

Commissioned An Ensign in Vital Service

MAY 15 1943

Charles Vehafric, 25, 1131 Sioux Street, Fountain Hill, a former mechanic in the employ of the Hauser Chevrolet Company, has been commissioned an ensign in the United States Merchant Marine. His entering the Marine service came about in a peculiar manner Thursday a week ago.

Being in the draft age, Vehafric had filled out a questionnaire for re-classification in the service. When he called the attention of his boss, R. R. Hauser, to the matter, Mr. Hauser suggested getting in touch with Captain E. C. Venetiener, of Eleventh Avenue, West Side, and select his service, the Merchant Marine.

Vehafric agreed to this and Captain Venetiener, a close friend of Mr. Hauser, called on him. When informed that Vehafric is an expert body man, Captain Venetiener remarked: "Just the man the Merchant Marine needs," and asked him to apply for the job.



ENSIGN CHARLES VEHAFRIC
(U. S. Merchant Marine)

Given letters of introduction, Vehafric went to New York City May 6 and called on the Captain of the Port, who directed him to the Bureau of Navigation, where he was promptly signed up and commissioned an ensign, with permission to go as third officer on any U. S. Merchant Marine ship.

At the age of 19 Ensign Vehafric entered the training ship Annapolis from which he was graduated two years later as a third mate. He received some experience in the Marine service by taking two trips on an oil tanker. His vessel reached Greenport, N. Y., about the time that the New England coast was visited by the devastating hurricane more than four years ago. His ship, however, was in the harbor and no damage was done to it.

Ensign Vehafric did not return home from New York City May 6 but left the same night for Los An-

geles to take the job given him by the Bureau of Navigation on a new Merchant Marine ship built at Los Angeles, and on which he expects to sail shortly.

He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. John Vehafric, 519 Ontario Street. He was graduated from Liberty High School at the age of 17. Some time later he became employed by the Bethlehem Steel Company as assistant foreman of the bricklayers in the Saucon plant. For the past year or so he has been employed by the Hauser Company as a body mechanic.

In 1940 Ensign Vehafric was married to Miss Anna Rick, of Fountain Hill. She has taken a position with the Lehigh Valley Silk Company, Fountain Hill.

BROTHER IN SERVICE

Mr. and Mrs. Vehafric have another son in the U. S. service, Frank, stationed at Chickarka, Oklahoma. He was inducted into the service in March of 1941 and sent to Camp Meade, Maryland. Later he was transferred to Fort Monmouth, N. J., for training in the U. S. Signal Corps. Later he was sent to Norfolk and Roanoke, Va., for his basic training. He was also an instructor and had charge of an office there.

Last November he became a flying cadet and was then sent to Fort Houston, Texas, to start his training. Last April he was transferred to Chickarka, where he is attending

the flying cadet training school for 15 months. He expects to graduate next Easter.