

Tebeau, Robert J.

## Wins Citation For Fighting Ship Fire

JUN 19 1945

HEADQUARTERS, U. S. NAVAL FORCES IN EUROPE, London, England, May 22 (Delayed)—For courage and decisive action when his ship caught fire and was in danger of explosion, Robert J. Tebeau, gunner's mate, second class, USNR, whose wife lives at 310 West Broad Street, Quakertown, has been commended by Admiral Harold R. Stark, Commander of U. S. Naval Forces in Europe.

Tebeau was an armed guard crew member aboard a cargo ship moored at a pier in Antwerp, Belgium, last December, when a British merchant ship rammed her starboard side. Fire broke out immediately.

Despite imminent explosions, Tebeau entered the burning hatch and fought the fast-spreading fire.

The citation said in part:

"Your performance of duty while serving as a member of the armed guard crew aboard a cargo ship in the harbor of Antwerp, Belgium, has been called to my attention.

"While moored at the pier a British ship rammed your ship on the starboard side. Fire broke out immediately. You entered the burning hatch despite imminent explosions from the gasoline cargo, manned the fire hoses and commenced fighting the fire. Your action was a material contribution to the saving of the ship's cargo and human life, as well as averting serious danger to other ships loaded with similar cargo in the vicinity.

"For your courage, initiative and decisive action upon this occasion, you are hereby commended.

"This commendation carries with it the privilege of wearing the commendation ribbon."

June 19, 1945