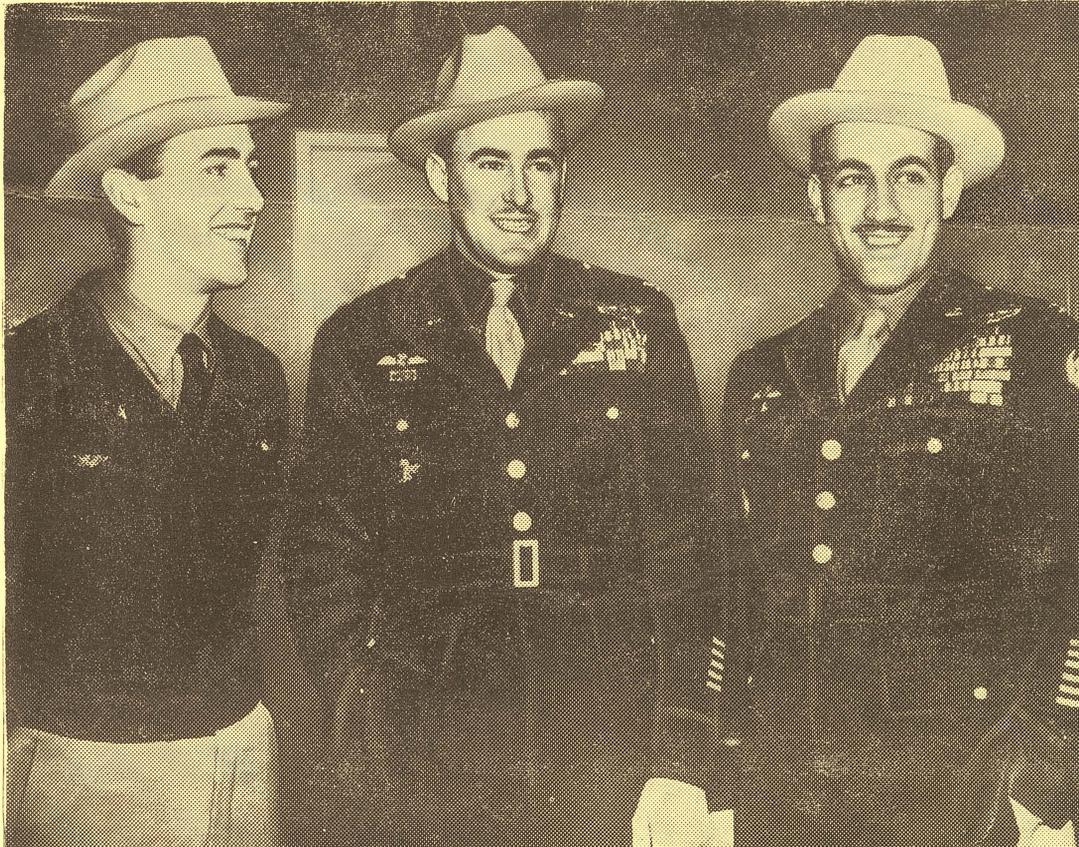


Reprint From The

FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

FORT WORTH, TEXAS, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1946



FORT WORTH DRAWS ACES—On terminal leave after completing the most sensational record of a fighter pilot team in any war, two of America's top aces in World War II Friday cast their lot in the peacetime aviation world with Fort Worth as a base of operations. The two aces are Maj. John T. Godfrey, center, and Maj. Don S. Gentile, right. Wearing Shady Oak hats presented to them by Amon Carter, they are shown with Lt. Wayne F. Austin, left, former AAF public relations representative, who will travel with Gentile and Godfrey on a national tour as representatives of the Globe Aircraft Corporation here. (Staff Photo).

GENTILE AND GODFREY, INC.

Top Fighter Aces Make Their Headquarters Here

Maj. Don S. Gentile and Maj. John T. Godfrey, a pair of aces who formed the top-ranking fighter pilot team of World War II, Friday had chosen Fort Worth as the post war headquarters of a venture they will make together in peacetime aviation.

Gentile (pronounced Gen-tilley) and Godfrey, who ran up a total of 69 "kills" between them on 180 combat missions and 192 sorties against the Nazi Luftwaffe, proved to be a pair of deadly "G-men" in aerial warfare of the European theater. On terminal leave now and ready to embark upon commercial aviation careers, they came to Fort Worth to represent the Globe Aircraft Corporation on a national tour designed to concentrate attention on Fort Worth as a center of aeronautical activity in Texas and the Southwest.

Commended for their World War II exploits in letters from Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Gen. Carl Spaatz, Gov. Frank J. Lausche of Ohio and others, the famous fliers Friday were guests of Amon Carter at the Fort Worth Club. Gentile and Godfrey, and Lt. Wayne F. Austin, former AAF public relations officer who will travel with them on their national tour as Texas aviation emissaries, each was presented with a Shady Oak hat by Carter. Later they will be given typical Texas "10-

gallon" hats to wear on their flights around the country in the Fort Worth-built personal planes being manufactured at the Globe plant.

In a letter to Carter, General Eisenhower wrote: "Knowing your continuing interest in our fighting men. I thought you might like to know that both of these men have splendid battle records and have accepted jobs that may keep them in Fort Worth permanently." A letter from General Spaatz to Carter praised the combat achievements of Gentile and Godfrey and highly commended them for their civilian duties here.

Gen. H. H. Arnold, commander-in-chief of the AAF until he retired recently and was succeeded by General Spaatz, nominated Gentile and Godfrey as "the living example of American teamwork in aviation" and called them "the top combat team of any war."

Herman Goering, former leader of the Luftwaffe, once was quoted as saying: "I would give two squadrons of men gladly if I could be assured of the death of the Italian Gentile and the Englishman Godfrey."

Gentile, whose home is Piqua, Ohio, is the son of Italian-born parents. Godfrey hails from Woonsocket, R. I., and is the son of English-born parents. Austin represented Twentieth

Century Fox pictures in press relations before he entered the AAF.

'2-MAN AIR FORCE.'

Gentile is credited with 32 aircraft destroyed and Godfrey, who was Gentile's wingman in a fighting combination often referred to as "General Ike's two-man air force," destroyed 37 enemy planes. Gentile was the first American ace to tie and exceed the World War I record of Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker, and scored 25 of his "kills" in aerial combat. Gentile also is credited with having shot down the German ace, Kirt von Meyer, in an aerial battle over Berlin. The Nazi pilot had been credited with 150 victories over Allied fliers.

Both Gentile and Godfrey wear numerous decorations. Each served with the RAF before transferring to the AAF, and Godfrey was a volunteer with the RCAF. Gentile wears the DSC with one cluster, the DFC with seven clusters, Air Medal with three clusters, British Star, British Service Medal, The Eagle Squadron Crest presented by the king and queen of England, and other service awards.

SHOT DOWN IN GERMANY

Godfrey was the top American ace when he was shot down over Germany, and served seven months as a prisoner of the Germans in Stalagluft No. 3. Godfrey wears the DFC with five clusters, the DSC, Silver Star with one cluster, Air Medal with three clusters, British Service Medal, the Purple Heart Medal and various other decorations.

The fliers have established temporary residence at the Blackstone Hotel. They plan to begin their tours in the Globe Swift planes within two or three weeks.