

For the Commanding General

1. In the
2. of recommendation for promotion.

[Signature]
C. S. BRADLEY
Colonel, USA
Chief of Staff

35d Inf Bn

[Handwritten signature]
[Handwritten signature]

RESTRICTED

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHWEST-PACIFIC AREA

A.P.O. 500,
December 28,

GENERAL ORDERS)

NO.....64)

Awards of the Distinguished Service Cross..... Sect
Award of the Distinguished Service Cross and Oak Leaf Cluster.. Sect
Award of the Silver Star..... Sect

I. AWARDS OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS.

By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act
approved July 9, 1918 (Pub. No. 43, W.D., 1918), the Distingui
Service Cross is awarded by the Commander-in-Chief, Southwest Pacif
to the following-named officers and enlisted men:

JOHN J. CAREW, (0126433), Colonel, 114th Engineer Battalion, U
States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action near Cape Sudest,
on November 16, 1942. When enemy airplanes attacked and set fire to
ship carrying United States Army personnel and supplies, Colonel Car
personally organized a volunteer crew to re-man the ship's life-boat
had already taken a number of men ashore. Without regard to his per
safety, he helped to row the boat toward one of the burning ships, in
of repeated bombing and strafing by enemy planes, approaching it clos
although explosions of ammunition aboard threw flaming debris in all
Colonel Carew's leadership and courage saved the lives of several men
inspired others to greater effort in rescuing survivors.

Home address: Mrs. Jennie F. Carew (wife), 24 George Street,
Medford, Massachusetts.

MERLE H. HOWE, (0131962), Lieutenant Colonel, General Staff Corps
quarters 32nd Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism
action near Buna, New Guinea, on December 5, 1942. During an attack on
Village, when men of a rifle company short of company officers were che
by heavy small arms and mortar fire at close range, Lieutenant Colonel
personally exposed himself to the enemy fire, moving among the advanced
and encouraging the men to resume the attack. He then led them in an a
gaining ground which, held and consolidated, assisted materially in an
on the succeeding day.

Home address: Mrs. Virginia Howe (wife), 621 Fleming Street, S.E.,
Grand Rapids, Michigan.

HERMAN J. F. BOTTCHE (0662451), Captain, Infantry (then Staff S
Company, H. 126th Infantry), United States Army. For extraordinary he
action near Buna, New Guinea, during the period December 5 - 11, 1942.

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RESTRICTED

R E S T R I C T E D

GO 64 GHQ SWPA

an attack on enemy positions, Staff Sergeant Bottcher personally led a which cut off communications between enemy forces at Buna Village from at Buna Government station. On succeeding days, he repeatedly repulsed enemy counter-attacks on this vital position. During one simultaneous from both hostile forces, he calmly stood up in the face of enemy fire and threw hand grenades at the advancing enemy. Although wounded in this action he remained with his unit until it was relieved. His outstanding leadership and personal heroism repeatedly inspired his men and was primarily responsible for the success of the defense.

Home address: Mrs. Alice Bottcher (aunt), 239 Ransell Street,
San Francisco, California.

JOHN E. HARBERT, (0408634), First Lieutenant, Ordnance Department, quarters 32nd Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action near Cape Sudest, New Guinea, on November 16, 1942. When enemy planes attacked and set fire to a small ship, First Lieutenant Harbert a party of men to pull to shore a barge loaded with men and ammunition out repeated strafing by hostile planes, he refused to take cover and his efforts. When flaming debris from explosions of munitions aboard fell on the barge, he remained aboard and personally assisted in throwing fragments overboard and in extinguishing the flames. His courage and set a heroic example to men who had sought cover and so steadied and them that work was resumed and the unloading of the badly needed ammunition the barge was successfully accomplished.

Home address: Mrs. Grace Harbert (wife), 13 Union Court, Pontiac, Michigan.

