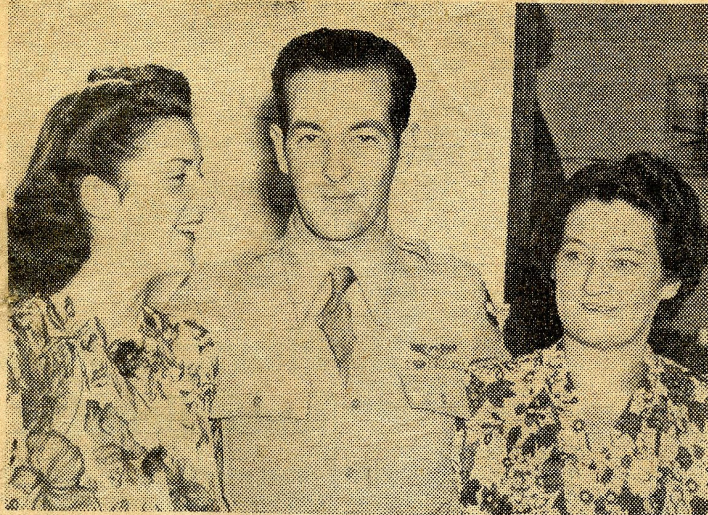


## Tail Gunner Grandstrand Returns



Sergt. Richard Grandstrand, tail gunner on the Flying Fortress "Hunpecker" is shown here being welcomed home by his wife, left, and his mother, Mrs. N. E. Grandstrand. He has been in Europe and Africa for the last year.—Republic Photo.

## Veteran of 50 Raids Back In Yakima for Short Rest

Fifty bombing raids and two Atlantic crossings ago, Sergt. Richard Grandstrand, veteran tail gunner on an American Flying Fortress, left this country to begin a series of relentless attacks on our German and Italian enemies in Europe. He is now back in Yakima with all that behind him and 30 days in which to rest and enjoy life in the peaceful Yakima valley.

### Gunner on "Hunpecker"

Sergt. Grandstrand began his career as a gunner when he enlisted in the army at Yakima on January 27, 1942. He was first sent to the army air force reception center at Sheppard field, Texas. After that came some training at the gunnery school at Las Vegas, Nev. Sergt. Grandstrand went to Europe in July, 1942. He was assigned to the Flying Fortress "Hunpecker" as its tail gunner.

His first raid took place when the "Hunpecker" accompanied 107 other bombers on a raid over Lille, France. Sergt. Grandstrand discovered then that although a tail gunner has a wonderful view he also has work to do. The allied bombers that day accounted for about 50 German planes among which were some of Goering's highly reputed "Yellow Noses"

### Works in Tunisia

More raids followed and then the "Hunpecker" and its crew were sent to Africa to help push the axis out of Tunisia. By this time Sergt. Grandstrand and his fellow flyers had obtained a new fortress since the first "Hunpecker" had been shot up so badly in one European raid that it was condemned. They went on missions over Italy, Tunisia, Sardinia, Pantelleria and Sicily.

In all Sergt. Grandstrand is officially credited with downing four German planes with several other probabilities considered. He recalls some of the accurate bombing his crew members did. On one occasion they scored three direct hits on the Italian cruiser, Trieste, from a high altitude. Another time a hit was scored on an ammunition ship. There was a huge flash and that was all, he said.

### Brings German Rifle

The sergeant, who has been recommended for the distinguished flying cross, has one souvenir which he cherishes highly. That is a German Mauser rifle which was captured in Tunisia by an allied tank corpsman. The tank man had two rifles when he met the flying sergeant so a deal was made whereby the sergeant obtained one rifle. He expects to use it for some deer hunting in Washington.