



DULUTH NEWS-TRIBUNE, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1942.

Is in Hazardous Service

## DULUTHIAN BECOMES U. S. GLIDER PILOT

One of the men who will take U. S. Rangers or supplies "behind the lines" in a glider is back in Duluth on furlough.

Staff Sergt. Myron (Mike) Shapiro, 23, is probably the first Duluthian to receive the wings of a glider pilot at La Mesa, Texas, glider school, in one of the newest branches of the armed service.

Home visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Shapiro, 2033 Princeton place, Sergeant Shapiro has learned the rudiments of operating a tricky glider and will return to La Mesa soon for additional training.

"We're the boys who take the fighters in. We might carry Rangers, paratroops or cargoes. The ships we fly can carry a group of 15 air-borne infantrymen," the flier said. "They're trickier than power planes."

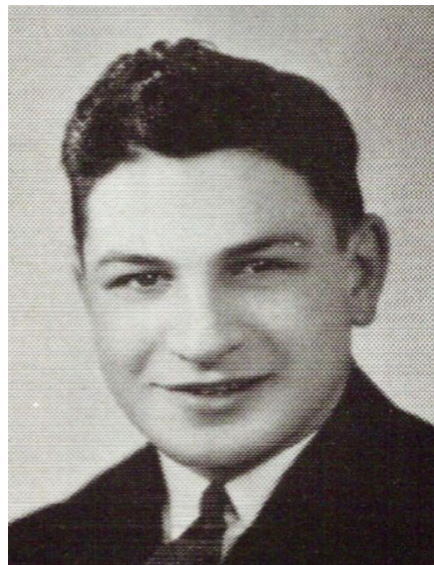
Shapiro was made staff sergeant and awarded his wings a few weeks ago after graduation from the glider school in Texas.

It was a long haul to those wings for Sergeant Shapiro, who now has more than 250 flying hours behind him.

After graduating from Duluth Central high school and then receiving his private pilot's license at the Duluth Junior college civilian pilot training course, the flier enlisted in February, 1941, in the army air force.

He received basic training at Jefferson Barracks, Mo., and graduated from the radio tech-

nical school at Scott Field, Ill., in November, 1941. After carrying out an assignment at the control tower at Wright Field, Ohio, he was promoted to corporal. Following his flight appointment for flying sergeant, he took primary training at the Southern Aviation school, Decatur, Ala., where he graduated, and then attended the Augusta, Ga., basic flying school. Before going to La Mesa, Texas, he received pre-glider training at Spencer, Iowa.



SHAPIRO, MYRON

Pep 2, 3, 4; History 4; Mask and Wig 2, 3; Hi-Y 3; Auction 4; Spec 3; Aviation 4; Glee Club 2, 3, 4; A Capella 4; Izaak Walton 2.

Music.

Duluth Central High School  
Class of 1937

September 25, 1944 Duluth Herald



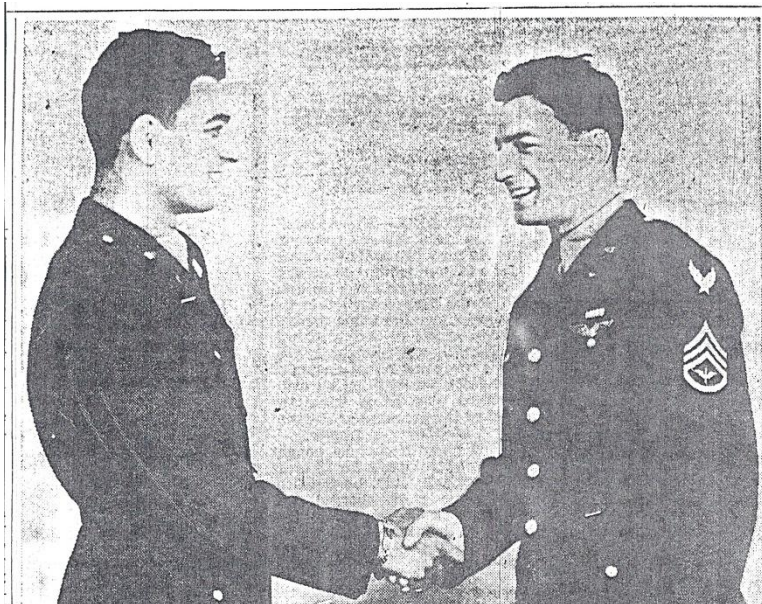
F-O MYRON F. SHAPIRO

**GLIDER PILOT**—Flight Officer Myron F. Shapiro of Duluth has returned to the United States after 14 months overseas with a glider ferrying unit and has assumed duties as a unit officer in the student detachment at South Plains army air field, Lubbock, Tex., it was learned here today. Shapiro, who is the son of Leo Shapiro, 2033 Princeton place, Duluth, has served in Sicily and Italy and North Africa as a glider ferry pilot, flying troops and cargo carrying gliders from Casablanca to various air fields in the Mediterranean theater.

Myron Shapiro was born 16 December 1918, enlisted 18 February 1941, died on 27 April 1987 and is buried at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery.



# Shapiro, F-O Myron Frederick



**SHAKE PALI**—It's one and the same person in the photo, folks. Staff Sergt. Myron (Mike) Shapiro, right, 23-year-old glider pilot, shakes hands with his former self, Pvt. Myron Shapiro, upon his return to Duluth after receiving the coveted wings of the newest branch of the army air force. He is home on furlough.

August 14, 1944 Duluth Herald

## F-O MYRON SHAPIRO

### Flew Gliders On 4 Fronts

"Flying gliders over the Atlas mountains in North Africa is quite a different thing from flying gliders in Texas." F-O Myron Shapiro, commented yesterday as he explained his activities as a glider pilot in Africa, Sicily, Italy and England with the Ninth Troop Carrier command.

Home in Duluth the last few weeks recuperating from malaria, the flight officer, son of Leo Shapiro, 2033 Princeton place, is well now and leaves this week-end for Santa Monica redistribution center for reassignment.

Flight Officer Shapiro, first Duluth graduate of the glider pilot school, the newest branch of the air corps, is a graduate of Central high school and Junior college here. He also received civilian pilot training in Duluth.

Mike, as he is known to Duluthians, believes that he has learned a good deal about geography as well as flying since his school days in Duluth and his training experience in Texas. His father has some proof of the fact.

Not long ago, his dad came across a map of Africa, made by Mike in the sixth grade. He sent it to his son "over there," and according to the Duluth flight officer, he and his pilot friends had some good laughs, for the 12-year-old Mike had placed Algiers about 1,000 miles away from its proper location and all of the African rivers flowed from and into the ocean, giving the continent a rather startling scalloped appearance. Fourteen months of active duty in the European theater of operation has given the pilot quite a different picture of the situation.

As a glider pilot, Shapiro's job is carrying airborne infantry, paratroopers and cargo. Air evacuation also is part of the glider pilot's work.

"When gliders are not in use," Shapiro added, "I served as co-pilot of tow planes. Tow planes are the air ships that haul us to the site of our objective."

Between attacks of malaria, the flight officer continued piloting his machineless ship. Finally, when the command reached England it was decided that he be sent home for a complete cure. Shapiro wears two Gold Stars for participation in major battles.

F-O Shapiro's brother, Leo Shapiro, Jr., formerly a second lieutenant in the Minnesota state guard here, is a private in the anti-aircraft division at Fort Bliss, Texas.