

# THE Scotch Plainsman

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## OUR GIRLS IN ARMS



SEAMAN CATHERINE SHORT

Serving her country as a WAVE, Seaman Catherine Short, USNR, trained at Hunter College, New York, and was stationed at Bainbridge, Md., before transfer to her present assignment at the Yorktown, Va. Mine Depot.

## BILL COTTRELL USED 25-CENT COMPASS IN B-29 RAID ON KOBE

A 25-cent compass was the only navigation instrument Lieut. Bill Cottrell (Cook Avenue), used to take his B-29 to Kobe and back on a recent 450-plane fire raid against the Japanese mainland.

Thunderheads, snow and several weather fronts lay between the Marianas and the mainland, but the Superfortresses broke into the clear over the target and bombed visually.

"We had to fly that weather by dead reckoning all the way up and back," Lieutenant Cottrell, navigator, told the Associated Press. "I had to use my head, a pencil, and a dash of luck. All the fancy instruments went out but a two-bit magnetic compass took us there and back."

Bill's pilot, Capt. Joe Carroll of Florida, reported 30 to 40-plane fighter opposition over the target. "Some came in close to make passes at us," he said. "The Japs had plenty of flak and very accurate." A two inch flak hole in the pilot's compartment bore him out.

Describing the fires set by the attack, Lieut. Roy M. Albert, Texas, the ship's bombardier, said, "It was pushing the clouds up." Returning crews reported results sure to be "very good."

Lieut. Cottrell's wife, the former Miss Virginia Morgan, and their two year old son are living with her parents at 319 Cook Avenue.

## Corp. Baranoski Home on Furlough

Corp. Ted Baranoski, son of Mr. and Mrs. Baranoski, 524 Willow Ave., who recently returned to this country following duty in the ETO, is home on a 30-day convalescent furlough from the Deshon General Hospital, Butler, Pa.

Going overseas in December, 1944, Ted served in France, Belgium and Germany with an anti-aircraft unit. As a result of a shrapnel wound received March 1st on the Rhine River, he lost the sight of his left eye. He was hospitalized in Germany and England before being returned to this country.

An outstanding athlete at SPSHS, he was attending State Teachers' College, Emporia, Kan., when he entered the service in August, 1942.

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## CBI Veteran Home on Furlough

Pfc. Michael Constandi, a cavalryman, is home on a 30-day convalescent furlough from Tilton General Hospital, Fort Dix, following 10 months in the India, Burma, China area. He is visiting his wife, the former Helen Milosy, and children, at their home on Terrill Road.

While serving with the 124th Cavalry, Mike was wounded in the right arm by machine-gun fire January 29th on the old Burma Road near Lashio. Hospitalized in Ledo, Burma, he was returned to this country in April and stationed at Miami, Fla., for treatment and rest prior to going up to Fort Dix.

Entering the service in November, 1943, he trained at Fort Riley, Kan. before going to Australia in July 1944, and trained briefly in India before going into combat.

His outfit originally formed a part of the famed Merrill's Marauders and when it was broken up became a part of the Mars Task Force.

Mike has been awarded the Purple Heart and the Good Conduct Medal and wears the Asiatic-Pacific campaign ribbon with two battle stars, signifying his participation in the liberation of Burma and the reopening of the old Burma Road.

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## Drowning Victim Recovered in Bay

The body of Edward Christensen of Cooper Road, who was drowned July 6 in a Barnegat Bay fishing boat accident, was recovered July 14.

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## Recalls Attack By Japs on Hospital Ship

A patient on the hospital ship "Comfort", when it was attacked by a Jap suicide plane several months ago off Okinawa, Sgt. Joseph Puchel when home on furlough recently, recalled the startling moment when the enemy plane struck the ship laden with wounded men shortly after it had left the island.

Joe suffering from a bullet wound in his face and shoulder, was confined to a ship ward adjacent to the section destroyed by the explosion and fire which resulted in the heavy loss of life to Navy personnel and wounded evacuees.

Joe was one of a group of men who had an opportunity to view the remains of the Jap suicide pilot. The Jap was dressed in a luxurious, black satin "gown"; his nails were painted a brilliant red like a woman's, believed to be a part of the ritual observed by the Japs when their men take off on a suicidal mission.

Overseas 3 1/2 years, Sgt. Joe was wounded April 26 while serving with the 27th Infantry Division of the 10th Army on Okinawa. Previously, on June 16, 1944, he had suffered a machine gun wound in his left leg on Saipan and after brief hospitalization was returned to his unit. Besides serving at Saipan and Okinawa, he also saw action on the Gilbert and Marshall Islands.

He entered the service in February, 1941, and following training at Fort McClellan, Ala., and Fort Ord, Calif., went overseas in February, 1942.

At the end of his furlough, he will report to the Tilton General Hospital at Fort Dix. He wears the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon with four battle stars and has been awarded the Purple Heart Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Good Conduct Medal and the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the last named for exemplary performance of duty during the Gilbert campaign.

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## Seabee's Property Damaged by Fire

Fire caused by spontaneous combustion in a closed attic, destroyed part of the roof, attic and second floor of the home of Mrs. Sophie Nowak, Raritan Road, on July 2nd.

Mrs. Nowak was out at work when the fire was discovered by a passing neighbor, Mrs. Theresa Kochut, who called the Fire Department.

Heat in the completely closed attic apparently had caused spontaneous combustion. Much of Eddie's valuable music was destroyed.

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