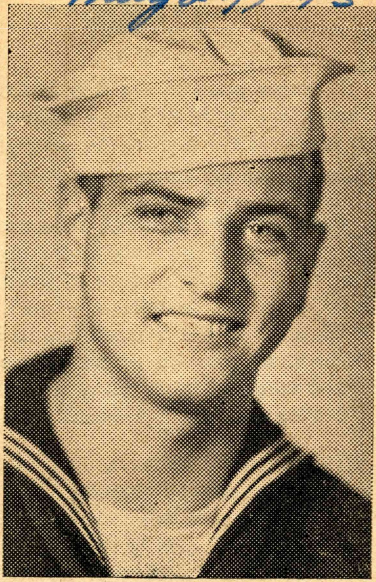


JAMES LOBMIER HELPS BLAST JAPS

May 24, '45



S 2/C JAMES LOBMIER

THREE NEWTON BOYS BLAST JAPS FROM ISLAND OF OKINAWA

ALL ABOARD BATTLESHIP DURING BOMBARDMENT OF BEACHES

Aboard a U. S. Battleship off Okni-awa (Delayed) — James J. Lobmier, seaman, second class, Yeoman 2/c Don C. Bower and Seaman 2/c Harry Maginn, all of Newton were aboard this veteran battleship when she poured a withering torrent of high explosive sheels into the Okinawa beaches as a unit of the greatest naval bombardment force in history.

With other ships in the mighty task force, she swept the western side of the island with her main and secondary batteries and 40-mm. automatic weapons. So accurate and devastating was the fire that Marines and 10th Army troops encountered only slight opposition when they landed.

The battleship reached the center of operations shortly before dawn of March 25 and her 14-inch guns soon were raising havoc with vital shore installations. Their thunderous barrage demolished an important bridge-crossing, pillboxes and a small railroad freight terminal and battered the anti-aircraft positions with deadly regularity.

Highlight of the ship's action came during an air attack. One of the enemy planes broke through the sheet of anti-aircraft fire, singling out this battleship for a suicide run. Seconds later a cheer went up from gunners and crewmen when a hit sent the plane flaming into the sea.