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STAFF S7ERGEANT GAYLE I. CRUTHIRDS, 19, entered the Army Air Corps in March of 1943 and was enlisted at San Antonio. He received training at Tyndall Field, Fla. and landed overseas May 15, 1944. He served in Europe. He has been awared the Purple Heart for a flak injury received over his left eye June 24, 1944, in Italy. He is a son of Mrs. H. A. Cruthirds of Diball. Prior to his enlistment, Staff Sergeant Cruthirds was employed as mechanic helper for civil service at Duncan Field, S. A.

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GAYLE CRUTHIRDS

Sgt. Cruthirds Gets 50 Bomber Combat Missions

15TH AAF IN ITALY—S-Sgt. Gayle H. Cruthirds, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Cruthirds of Diboll, Texas, nose gunner on a B-24 Liberator bomber, has flown fifty missions, taking part in attacks on targets in Germany, Northern Italy, France, Austria and the Balkans.

Sgt. Cruthirds has been awarded the Air Medal with three clusters. In referring to his flights over enemy targets, he remarked," Seven times I was with the formation when it flew over the oil fields of Ploesti, Roumania. As far as I'm concerned, that is the toughest target the Germans have to offer. The happiest day of my life was when I heard Ploesti had been taken over by the Russians. Munich, Germany and Vienna, Austria crowded Ploesti for thrills.

This veteran airman flies with a group that has times received

See SGT. CRUTHIRDS, page 8

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Capt. L. S. Cruthirds Is Named Squadron Leader

Capt. Leslie S. Cruthirds, former Beaumont boy and nephew of Mr. and Mrs. B. E. Cruthirds, 3225 Grand, who has served as a pilot of a B-17 flying fortress, stationed in England, has been appointed commanding officer of a fortress squadron in the group headed by Col. Eugene A. Romig of Byesville, Ohio, according to word received by his uncle.

A veteran of 26 missions over enemy Europe, Captain Cruthirds has been pilot of the lead fortress of his group in 10 of these missions and air commander for the entire group on six of the attacks on Hitler-dominated countries. His group was particularly successful in assaults on enemy installations at Erkner March 4, Schweinfurt April 13 and Merseburg May 12, according to a dispatch from the eighth bomber base in England.

Since becoming a flight officer and co-pilot 11 months ago, Captain Cruthirds has advanced rapidly in grade and position, his uncle proudly pointed out. He was appointed second lieutenant on October 19, 1943, first lieutenant November 11 the same year and was elevated to captain March 6 this year.

For the past several years he has made his home at Diboll.

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ɔoll Fortress Pilot
d Crew Tie a Record

ɪer Incorporated' ,cks Down 11 Nazi Fighters

ɪe Flying Fortress "Murder ɔorporated" dealt out murder in ɪne real sense of the word Monday, according to an announcement from a United States bomber base in England Oct. 4.

It tied the Eighth Air Force record for bombers by probably shooting down 11 Nazi fighters on a return trip from a raid on Frankfurt, deep in southwest Germany.

Over the target, enemy fire wrecked the Fortress' oxygen system, forcing Flight Officer Leslie Cruthirds of Diboll to drop 12,000 feet. There the crew got enough natural oxygen to breathe, but it put them in a hornet's nest of anti-aircraft and fighter fire.

That didn't stop them from dropping their bombs on the target, but the bomb bay doors wouldn't close. They stayed open all the way home as the crew sent enemy fighter planes down in smoke on every side.

Top Sgt. William S. Trask of Portland, Me., tail gunner, said that "over the Ruhr the flak was so thick we couldn't see out of the plane. We ran into a protective overcast or else it would have been too bad for us."

Raid Successful on Frankfurt, Deep in Southwest Germany

Leslie Cruthirds is the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Cruthirds of Diboll, and has been serving in the Air Corps for about 18 months. According to recent letters to his parents, he is nearing 50 sorties.

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The tradition continues ...

Gipson Services is compiling a list of Angelina County citizens who died for our country in major wars. If you know of someone that needs to be added, please contact us.

