

Brader, Stanford

LOCAL LAD SURVIVES SINKING, TWO BATTLES

Oct. 13 '42

**Richard Kresge, Q. M., U. S. N.,
in Coral and Midway Fights,
on Torpedoed Vincennes.**

A Bethlehem sailor who helped to take those Marines in and cover their landing on Guadalcanal, and who was a quartermaster on the U. S. S. Vincennes sunk in the action, told as much as he dared about the battle today, now that the Navy Department disclosed the loss of the Vincennes, Astoria and Quincy, all heavy cruisers in the operation.



RICHARD KRESGE

The Bethlehem hero is Richard Kresge, fully recovered from a shrapnel wound of the leg and with his eight hours adrift hanging to wreckage and a life craft but a bad memory. He arrived at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Kresge, 403 East Broad Street, last Wednesday but his lips were sealed against telling any of his experiences until the U. S. Navy announcement yesterday.

Quartermaster Second Class Kresge, graduate of Liberty High School in 1939 and veteran of the Iceland Patrol, the Coral Sea and Midway battles, has a furlough until October 24, on which date he must report in San Francisco for a new assignment, presumably to another ship.

Was On Iceland Patrol

To begin chronologically, Quartermaster Kresge enlisted in the navy shortly after his graduation from High School and was with the Vincennes the past two years. He was on the Iceland Patrol when the Reuben James was sunk by enemy torpedoes.

When war broke out last December, his ship moved into the Pacific and with it, he saw action in the Battles of Coral Sea and Midway. It was the Vincennes which the official Navy photographer caught standing by in the pictures of the burning Yorktown, aircraft carrier.

And, finally, it was the Vincennes that was assigned with the Astoria and Quincy to lay down the shell barrage of Japanese land installations on Guadalcanal to cover the Marines landing on that jungle beach last August.

Kesge and his ship had been under fire and in action for two days when the call to general quarters (battle-stations) was sounded at 1:45 a. m., August 9. At 2 a. m., the Vincennes was struck by four direct hits from a heavy Japanese cruiser which started firing at 9,000 yards and moved in as close as 4,000 yards to fire point-blank from 8-inch guns that have a 17-mile range.

The first shell hit the airplane hangar, just below Kresge's station, starting a fire that made the Vincennes an easy target. The death dealing torpedo was fired later.

When orders came to abandon ship, Kresge said he jumped into the ocean, floated around holding to

wreckage and finally picked up by a life raft, the raft being filled with wounded men. He was picked up after eight hours and taken to an island base. He has been back in the United States twenty days.

Hellertown Boy Aboard

Aboard the Vincennes also was John Folente, of Hellertown, a seaman first class who was transferred to a transport.

In the Southwest Pacific Kresge also met Sergeant Lewis Christine, Locust Street, and Corporal Stanford Brader, Maple Street, both of this city, members of the Marine Corps.

Kresge, whose brother, Donald Kresge, is in training at Great Lakes Naval Training Station, said he hitchhiked across the country and the people he talked with growl about gasoline rationing but don't seem fully aware how serious and awful this war is.

Observing that the Battle of the Solomons is still in progress, he predicted that the Marines will hold what they have won no matter what the cost because of the strategic importance of the islands.

The battle veteran is enjoying his furlough playing golf (he used to caddy at Saucon Country Club) and eating all his favorite dishes that his mother is making for him.

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