

Scott, William

Veteran of Pacific Action Brings Home Jap Trophies SET 21 1943

With service bars on his chest indicating participation in Naval activities in the Southwest Pacific and American area, gold for the former, blue for the latter; four gold stars on the gold for four major engagements in which he was a participant, William Scott, Cox, 2-c, U.S.N., came home to his wife and the small son whom he had never seen.

Stuffed into his sea bag along with his duffle, Scott brought with him several interesting trophies of his 17-and-one-half months stay in the islands of the Southwest Pacific. He was among the first to see Guadalcanal, his ship participating in the first landing on the island August 7, 1942.

It was at this time that Scott acquired the short pants and brief coat of a Jap officer, killed by the first American Naval landing party. The wearer must have been hardly over five feet tall, for the shorts come just below the knee of the Jap wearer but hardly reach the knee of the six-foot American sailor. The coat has sleeves that reach just short of the elbow and they are vented in the armpits. The material is similar to the U. S. khaki, but somewhat sleezy. Instead of olive drab, it has a silvery tint and is smooth to the touch.

Scott also had with him an islander's war club, some chop sticks and a number of other articles of interest. Somewhere in the course of his travels he had had his picture taken with a full beard, making him look like "Ivan the Russian." He stands six feet tall and is 165 pounds of sinew and hard flesh. As a specimen of typical American sailor, blonde-thatched Scott is tops.

Prodded a little by his wife, An-

toinette Grossertt, he said he had been in the actions at Rendova, New Georgia and other recent battles. He holds the Purple Heart, indicating that he was wounded, but refuses to say anything about it.

Scott and Antoinette, who is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Grossett, 63 West Garrison Street,

were married a short time before he left for the Navy. During his absence their son, William, Jr., eleven and one-half months old, was born and the father saw the youngster for the first time the day he arrived here, September 9.

Scott is not a native Bethlehemite. He came to this city to work for the Bethlehem Steel Company in the shell shop. He is a native of Sumter, N. C., where he graduated from the high school, and he lived here for five years. After Pearl Harbor, Scott enlisted in the Navy and has been on active service ever since.

His first leave home came on August 5 and he sailed from the Southwest Pacific on a returning Army transport. He arrived in San Francisco on the 24th of August. His 26-day leave is up at the end of this week and he will leave for Bremerton, Washington, where he will become part of the crew of a new ship, helping to break in the "boots," or new men.

Scott had little to say about the engagements he had seen, but he did say that the Jap is "a tricky fighter, well-trained in jungle tactics." He pointed out that the Jap ship is efficient, usually well-handled and that it carries a larger complement of men than the American ships because, due to the average smaller size of the Jap crewman, the ships are arranged differently, being more compact.

He was full of praise for his comrades-in-arms, from the top men on down, saying that they are putting up a wonderful fight. "The Japs

are good fighters, good shots, well-trained, but they can't stack up against the Americans," Scott declared, a ring of pride in his voice.

September 21, 1943