

Lt. Fox Escapes From Okinawa

Lieut. Frederick M. Fox, T. E. 38-'41, of Batesburg, escaped from besieged Okinawa after spending three days and nights hiding out in caves and fields during the week before the invasion.

Lt. Fox was able to give ship's officers information on the island's defenses although suffering from a broken nose and other painful minor injuries, and without solid food for 72 hours.

He was forced to land his Hellcat fighter after a mid-air collision with another plane during a pre-invasion bombing. Unable to bail out, he flew the plane into the ground.

On the morning of the third day he set out to cross a bay in a leaky boat that he found on the beach. When our Navy planes flew overhead, he put out a dye marker and his plane was soon spotted. He was rescued by a seaplane and carried to a nearby destroyer.

Lieut. Fox credits his escape to the fact that he attended ship-board services before he crashed." It was the first time that I had been to church on this tour of duty," he said, "I know that is the reason I am alive today."