THOMAS E. KNODE, (0349328), First Lieutenant, 126th Infantry, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action near Buna, New Guinea, December 5, 1942. During an attack on Buna Village, First Lieutenant Knod led his platoon with conspicuous bravery. When wounded in the leg, he regarded the wound and continued to lead his platoon in the attack. was again wounded, in the foot, and was unable to go on, he refused to be evacuated until he had given final instructions to his platoon.

Home address: Mrs. Catherine Knod (wife), 2216 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

PAUL R. LUTJENS, (0888449), Second Lieutenant (then First Sergeant) Company E, 126th Infantry, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action near Buna, New Guinea, on December 5, 1942. First Sergeant Lut led a platoon in an attack on Buna Village with conspicuous bravery. of heavy enemy fire, he exposed himself without regard to his personal in urging his men forward in the attack. When severely wounded by a grenade he refused to be evacuated until he had given instructions to his second command.

Home address: William Lutjens (father), 911 Marion Avenue, Big Rapids, Michigan.

IVAN W. HENDERSON, (19059271), Corporal, 408th Bombardment Squadron, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action in New Guinea on May 1, 1942. When the assigned gunner of the crew of a bombardment airplane became ill, Corporal Henderson volunteered for a dangerous combat mission as tail gunner. When the formation was attacked over Lae airdrome by fifteen enemy fighters, he

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R E S T R I C T E D

4 January 1943

Subject: Recommendations for the Award of the Distinguished Service Cross.

To : Commander-in-Chief, GHQ, SWPA, APO 600

1. In accordance with the provisions of AR 600-45, August 8, 1932, it is recommended that the Distinguished Service Cross be awarded to the following named officers and enlisted men who distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy as indicated below:

* * * * *

HERMAN J. F. BOTTCHER, O-888451, Captain, Infantry, Infantry, Army of the United States. For distinguishing himself by extraordinary heroism in action against armed enemy near Buna Village, New Guinea, December 1942. Although wounded the previous day, Captain BOTTCHER volunteered to lead Company E, 127th Infantry on a mission which consisted in knocking out an enemy bunker. Before the zero hour of the attack, Captain BOTTCHER talked to the men and encouraged them so none of them felt nervous or were afraid to perform the mission. When the attack began, he led the attack when the men dropped in the face of heavy enemy fire, encouraged them to advance to within fifteen yards of the enemy bunker. The enemy then had the entire patrol trapped, so Captain BOTTCHER, with utter disregard for his own personal safety, stood up and drew the enemy so that the rest of the patrol could withdraw to a safe position. Captain BOTTCHER volunteered to go back to get help for this patrol and while doing so was wounded in the arm, the second time within two days. His cool and voluntary leadership was over and above the ordinary call of duty. Home Address: Mrs. Alice Bottcher, 239 Ransell Street, San Francisco, California.

* * * * *

2. It has been verified that the entire service of the above mentioned officers and enlisted men, subsequent to the action on which the recommendations are based was honorable.

For the Commanding General:

/s/ Robert D. Angell
ROBERT D. ANGELL,
1st Lt., A.G.D.,
Asst. Adj. Gen.

HEADQUARTERS, 127th Infantry
The Adjutant General's Office
Camp Blanding, Blanding, New Mexico

RECEIVED

HERMANN J. BOUCHER, 1903-12, S/Sgt., Co. C, 127th Infantry, U. S. A.
For gallantry in action in the BUNIA AREA, NEW GUINEA, on 20 December 1943.