Angelina County Citizens Killed In Major Wars

World War I
Anderson, Robert J.
Battenfield, Burl J.
Chancey, Edward L.
Cobb, James Louis
Cox, Brittian Plez
Cunningham, James F.
Crutchfield, Roy A.
Dixon, Henry T.
Fisher, Andrew
Hardy, Ernest A.
Havard, Henry
Hudson, John T.
Kendrick, Hugh O'Keeffee
Lawrence, Burtis
Lindsey, Fred R.
Murrah, Clarence E.
McConnico, C.M.
McDougald, Daniel S.
McPherson, Benjamin L.
Parrish, Miles A.
Penry, Dewitt F.
Red, Oscar W.
Rice, Conner
Roy, Milton D.
Runnels, Charlie B.
Sanford, William L.
Satterfield, Joe Paul
Scalise, Lee
Schmidt, Will
Weeks, Frank W.
Welch, Floyd Kelly
Wells, John W.
Williams, Henry

World War II
Agee, Jack Douglas
Allen, Bert L.
Arnold, Barney F.
Asby, James E.
Baker, Wayne S.
Beckham, Peyton W.
Blakeway, Curtis E.
Blankenship, George F.
Bridges, Boyce R.
Broker, Walter L., Jr.
Brown, Roy
Burks, Oscar
Carpenter, Horace V.
Carr, William R.
Casey, Jack A.
Church, Granvel
Clifford, Jesse W.
Cloyd, Hollis A.
Collins, Aubrey L.
Collins, Robert Lee
Clyburn, L.G.
Cornick, Ray
Crawford, Junior C.
Crawford, Prentice
Crawford, Walter F.
Cruse, Kenneth Hawkins
Couie, Robert
Davidson, Olan E.
Dearmond, Claudie
Dickerson, Richard A.
Drew, Lyman
Edwards, Gordon
English, Robert S.
Essery, Robert H.
Ford, Jack
Fulmer, Mirville E.
Gamble, Winston J.
Gay, T.T., Jr.
Gentry, Jesse W.
Gilmore, Bunell G.
Goode, Edwin
Goodwin, George C.
Halcomb, William E.
Hallmark, Orville E.
Hardin, Larry Charles
Harper, Carlys
Havard, China
Headrick, Marvin
Heath, William E.
Henderson, Tom
Herrington, John Wesley
Hicks, Louis, Jr.
Hipp, Jesse P.
Hopper, Elvyn Glenn
Horn, Noah
Jacks, Alvis L.
Jones, Winford
Kannenberg, Charles
Kelley, Homer L.
Kerr, Gerald
Kimmey, Doyle
Kimmey, Edwin F.
King, James R.
Kirkland, Doyle L.
Kirkland, Laverne
Locke, Delbert A.
Lovelady, Robert
Luce, Tom W.
Luttrall, John
Magee, William E.
Mash, Jessie
Manly, Benjamin
Mills, Jack Dillon
Massey, Farris J.
Minton, Joseph O.
Mathis, Fred P.
Mitchell, Bryant S.
Melhado, Donald I.
Mitchell, Ray M.
Morgan, Floyd C.
Morris, Elbert
Mowles, Ernest F.
McAdams, Alvin
McBride, Sherman
McCall, Eugene B.
McFarland, Charles
McLane, Ernest L.
Oates, Ernest
Oliver, Raymond
Orr, Harry M.
Parker, Milton R.
Perkins, Vance Bervil
Peters, Andrew F., Jr.
Raley, Samuel
Redd, Gerald W.
Redd, Morris R.
Redd, Talmadge W.
Reynolds, William R.
Rhodes, Troy
Rice, Lyman D.
Richardson, Johnie
Roberts, Almon
Roberts, Verner L.
Robinson, James E.
Roynston, James E.
Rushing, O.P.
Russell, John Rep
Sanford, Franklin C.
Saxon, William B.
Scott, Sid, Jr.
Selman, Bert
Shaw, George, Jr.
Smith, Nathaniel W.
Squyres, Melvin R.
Staton, James M.
Stephens, Elmer R.
Stephens, Lemuel P.
Stokes, Airst Lee
Taylor, Harold
Todd, William Vincent
Tuttle, Frank M.
Vail, Alonzo B.
Walker, Peter H.
Ward, Elton P.
Warren, Robert D.
Webb, Harold M.
Weeks, Raymond
Wells, William C.
Westmoreland, C.A. "Bert"
Wheeler, L.H.
Wheeler, Thomas J.
White, George M.
Widner, Van A.
Williams, Doris J.
Williams, James R.
Williamson, Ben
Wilroy, Charles B.
Wood, John Paul
Yates, James D.

Korean War
Barrett, James D.
Day, George
Jordon, Harold R.
Kennedy, William C.
Knapp, Bill
Poland, Gilbert K.
Walker, Howard Joseph

Vietnam War
Ashton, James Odell
Bishop, Ted Janson
Bradshaw, Robert S. III
Harris, E.C.
Hodges, Wesley E.
Hurst, John
Kimling, Miles
Morris, Clenzell
Morris, Hoover
Overshe, George
Owens, Wadell
Ricks, Larry
Russaw, Preston
Sisson, Bennie Joe
Wilson, Phillip M.

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