



15th AAF IN ITALY - - Shown at left is the lucky B-24 Liberator crew wearing their good luck talismans, blue and white Philadelphia Athletic caps given to them by Connie Mack. Standing from L to R are: 2nd Lt John W McCauley, co-pilot, Mercersburg, Pa.; 1st Lt Robert J Leubke, pilot, Fort Atkinson, Wis.; and 2nd Lt Miles E Amos, Orange, Calif. L to R kneeling are: Sgt Donald R Hilgart, engineer gunner, Park Falls, Wis.; Sgt George A Iubelt, radio operator, Orient, Ill.; Sgt Herbert S Weber, tail gunner, Center Village, N.Y.; Cpl Lee J Fitzpatrick, ball gunner, Chicago, Ill.; Cpl George H Hart, nose gunner, Lawndale, N.C.; and Cpl Grayton E Dahlen, upper gunner, Bismark, N.D.

Although the Navigator 2nd Lt Armand D Bottiglia, Bernardsville, Pa., was unable to be present for the picture, his cap is worn by Hart, who had lost his cap over Linz, Austria.

Now he is sweating out a replacement and he figures on a lot of close ones until the cap comes through. In the meantime, he counts on the aura of luck cast by the others.

An attack on the bridge at Ferrara, Italy designed to cut supply lines to Florence, came August 24, while no fighters appeared, the flak more than made up for it. Their ship picked up 50 holes and one vertical stabilizer was only a memory, with two holes the size of watermelons, big melons, but the caps brought them home. Other targets included Ploesti Oil Refineries in Roumania, marshalling yards and airdromes in Hungary, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, gun emplacements in Greece, and troop concentrations in Southern France.

There's a lot more rough ones coming up, Connie Mack, and everyone will add to the proof that the most important thing right now is to get that cap over and give the boys their full quota of luck.

A roster of the boys with the caps should be headed with the Pilot 1st/Lt Robert J Leubke 23, whose wife Mrs Evelyn V Leubke, lives at Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin. A 1938 graduate of Fort Atkinson High School, he attended Milton College before going to work for the Jamesway Mfg. Co. On January 19, 1942 he joined the AAF, receiving his wings at Perrin Field, Texas, where he picked up his crew, trained and came overseas in July 1944.

Co pilot 2nd/Lt John W McCauley Jr. 21, whose wife, Mrs Mary McCauley, lives at Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, and his parents at Alexandria, Virginia, is a 1941 graduate Mercersburg Academy. After attending Penn State, he joined the AAF February 3, 1942.

The Navigator 2nd/Lt Armand D Bottiglia, 26, who attended Rutgers University, before joining the Army February 18, 1942. After receiving a commission in the Infantry, he trans

ferred to the AAF. He is the son of Mr and Mrs Vincent R Bottiglia, Bernardsville, Pennsylvania.

Miles E Amos, Bombardier, 21, son of Mr and Mrs Emmons G Amos, Orange, California, attended Santa Ana Junior Collage before joining the AAF on February 15, 1943.

The Nose Gunner, the boy who feels naked without his cap, and hopes Connie Mack will get another in the mail right away, is Cpl George H Hart from Lawndale, North Carolina.

Radio Operator/Gunner, Sgt George A Iubelt, 20, is from Orient, Illinois. He attended Southern Illinois Normal University at Carbondale, Illinois before joining the AAF December 13, 1942.

Sgt Donald R Hilgart, 20, Engineer/Gunner is from Shady Knoll Route, Park Falls, Wisconsin, and attended Antigo Aviation School before joining the AAF February 12, 1943.

Tail Gunner, Sgt Herbert S Weber, whose wife Mrs Elizabeth A Weber lives in Center Village, New York, is from Scranton, Pennsylvania. He attended Oneonta, New York Teachers College, joining the AAF March 24, 1943. He is the baseball fan that suggested the caps. At Linz he accounted for an ME-109.

Cpl Lee J Fitzpatrick Ball Turret Gunner, 25, whose wife Ottilie is from Chicago, Illinois, lived in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania before moving to Chicago, Illinois, subsequently signing up with the AAF on November 3, 1943.

Top Turret Gunner Cpl Grayton E Dahlen, 21, hails from Bismark, North Dakota, where he graduated from Bismark High School before joining the Army Air Forces in March 22, 1943.

Each member of the crew has won the Air Medal with one **9** Oak Leaf Cluster.