On about 11:00 Sunday, Dec. 20, 1943, I and 9 men were assigned the mission of knocking out an enemy bunker. We had a very clear day and the weather was open on the left, with a small strip of trees leading up to the bunker on the right. Our artillery and mortars were laying down a protecting barrage upon which we were supposed to advance to the bunker. The enemy fired at us until we were spotted. Capt. BOUCHER (BOUCHER), who had the same mission the day before, volunteered to guide us up to the bunker. Before the hour, Capt. (acting) BOUCHER (BOUCHER) remained back with us and asked how easy it was to get up there, and just what to do in case of enemy fire. The men felt indebted to him, cause he removed every trace of nervousness and fear. He finally started up and as soon as we received his order dropped. Capt. BOUCHER (BOUCHER) turned around and told us to follow him. He guided us up to within 25 yds. of the bunker, and told us what to do just how to go in. I had five men left, so we ran up to within 10 yds. of the bunker and were pinned down. In fact, we were trapped. We had no had all avenues of escape covered with machine gun fire. I knew I couldn't get ahead, and yet I knew we couldn't get back. Capt. BOUCHER (BOUCHER) knew this, so with no regard for his own life, he stood up and drew a line so we could get out. I sent the remaining 3 men back and then I went myself. He then crawled over and told us it was safe there, even though we knew it wasn't. He talked to us again, very encouraging until we were on our wits. He then volunteered to go back and get some help to get us out there. On the way back, he was shot thru the arm, making a second wound in the same arm. Help finally came, and we crawled back to our own line. His courage, disregard for his own safety and voluntary leadership, and his call of duty, I recommend him for a citation.

/s/ Lt. Jos. J. Michalowski
Co. E, 127th Infantry.

A TRUE COPY:
(12-11-43—Hq., 127th Inf.)

Charles J. Mueller
CHARLES J. MUELLER
Capt., 127th Infantry
Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS 127th INFANTRY
A. P. O. # 2 1/2
San Francisco, Calif. 94102

TERMINAL CASE

HERMANN J. F. BOTCHER, 3008 24th St., Sgt., Co. E, 126th Infantry, U. S. Army
for gallantry in action in the BUNA AREA, NEW GUINEA.

CAPT. (acting) BOUCHER (BOTCHER), under absolutely no obligation, voluntarily offered to act as guide and instructor in storming a pillbox in dense woods, terrain with which he was already familiar. Although wounded only the day before, Capt. BOUCHER (BOTCHER) acted as leader of the platoon. When we had approached within 40 yds. of the pillbox, the men prepared to enter in because of the heavy fire from enemy MG and snipers. However, Capt. (BOTCHER) urged us to go forward and his previously displayed courage and urging was the spark that induced the men to go forward. When we were about 20 yds. from the pillbox, we were pinned to the ground by the severity of enemy fire. In order to relieve the fire on these men, Capt. BOUCHER (BOTCHER) boldly exposed himself in order to draw the enemy fire and hence enabled our men to get out of a certain death trap, on way back to get help, Capt. BOUCHER (BOTCHER) was shot again, the second in 2 days. For his utter disregard for his own safety, and for his courage and incentive, which far exceeded the call of duty, I recommend him for citation.

/s/ EDWIN R. SCHELL, 350
Private, Co E, 127th

A TRUE COPY:
(12-30-42 - Hq., 127th Inf.)

Charles J. Muller
CHARLES J. MULLER
Capt., 127th Inf.
Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS
118th General Hospital
APO 927

1 June 1943

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 5)

1. So much of General Orders No. 1 this headquarters dated April 22, 1943 as pertains to HERMAN J. BOTTCHER, (0888451) Captain, sq. 126th Infantry, United States Army is hereby revoked.

2. Under the provisions of AR 600-45, War Department, August 8, 1932, as amended, a Purple Heart is awarded by the Commanding Officer, 118th General Hospital, APO 927 to the following named Officer:

HERMAN J. F. BOTTCHER (0888451) Captain, 126th Infantry, United States Army. For wounds received in action at Buna Mission, New Guinea on December 7, 1942.

Home address: Mrs. Alice Bottcher (aunt) 239 Russell St., San Francisco, Calif.

The above named Officer not presented with medal (Purple Heart) due to lack of availability of supply.

