

McLaughlin, Robert G.

Local Sailor K. O.'d By Torpedo Bombs, Thought 'Was Goner'

APR 5 1945
When an enemy torpedo bomber strafed the deck in the Lingayen Gulf battle and dropped two bombs where he was loading an anti-aircraft gun, Robert G. McLaughlin, 36, second class fireman, of this city, never knew what hit him. He came to a few seconds later to find several of his buddies killed and the top deck in flames. "I thought I was a goner," he said, "but they put the fire out in seven minutes. It was a record for so large a blaze. One of the bombs was a dud or I wouldn't be alive today."

Sailor McLaughlin's home is at 725 Seneca Street, where his wife Anna, three daughters, Anna, 15; Doris, 14; Roberta, seven and a half, and a son, tiny Robert Jr., whom he has never seen, now live. McLaughlin is now in a Naval hospital in the Southwest Pacific recovering from shrapnel wounds.

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