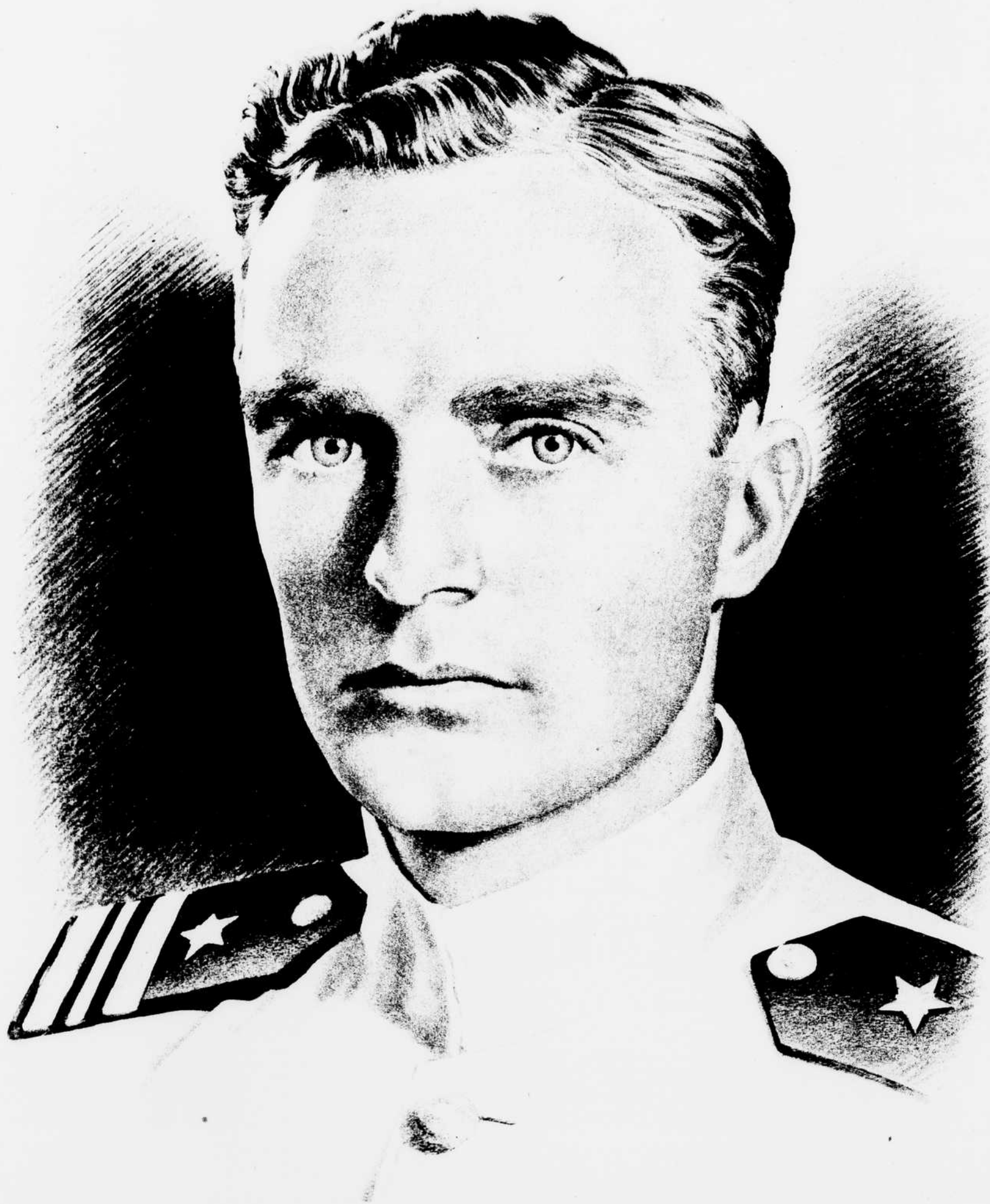


## Heroes of the Washington Area



LT. COMDR. NORVAL G. WARD, U. S. N.

A submarine skipper who has won two Silver Stars for blasting Jap shipping, Comdr. Ward perhaps is better known for his role of "assistant surgeon" in that memorable first appendectomy ever to be performed aboard an American submarine. For that life-saving job he was chosen by Wheller B. Lipes, 23-year-old pharmacist's mate who performed the operation as the sub lay submerged in enemy waters, because of his "coolness and dependability."

Young Lipes' estimate of his superior officer as the best man aboard to steady him in his first venture in surgery emphasizes a quality that later no doubt helped Comdr. Ward's submarine *Guardfish* take that toll of 66,000 tons of Jap shipping extolled in the presidential citation for his ship. As its skipper, Comdr. Ward received his second Silver Star with a citation disclosing also that he had twice brought his ship close inshore through poorly charted and perilous waters to rescue persons, some of whom were "invaluable to the Allied cause." Earlier in the war, as executive officer of a submarine, he had won his first Silver Star for planning

a damaging attack on escorted enemy vessels.

It was as Lt. Ward that he played the right-hand man role in that dramatic episode of the undersea when Pharmacist's Mate Lipes saved the life of Seaman Dean Rector by removing his appendix on a table in the officers' wardroom. One of Lt. Ward's jobs in those critical moments was to place bent tablespoons in the incision to hold it open. With such crude "instruments" for it, Lipes had only his observation of a couple of appendectomies to guide him in the operation. Its success was world news.

Son of Henry T. Ward, an employee of the naval reservation at Indian Head, Md., Comdr. Ward lived there although his early years are strongly associated with Washington where most of his relatives live. He also attended Devitt School here before entering the Naval Academy, where he played la crosse and graduated in 1935.

This is one of a series of portraits of our decorated fighting men by Newman Sudduth of The Star's art staff.