3. Under the provisions of AR 600-45, War Department, August 8, 1932, as amended, the Oak Leaf Cluster is awarded by the Commanding Officer, 118th General Hospital, APO 927 to the following named Officer:

HERMAN J. F. BOTTCHER (0888451) Captain, 126th Infantry, United States Army. For wounds received in action near Buna, New Guinea on December 20, 1942.

Home address: Mrs. Alice Bottcher (aunt) 239 Russell St., San Francisco, Calif.

The above named Officer not presented with the Oak Leaf Cluster due to lack of availability of supply.

Allan W. Dawson
ALLAN W. DAWSON
Colonel, M.C.,
Commanding.

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN THE FAR EAST

GENERAL ORDERS)

A.P.O. 501
1 July 1943

NO.....36)

Section

Awards of the Distinguished-Service Cross.....I
Award of Oak-Leaf Cluster.....II
Citations for Gallantry in Action.....III
Amendment to General Orders No. 18.....IV

I. AWARDS OF THE DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS.

By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (Bulletin No. 43, W.D., 1918), the Distinguished-Service Cross is awarded by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces in the Far East, to the following named officers and enlisted men:

Lieutenant Colonel CHESTER W. BEAVER, (020327), (then Major), General Staff Corps, Headquarters 32d Infantry Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action near Buna, New Guinea, on 5 December 1942. After extensive and useful activity at the hazard of his life during the on 5th December, Lieutenant Colonel Beaver, late in the afternoon, organized a patrol from the Cannon Company, 128th Infantry, for an attempt to outflank an enemy position. Crawling through mud and water, under heavy fire, the patrol worked its way within a hundred yards of Buna Village and materially assisted the attack. Lieutenant Colonel Beaver's daring leadership was inspiration to the men of the command.
Home address: Mrs. Gladys M. Beaver (mother), 402 East Ninth Street, Yankton, South Dakota.

Colonel JOSEPH S. BRADLEY, (012428), General Staff Corps, 32d Infantry Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action near New Guinea, on 28 December 1942. To further an attack by an infantry company against a strongly fortified enemy area, Colonel Bradley left his command and went to the most forward positions, personally aided the progress of the attack and contributed materially to its success. While under heavy enemy fire, he moved about among the men continually risking his life to encourage and lead the advance in every way possible.
Home address: Mrs. Joseph S. Bradley (wife), Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

Private First Class JACK K. CUNNINGHAM, (38046690), Company E, 127th Infantry, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action near Tarakona, New Guinea, on 11 January 1943. Private First Class Cunningham, with one other soldier, volunteered to swim the swollen and rapid Konom River at night in order to tow a rope and secure it to the opposite bank. The enemy was entrenched across the river, and detection meant exposure to fire. Despite the hazards, Private First Class Cunningham and his comrade swam the forty-yard stream and tied the rope, thus assisting their unit to establish a bridge-head.

Home address: Mrs. M. V. Cunningham (mother), 2340 Honeysuckle, Fort Worth, Texas.

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Brigadier General JENS A. DOE, (03743), (then Colonel), United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action near Sanananda, New Guinea, on 22 January 1943. As commander of an infantry regiment, which was engaged in wiping out the remaining points of enemy resistance, Brigadier General distinguished himself by his coolness and gallantry under fire. In the recapture of these strongly fortified areas, his outstanding leadership and courageous conduct were a continuous inspiration to his troops. Brigadier General Doe's presence in the most forward areas and his disregard of personal danger were largely responsible for the high morale of his troops and the successful outcome of these operations.
Home address: Carmel, California.

Private GORDON W. BOFF, (37102775), Headquarters Company, 127th Infantry, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action near Buna, New Guinea, on 25 December 1942. While on a volunteer patrol to protect linesmen who were attempting to restore communications to a company in the forward area, Private Boff saw one of the other members of the patrol wounded by the heavy enemy sniping and automatic weapon fire in that area. With admirable courage, Private Boff crawled forward into the intense enemy fire, administered first aid to the wounded man and succeeded in dragging him out of the immediate danger zone.
Home address: Mrs. Gordon Boff (wife), Clinton, Arkansas.

