

3 of 4 Dutton Sons in Service; Fly in Army, Navy, Marines

SPARTA — Mr. and Mrs. Walter Dutton, Angelo, will have to act as arbitrators when their four sons return from the wars and start fighting a war of their own — a war over the question, "Who is supreme in the air, the air force of the army, the navy, or the marines?" Having a son in each of the three air services, Mr. and Mrs. Dutton are sure to face that issue.

The Duttons originally had four sons in the air forces, but, Lieut. Kenneth, 22, who served three years overseas with army air corps, was sent back to the States with several minor injuries and enrolled in the officer's candidate school at Ft. Belvoir, Va. He graduated from there on Sept. 1, 1942, and placed in the engineering corps, going overseas with them just before the holidays.

The representative of the family in the naval air corps is Chief Petty Officer Eldon, 24, who left Wednesday to return to his base at



KENNETH and ELDON DUTTON
(La Crosse Tribune Engraving)

San Diego, Calif., after a three week leave. He was accompanied by his wife and their 2 year old son, John, whom Eldon had not seen until he came home.

Eldon, who will observe his fifth anniversary of service in April, was at Pearl Harbor when it was attacked and wears service ribbons with seven silver stars signifying seven major engagements. As gunner he had a big part in the battles and has seen war at Guadalcanal, and other islands in the Pacific. Although his plane was crippled in service and members of his crew were lost in combat, Eldon came through safely. Eighteen holes were shot into one of the planes.

Staff Sgt. Ralph Dutton, 20, is now in Italy serving in the army air corps. He took part in the invasion of North Africa, Italy, and Sicily, and furnished protection for the Dieppe raid. A recent report gave 111 planes to the credit of Ralph's outfit. A letter received this week, written Dec. 23, indicated that Ralph was staying in a hotel, undoubtedly at a rest camp after major combat.

La Vern, 19, the youngest of the flying brothers, is with the marine air corps in Hawaii. La Vern is taking airology training and expects to return to the States next month for the further training. He enlisted in July, 1942. La Vern, former star football player with the Sparta high school is 6 foot 3 inches and weighs 190 pounds.

Each of the brothers enlisted after their graduation from Sparta high school. They have two younger brothers Wayne, 14, and Rollin, 12, who have more than just a passing interest in aviation. A sister, Mrs. Minert De Voe, Angelo, was a World War I baby born while her father was serving his country.

Dutton, who served overseas in the first World war, is now superintendent of roads and grounds at Camp McCoy and has been in the service of the government at Camp McCoy almost continuously since his discharge from the army. Mrs. Dutton is proud of her fighting family and "I'm willing to make any sacrifices asked of me in order that my boys come home as soon as possible," she said.



LAVERNE and RALPH DUTTON

New Guinea Vet Visits Edgerton

EDGERTON — Capt. Benjamin J. Ewers, who has just returned from New Guinea where he completed 196 combat missions and had one Japanese plane and two probables to his credit, arrived in Edgerton Tuesday to spend a leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Ewers. He was accompanied by his wife.

Capt. Ewers, who holds the Distinguished Flying Cross with one Oak Leaf cluster, and the Air medal with three Oak Leaf clusters, has been overseas for 18 months, 14 of which he spent in action in New Guinea.

He is a 1939 graduate of Edgerton high school and graduated from Foster Field, Tex., where he got his commission in May, 1942. He was promoted to captain Dec. 20, 1943.

Before leaving New Guinea, Capt. Ewers visited several Edgerton men there and brought messages from them to friends and relatives.

Ridgeway Girl Marine Completes Course

RIDGEWAY — Corp. Helen Mossey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Mossey, recently completed marine corps women's reserve "boot training" at Camp Lejeune, New River, N. C., and has reported for duty at the marine corps station at San Diego, Calif.

Cassville Sailor to Start Training

CASSVILLE — Sylvan J. Mayne, son of Mr. and Mrs. Orlo Mayne, has been confined to a hospital at Great Lakes, Ill., after an operation and expects to begin training next week. Mayne left for Great Lakes Naval station on Dec. 8.

Wins Promotion

CASSVILLE — Robert Metcalf has been promoted to pharmacist's mate second class, according to his wife who just returned from New York where she visited him three weeks. Metcalf is in charge of a dispensary in New York.

