

Pearl Klier Sees

Service In The Pacific

— Aug. 2, '45

Aboard the USS Birmingham In The Pacific Pearl Klier, electrician's mate, first class, USNR, whose wife, Mary J. Klier, lives at 920 West Washington, Newton, Ill., serves aboard this ship which can look back on 121,500 miles of fighting the Axis from the invasion of Sicily to the battle of Okinawa.

The Birmingham struck at Okinawa targets six months prior to the landings and gave fire support to minesweepers clearing the approaches to the island. During the campaign, she sank thousands of tons of shipping.

Operating with the famed 3rd and 5th fleets and Task Forces 38 and 58, she bombarded Wake Island, participated in air strikes on Tarawa, took three hits at Bougainville, shelled the Shortland Island and hurled her might into the assaults on Siapan, Tinian and Guam.

At Mindanao, she sank 3,000 tons of shipping and assisted in the destruction of another 3,000. At Bougainville, she blasted four Jap planes out of the sky and scored hits on 11 others

Following the battle for Leyte gulf, the Birmingham was damaged for the second time. She had gone alongside the USS Princeton to battle fire resulting from a direct hit. The ships lay in a trough of the rough waters separated by about 50 feet when a terrific blast from exploding bombs and torpedoes in the Princeton rained death on the decks of the Birmingham.

After three months for repair, the Birmingham steamed out again to take part in the Iwo Jima operation and the battle for Okinawa.