

## HERO OF BISMARCK SEA BATTLE

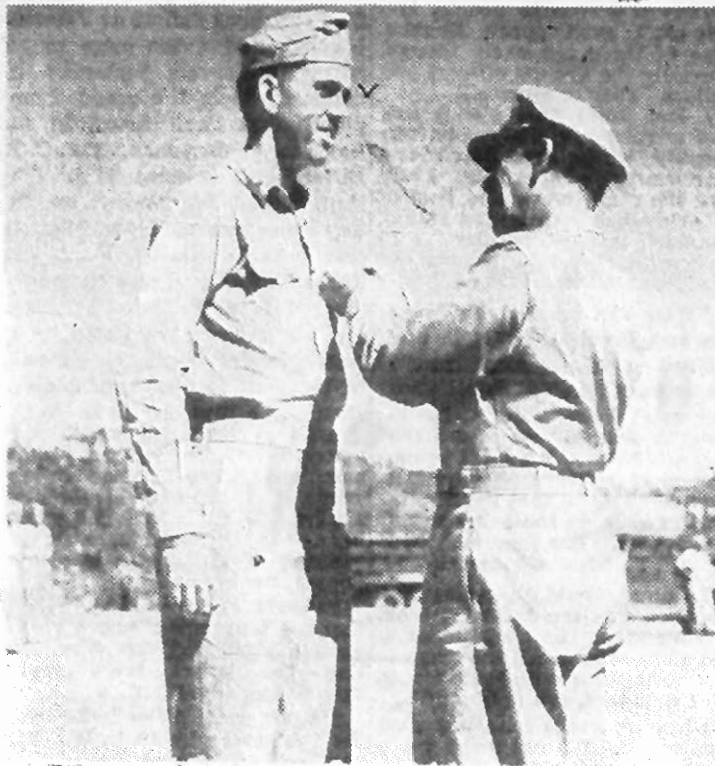
# Local Pilot, Whose Bomber Scored Hit On Jap Cargo Ship, Awarded Air Medal

Doubly good was the news received here this week about First Lt. Donald R. Latham, Junior college graduate, now piloting a B-25 bomber somewhere in New Guinea. He has been awarded not only the Air Medal, but the gold Oak Leaf cluster to the Air Medal, "for meritorious achievement while participating in an aerial flight over the Bismarck sea." Despite intense anti-aircraft fire, his plane, on a bombing mission on a Jap convoy, made a direct hit on a cargo ship.

Lieutenant Latham, grandson of Mrs. W. S. Rising, and the late W. S. Rising, 2610 Burlington avenue north, enlisted in the Army Air forces late in 1941. He completed advanced training at Ellington field, Tex., and was awarded wings as a pilot and commission as second lieutenant the latter part of May, 1942. His promotion to the rank of first lieutenant came since he was sent overseas last August for active combat duty.

Full details of this recent exploit over the Bismarck sea leading to Pilot Latham's award of the Air Medal and Oak Leaf cluster, are contained in a letter of commendation received here by his grandmother from Lt. Gen. George C. Kenny, commanding headquarters Fifth Air Force.

Gen. Kenny wrote: "This award was made in recognition of courageous service to his combat organization, his fellow American airmen, his country, his home and to you. I would like to tell you how genuinely proud I am to have men such as your young grandson in my command, and how gratified I am to know that young Americans with such courage and resourcefulness are fighting our country's battle against the aggressor nations."



... First Lt. Donald R. Latham, another St. Petersburg pilot who helped blast the Japs in the Bismarck Sea, is shown above being decorated with the Air Medal and the gold Oak Leaf cluster, during ceremonies somewhere in New Guinea.

## Extension of Disston Avenue To Be Sought

## POLICE BEAT

# Forgery Charge Placed Against Local Man

Arrested yesterday on a charge of forgery, Ralph Edwards, 742 Ninth street north, was in city jail last night where he was being held under \$1,000 bond.

According to Deputy Sheriff Andy Rand, the arresting officer, Edwards, an employe of an independent exterminating company, allegedly forged the name of his employer to an exterminating contract in the amount of \$160 and later remitted only \$60 of this amount to his company.

With a total of 29 arrests made by both city and state authorities up until a late hour, last night proved to be one of the busiest of the year. All arrests, however, were of a minor nature.

State police staged three gambling raids which netted a total of 19 arrests alone. All were negroes.

Those taken in the raids, excepting five whose names were not learned, included: Johnny L. Jones, 756 Fourth avenue south; James Jones, 756 Fourth avenue south; John Cuyler, 925 1/2 Third avenue south; Sinclair Williams, 499 Tenth street south; James Brown, 408 Tenth street south; Pasco Goins, 2149 1/2 Seventh avenue south; John Robinson, 1040 1/2

Twenty-first street south; Paine, 1209 Eighteenth street south; Gus Johnson, 1317 first street south; Eddi, 1350 Thirty-first street south; Allison Dennis, 1117 1/2 street south; Ernest Cain, 1117 Sixth avenue south; D. 2117 Fairfield avenue.

Only one fire alarm reported by the city fire department yesterday, this minor grass fire on the

Up until a late hour there had been no emergency reported by local hospitals.

## Realtors Postpone

Al Werly, president of the St. Petersburg Board of Realtors, yesterday that tomorrow holiday, there will be no business of the realtors' body.

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