

Gross, Robert R.

P-O Gross Seeing Action In Pacific



Petty Officer 3-C Robert R. Gross, son of Police Sergeant and Mrs. Robert R. Gross of 27 West Fairview St., has seen plenty of action as a member of the crew of the cruiser Phoenix.

Surviving the Pearl Harbor disaster, the cruiser has engaged in more than 30 Pacific operations against the Japs, according to a naval release from Guam.

Petty Officer Gross has been in the combat forces for more than 30 months, and has been a member of the crew since 1943, being assigned following an overhauling of the craft in the United States.

In the same year the cruiser returned to the Southwest Pacific, and supported Gen. Douglas MacArthur's forces in the scraps along the New Guinea coast, through the Philippines and Manila Bay engagements.

Known to the crew as "The Phoo-Bird," the Phoenix was the flagship of her cruiser division, operated in Indian Ocean, Coral Sea, Australia, participated in the Philippine scraps, and supported the landings at Lingayen Gulf on Luzon and the combined sea and air invasion of Corregidor. Frequently under attack, she was never damaged. Three enemy raiders were victims of the sharpshooting crew.

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