

Nemeth, John J.

Local Man, Killed in Action, Stuck to Post Under Jap Fire During Invasion of Luzon

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ABOARD COAST GUARD-MANNED TRANSPORT AT LUZON (SPECIAL)—How he stuck by his post on the signal bridge despite intensive fire and died shortly after this ship suffered a direct hit from a Jap plane during the invasion of Luzon was told by shipmates of John Joseph Nemeth, 24, electrician's mate third class, U. S. Coast Guard, of 1215 Mechanic Street, Bethlehem, Pa. His father, Joseph, has been notified of his death.

Nemeth's ship underwent its first attack 10 days before the invasion of Lingayen Gulf and its gunners succeeded in downing the lone Jap raider. Attacks continued periodically during the journey to Lingayen and he was fatally wounded during a raid 24 hours before the beachhead was established.

Shipmates said they were watching a dogfight between some Hellcats and three Zero planes when another Jap plane swooped in from astern and dropped a bomb that missed by only 60 feet. The pilot strafed the port side of the ship and came back for another try. He succeeded in hitting it, but was downed by the ship's gunners. The ship continued into Lingayen Gulf and discharged its troops and cargo under further raids.

Nemeth was born in Bethlehem December 27, 1921, attended St. John's grammar school and Technical High School and became a helper at Bethlehem Steel Company plant in the electrical shop. He enlisted in the Coast Guard in Philadelphia December 15, 1942 and underwent training in New York before joining this vessel in September, 1943. Since then he had participated in five other invasions, including Leyte, the Palaus, Saipan, Emirau and the Marshalls.

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