

PRO 13th AAF

General Release:

Lt Apple & Crew
Do Not Mail For at Least 2 weeks!

*Copy For
Ellis, Tail Gunner*

HEADQUARTERS, 13th AAF, Philippines.--The home of the White Rajah of Sarawak, at Kuching, Borneo, received an unexpected buzz job recently when a 13th AAF pilot dropped his big Liberator down to fifty feet and prepared to strafe nearby Kuching Airdrome.

The pilot is First Lieutenant William V. Apple of Kingsville, Ohio, a veteran of this Jungle Air Force. The Rajah is the father of the beautiful princess Baba, who came to the United States prior to the war, fell in love with an American wrestler and married him there.

The story has a funny twist to it because of the way in which Lieutenant Apple came to buzz the home of the Rajah. The Mission on which the lieutenant was flying was termed photo reconnaissance and for a while, the entire crew expected to do nothing but fly around Kuching, drop a few bombs on the airdrome and take as many photographs as possible. They made one run on Kuching Airdrome and dropped four bombs on a small group of parked Jap fighter planes. However, when they realized that they had flown around the place for 45 minutes without receiving any enemy interception or anti-aircraft fire, they decided to drop down a few thousand feet and give the runway a thorough going over.

Twenty Jap fighter planes were neatly parked along the runway, Lieutenant Apple now had his plane down to 100 feet and still no challenge from the Japs. This looked too good to go about hap-hazardly so

the lieutenant dropped down another fifty feet, banked around towards Kuching Town and started in towards the airdrome. With the air speed indicator reading 270 mph, the big plane headed in over the town, buzzed the Rajah's home and roared in over the runway. The gunners opened up on the parked Jap fighters and raked them thoroughly with .50 caliber tracer, armor piercing and incendiary shells. Banking sharply to the left, Lieutenant Apple decided to work over the runway once more, but this time from an altitude of twenty-five feet. Again the Rajah's rooftop took a close one and this time the neatly arranged fighters were finished off by the murderous fire of the anxious gunners.

And thous the province of Kuching, home of the White Rajah and capital of sarawak, had its first visit from an American plane since the Japanese invasion of Borneo in December, 1941.

Lieutenant Apple had covered 2,000 miles already -- had another 1,800 miles to fly before reaching home base. With the gas supply running low, the navigator, Second Lieutenant Manuel S. Martinez of 1215 East Ventura Street, Santa Paula, California, set a course for Palawan, just north of Borneo, where the crew stopped to refuel. At Palawan they were told that theirs was the first American bomber to land on this newly-invaded island. When they reached home base, they had covered a distance of 3,800 miles, had flown for 20 hours and had attacked a target just 350 miles west of the great port of Singapore.

Flying with Lieutenant Apple on this mission were:

Second Lieutenant Ralph L. Bolt of 1679 Linden Avenue, Oroville, California, the co-pilot.

The bombardier, Second Lieutenant James R. Evans, 523 Monroe Avenue, River Forest, Illinois.

(more)

Staff Sergeant Jack C. Schuyler, 271 Suth Broughton Street, Orangeburg. South Carolina, the first engineer.

The nose gunner, Staff Sergeant Albert F. Etheredge of Chamblee, Georgia.

Technical Sergeant James Quigley, 2029 Bay Street, Fall River, Massachusetts, radio operator.

Top turret gunner, Staff Sergeant Paul C. Gindlesperger, 414 1/2 Ferndale Avenue, Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

Staff Sergeant Douglas P. Berry, Jr., 515 Dorset Avenue, Chevy Chase, Maryland, the ball gunner.

Sergeant Fred Herdan, 1257 North Ardmore, Hollywood, California, photo-gunner.

Staff Sergeant Eulis S. McDaniel, ~~592 North Bagley Road,~~
4906 West 50th Franklin Blvd
Daddy + mother moved back to Ala.
Belgreen, Ala -
Clev,
~~Beada~~, Ohio, the tail gunner.

GMS