

*Radioman Neil
Mason's Squadron
Is Commended*

Sept. 11, 1945

MTB squadron thirteen, of which Radioman First Class John Neal Mason, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Mason of Newton, is a member, has been commended by Secretary of the Navy Forrestal for outstanding combat work in the South Pacific. Neal is now in process of being discharged.

The citation reads in part: "For outstanding heroism in action against enemy Japanese forces during operations at Mindoro, Philippine islands, from December 15 to 19, 1944. As the naval force present following the retirement of the invasion convoys, this task unit served as the major obstruction to enemy counter-landings from nearby Luzon, Panay, and Palawan and bore the brunt of concentrated hostile air attacks throughout a five day period.

Provided Anti-Aircraft Fire

"Providing the only anti-aircraft protection for personnel ashore engaged in the establishment of a motor torpedo boat operating a repair base, the gallant officers and men who commanded and staffed the task unit and who manned the boats maintained the vigilant watch by night and stood out in the open waters close to base by day to fight off repeated Japanese bombing, strafing and suicide attacks, expending in three days the ammunition which had been expected to last approximately three weeks in the destruction or damaging of a large percentage of the attacking planes.

"Their invaluable service in support of the expeditions completion of ance of the Mindoro campaign re-operations ashort vital to the further-reflects the highest credit upon the United States naval service."