

VIA 3RD BOMB DIV PRO

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AN EIGHTH AAF BOMBER STATION, England - 1st. Lieutenant Mario J. Persechini, 24 year old lead pilot of the Eighth AAF Flying Fortress "Fickle Finger", has recently completed his twenty-fifth combat mission over Germany and German-held Territory. Lt. Perschini was born in Kenosha Wisconsin, but has his home at 655 South Fraser Ave, Los Angeles, California. His wife, the former Miss ~~xxxx~~ Viola Archibek of Nuevo, California, near Riverside, is living at the latter address for the present.

Lt. Persechini has been decorated five times for heroism and meritorious achievement in combat, he now holds the Air Medal and three Oak Leaf Clusters to the Air Medal, and more recently he was decorated with the Distinguished Flying Cross.

The most recent bombing attack in which the Lieutenant took part was the 8th AAF trip to Regensburg, just six months after Lt. Persechini had ^{first} visited the same target. He is the only pilot in this heavy bombardment group to be present at both demoralizing and devastating attacks. About this trip he said, "The target was covered with smoke after we dropped our bombs, and was rising heavenward in a thick black column. We demolished it without a doubt." On the first trip to the airplane factory Lt. Persechini's Fort was badly shot up, his bombardier was killed, and in general it was "a very rough trip, we almost ran out of gas too."

Before entering cadet school in June 1942, Lt. Persechini was connected with a large furniture concern in Los Angeles, and after graduating from school with his commission and wings in March 1943, he joined this heavy bombardment group, and has participated in all the major bombing attacks in the last six months.

After the war "Persy", as the crew calls him, hopes to remain in flying, either in the Army, or perhaps with some commercial airline.

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Wilbur R. Dennis,
1st. Lieut., PRO,
385th Bomb Group,
26th Feb., 1944