



—Courtesy The State

First Lieutenant Samuel R. Webster, Jr., mechanical engineering '41 of Mullins, is shown shortly after he had been assigned to the General Subjects Team at the Armored Command Replacement Training Center at Fort Knox, Ky. Lt. Webster is the first officer to be assigned to that post that has escaped from an Italian prison camp.

## Escapee From Italian Prison Is Assigned To Tank Headquarters

The first American officer assigned to the Armored Replacement Training Center at Fort Knox, Ky., to escape from an Italian prison camp is Clemson graduate First Lieutenant Samuel R. Webster, mechanical engineering '41 of Mullins.

The officer fought against Rommel's best in North Africa until the Hitlermen knocked out a tank he was commanding at Teburba. The Nazis turned Lt. Webster over to the Italians for imprisonment. Details as to the site of the camp or how the Clemson graduate made his getaway cannot be revealed because they might prejudice similar attempts by other American prisoners.

"The food given us by the Italians was terrible," he recalled. "The Red Cross packages of food we received were marvelous—they kept us from starving."

The young South Carolinian, a platoon commander in the 1st Armored Regiment of the 1st Armored Division landed with the first waves of troops at Oran in November, 1942, and fought the enemy until December 3, when a high explosive shell hit the track of his light tank, forcing him to submit to capture.

"We were green then," Lt. Webster said, "and were fighting veterans. The Germans had Mark IIIs and IVs which were heavier than our lights. However, we showed our stuff as we became battle-hardened."

Lt. Webster has been assigned to the Center General Subjects team. His cousin, Pfc. Joseph Webster, mechanical engineering '44 of Loris, took his basic training at Fort Knox and is now here at Clemson under the ASTP.