

Finnigan Jr., Oliver D.

Cmdr. Oliver Finnigan Earns Bronze Star For Weather Plans

SEP 24 1945

AT A PACIFIC AMPHIBIOUS FORCE HEADQUARTERS (Delayed)—One of the men who guard the Pacific fleet from the menace of turbulent weather, Commander Oliver Davis Finnigan, Jr., USN, of Bethlehem, has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal for "his excellent weather appraisals, heavy weather plans, and smoke plans for the protection of vessels lying in transport areas."

The decoration was earned while Cmdr. Finnigan served as aerologist and assistant to the operations officer on the staff of the commander of an amphibious force from January, 1944, to August, 1945.

The citation accompanying the award declared, in part:

"Cmdr. Finnigan contributed materially to the preparation of plans for the capture of Green, Emirau, Southern Palau, Leyte, and Luzon Islands. He observed the Green Island operation from an aircraft and efficiently apprized the Force Commander as to the progress of the landings. During his active participation in the assaults upon Southern Palau, Leyte and Luzon Islands, he was subjected to numerous enemy air attacks and to threats of attack by task forces of the Japanese Fleet."

For six years he served as watch and division officer aboard battleships, destroyers and cruisers. In 1942 he returned to the Naval Academy for a postgraduate course in aerology. He also attended the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, a branch of the University of California, in La Jolla, Calif., in 1944.

Attached to a fast carrier, he participated in the raid on Wake and Tarawa, the preliminary strikes leading to the invasion of the Marshalls and in the invasion of the Gilberts.

His wife, the former Jane Coyle,



CMDR. OLIVER FINNIGAN

lives at 47 East Church Street, with their two children, Jane Ferree, 5, and Oliver Davis, III, 3.

The commander's wife has a strong Navy background. Her great-grandfather was Rear Admiral William Radford. A destroyer is named for him. His wife's father, Colonel W. R. Coyle, now on inactive duty, was a Marine Corps officer in the first World War. Her uncle, Colonel Randolph Coyle, participated in both World Wars as a Marine Corps officer. He is also retired.

Commander Finnigan's mother, Mrs. Florence Ferree Finnigan, makes her home at 57 King Street, Stratford, Conn.

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