

Torrance Navy Officer Is Awarded Bronze Star For Bravery In Fire

Lieut. (Jg.) Harold Ray Speece, USN, attached to the Naval Material Redistribution Center in Torrance, was presented with the Bronze Star in a ceremony last week.

Lieut. Comdr. Frederick E. Drake, Jr., commanding officer of the base, made the presentation.

The citation reads as follows: "For distinguishing himself by meritorious achievement in action on February 18, 1945, as an officer attached to a United States ship during the assault on Iwo Jima. After the ship was bombed by an enemy aircraft and raging fires ensued, he, with outstanding leadership and skill, entered smoke-filled compartments at the risk of his life and directed the fire fighters and repair parties. With determination and profound devotion to duty, he contributed immeasurably to the saving of the ship. His conduct throughout distinguished him among those performing duties of the same character."

The citation was signed by Admiral R. K. Turner.

BIKE ACCIDENTS

Sixty-two per cent of the bicycle riders injured in motor vehicle-bicycle accidents in 1944 were children between the ages of five and 14 years.

There is not a book on earth so favorable to all the kind and to all the sublime affections, or so unfriendly to hatred, persecution, tyranny, injustice, and every sort of malevolence as the gospel. —Beattie

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J. C. Bay Is Discharged From Naval Service

Again a civilian bent upon renewal of his college education, Joe Bay, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Bay, 2003 Gramercy ave., and husband of Mrs. Nadine Bay, classified advertising manager of the Torrance Herald, was relaxing in Torrance this week.

He returned Nov. 14 from 26 months spent in the South Pacific as a chief pharmacist mate in the U. S. Navy, assigned to the Marine Corps. Bay saw service in Solomon, Okinawa and New Georgia campaigns, and was at Yokosuka, Japan. He was discharged at the Navy separation center at Terminal Island.

Prior to enlisting in the Navy four years ago, Bay was in field entomology work with the H. L. Stoker Co., Pomona. He said that he will enter school in the near future.

Air Medal Is Awarded Gorbet, Lomita Soldier

Sgt. Frank C. Gorbet, aerial engineer, of 25804 South Reed st., Lomita, has been awarded the Air Medal. It has been announced by Brig. Gen. William H. Turner, commanding general of the India China Division, Air Transport Command.

The India China Division is completing, by homeward movements of freight and personnel, its war mission of trans-India, India-China and intra-China transport. It has made air history by flying cargo and passengers in regularly scheduled day-and-night transit over routes once virtually unusable, primarily the famed Hump. Its war contribution, say aviation leaders, has provided far-reaching benefits for the future of air transport on a world-wide scale. July 1945, saw 71,000 tons cross the Hump, while at the moment of Jap surrender the rate was nearly two tons a minute.

CANDLES HAZARD
Though seldom used any longer on Christmas trees, candles are a major fire hazard in the home when placed on window sills and mantels where they might ignite curtains and other decorations.

OPEN THE DOOR
Is it too cold to open the garage doors while you warm up the car on these winter mornings? Maybe it's chilly, but cold air is better than carbon monoxide.

Christmas Seals Placed In The Mail

Christmas Seals by the hundreds of thousands are now in the hands of the residents of the Los Angeles area, mailed by the Los Angeles County Tuberculosis and Health Association in their 39th annual fund raising campaign to fight tuberculosis.

Funds received from the annual sale of Christmas Seals are used by the Association to detect tuberculosis and heart disease in the early stages and provide the public with information on how these diseases may be prevented.

Through a mobile x-ray unit, whose services are made available through Christmas Seal sales, some 40,000 workers in the area were given x-rays during the past twelve months. The mobile unit travels to industrial plants and large business establishments where arrangements are made through labor and management for using this service, provided free of charge by the Association. All examinations are made on a purely voluntary basis.

A year round educational program, through the use of motion pictures, pamphlets, talks, etc., is carried on in schools and organizations in the area.

Tuberculin tests among school children are given by the Association in cooperation with the school districts and Parent-Teacher Associations in the county.

Vanderhide Served During Big Typhoon

Calvin Howard Vanderhide, boatswain's mate, first class, of 4507 Torrance Blvd, served during the war with a Pacific Navy Service Force group whose personnel was credited with saving the lives of 75 survivors of a small tanker during the height of a raging typhoon off Iwo Jima, newly revised Navy records of the group have disclosed.

The small ship had to be abandoned 300 yards off shore. Even while the crewmen of the stricken vessel were going overseas, ambulances were arriving at the beach to care for the injured—if they ever reached shore through the roaring surf.

Rescue parties went to work. Men entered the sea, each with lines about their waists to keep them from being pulled out to sea by the undertow; others didn't wait for the lines.

No one could count the individual acts of bravery performed, but when the weary group had completed its task the announcement came: "All survivors and rescue parties accounted for and all safe. Well done!"

Commissioned USMS Ensign

Stanley Thorp was commissioned an Ensign, USMS, in graduation exercises last week at the U. S. Maritime Service Officers School, Alameda, California. After successfully completing a four months' course and passing a five-day examination for licenses, the new Officer, along with a class of almost 200 fellow Officer Candidates, was presented with his commission by Captain Malcolm E. Crossman, USMS, Superintendent.

It was necessary for the men to have at least 14 months sea experience in order to qualify for entrance. They will ship out as Third Mates or Third Assistant Engineers on Merchant Vessels within a few weeks of graduation.

Thorp lives at 2233 241st st., Lomita. He will sail as a Third Assistant Engineer.

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