

Staffieri, Richard L.

Pacific Veteran

OCT 8 1945



Mr. and Mrs. E. Staffieri, 1203 New Jersey Avenue, Hellertown, received a letter from their recently promoted son, Richard L. Staffieri, Seaman 2/C, who is serving aboard the U. S. S. Wedderburn, two-year-old destroyer with more than 15 months Pacific duty to her credit.

Seaman 2/C Staffieri saw action in Palau, Mindanao, Luzon, Visayan areas, Ulithi, Ryukyus, Leyte and strikes on the Indo-China coast and on the port of Saigon, in addition to Iwo Jima. While with the 3rd Fleet, Staffieri's ship participated in the first carrier strikes against Japan and until the surrender of the Japanese, flushed the Japs out of hiding from their Pacific bases.

According to the Hellertown lad's letter, the most memorable of his war experiences occurred the day news of the official Jap surrender reached his ship. Said Staffieri, "I'll never forget. It happened August 14, 1945, when we got word that the Japs had surrendered. About five minutes later a Jap raid bombed h— out of us! And there we were fighting enemy planes while back home in the States, people were celebrating victory."

Seaman 2/C Staffieri was attending Hellertown High School before he enlisted in the Navy. After completing his boot training at Sampson, N. Y., he was given a furlough which he spent at home with his other brothers, also in the service, before going overseas.

His brothers are 2nd Lt. Ben Staffieri, stationed in France with a troop carrier and Pfc. Eddie, with an Engineer outfit in the Philippines at present.

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