

S.A. OFFICER AWARDED SILVER STAR MEDAL



BACK FROM A BOMBING RAID OVER FRANCE,

Lt.Col. Robert W. Burns of San Antonio is shown after alighting from the Fortress "The Duchess" in which he led a successful bombing mission to Nantes, France, on Sept. 23. With him, at left, is Capt. Clark Gable, who flew as aerial observer. For this raid, Burns has been awarded the Silver Star.

Lt.Col. Robert W. Burns of San Antonio has been awarded the Silver Star, the army third highest valor decoration, for gallantry in action while leading a formation of Flying Fortresses on a bombing mission to Nantes, France, Sept. 23, and destroying a highly-important German naval installation.

The 27-year-old pilot is the deputy commander at an army bomber command station in England, commanded by Col. William A. Hatcher Jr. of Detroit.

Led by Burns, the formation flew through thick clouds of anti-aircraft fire successfully to bomb the target. Its gunners beat off scores of enemy airplane attacks, shooting down 21, probably destroying another, and damaging three.

The citation accompanying the award read, in part: "Col. Burns, in spite of extremely adverse weather conditions and determined enemy resistance, led the formation over the assigned target and successfully bombed important enemy installations. The gallantry, skill and leadership he displayed were an inspiration to all flying with him and reflect the highest credit upon himself and the armed forces of the United States."

Burns is a veteran of three years' air patrol work in the Panamá Canal Zone and has led 11 bombing missions over enemy Europe. His wife, Mrs. Rachel N. Burns, lives at 1421 Hicks Ave., San Antonio.