

Kossuth County Advance, Algona, Kossuth, IA- May 8, 1945

BRONZE MEDAL IN ITALY FOR ELMER E. COOK

It's not often that among the dispatches the Advance receives direct from the war areas all over the world are two which arrive at the same time about brothers in service in widely separated theaters, but such was the case this week.

The following dispatch came direct from the public relations section of the Fifth Army in Italy:

... **Cpl Elmer E Cook**, Algona, Ia., recently received the Bronze Star Medal from Maj. Gen. Chas. L. Bolte, commanding the 34th (Red Bull) infantry division.

This dispatch did not say what the medal was for, but it is not awarded except for single military action.

And One from Burma:

The other message came from headquarters of the Tenth Air Force in Burma and follows:

... Award of the Air Medal to **Second Lt. Richard J Cook**, 22, husband of Mrs. Irma D. Cook, 319 Harney St., Omaha, Neb., has been announced by Maj. Gen. Howard C. Davidson, commanding general, Tenth Air Force. His home address is Algona, Ia.

Pilot for the air jungle rescue unit of the Tenth Air Force that operates against the Japs in the India-Burma Theater, Lieutenant Cook has been in the armed forces 28 months, having served the past four months in this theater of operations. He has to his credit 25 combat missions and 100 combat flying hours.

Cook is a graduate of Algona High School and attended Michigan State College, Lansing, Mich.

Sons of Frank Cook

The brothers are sons of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cook here, and their father operates a junk yard on So. Phillips street over where No. 169 comes into Algona from the south. Mr. and Mrs. Cook have six sons and one daughter, the latter Mrs. George Sparks, Minneapolis, whose husband is studying for the Baptist ministry.

Elmer and Richard are not the only Cook boys who have seen service in this war. Two other sons, **Chester and Russell**, have been honorably discharged. Chester, who is married and lives here, served in a tank outfit and was sent home after his tank on a dark night plunged over a 70-ft cliff, as reported some weeks ago in the Advance.

One Son in School

Russell is also married, and before the war was managing a grocery store at Mason City, which is still his home. He served in a medical detachment.

Elmer is single, and before the war was employed by the junk yard, where his brother Don, who also operates the suburban store opposite the Kossuth hospital, is now substituting. Don's wife is the former Christine Gould. Richard is married and his wife lives at Omaha.

No. 6 in the Cook brotherhood is **Dwight**, who is attending the local public schools and stands a chance of never seeing war if the lessons the Germans have learned and the Japs are fast learning stick after this war.