# Two 15th Air Force Bomb Groups Cited

A 15TH AAF BASE, ITALY, Nov. 8 — Four-engined Liberator bombers and more than 4,000 officers and men formed a background Friday while Maj. Gen. Nathan F. Twining, Commanding General of the 15th AAF, pinned blue battle streamers denoting War Department unit citations on the colors of the 454th and 455th Bombardment Groups. This was the first double presentation of unit citations in the 15th AAF.

The bomb groups, part of a Liberator wing commanded by Brig. Gen. Fay R. Upthegrove, Olean, N. Y., have been in combat since the first of the year.

The 454th Bomb Group, commanded by Col. Horace D. Aynesworth, Childress, Texas, was cited for its attack on the Hermann Goering Works at Linz, Austria, July 25.

During its combat period, the 454th Bomb Group has dropped more than 8,400 tons of bombs on Axis-held targets and destroyed 223 enemy planes.

Commanded by Lt. Col. William L. Swowden, Denver, Colo., the 455th Bomb Group received its citation "for tremendous material damage" inflicted on the important ball bearing works at Sleyr, Austria, April 2. The group was led by its former commander Col. Kenneth A. Cool, Cleveland, Ohio. During the attack, the group encountered 75 rocket and cannon-firing enemy planes. In the fierce air battle, gunners of the group destroyed 27, probably destroyed 17 more, with a loss of only four Liberators.

All groups of Brig. Gen. Upthegrove's wing have received War Department citations.

## Alleged Bluebeard

# *Houstonian Is Wounded Over Europe*



CAPT. J. D. SMITH

One of the two fighting sons of Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Smith Jr., 308 Hyde Park, was wounded slightly Sept. 28, on a mission over enemy-occupied Europe.

Both Capt. J. D. Smith, 27, who was wounded, and his brother, Maj. Travis Smith III, are "sons to be proud of" for their activities against the enemy, Mr. Smith said.

**Captain Smith completed 30 missions over Continental Europe—several over the Ploesti oil fields in Romania, from where he wrote his dad "smoke rose to 20,000 feet and we could see it 100 miles away." The captain thought it was ironical that he should have been in the oil producing business before the war and was now in the "destroying end."**

Now assistant operation officer, Captain Smith also wrote his dad that his crew had named their Liberator "Pocahontas" in his honor. His wife and son John D. Jr., live in Fort Knox, Ky.

With one-fourth of the Burma Road under his command, Major Smith, 37, whose wife and daughter, Diane, live at 2631 Persa, still finds time to keep a diary. A few of the items in his diary will be about "the terrible ignorance and poverty of India, where 9 and 10-year-old girls are married to men 35 and 40; how he found a small Catholic mission in a hidden spot off the Burma Road; the night he spent there and how he could communicate with the priest and several sisters only through Spanish he had learned at A. & M. College."

Both boys are graduates of A. & M. College, as is their dad, who wears a 1898 graduation ring. During the four years Captain Smith was at the college, he played in the Aggieland Orchestra.

Courts and about 40 other public