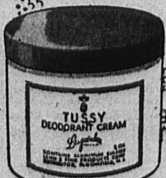
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