

A.E.A.F. No.436.TWO TECH SERGEANT PILOTS APPOINTED FLIGHT OFFICERS.NINTH FIGHTER COMMAND HEADQUARTERS,
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS:-----

Two Technical Sergeant Mustang pilots, among the few enlisted men flying fighter planes in combat from the European Theater of Operations, have been appointed Flight Officers, U.S. Ninth Air Force headquarters announced to-day.

They are John Ferguson, 22, of 213-03 35th Ave., Bayside, Long Island, N.Y., and Daniel L. Richards, 23, of 1336 Stanley Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

Ferguson, who previously complained that his biggest headache as a Tech Sergeant pilot was being picked up by MP's for wearing regulation pilots' wings, said, "Now maybe the MP's will leave us alone."

As sergeants, the two pilots had to "sweat out" chow lines and otherwise conduct themselves on a "GI" basis, but now they are entitled to all the privileges of commissioned officers.

They received their appointments and the officers' oath from their commanding officer, Col. James H. Howard, Mustang ace, former Flying Tiger and commander of a Ninth Air Force Mustang group.

Both Flight Officers received their wings after training with the Royal Canadian Air Force, and transferred into the A.A.F., last December with permanent ratings as Technical Sergeants, equivalent to Canadian Flight Sergeants, the rank they previously held.

Richards, a former Lockheed aircraft worker, has flown his Mustang on eight missions, two over Berlin, with Col. Howard's group, and has been recommended for the Air Medal. He has had several skirmishes, but has not destroyed any enemy planes.

Ferguson, who has been on three missions, two over Augsburg, was sent to England after training in Spitfires, and had just completed his final combat training course when he transferred.

A.E.A.F.

NOTE,

PICTURES OF T/SGT. JOHN FERGUSON AND T/SGT. DANIEL L.

RICHARDSON MAY BE OBTAINED FROM OWI's P and A.