Private First Class ALBERT L. FISHER, (35250845), Company I, 127th Infantry, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action near Buna, New Guinea, on 24 December 1942. After being wounded in an infantry attack, Private Fisher was returned to a rear area for medical care. Medical aid was not immediately available in that area. While waiting, he saw two members of his company lying wounded in the frontline area. Without thought of his own wounds or safety, he crawled out over open terrain through heavy enemy fire and brought these two wounded men back, one at a time, to safer positions. Before accepting aid for himself he insisted that these two men, more seriously wounded, be treated first.
Home address: Mrs. Dora Fisher (mother), Speed, Indiana.

Private RAYMOND R. JUDD, (35047586), Company C, 127th Infantry, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action near Tarakena, New Guinea, on 12 January 1943. Volunteering as a member of a small patrol, Private Judd swam the swollen and rapidly flowing Konombi River in broad daylight and under heavy enemy fire. With complete disregard for his own safety and armed only with a pistol and hand grenades, he assisted in towing a rope to the opposite bank to aid the crossing of the river by a platoon of infantry. The successful accomplishment of this dangerous mission permitted the advance of the entire company and the securing of a bridge-head on the opposite shore.
Home address: Mrs. Mary Judd (mother), R.R. No. 1, Navarre, Ohio.

Private First Class RAYMOND MILBY, (35250331), Company C, 127th Infantry, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action near Tarakena, New Guinea, on 12 January 1943. Volunteering as a member of a small patrol, Private Milby swam the swollen and rapidly flowing Konombi River in broad daylight and under heavy enemy fire. With complete disregard for his own safety and armed only with a pistol and hand grenades, he assisted in towing a rope to the opposite bank to aid the crossing of the river by a platoon of infantry.

RESTRICTED

The successful accomplishment of this dangerous mission permitted the advance of the entire company and the securing of a bridge-head on the opposite shore. Home address: Mrs. Lucile Milby (wife), 815 South 22d Street, Louisville, Kentucky.

Lieutenant Colonel BRIAN O'NEILL, (022509), 38th Bombardment Group, Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action in the Battle of the Bismarck Sea, on 3 March 1943. Lieutenant Colonel O'Neill led elements of his group of medium bombers in two low-altitude attacks on an enemy convoy of twenty-two vessels which was approaching the New Guinea coast. Although he was the only pilot of this group who had participated in low-altitude bombing, and although lack of forward guns made this type of attack particularly hazardous for his planes, Lieutenant Colonel O'Neill volunteered to lead mast-height runs rather than accept the low percentage of hits to be expected from higher altitudes. His leadership was so effective that his group secured hits on seven of the enemy ships. Lieutenant Colonel O'Neill's daring enterprise and his brilliant command flying contributed greatly to the destruction of the entire enemy command. Home address: Mrs. Marion O'Neill (wife) 123 Locust Hill Avenue, Yonkers, New York.

Private STEVE W. PARKS, (20649455), Company D, 128th Infantry, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action near Buna, New Guinea, on December 1942. Private Parks was a member of a patrol which attempted to build a bridge over Sineni Creek. The patrol encountered fierce enemy fire and was forced to withdraw, leaving a wounded man directly in the line of enemy fire. Seeing the plight of his comrade, Private Parks voluntarily braved the enemy automatic and sniper fire, to rescue the wounded man and to remove him to a relatively safe position, where he administered first aid. Home address: Thomas J. Parks (father), Cameron, Wisconsin.

