

Ensign Phelan Home For Some Shore Duty

Navy men, traditionally, abhor shore duty, but Ens. Donald W. Phelan, 23, will settle for a little of it now.

Phelan, 1951 graduate of the University of Washington and former Roosevelt High School half-back, went to war in Korea in a tugboat in March. In August, a mine sent the boat to the bottom in Hungnam Harbor. Phelan and 91 other members of the crew of 95 survived. They were sent back to the United States for leave and reassignment.

Phelan is here for a reunion with his wife, Sharon, 1508 E. 68th St., and parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter K. Phelan, 6818 18th Av. N. E.



ENS. D. W. PHELAN

Anti-Sampan Patrol

The tugboat, the 206-foot, 1,700-ton Sarsi, struck the mine while on night "antisampan" patrol between Wonsan and Hungnam.

"The Reds use sampans to lay mines and move their men around at night," said Phelan. "We had run the patrol for six nights, and on the seventh night, at 18 minutes to midnight, we hit the mine."

Hole Near His Bunk

Phelan just had left his quarters to stand watch at midnight. The mine tore a hole in the boat

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near where he had been sleeping. "One of our two lifeboats swamped," said Phelan. "We finally got four rafts into the water, and then we could feel the ship going out from under us. I had a lifejacket on. I dived to get out as far as I could to miss the suction when the boat sank. She went down in 18 minutes."

Phelan and 11 others formed a circle around a small navigation buoy which the tug had been carrying. They were in the water eight hours before they were rescued.

Phelan's new assignment will be in the Naval Control Shipping Office at San Diego. His wife will join him there after arrival of a baby expected next month.

Tacoma Cyclist Succumbs

TACOMA, Oct. 9.—(AP)—Marvin Opitz, 27, Tacoma, died yesterday of injuries received Monday when his motorcycle overturned in Collins Road, 2½ miles southeast of Tacoma.



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