

LT. SCHULZE AWARDED OAK LEAF CLUSTER FOR DFC

A communication from the Fifteenth Air Force Headquarters, dated March 22, 1944, received recently contained among others, the following citation to Lt. Raymond L. Schulze, awarding the First Oak Leaf Cluster (bronze) for the Distinguished Flying Cross:

"Raymond L. Schulze, O-740565, First Lieutenant, Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in the Mediterranean Theatre of Operations, as pilot of a P-38 type aircraft. While leading a squadron of P-38's on a bomber escort mission over *****, Austria on 7 January 1944, Lieutenant Schulze's formation was attacked by fifty (50) enemy fighters. Greatly outnumbered, the P-38 formation was broken up by the enemy's repeated attacks. Observing an enemy fighter diving on two (2) P-38's from the rear, and realizing that his comrades would be shot down unless they received immediate protection, Lieutenant Schulze gallantly turned into this enemy fighter and destroyed it, thereby saving the lives of his two (2) fellow pilots. Rallying his squadron, Lieutenant Schulze led them on to additional attacks on this superior number of hostile fighters, and during a running fight which lasted for thirty (30) minutes, accounted for the probable destruction of a second hostile fighter and the damaging of a third. His conspicuous gallantry and superior leadership have been of high inspiration to all who have served under him. On many combat missions his skilled flying technique, expert handling of tactical formations, and his personal knowledge of enemy fighter tactics has been the deciding factor in the successful completion of the mission. By his courage, professional skill as a combat leader, and his unselfish devotion to duty Lieutenant Schulze has upheld the highest traditions of the Military Service, thereby reflecting great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States of America." Residence at appointment: Omaha, Nebraska.

Lt. Schulze, now on leave in this country, spent the past two weeks visiting here with his wife and baby at the Ed. S. Hanzel home.