

Naegely, Laurence R.

**LOCAL NAVY OFFICER
RESCUED FROM WASP**

OCT 29 1942

**Lieut. L. R. Naegely Writes
Home of Solomon Islands
Battle Adventure.**

Lieut. J. G. Laurence R. Naegely, U.S.N., son of Mr. and Mrs. Laurence M. Naegely, 434 East Laurel Street, this city, was standing on the flight deck of the U. S. S. Wasp, aircraft carrier, September 15 at 2:45 p. m. when the cries, "Torpedo wake!" rang out.

This information came in a letter received today by Mr. and Mrs. Naegely from their son, the first since he phoned them about two weeks ago to let them know he was all right. The local Navy man said in the letter he was not flying as usual. He said he saw the wakes of two of the torpedoes which struck the famous vessel.

According to his account of what happened, morale among the crew was excellent, with no hysteria. He said the ship's doom was evident in less than an hour because of exploding ammunition and oil tanks.

The ship rocked from stem to stern, he reported, when two volatile oil tanks aboard blew up.

He informed his parents he had donned his life jacket and was helping evacuate men from the stricken carrier when he was blown into the flaming oil on the surface of the water about the ship. He floated there about two and a half hours before being picked up by a destroyer, he wrote. About 95 per cent of the crew was saved, according to his letter.

A grim desire on the part of all the survivors to get back into the fight prevailed, Naegely wrote. He is resting up on a 30-day leave with his wife, the former Miss Marian Kilpatrick, of Elm Street, Bethlehem, at Coronado, Calif.

The local Navy flyer was recently promoted from ensign to his present rank.

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