

Naegely, Laurence R.

Bethlehem Flier Credited With Sinking Jap Ships at Sabang

APR 22 1944

By EUGENE BURNS

ABOARD AN AMERICAN CARRIER OFF SABANG, SUMATRA, (Delayed)—While lightning flashed over the smooth sea in the half-light as the planes' propellers whirled to take off for the attack on Sabang, Admiral Somerville expressed the hope "to catch the Japs with their kimonos up."

We did.

Lt. Commander Vince L. Hathorn, of Pittsfield, Me., took the largest ship in the harbor for his target, a 5,000-ton vessel, and other men in his division hit smaller ships.

Two other divebomber divisions led by Lts. Frank McDonald of Bothell, Wash., and Laurence R. Naegely, (434 East Laurel Street, Bethlehem, Pa., dived on more spectacular targets, four large 70-foot diameter oil tanks.

As they retired Naegely's rear seatman, Desmond C. Musgrove of Meigs, Ga., said "I've never seen such a big fire in all my life."

Their plane made the 76,000th landing on this carrier one hour later, a record for any carrier any time.

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