

Cottage, Thomas Jr.

## Local Man In Tank Crew Cited For Work On Three War Fronts

MAR 22 1944

Private Thomas Cottage Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cottage of 1410 Montrose Avenue, and a cousin of Police Officer Edward Cottage, has been cited for outstanding work, initiative and decision.

A member of one of Uncle Sam's tank units, Private Cottage has participated in major engagements in Africa, Sicily, Salerno and Anzio. The citation, signed by Lt. Col. Louis Hammack, Tank Battalion Commander, follows:

"On October 13, in the vicinity of —River,, southwest of —Italy, this tank crew of Company A, with their tank, set out alone across the southern valley of the—River, under perfect enemy observation and heavy enemy artillery and machine gun fire, with instructions to contact a bulldozer at an appointed place and to lead it to one of two places to cut the bank away for the company to cross. Not finding the bulldozer, and after pausing momentarily to aid some wounded infantrymen to safety, they searched the river bank for a possible crossing. A possible but difficult crossing was found and with the aid of a few

engineers, they cut away the bank, enough to permit the crossing of their tank, thus paving the way for the remainder of the company. The initiative and decision of the tank commander and the exemplary conduct of the crew is commendable. Their actions, reflect the finest traditions of the armed forces."

According to the citation, Private Cottage was one five members of the tank crew.

On January 11, 1944, the members of the tank crew received the following commendation from Richard D. Meisky, Captain of the Battalion:

"I commend you men for the outstanding work you did. Only a fellow tanker would know the risk involved in making such a crossing. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your gallant deed."

Private Cottage, a graduate of Bethlehem Technical High School, was inducted into the armed forces a year ago, and following a training in a Texas camp, was sent overseas. Before his induction he was employed as a machinist by the Bethlehem Steel Company.

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