

Heroes of the Washington Area



COMDR. EUGENE B. FLUCKEY, U. S. N.

For "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty in furtherance of vital offensive operations as commanding officer of a United States submarine during action in enemy-controlled waters," Comdr. Fluckey, 31, recently was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, this Nation's highest military decoration. While the exploit was termed "as colorful as it was gallant," details have not been disclosed because of security regulations.

The citation only lauded the naval officer's "outstanding valor and leadership and the aggressive fighting spirit of the officers and men under his command throughout the fulfillment of a hazardous mission."

In addition to the Congressional Medal of Honor, Comdr. Fluckey wears two Navy Crosses. The first was awarded for "intelligently planned and well executed attacks resulting in the sinking of five enemy vessels totaling 47,500 tons." In addition, the citation reads, he en-

gaged in two daring gun battles which resulted in the sinking of two enemy sampans totaling 100 tons.

The second Navy Cross was won for launching damaging attacks against enemy shipping and combat units which resulted in the sinking of a tanker, two freighters and a warship, totaling 42,000 tons. His vessel also rescued 14 British and Australian prisoners of war, survivors of a torpedoed enemy transport en route from Singapore to Japan.

A native Washingtonian, Comdr. Fluckey attended Western High School and Columbian Preparatory School, and, in 1935, was graduated from the Naval Academy. He served briefly on battleships and destroyers before his transfer to submarine duty in January, 1939. His wife now resides in Annapolis, Md.

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