

Donchez, Charles G.

Steve

Frank

On Active Duty



Charles G. Donchez, recently promoted to Seaman 1/C, has seen considerable action throughout the Pacific aboard the U. S. S. Ingraham, now in drydock for repairs at Hunter's Point, San Francisco.

The 2,200 ton "tin can" survived a direct hit by a Japanese suicide plane early in May north of Okinawa and came home under her own power with a great rent in her hull, 15 of her enlisted men dead and 30 of her men wounded. Nicknamed the "Mighty I" by her crew, the Ingraham was operating on the edge of the East China Sea with another battle-famed destroyer, the Morrison, when she was hit, according to a 12th Naval District announcement.

Donchez, entitled to wear the American Theater campaign medal, and the Asiatic-Pacific area medal, served aboard the ship in the latter phases of the Leyte operations, took part in the assault and capture of Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, and participated in the campaign for the liberation of the Philippine Islands, for which he is entitled to the Philippine Liberation Medal with one Bronze Star. In February of 1945, S 1/C Donchez took part in the first carrier air strike against the mainland of Japan and has been knocking at Japan's door ever since. Two separate night actions of his ship resulted in the destruction of three Japanese vessels in waters adjacent to the Japanese empire. He recently participated in carrier air strikes against enemy installations on Iwo Jima and in support of landings on Okinawa Jima, including a carrier air strike at Sakishima.

Two of his brothers are also serving in the armed forces, Pvt. Steve Donchez, with the U. S. Army in the Pacific and Pvt. Frank Donchez, with the Marines in Oceanside, Calif. S 1/C Donchez is spending a 21-day leave with his mother and sister at their home, 937 East Fifth Street.

July 12, 1945