

# Ensign Santangelo Survives Sinking Of U.S. Tug By Mine

## 'God With Me,' Says Survivor Of Sarsi

"God was with me," said Ensign Louis Santangelo, U. S. Navy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Santangelo, 673 Queen street, as he telephoned his parents from Sasebo, Japan, concerning his experiences in the sinking of the U. S. S. Sarsi, off the coast of North Korea, last Wednesday night. Santangelo was assigned aboard the mine-sweeper tender as communications officer when it sank in 120 feet of water while accompanying a U. S. Navy task force on a raid into the communist-held port of Hungnam.

In his telephone conversation the young officer said that the Sarsi was struck by two mines instead of one as previously reported. He pointed out that the 205-foot vessel went to the bottom shortly over 16 minutes after the disastrous explosion ripped her keel open. Ninety-two of the ninety-seven man crew were rescued by other naval vessels arriving at the scene of the incident, with two dead, three missing and four seriously wounded.

Climaxing the three-minute talk he talked, Ensign Santangelo said that at the present time he is aboard another ship in the Japanese port of Sasebo, on the southernmost island of Kyushu, and reported that he will arrive home on or about September 28 for a 29-day leave.

The young man, a graduate of Northumberland High School and Susquehanna University, has been on active duty with the Navy for the past thirteen months, and has been in the Far East since April of this year.

Ensign Louis Santangelo, U. S. Navy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Santangelo, 673 Queen street, was reported safe today after the vessel upon which he is serving was sunk three miles off the Korean port of Hungnam, on Wednesday night. The 205 foot mine-sweeper tender, "USS Sarsi" sank in 120 feet of water, just 16 minutes after it hit a floating mine in the Communist held North Korean port of Hungnam, the site of a vast UN evacuation, when Red Chinese overran North Korea in early 1951. Ninety-two of the ninety-seven man crew were saved, with two dead and three reported missing. Four seriously wounded were removed to the Sasebo, Japan, Naval Hospital.

Santangelo, a graduate of Northumberland High School and Susquehanna University, has been on active duty with the Navy for the past 13 months. The "Sarsi", aboard which he served as communications officer, has been in Korean waters since April 18, of this year, and has taken an active part in recent bombardments of North Korean ports. Ensign Santangelo recently reported that of the 41 vessels hit in Korean waters, 31 have been hit near Wonsan, a hot spot in the Korean campaign. Wonsan is located near Hungnam, the site of the disaster two days ago. After each raid on North Korean ports, Ensign Santangelo said that his vessel returns to the Japanese port of Sasebo to refuel and take on stores before repeating the cycle over again.