

Boehm, Edward O.

Six Local Sailors Unscathed in Action At Okinawa Sector

Luck was with six local blue-jackets who came through the battle for Okinawa aboard the battleship USS New York, without a scratch. The men, Edward O. Boehm, Seaman 1/C, 1249 Russell Avenue, and James Peteto, Fireman 1/C, 1028 Jeter Avenue, Bethlehem; Howard Ganssle, Fireman 1/C, from 1308 Jefferson Street; William L. Horvath, Seaman 1/C, and Rodney L. Nickum, from 230 Main Street, Heltown, and Henry Siatkowski, Seaman 2/C from 114 Eleventh Street, Quakertown, helped fire more than five million pounds of shells at enemy targets.

These sailors spent two solid weeks at their air defense stations during more than 200 air raid alerts. One Jap suicide plane made an unsuccessful suicide run through a hail of anti-aircraft fire, but crashed harmlessly into the sea. Not one Jap bomb, torpedo or artillery shell found its mark on the ship, although all were tried.

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