

Thomas, Stanley

## Bethlehem R. D. 2 Man Tells Of Fights Off Solomons

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### Ensign Stanley Thomas Reports How Torpedo Boat Unit Sank Eight Jap Warships

PHILADELPHIA, (AP)—Ensign Stanley Thomas, Bethlehem R. D. 2 and former Hazleton, Pa., High School teacher, says that many Japanese airmen in the Solomons battle were "show offs"—and their exhibitionism usually cost them their lives.

"When they started their funny business, they were shot down," he related.

Thomas, an alumnus of Bucknell University, was a junior officer on a motor torpedo boat and fought in the Solomons area from last October until January, when he contracted malaria. He now is receiving treatment at the Philadelphia Naval Hospital.

Recounting his experiences in a Navy-approved interview, Thomas

said "you have to respect the Japanese as fighters. You cannot tell what they will do and they always come back. Our forces, however, have the best of them."

His Pt boat, he said, made a trip of more than 500 miles, the longest run ever made by a craft of that type. His squadron accounted for a light cruiser, six destroyers and a submarine while he was in combat service, he added.

The unit, assigned to ward off enemy forces shelling Henderson field, nick-named one Japanese pilot "Louie the Louse," Thomas said, because he dropped flares over the fox holes of Guadalcanal to keep the men awake. He was shot down, Thomas related, but "another Louie always came back."

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