

Kotich, George A.

**Local Seabee Cited
For Freeing Two
Ships After Crash**

George A. Kotich, shipfitter, first class, (SF1/C), USNR, 251 East Morton Street, this city, serving with a Navy Seabee pontoon battalion now stationed in the Hawaiian Islands, recently received a commendation for his part in freeing two landing ships involved in a collision somewhere in the Pacific.

"With utter disregard for your own safety," said the commendation from the officer in charge of the

Seabee battalion, "you voluntarily hung over the side of the pitching ship and eventually cut free the an-

chor imbedded in the side of the ship, while she was under way.

"You are highly commended for bravery and outstanding performance during this critical period. Your actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the U. S. Naval Service."

Mar. 6, 1945