

AVIATION WALL OF HONOR



First Lieutenant Francis F. Hetherington

Francis Hetherington, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. F. Hetherington of Lakewood, Michigan, attended Northern Michigan College and was a student athlete. After attending flight training, he served as a P-47 pilot with the Sixth Air Force Fighter Command in the Panama area.

In November 1943, according to the public relations officer of the Panama Canal Zone department headquarters, Lieutenant Hetherington was awarded the Air Medal. The citation accompanying the award lauded the lieutenant for "meritorious achievement while participating in regular and hazardous flights over water and jungle terrain in the Panama area."

TJ Mudge, April 2004

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Negaunee. As his train was passing through Milwaukee in August 1945, he looked out the train window and saw newspaper headlines proclaiming that the war was over.

When his furlough was up, he returned to San Antonio, Texas for mustering out. He was discharged with the rank of captain. His decorations included the American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, Air Medal, and Honorable Service Lapel Button. "In all the confusion after the war," said Irene, "Arvid never got the medal for heroism that he earned on all those missions."

After the war, Arvid flew as a pilot with Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company's charter service, then took a job as a welder in the CCI maintenance department while attending night classes at Negaunee High School to earn his high school diploma. He retired from CCI in 1982.

He kept his interest in flying, however. "He had two Piper Cubs parked in the yard," said Irene. "We'd take one and go to pick berries somewhere." He and Irene also operated the old Marquette airport for several years.

In 1999, after suffering a stroke while plowing snow, Arvid became a resident of Jacobetti Home for Veterans in Marquette. He died October 19, 2000 at the age of 80. He was survived by his wife and five children.

Larry Chabot, 2004