

Capt. Press Maxwell, wearing an unusual decoration—the wings of the Yugoslav air force—came home to Ardmore in July with 81 combat missions to his credit, flown in the European theater of operations.

The Ardmore officer was presented the award and made an honorary member of the Yugoslav air force by Marshal Tito in a ceremony at Belgrade. Capt. Maxwell and his colonel were the only men to receive this high honor on that day—at which time only 20 had been presented to American airmen.

The distinction, Marshal Tito said in conferring the awards, was in recognition of the help the two American officers had given his partisans in their resistance to the Nazi domination.

Their organization—the 15th air force headquarters rescue unit—is credited with saving some 5,000 American fliers downed in the Balkans. Capt. Maxwell had been with the rescue unit since completing his bombing missions as a Liberator pilot last December.

Wearer of the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with several oak-leaf clusters, Maxwell is the son of Perry Maxwell of Ardmore, who has earned national recognition as a designer of golf courses.