

Jack Carroll Carlisle, T-42

29 May 1923 – 7 November 1992

(aged 69)



"You live a fast-life, pulling missions" says Technical Sergeant Jack Carlisle, B-24 engineer-gunner, "and when you come back you can't get used to

sitting down in somebody's parlor to gab, it's a form of nervousness you can't get away from - you want to be doing something all the time." Sergeant Carlisle spent six months overseas completing a tour of 33 missions with the Eighth Air Force. He was stationed at a B-24 base near Norwich, England. "Everybody always talks about his worst mission," he said "Our worst moments were spent one day over the Kiel Bay when our fighter escorts failed to show up." "That's just the opportunity the Germans wait for now. They sent two formations of 35 planes each against our squadron. They made a frontal attack, firing machine guns and looked over our formation to see how tight it is. "Then they broke off and attacked the squadron just ahead of us. Finally, our P-51 showed up. "The target for the day was an oil refinery at Poletz, a suburb of Stettin, Germany. Everything over there is a suburb of some city - they are so crowded. The Germans were throwing up a box barrage of flak over the target. We could see the flash of the guns on the ground and then watch

the rise of the flak coming at us. It never fails to scare you. No matter how many raids you make, the flak is always terrifying. We dropped our bombs and set out for home. There were lots of holes in the ship that time." Sergeant Carlisle holds the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters and the European campaign ribbon with the stars. "We were in on the invasion," he said. "Our target that day was Caen. We flew out across the Channel and saw beneath us thousands of boats headed for the Normandy coast. They were like troops marching they were so thick we bombed Caen at 2:20 p.m. Our



troops were due in there at 3 p.m., but they met opposition and took the town there three weeks later. But we get our bombing done on schedule anyway." Sergeant Carlisle is the son of Mrs. Madeline T. Carlisle, 1447 Poplar. He graduated from Tech High in 1942 and attended Southwestern before entering the Army in February 1943. He received his gunner's wings at Laredo TX, and took the aviation mechanic's course at Kessler Field MS. He will report soon to the air base at Lincoln NE for reassignment.

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