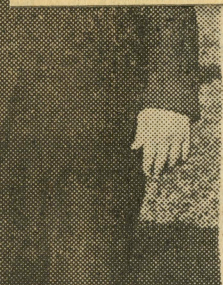


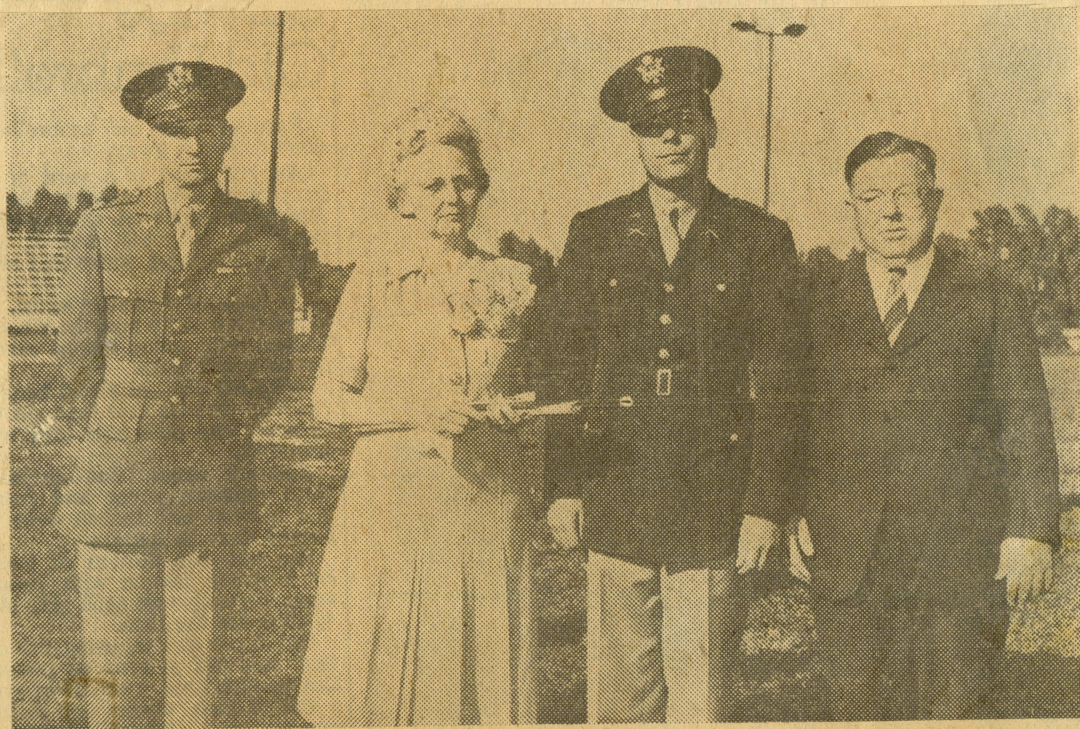
Corpus Christi Caller

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS, THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 2, 1944



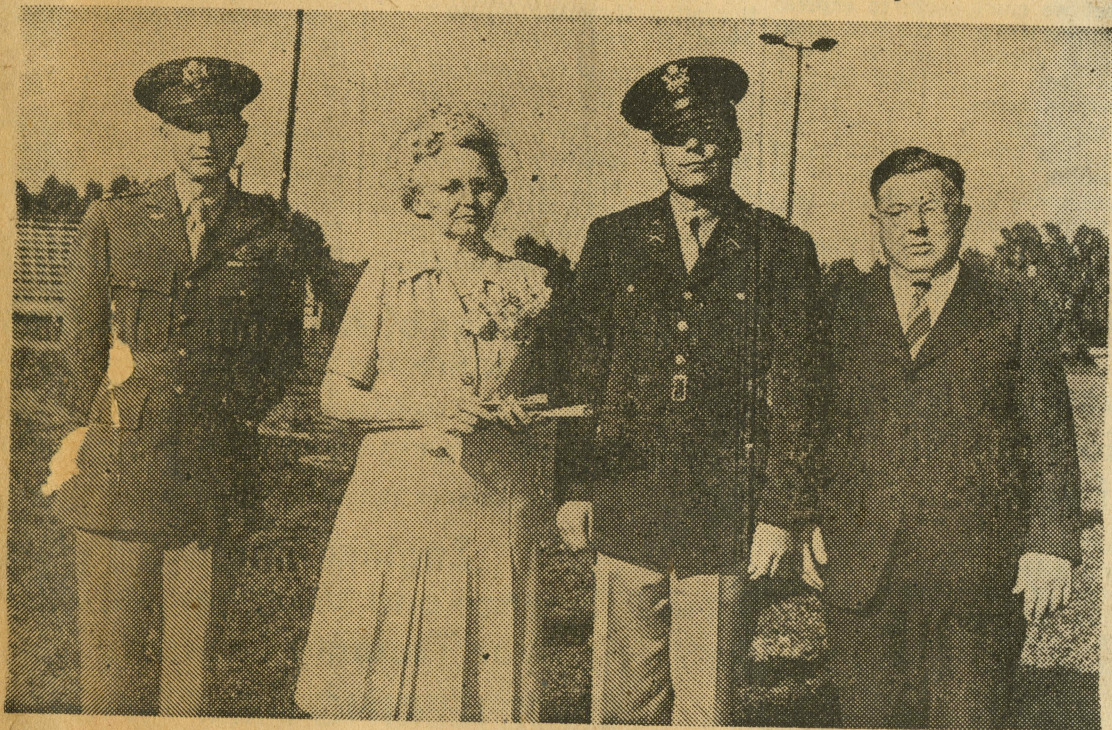
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AIR MEDAL PRESENTED—Mrs. T. A. Simons, Jr., of Kingsville Tuesday afternoon received the Air Medal with oak leaf cluster for her son, Second Lt. Capen R. Simons, U. S. Army Air Corps bombardier-navigator who is now a prisoner of Germany. After the ceremony, held at A&I College football stadium, the group shown above reviewed a parade of men of the Army Specialized Training Unit stationed at A&I. From left to right, they are Maj. C. B. Simmons of Harlingen, Army Air Field, who made the presentation; Mrs. Simons; Capt. Kurth B. Nelson, commanding officer of the Army trainees at A&I; and Simons, father of the young flier who was shot down over Germany Oct. 9.

