

Lester L. Wolfe Is Awarded Purple Heart

5/26/44

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Wolfe of Newton Receive Medal Awarded Posthumously to Their Son

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Wolfe of Newton have received from the Navy Department a Purple Heart medal, awarded posthumously to their son, Quartermaster First Class Lester Lee Wolfe, who has been missing in action since January 3, 1943, and the Gold Star citation from the American Legion.

Lester was on the USS Barton, a destroyer which was sunk during the third battle of Savo Island in the Solomons, January 3, 1943, and is presumed to have gone down with his ship. While little information has ever been released on the sinking of the Barton, it is said to have been sunk from Japanese gunfire, going down in seven minutes with a loss of all on board.

Served on Cruiser

He had previously served aboard the USS Paducah, a cruiser, and had been transferred at his own request to the Barton. He had previously participated in other battles in the South and Southwest Pacific.

The Purple Heart medal is the oldest American military decoration. It was instituted by General George Washington at Newburgh, New York, August 7, 1782, and is awarded to all men killed or wounded in time of war.