



A U. S. TROOP CARRIER BASE, EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS—Crossing the Rhine in the greatest airborne operation of the war was Captain Charles W. Abbitt of Appomattox, whose wife, Mrs. Ann C. Abbitt, lives in Vera. As navigator of a Troop Carrier C-47, his aircraft towed glider-borne troops and equipment to a landing zone deep in German held territory east of the Rhine.

Capt. Abbitt is group navigator in Colonel Frank Krebs' 440th Troop Carrier Group, awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for its work in the invasion of Normandy, the paratroop and glider operation in Southern France, the airborne invasion of Holland and the aerial re-supply of the American troops at Bastogne.

As part of Major General Paul L. Williams U. S. Troop Carrier Forces his group operates in between invasions in the aerial transportation of thousands of tons of vitally needed gasoline, ammunition and food to forward airstrips close to the fighting lines. Here casualties are brought for evacuation to base hospitals on the return trip.

Capt. Abbitt was graduated from Virginia Military Institute in 1941 and was immediately called to active duty. Upon completion of navigational training he was awarded his wings at Hondo, Texas, in August, 1943.