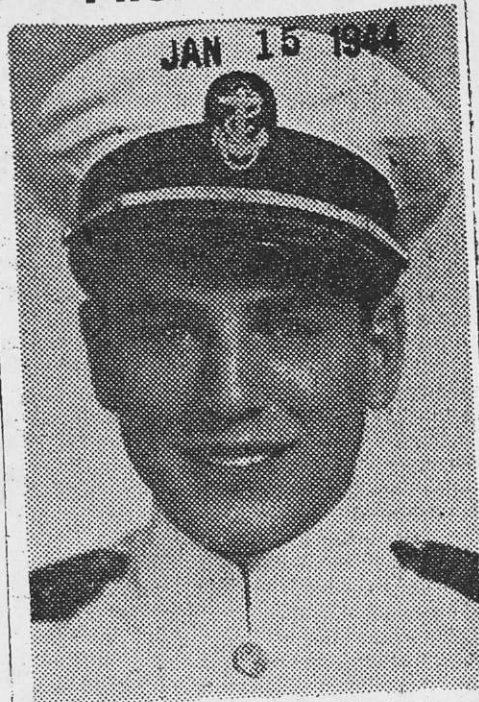


Lahodney, Jr., William

## Pilot a Hero



How the crew of a big Catalina flying boat was brought home to safety in their crippled craft by Lieut. William Lahodney, Jr., former Bethlehem man, who is now pilot of one of the huge U. S. Navy patrol planes, is told in a story appearing in a Harrisburg newspaper. Lieut. Lahodney, whose home town is given as Milton, Pa., flew the plane to New Guinea after it had been riddled with 130 shrapnel holes, its rudder cable severed and with just five gallons of gasoline in its fuel tanks as it landed.

Lahodney and his crew bombed, they hoped successfully, a big Jap cruiser. In a return sweep to see how well they had hit their mark the plane was struck by anti-aircraft fire. Its rudder controls were severed and the Catalina plunged seaward. Somehow, none of the crew could tell, Lahodney managed to right the plane just above the waves. It gained altitude and they set out for base.

They nosed the ship out of the danger area, but it swung in 20 mile dips off its course, flying over the heaviest Jap defenses at Rabaul. Somehow they got through the barrage and safely home, after jettisoning everything aboard to lighten the plane.

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