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Butte Man's Son Gets Navy Cross

Conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity during the New Georgia island conflict with the Japanese during midsummer 1943 has earned for Capt. Joseph W. Callahan, U. S. N., son of C. P. Callahan, 219 South Clark, the Navy Cross, one of the nation's highest decorations.

The native Basin naval officer, skipper of the destroyer U. S. S. Talbot and wearing the three stripes of a Navy commander at the time, was credited with "excellent judgment" in the actions, including the second battle of Kula gulf in July, 1943.

Adm. William F. Halsey, who cited the former Butte man for his New Georgia exploits, said Comdr. Callahan's seamanship contributed "in a large measure to the destruction of four and probably six Japanese ships."

During the war the officer was cited twice afterward. At the Normandy landings in June, 1944, he was skipper of the U. S. S. Barten, one of the first 2,200-ton destroyers.

The former Mining city Navy officer, whose duties have kept him from Butte for several years, attended Immaculate Conception grade school and Butte high school, then went to the Naval academy at Annapolis, Md., getting his commission as ensign and his diploma in 1926. Currently he is in charge of a Naval Reserve Officers Training school at Auburn, Ala.

The captain is one of six children of C. P. Callahan. All three of his sons saw service in the second world war. The other two are Comdr. C. P. Callahan, Jr., U. S. N., a wartime submarine skipper, now in St. Louis, and John D. Callahan, who was a corporal in the Marine Corps. He now is associated with an insurance firm in Oakland, Calif.

Mr. Callahan's three daughters are Mrs. A. J. Healey, Arlington, Va.; Mrs. Charles Anderson, Great Falls, and Mrs. Al Pettibone, Lincoln, Neb.

The mother of the children died here in 1920.

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