Receives Air Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster for Imprisoned Son



On A&I athletic field last week, Mrs. T. A. Simons, Jr., received the Air Medal and Oak Leaf Cluster, awarded for his work as a bombardier and navigator of Flying Fortresses on more than ten missions, to her son, Lt. Capen R. Simons, now a prisoner of war in Germany.

The photo by Jimmie Dodd shows Major C. B. Simmons, of Harlingen Army Air Field, who presented the awards, Mrs. Simons, Captain K. B. Nelson, commander of the Army Specialized Training Unit at A&I, and Mr. Simons, as they reviewed the parade of the 250 ASTU soldiers at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Parents Receive Son's Air Medal

**Lt. Capen R. Simons
Of Kingsville Is
Prisoner of War**

Caller-Times News Service

KINGSVILLE—Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Simons, Jr. yesterday were presented with an Air Medal with oak leaf clusters for their son, Second Lt. Capen R. Simons of Kingsville, who has been a prisoner of Germany since October of last year.

Presentation of the award was made to Mrs. Simons by Maj. C. R. Simon, adjutant to Col. John R. Morgan of the Harlingen Army Air Field at ceremonies at the Kingsville A&I College football stadium.

The citation accompanying the award declared the medal

was given for "exceptional and meritorious achievement on five separate bombing missions over enemy-occupied continental Europe."

"The cool courage and skill of Lieutenant Simons reflects credit on himself and the armed services," the citation added.

Citations were also read for five oak leaf clusters, given in place of a second Air Medal.

Lieutenant Simons was a student of A&I College before he entered the Army Air Forces and was a star on the gridiron where his parents received the medal. Members of the Army Specialized Training Unit, stationed at A&I, marched and the college band played at the ceremonies.

A reception for approximately 200 persons was given by the lieutenant's uncle, George Simons and Mrs. Simons, following the ceremonies.



SIMONS

Mrs. T. A. Simons Receives Air Medal for Son

On the athletic field of A&I College, where in years past he had "carried the ball" for high school and college, Lieutenant Capen R. Simons, U. S. Army Air Forces, yesterday afternoon was honored for the part he had played in carrying bombs to Berlin before his Flying Fortress met its fate over enemy territory and he became a prisoner of war of the German government.

Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Simons, Jr., were presented with the Air Medal and Oak Leaf Cluster, Mrs. Simons receiving the awards from Major C. B. Simmons, who acted for Col. John R. Morgan, commanding officer of Harlingen Air Field, in the presentation ceremonies.

The Air Medal was awarded by command of Gen. F. L. Anderson under date of September 24, and the citation is for "exceptionally meritorious achievement while participating in five separate bomber raids over occupied continental Europe. 'The courage, coolness and skill displayed . . . upon these occasions reflects great credit upon Lt. Simons and the other members of his crews, the citation adds.

The Oak Leaf Cluster is issued in lieu of a second Air Medal, and the citation, signed by General Williams, mentions five more missions over enemy territory. It was dated October 6, 1943.

Honor Red Cross

At the request of Mr. and Mrs. Simons, Mrs. O. A. Smith, chairman of the Service Committee of the local Red Cross Chapter, accompanied them as they received the Medals. It was their recognition of the work of the Red Cross in making possible the only communications war prisoners can



Lt. Capen R. Simmons

The picture was taken when Lt. Simons was in training as an aviation cadet.

have with their families at home.

The 250 soldiers of the Army Specialized Training Unit at A&I College under command of Capt. K. B. Nelson formed the official parade, and headed by their band, passed in review before Mr. and Mrs. Simons, Major Simmons

and the officers of ASTU at the conclusion of the impressive ceremony which was viewed by more than 500.

After the ceremony, Major and Mrs. Simmons were honor guests at an informal reception on the lawn of the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Simons, uncle and aunt of Lieutenant Simons.

Eventful Career

Lt. Capen Simons' career as an airman has been an eventful one. Grounded for sixty days during training it was discovered an old football injury to his nose interfered with his breathing at high altitudes. Capen underwent an operation to correct the condition. He graduated and was commissioned as a bombardier, making

his first missions in that capacity. Later he qualified as a navigator.

Reports indicate that his B-17 had engine trouble enroute from this country to England. After a mission over Hanover last summer, his Fortress, "Destiny's Tot," was forced down in the North Sea, but the entire crew was rescued by RAF rescue craft. Last Oc-

tober he was reported missing in action, but later it was ascertained that he was a prisoner in Germany.