Richard Kik, Jr.,
Promoted in Rank

The war department today announced the temporary promotions of four Michigan men, including one from Kalamazoo, Richard Kik, Jr., who was promoted from the rank of second to first lieutenant in the army air forces. Lt. Kik, Jr. is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kik, Sr., 825 Drake road, had been stationed at Farmingdale, L.I., until recently left for overseas duty. His wife, Bette, is residing with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Jackson, 825 Campbell avenue, during her husband's absence.

Lt. Richard Kik
Wins Air Medal
Pilots P-47 in European Area.

Mrs. Richard Kik, Jr., 325 Campbell avenue, received notice today that her husband, Lt. Richard Kik, has received the Air Medal. Lt. Kik has had several flights over occupied Europe and is the pilot of a P-47. The award was made May 8 in England. Lt. Kik is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kik, Sr., Drake road.

Kalamazoo Officer, Fellow Flier Reach Base in Crippled Planes

By HENRY B. JAMESON

A U.S. NINTH AIRFORCE BASE IN FRANCE (delayed)-It...

Lt. Richard Kik, Jr. of Kalamazoo, Mich., and Lt. Charles E. Rife, East Cleveland, Ohio, were shooting up German tanks east of Mortain when Kik's Thunderbolt was hit by flak.

Rife called him and said, "You're smoking."

"Yes, I got hit pretty bad," Kik replied.

Capt. Henry Mazur, Lowell, Miss., flight leader and former West Point football star, cut in on the radio conversation, and told Rife to take Kik back to the base.

They had no more than gotten underway when two direct hits punched holes as big as manholes in both wings of Rife's plane.

"Now I've had it," Rife called to Kik.

"I can see the holes in your wings but your engine isn't hit," Kik advised, forgetting his own troubles. "Shove the throttle forward and keep up speed."

"I don't think I can make it," Rife replied. "My flag is gone, the aileron is gone, I can't turn left. I'm going to belly land."

"Listen, Rife, you can't belly land. You've got a bomb hanging under your wing. Get some altitude and bail out."

"I can't bail out because I've..." (Continued on Page 2, Column 7)

Local Flier Has Narrow Escape

(Continued from Page One)

"It cut a hole through my parachute."

"You've got to keep going then. Keep cool Rife. We've got to make a landing," Kik pleaded.

It wasn't easy, but they made it. (Continued on Page 2, Column 7)

Flies Bomber Named for Wife To Blast Nazis

Lt. Richard Kik, Jr., Recently Decorated by Gen. Quesada.

First Lieutenant Richard Kik, Jr., is the pilot of a P-47 Thunderbolt fighter-bomber named "Bette" for his wife, who resides at 825 Campbell avenue. Lt. Kik is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kik, Sr., Route 9. While at the control of the "Bette" Lt. Kik, according to a dispatch from his Ninth Air Force base in England, participated in dive-bombing, strafing, and fighter attacks on railway yards,airdromes, and other targets in the occupied countries and Germany.

Lt. Kik recently received the Air Medal and two Oak Leaf Clusters when Gen. Quesada made awards to pilots of the group in which he flies.

Lt. Kik, with other fighter-bomber pilots of the Ninth Air Force, the United States component of the Allied Expeditionary Air Force, is presently playing an important role in supporting the invasion armies, according to Gen. Quesada.

Lt. Kik is a brother of Sergeant Frederick R. Kik, who recently was wounded. For the second time, in action in the Southwest Pacific, and of Private First Class George Kik, who is with an infantry unit in Italy.

AAF Lieutenant

'Bette's Pilot'

1st Lt. Richard Kik, Jr.