

Amos G. Black, Jr., T-43

30 July 1923 – 13 February 1986

(aged 62)



Ignorance may not always be bliss, but it does save a lot of wear and tear on the nerves at times. At least, Amos G. Black, Jr., boatswain's mate 2-c, thinks so. When his ship put in for repairs after the big push at Salerno, the crew found they had been paddling happily around for days with an unexploded bomb nestling in the bow. And they were loaded to the gills with ammunition for the troops. It was Amos' second experience with unexploded bombs. The first time, the bomb buried its nose in the stern not 10 feet from where Amos was sitting, but Amos was ahead of it. He was already on his feet and dashing "off madly in all directions," as nearly as he can remember. The bomb, plus seven direct hits by 88 mms from shore batteries made a reasonable facsimile of hash out of what had once been a pride of the Navy, but she limped into port somehow. And with a few plates and some skillful "plastic surgery" she was home just as seaworthy as ever. In the Navy four years, Amos has a star on his pre--Pearl Harbor ribbon for having patrolled waters in the war zone around Iceland before the U.S. declared war. In addition to four major engagements -- Casablanca, Sicily, Salerno, and Southern France--he has fought all up and down the African coast and as far east as India. For several weeks Amos and his brother Gill Roy Black boatswain mate 1-c served on the same ship before Amos was transferred to a Landing Ship Tank and Gill Roy to a destroyer escort. Amos and his wife, Gloria, are

visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Black, 243 Hollywood. His father is a linotype operator for The Press-Scimitar.

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