



15th AAF. 2nd Lt. Herbert C. Hawkins, 22, Perry, Florida and 2nd Lt. Louis T. Hughes, 23, Long Point, Pasadena, Md., pay their "respects" to a demolition bomb. While on a 15th AAF mission, they discovered that one of the bombs in their B-24 Liberator bomber hadn't been released, and was "armed"—it would go off on contact—contact with anything. The two men performed the highly dangerous job of removing the bomb fuse, and then tossing the bomb out of the window. It exploded on hitting the water below. "When we pay our respects to the bomb," said Lt. Hughes, "we really mean respect! I thought that baby would go off any second."

15th Army Air Force—2nd Lt. Herbert C. Hawkins, 22, son of Mrs. Louella M. Hawkins of Perry, Fla., has been awarded the Air Medal. It was announced by the 15th Air Force headquarters. In the words of the citation, Lt. Hawkins was awarded the Air Medal "for meritorious achievement in aerial flight while participating in sustained operational activities against the enemy." A pilot of a B-24 Liberator, Lt. Hawkins is stationed in southern Italy with the 15th Air Force, which has been bombing German held targets in Europe. Lt. Hawkins is a graduate of Taylor County High School and former student of the University of Florida. He entered the service January 28, 1942.