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SILVER ROOM, MAIN FLOOR

'Be A Good Catholic' Navy Hero Wrote Son

(Continued from Page 1)

back. And if your girls will that he doesn't be the kind of a boy you think your daddy wants you to be.

"Kiss mother for me every night and say good night to her and tell her and your daddy,

Has In In Rochester

Commander Shea who with Commander Bartholomew W Hogan U.S.N. also a Boston College graduate was cited as outstanding hero aboard the U.S.S. Wasp aircraft carrier...

He was born in Cambridge Mass. and served at the altar of St. John's Church from a tiny lad until he was 20 years of age. When a boy he served at the wedding Mass of Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Stanton of Boston whose daughter, Sister Ann of the Trinity was received by the Most Rev. Richard J. Cushing, Auxiliary Bishop of Boston into the Diocesan Cathedral of Rochester recently.

He was the first person to receive Holy Communion when the first Mass was said in the new St. John's Church, as he was altar boy on that occasion. He was graduated from Boston College High School in 1914 and from Boston College in 1918. He is a Knight of Columbus and a member of the Holy Name Society.

Prior to his recent service on the Wasp Commander Shea had made an outstanding reputation as a flier and his exploits of skill and daring were widely known around Boston. Following his graduation from Boston College he went to Massachusetts Tech for nava training and completed the course with highest honor and was commissioned a Naval Air Force ensign at 18. When called back to the Navy after ten years in business he was put in charge of Squantum Air Field.

Lauds Heroism

Capt. Forrest P. Sherman of the Wasp named Commanders Shea and Hogan among the officers he singled out for special praise. However the commander of the carrier pointed out, practically every man showed heroism far above the call of duty.

Telling how enemy torpedo hit caused explosions of bombs, gasoline tanks and ready ammunition aboard the Wasp, so that the forward half of the ship was in flames Captain Sherman said:

A great many courageous and valiant efforts were made to fight the fire but due to the breakage of water lines and the other damage to the ship, there was very little that could be done except to get the airplanes overboard and attempt to keep the fire localized. It was during that period that Lieutenant Commander Shea personally took charge of fighting the fire on the flight deck and displayed an extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty in utter disregard of exploding ammunition that was throwing fragments around the deck, and the fire which was spreading rapidly.

He was last seen in the flight deck before another violent explosion which filled the air with rather large fragments. He met his death at that time.

Captain Sherman lauded Commander Hogan, my senior medical officer for carrying on despite painful wounds and loss of sleep.

Pray for Daddy's Return

Commander Shea's young son attends St. Agnes School where he is in the first grade. The Sisters go into the chapel daily and join in prayer with the little boy. Can dies burn constantly at St. Anthony's Shrine in St. John's Church. Mrs. Shea expresses hope that the explosion described by Captain Sherman was not fatal to her husband and daily asks St. Anthony's intercession with God to send the officer back to her.

Horace Cahill, Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts and a non-Catholic, has expressed the belief that Commander Shea's letter to his son deserves a permanent place in American literature. He said, "It represents the ideals upon which this Nation is founded and for which the United States Navy is fighting."

A man's reach should be beyond his grasp, or what's a heaven for? Browning.

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