

## First High School Diploma Earned on Ship Goes To James W. Mixon, FN

James W. Mixon, FN, last week became the first man to earn his high school diploma aboard the ship. He received the award from the State of Florida after passing a USAFI examination.

The test, given through the Education Office, determines whether a man's education is equal to a high school education. It also gives a man a chance to earn his diploma in the service, without attending classes, for a man who passes it will be granted a diploma by any one of forty-six states.

A member of A Division, Mixon lives in Tampa. He studied in his spare time while he was working there and after he came in to the Navy. Most of his study was by correspondence courses.

He plans to return to Florida after his release from the Navy and enter the University of Tampa.

## Meet Your Chiefs

Alexander J. Silvestri, MMC, spent the first 11 of his 20 years in the Navy on two cruisers, the Pensacola and Savannah. He was on a tanker during the War, and this is his second carrier.

His first trip overseas, to Antwerp and London aboard the Pensacola, convinced him of one of the Navy's strong points—travel, the chance to see some of the world. "You read about places in books," he says, "But seeing them, you learn a lot more."

He put the Savannah in commission in 1937. The ship ranged both oceans in the six years he was aboard. It went to Havana during the shakedown and he says, "I don't know how Havana is now, but then it was really great." And there were other trips to South America, England and New Zealand before war broke out.

The cruiser made war patrols in the first year of fighting



**Chief Silvestri**

and took seventy prisoners when it chased down a German blockade runner. And the Savannah crossed to the invasion of North Africa.

In 1942 he made Chief and a year later joined the tanker Cossatot. The Cossatot made several convoy runs across the Atlantic to Casablanca, Bizerte and Oran.

But the Chief remembers one night in the Pacific off Okinawa more vividly than any other aboard the tanker: The Cossatot, with another tanker tied alongside, was attacked from the air, fought off the attack and shot down a Japanese plane.

Chief Silvestri was born in Newport, R.I., but his home now is North Plainfield, New Jersey. He and Mrs. Silvester have three stepsons. Two of them are in the Navy; the third left it only recently. "We're a Navy family," says the Chief.

He spent two tours of recruiting duty in the area of New Jersey where he lives. He will be back there in September, when he leaves the ship and retires from active duty with the Navy. He went into the Fleet Reserve on April 7th.

## Two Chiefs Promoted to Warrant Officer



Captain D.B. Young congratulates M.A. Kenyon and S.W. Suomi who, respectively, have been promoted to the rank of Warrant Officer Machinist and Warrant Officer Aerographer. Both men have spent 13 years in the Navy.