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WW II
 HOMETOWN HEROES

Chapter 2
Friends & Family

... group on Makin Island. Andrew Schaback was shipped to Baker Island and Andrew Kuzmowski and Peter Laisniak remained at Hickam. After some more months in the Gilberts, Joseph Kuzenka and William Melnyk remained in Hickam. Last on, Andrew Schaback returned from Baker Island. The five of us were separated by individually being returned to the U.S. for assignment at different air bases in the east. As the war progressed towards a successful conclusion, discharge was the next thing on our mind. At discharge, Andrew Kuzmowski and Joseph Kuzenka were ranked staff sergeants, Andrew Schaback and William Melnyk were ranked sergeant and Peter Laisniak was ranked corporal. The total length of service for each was in excess of five years with more than four spent overseas.

**Eugene Markoski,
 Theodora Markoski**

As told by Eugene Markoski in the Naval publication "The Mathead" October 27, 1943

Navy Day last year, I was on a destroyer in the middle of a very stormy sea. It was pretty rugged, we had a rough time getting to our watches. The chief said it was the roughest he had seen in 20 years. Nevertheless we all knew it was Navy Day, and we had a sense of pride to belong to the greatest Navy in the world.

We were convoying ships to Casablanca. There were plenty of saucers and the going was rough, but we had a grand captain and a swell crew and we weren't afraid. Our vigilance was rewarded to have delivered to convoy (HMS).

My next trip was to Guadalcanal. It was pretty uneventful until we were ordered to make a landing on enemy shores. Then all hell broke loose. We sank two Japanese ships, then we were hit by two torpedoes. It was midnight. I was hit by a projectile that dropped on my head causing concussion. I was helped above by my shipmate. We were given the order to abandon ship. I still do not know how I swam to another ship through oil about two inches thick, and enemy planes strafing. Somehow I got on



Eugene Markoski of Hanover Township was a fireman on a Navy destroyer and was wounded when his ship, the USS Strong, was sunk in battle with the Japanese in the Solomon Islands in 1943. His sister Theodora then joined the Navy to replace him.



EUGENE & THEODORA MARKOSKI
 Hometown: Wilkes-Barre
 Branch: Navy
 Race: French 2nd Generation
 Location of Service: Pacific
 Job during War: Fireman (Sergeant)



This map shows where Eugene Markoski's ship, the USS Strong, was sunk during battle with the Japanese in the Solomon Islands in 1943. The ship was one of the many that were sunk in the Pacific during the war.



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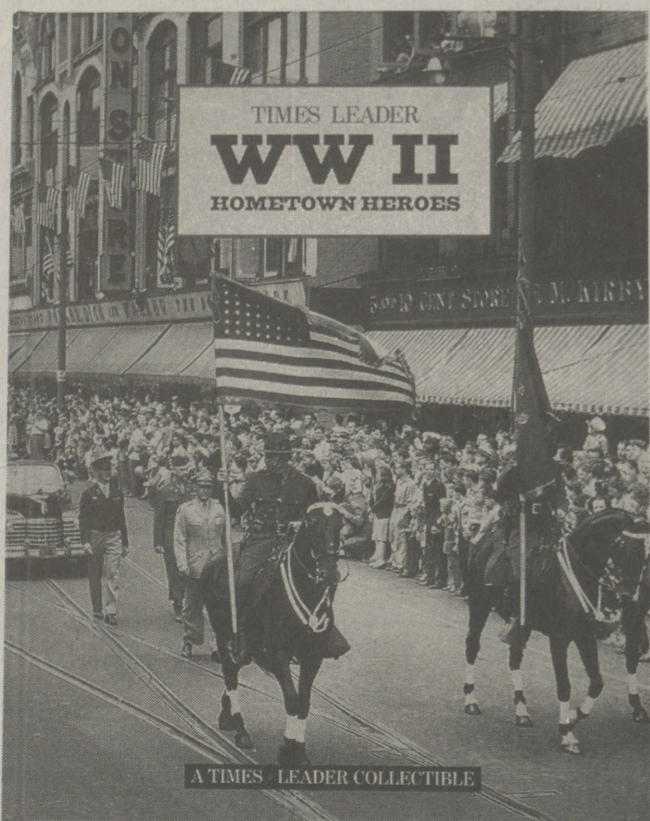
THE NAVY DEPARTMENT DEEPLY REGRETS TO INFORM YOU THAT YOUR SON EUGENE MARKOSKI FIREMAN SECOND CLASS UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE HAS BEEN WOUNDED IN ACTION IN THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS DUTY AND IN THE SERVICE OF HIS COUNTRY. THE DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES YOUR ANXIETY BUT EXTENT OF WOUNDS NOT NOW AVAILABLE AND DELAY IN RECEIPT OF DETAILS MUST NECESSARILY BE EXPECTED BUT WILL BE FURNISHED YOU PROMPTLY IF RECEIVED. TO PREVENT POSSIBLE AID TO OUR ENEMIES PLEASE DO NOT DIVULGE THE NAME OF HIS SHIP OR STATION.

REAR ADMIRAL RANDALL JACOBS THE CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL

The Markoski family of Hanover Township contributed two sons and two daughters to military service in World War I and Korea. Left to right are Ray (Army), Theodora (Navy), Gene (Air Force, Korean War era) and Eugene (Navy).



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