Private MERVIN M. PETERSON, (20646320), Company C, 127th Infantry, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action near Tarakena, New Guinea, on 12 January 1943. Volunteering as a member of a small patrol, Private Peterson swam the swollen and rapidly flowing Konombi River in broad daylight and under heavy enemy fire. With complete disregard for his own safety and armed only with a pistol and hand grenades, he assisted in towing a rope across the opposite bank to aid the crossing of the river by a platoon of infantry. The successful accomplishment of this dangerous mission permitted the advance of the entire company and the securing of a bridge-head on the opposite shore. Home address: Mrs. M. Peterson (mother), Wisconsin Street, Oconto Falls, Wisconsin.

Lieutenant Colonel HERBERT M. SMITH, (0241957), (then Major), 126th Infantry, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action near Buna, New Guinea, on 7 December 1942. While commanding an Infantry Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Smith, without regard for his personal safety, went to the most forward positions of the units on his right flank and encouraged the troops to continue an attack which had encountered heavy automatic weapon fire from prepared and strongly defended enemy positions. He continually exposed himself to enemy sniper and grenade fire as he moved among the troops and directed their advance. His courageous personal example and his energetic efforts were an inspiration to the men of his command. Lieutenant Colonel

RESTRICTED

was wounded in this action by fragments from a rifle grenade.

Home address: Mrs. Dorothy M. Smith (wife), 209 S. Hewett Street, Neillsville, Wisconsin.

Private LAWRENCE F. SPRAGUE, (35280076), Company C, 127th Infantry, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action near Tarakena, New Guinea, on 12 January 1943. Volunteering as a member of a small patrol, Private Sprague swam the swollen and rapidly flowing Konombi River in broad daylight and under heavy enemy fire. With complete disregard for his own and armed only with a pistol and hand grenades, he assisted in towing a rope to the opposite bank to aid the crossing of the river by a platoon of infantry. The successful accomplishment of this dangerous mission permitted the advance of the entire company and the securing of a bridge-head on the opposite shore. Home address: Mrs. Mamie Sprague (mother), Tontogany, Ohio.

II. AWARD OF OAK-LEAF CLUSTER

By direction of the President, in addition to the Distinguished-Service Cross awarded to Captain Herman J. F. Bottcher, 126th Infantry, by the Commanding General, Southwest Pacific Area, as published on page 1, General Orders No. 64, 1942, General Headquarters, Southwest Pacific Area, a bronze Oak-Leaf is awarded to him by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces in the Far East, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (Bulletin No. 43, W.D., 1918). The citation is as follows:

Captain HERMAN J. F. BOTTCHER, (0888451), 126th Infantry, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action near Buna, New Guinea, on 20 December 1942. Although wounded the previous day, Captain Bottcher volunteered to lead a detachment of infantry in an attack on an enemy strong-point in terrain which he was familiar. He carefully prepared the men for the attack, and encouraged them by his own example to advance within twenty yards of the enemy emplacements. When the patrol was held up by small arms fire in this advance position, he stood up without regard for his own safety and drew the enemy's fire so that the patrol could move to another area. He was again wounded during this action. Captain Bottcher's outstanding courage and leadership were an inspiration to the men under his command. Home address: Mrs. Alice Bottcher (aunt), 239 Sansell Street, San Francisco, California.

III. CITATIONS FOR GALLANTRY IN ACTION.

By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (Bulletin No. 43, W.D., 1918), the following named enlisted men are cited for gallantry in action and are entitled to wear the Silver Star Decoration. The citations are as follows:

Staff Sergeant MILTON O. CLINE, (20650715), Company K, 128th Infantry, United States Army. For gallantry in action near Buna, New Guinea, on 26 November 1942 and 5 December 1942. Home address: Mrs. Blanche B. Cline (mother), Route No. 1, Woodford, Wisconsin.

Staff Sergeant LOUIS H. POLLISTER, (20115991), Company A, 114th Engineer Battalion, United States Army. For gallantry in action near Buna, New Guinea, on 28 December 1942. Home address: Mrs. Mary Pollister (wife), 166 Oak Street, Foxboro, Massachusetts.

