

# Eaton Praised By Gen Eaker

## Capital Officer Made Hazardous Take-Off

Lt Gen Ira Eaker, commander of the eighth US air force in England, has praised First Lt Joe O Eaton of Tallahassee for "outstanding performance of duty in action and extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight."

Lt Eaton, a medium bomber pilot, previously had won an Air medal with three Oak Leaf clusters.

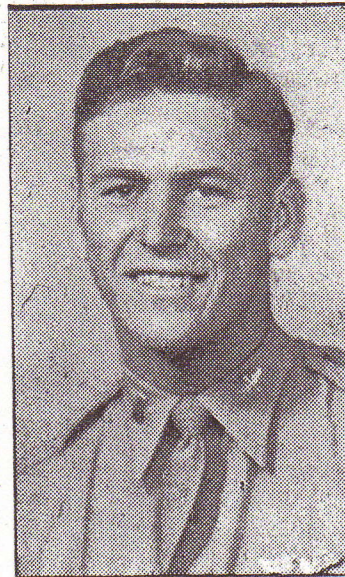
Gen Eaker's citation of Lt Eaton and other officers and pilots who took part in a hazardous takeoff in September reads in part:

"In the most adverse flying-weather, with a ground visibility of less than one hundred (100) yards, reduced to less than fifty (50) feet for the pilot sitting behind the wet, foggy windshield, these pilots, on 9 September 1943, took off in heavily bomb-laden B-26 Marauder airplanes to fly a most important mission against the German air force. With only the left edge of the runway to guide them while they made flying speed, they went on instruments as soon as they were air borne.

"During this extremely hazardous take-off, the twenty third (23rd) aircraft crashed. Knowing the importance of the mission, the remaining pilots without a moment's hesitation flew their airplanes into this uncertainty. The cool determined flying skill displayed upon this occasion was responsible in a large measure for the success of a secret combined amphibious maneuver by the United Nations' armed forces, the destruction of vital enemy installations, and was a source of pride to all airmen in this theater of

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UNITED STATES—FIVE JEANESSE-AMERICAN  
g Center at Des Moines. (Left to  
Ford, Colo; Margaret Fukuoka of  
ole. (AP Wirephoto).



Lt Joe O Eaton

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operations. It reflects highest credit upon each of these officers and upon the United States army air forces."

Lt Eaton is the son of the Late R L Eaton and Mrs Mamie Eaton Greene, both onetime members of the state railroad commission.

He was attending Presbyterian college at Clinton, S C, late in 1941 when he entered the service as an aviation cadet. During the summer of that year he played firstbase with the Tallahassee Capitals.