

Choma, M.

### Local Sailors Put In Many Combat Hours Before Jap Surrender

Crewmen aboard the fighting ships of the Navy, which were on duty in Pacific waters up until the time of the official surrender, had put in quite a few combat hours at their battle stations.

M. Choma, aviation boatswain's mate 3/C, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. Choma, 1615 East Fourth Street, and other crewmen of the aircraft carrier, USS Bennington, had helped log nearly 100,000 miles of Pacific travel before she dropped anchor in Tokyo Bay with other occupation units of the fleet. In combat since January 1945, the Bennington took part in nearly every major combat zone of the Pacific, and participated in a number of strikes at the Japs.

Stuard William Schmoyer, seaman 2/C, 1949 West Broad Street, and other Navy men who served on the fleet oiler USS Kaskaskia, helped take that ship approximately 271,000 miles during the Pacific campaign

to keep the U. S. fleet supplied with essential fuel, newly revised Navy records on the ship have disclosed.

Stephen Toth, ship's service man, 3/C, 1111 East Fourth Street, served aboard the USS Sierra, one of the Navy's famed "floating navy yards," which has received a commendation from the commander of destroyers, Pacific fleet, for her crew's feat of performing 21,392 man-hours of work on 65 ships in one nine-day period.

William Joseph Ruchl, 20, aviation ordnanceman 2/C, of 422 Hickam Street, and other crewmen of the seaplane tender, USS Hamlin, played an important role in the far-reaching extensive damage dealt Japan by the famed Fleet Air Wing One during the closing 100 days of the war.

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