

Local Flier Views First Bazookas on Visit to 7th Army

With a First Tactical Air Force B-26 Marauder Bomber Group, France—T/Sgt. David W. Bessire of 407. Forty-fifth Avenue, North, Nashville, Tenn., has flown 75 combat missions and been in three war theaters, but he saw his first bazookas, mortars and tanks on a recent visit to the Seventh Army front.

The 26-year-old radio operatorgunner returned with a collection which included a German carbine, a pair of leather waterproof boots, and a Nazi swastika captured from a staff car in the Siegfried Line.

A son of Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Bessire of the Forty-fifth Avenue address, Sergeant Bessire has been in the Army for nearly four years.

Sergeant Bessire went overseas from February, 1942, to June, 1943, with a Fifth AAF Marauder group in New Guinea and flew 40 missions in the southwest Pacific. He came to the Mediterranean theater in July, 1944, and participated in the Italian campaign and the southern France invasion. Now he is on attacks against German defenses and communications in the western front. He wears the Air Medal with nine Oak Leaf Clusters, two theater ribbons, and the Distinguished Unit Badge with an Oak Leaf Cluster.

Bessire

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