

Shot Down Over Italy

— 8-6-43 —
Lieut. J. Edward Abdallah
Of Alden Street Member
Of Bomber Crew.

Second Lieutenant J. Edward Abdallah, bombardier, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Abdallah of 18 Alden Street, was a member of a United States Army Flying Fortress crew, which, shot down



LIEUT. J. E. ABDALLAH

by Italian anti-aircraft fire, paid off the score with interest 19 hours later when they bombed railroad marshalling yards at Rome, the War Department has announced.

According to the pilot, Second Lieutenant Jacob J. Schell of Spokane, Wash., intensive anti-aircraft fire smashed three engines

of the B-17 over San Giovanni, just after the ship had bombed the ferry terminus.

Said Lieutenant Schell: "We were forced down about 35 miles east of Catania, Sicily. The plane remained afloat about 90 seconds after pancaking into the sea, which gave the crew ample time to scramble out and board the life raft."

"we were in the water about 30 minutes when we saw a British destroyer heading in our direction. They picked us up, treated us royally and landed us at Malta. We were flown to Tunis and then to our bases."

The commanding officer of the bomber group, Lieutenant Colonel Leroy A. Rainey of San Antonio, Tex., congratulated the men on their return to the base and told them to be ready to go out the next day. The crew carried out the mission over Rome without any of them suffering a scratch.

"Only thing that worried us," Lieutenant Schell said, "was what we were going to call our new plane. We'd named the old one 'Tandalayo,' but we got off so fast with the new ship we didn't have a chance to christen it."

Another member of the crew, also from Massachusetts, was Staff Sergeant Sam Pothier, waist gunner from Springfield.

Lieutenant Abdallah entered the service in July, 1941, and received his training as aviation cadet with the Army Air Force Training Detachment at Sequoia Field, Visalia, Calif., and at the Air Corps Replacement Training Center, Santa Ana, Calif.

A graduate of B. M. C. Durfee High School in 1935, he was employed as an A&P store manager in New Bedford prior to his entrance into the Army.

Soldier's Medal Given Abdallah

— 5-10-44 —
Alden Street Officer Saved
Life of Navigator In
Downed Plane.

Following a brief visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Abdallah of 18 Alden Street, Captain J. Edward Abdallah, USAAF, has reported to Atlantic City, N. J., where he is awaiting assignment to new duties.

The War Department has announced the awarding of the Soldier's Medal to Captain Abdallah, who has been stationed overseas for 15 months, for heroism at great risk of life, and beyond the call of duty. On July 16, 1943, after a forced landing at sea caused from damages to his plane by intense antiaircraft fire during a combat mission over northern Italy, Ab-

dallah, although painfully wounded, assisted the crew into rafts.

Noticing that the navigator was missing, he returned to the rapidly sinking airplane, entered it, and found the navigator there in a semi-conscious condition. Despite his own wounds and the fact that the aircraft was nearly under water, Captain Abdallah brought the injured crew member out of the sinking plane in time to save his life, although the plane sank within one and one-half minutes.

"By his selfless courage and heroism, together with his cool judgment and devotion to duty at a time of great danger, Abdallah has reflected great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States of America," the citation says.

The War Department also announced the presentation of the Purple Heart to Captain Abdallah for wounds received in action against an armed enemy on July 16, 1943, while participating in an aerial bombardment mission in North Africa.

The 24-year-old captain has also received the Air Medal together with nine Oak Leaf Clusters and the African Campaign medal with four battle stars.

HERALD NEWS
FALL RIVER, MA