

Gross, Edward J.
Andrew
Robert

Edward J. Gross, Northampton, Earns Medal By Saving Shipmate

SEP 24 1945

For saving his ship mate's life at great personal risk, Seaman Edward J. Gross, age 20, USNR of Northampton, was awarded the Navy-Marine Corps medal while serving aboard the veteran aircraft carrier, U. S. S. Ranger.

Acting entirely on his own initiative, Seaman Gross dived headlong into a narrow strip of water between the carrier and a lighter barge to save the life of Coxswain John Campbell, USNR. Campbell had fallen onto the roof of the barge.

Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal, who made the presentation, said, in part

"Acting without hesitation as soon as the injured man fell into the water, Gross dived overboard,

and although wearing a life jacket, and handicapped by heavy weather clothing, he grasped the unconscious man and held him above water until they could be hauled aboard."

Gross is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Gross, 1336 Stewart Street, Northampton, and was a former resident of North Coplay.

He reported aboard the Ranger in June, 1943, for duty in the gunnery department. He is an accredited "Blue Nose" for having crossed the Arctic Circle.

Two brothers are also serving, Andrew, 30, Gunner's Mate 2/c, and Robert, 22, a parachute rigger, in Puerto Rico.

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