

OVER FRANCE

PICTURE

CAPTION: Sgt. Chas. Dudash above, member of a Flying Fortress crew reportedly took part in the large scale bombing of Lille yesterday.

City Airman

In Lille Raid

Serves as Flight Chief on Flying Fortress

A McKeesport airman was reported today among the Americans who helped bomb Occupied France in the greatest single daylight aerial attack of the war. He is Master Sergeant Charles J. Dudash, 29, son of Mr. & Mrs. Michael Dudash of 3008 Grover Ave. Dudash was reported in a news dispatch to be one of five Western Pennsylvania fliers who took part in the raid on the industrial & transport system at Lille.

Aboard Fortress

The McKeesport man is believed to have been aboard a Flying Fortress as flight chief in charge of the mechanical operation of the plane. He was graduated from McKeesport HS in 1932. and was last employed at the Galvanizing Works of the Nat'l Tube Co. before enlisting in the Army Air Corps on 9-17-1940. He was trained in the mechanical intricacies of bombers & fighters and ranked highest in his class upon graduation from the government training course in the Missouri State School of Aeronautics. He made numerous test flights in Flying Fortresses while in this country but before leaving for England about 2 mos. ago his superiors indicated he would be kept on the ground overseas because his training had made him "too valuable to risk."

Hopes Rewarded

Dudash who wanted action was disappointed, his mother said, but wrote that he still had hopes of getting up to drop a few bombs on the enemy. Today's dispatches indicated that his hopes had been rewarded. The sergeant has 3 brothers, all older than himself, and one sister. He was last home in Dec. 1941, arriving for a 20 day furlough shortly before Pearl Harbor. After the attack there, he was immediately summoned back to duty. He had been home for only 3 days at that point, and his family had seen little of him.

"He was attending welcome-home parties most of the time," his mother explained. She said that her son was so delighted with the army that he intended to stay "for the rest of his life."

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