

Rybak, Peter

Bethlehem Sailor Wears Battle Ribbon of Many War Theaters

JAN 15 1944

Peter Rybak, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Rybak of 1808 East Third Street, has returned to Charleston, S. C., after a 30-day leave spent with his parents here. Young Rybak, who recently received the rating of fireman first class, is a graduate of Technical High School,



PETER RYBAK

1941, and at the time of his enlistment was employed by the Bethlehem Steel Company.

Fireman 1st Class Rybak has had

some very interesting experiences since he stood in front of the grandstand at the Allentown Fair September 24, 1942, to be sworn into the Navy with a large group of men from this section. Three of the Allentown boys who were sworn in at the same time have been with Rybak ever since, also another Allentown boy who enlisted a month earlier, serving on the same boat and having the same experiences, which include service from Casablanca to Sicily. At one time the local boys had three months of shore duty on the heaviest bombed spot in the world, Malta. The ship on which they served has had some harrowing experiences, which included some fatal casualties aboard.

All five of the boys who have been together wear ribbons denoting participation in the American, European and African theaters. The executive officer on the ship is Lieutenant Franklin Roosevelt, son of the President. The Allentown boys who have been with the Bethlehem boy for the past year and a half are Leonard Sweeney, coxswain; Forrest Reightler, Stephen B. Mayernik, ship's cooks third class and Leo Grazer, ship's cook second class.

Another son of Mr. and Mrs. Rybak, Pvt. Michael Rybak, a member of Amphibian Engineers, presently stationed at Camp Gordan, Florida, had an emergency furlough recently, that he might spend some time with his sailor brother whom he had not seen for 16 months.

Jan 15, 1944