

# AVIATION WALL OF HONOR



## **Lieutenant Alfred C. Drury**

Alfred Drury, son of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Drury, 414 East Hewitt Avenue, Marquette, entered Northern Michigan College of Education in 1940. After completing his flight training with a CPT class at the Marquette County Airport by Sig Wilson, he was called to active duty as an Army aviation cadet at Santa Ana, California in April 1942. Upon completion of the preliminary flight course at Santa Ana, he was sent to Stockton Field, California for advanced training.

He received his pilot's wings and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant at Stockton on January 5, 1943. He served at Columbia Field, South Carolina before going overseas.

As a pilot of a B-25 Mitchell Medium Bomber, he spent a month in Africa before going to Italy.

On December 2, 1943 after three months of combat and on his 22<sup>nd</sup> mission his plane was shot down in Italy. Four crew members were killed, one was listed as status unknown, but fortunately Drury survived and was taken prisoner by the Germans. He was first taken to a classification camp at Dresden and later moved to Stalag Luft One where 7,000 officers and 2,000 enlisted men were imprisoned. From this camp at Barth on the Baltic Sea, Dr. and Mrs. Drury learned through the Red Cross their son was still alive. He wrote, "I am quite fortunate being alive and unwounded, so please do not worry. My spirits and confidence are high and my

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health is good. Knowing me, as only parents can know a son, you will realize that a little stretch like this won't do me any harm. I always needed a little time to stop and think things out a bit."

During the 17 months he was a prisoner, they received eight messages from him. On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the prison camp was liberated by the Russians and evacuation to England by bombers followed quickly afterward.

TJ Mudge, April 2004