

Crook, James M.

Secret Files Tell Daring Tale Of Hellertown GI's Mission

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A report from the secret files of the Army Air Forces Weather Services today revealed for the first time the hazardous jungle missions of Sgt. James M. Crook, formerly of 30 East High St., Hellertown.

"On Jap-infested Mindanao, before other American troops had set foot there, Sgt. James M. Crook established and maintained a weather and radio station, furnished valuable weather information to Gen. MacArthur during a vital period of the Pacific war" the report states.

"Sgt. Crook parachuted behind the Japanese-held coastline of Mindanao, May 21, 1945," it reads. "Through heavily garrisoned enemy territory, Sgt. Crook proceeded inland. In spite of severe physical hardships he secured a position suitable for a weather station."

"In constant danger of discovery, he furnished valuable weather information which," in the words of

General MacArthur, "contributed in no small degree to the success of our Philippine operations."

MacArthur commended Sgt. Crook and his buddies of the 1st Reconnaissance battalion and expressed his grateful appreciation for the splendid service, individually and collectively, toward the liberation of the Filipino people.

Said Gen MacArthur, "Those who were dispatched by me before the start of the Philippine campaign on secret missions within the Philippines proceeded in the path of their duty with resourcefulness, with magnificent courage and marked ability."

Sgt. Crook was recently recommended for the Bronze Star Medal. He was discharged several weeks ago with the Good Conduct Medal and three battle participation stars on his campaign ribbons. The Sergeant's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James C. Crook, reside in Evanston, Ill., at present.

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