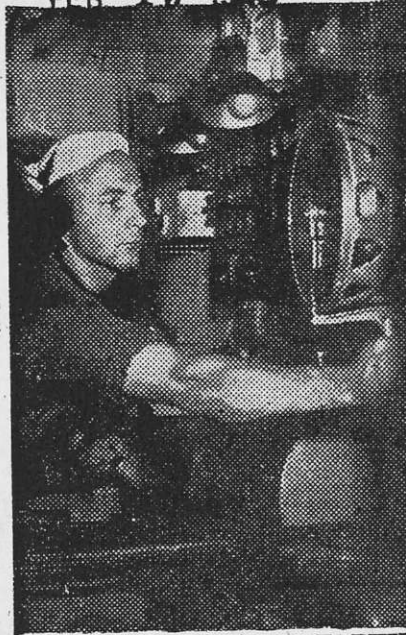


Murray, Franklin H.

Harvey

## In Pacific Action

FEB 13 1945



LINGAYEN GULF, THE PHILIPPINES, (Delayed) — As battleship and cruiser big guns blazed a trail for the Allied assault on Luzon, Franklin Howard Murray, 24, Motor Machinist's Mate, third class (MoMM3c), of Bethlehem, Pa., was already at his engine room station in full rig to participate in the longest and largest amphibious operation by sea in history.

Little action was encountered aboard the LCI as the more than 800 ships under the command of Seventh Fleet's Vice Admiral Thomas C. Kincaid, moved in on Lingayen Gulf, so Murray didn't miss a whole lot being at the bottom of the ship. Later in the day off watch, he came out on deck to watch the first waves of LSTs head for the invaded beachheads. Gunners brought him up to date on the morning's air attack.

Murray, husband of Margaret Kichline Murray, of R. D. No. 4, Bethlehem, Pa., has been through two other Southwest Pacific landings. First was the all important strike on Ormoc, behind last remnants of folding Yamashita lines on Leyte. On the heels of that baptism in action, Murray and his shipmates aboard their landing craft put ashore troops on strategic Mindora Island.

The former Bethlehem Steel Company employee, and father of a two-year-old son, Murray, Jr., joined the Navy in February, 1944, and after boot training at Sampson Naval Training Station, N. Y., he was assigned to his present ship. He has a brother in the service, Harvey, an Army Corporal in France. They are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Murray, of Bethlehem, Pa.

February 13, 1945