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RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

IV. AMENDMENT TO GENERAL ORDERS NO. 18.

Paragraph 1, General Orders No. 18, Hq USAFFE, 17 April 1943 is amended to include the following named officers and enlisted men:

Capt DONALD D. STEELE 0401256, AC
 2d Lt JOHN J. RYAN, 02034644, AC
 M/Sgt JACK R. BROWN, 6571228, TC
 M/Sgt LEWIS H. CARLESON, 6802201, AC
 M/Sgt WILSON D. PALMER, 6825214, AC
 T/Sgt RICHARD LAMB, 6916221, AC
 S/Sgt VERNON R. NELSON, 6582848, AC
 T/3 ILUMINADO C. INTERIOR, 10641057, DEML
 Sgt JOSEPH H. RIOTTE, 6148682, AC
 Sgt JAMES SPRANZA, 6000836, DEMI.
 Cpl PAUL G. LEE, 6970862, AC
 Pvt 1cl ANTONIO B. MARTINEZ, 20844139, DEML
 Pvt WILLIAM J. RUSHTON, 13027839, DEML

FECA 200.6

By command of General MacARTHUR:

R. K. SUTHERLAND,
 Major General, United States Army
 Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

L. S. Ostrander
 L. S. OSTRANDER,
 Brigadier General, U.S. Army,
 Adjutant General.

DISTRIBUTION

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HEADQUARTERS 127TH INFANTRY
A.P.O. #32 - c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

CJM/wmc

GENERAL ORDERS)

1 September 1943.

NO.....26)

OAK LEAF CLUSTERS

1. By direction of the President, in addition to the Purple Heart awarded to Captain HERMAN J. F. BOTTOCHER by the Commanding Officer, 118th General Hospital as published on General Orders No. 5, par 2, Headquarters, 118th General Hospital, APO 927, dated 1 June 1943, a Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster is awarded to him by the Commanding Officer, 127th Infantry, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended. The Citation is as follows:

HERMANN J. F. BOTTOCHER, (O-888451), Captain, 127th Infantry, United States Army. For wounds received in action, in the Buna Sector, New Guinea, on 19 December 1942.
Home address: Mrs. Alice Bottcher, (Aunt), San Francisco, California.

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By order of Colonel HOWE:

CHARLES J. MUELLER
Capt., 127th Inf.,
Adjutant.

OFFICIAL:

CHARLES J. MUELLER
Capt., 127th Inf.,
Adjutant.

TO OFFICER'S BRANCH
FOR FILE
ALLAN - D & A BRANCH

SEP 21 1943

HEADQUARTERS 127TH INFANTRY
A.F.O. #32 - c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

GENERAL ORDERS)

1 September 1943.

NO. 26)

OAK LEAF CLUSTERS

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2. By direction of the President, in addition to the Purple Heart awarded to Captain HERMANN J. F. BOTTCHE by the Commanding Officer, 118th General Hospital as published on General Orders No. 5, par 2, Headquarters, 118th General Hospital, APO 927, dated 1 June 1943, and a Bronze Oak-Leaf Cluster awarded by the Commanding Officer, 127th Infantry, and published on General Orders No. 26, par 1, Headquarters, 127th Infantry, dated 1 September 1943, a second Bronze Oak-Leaf Cluster is awarded to him by the Commanding Officer, 127th Infantry, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended. The citation is as follows:

HERMANN J. F. BOTTCHE, (O-888451), Captain, 127th Infantry, United States Army. For wounds received in action, in the Buna Sector, New Guinea, on 20 December 1942.
Home Address: Mrs. Alice Bottocher, (Aunt), San Francisco, California.

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By order of Colonel HOWE:

CHARLES J. MUELLER,
Capt., 127th Inf.,
Adjutant

OFFICIAL:

CHARLES J. MUELLER
Capt., 127th Inf.,
Adjutant.

TO OFFICER'S BRANCH FOR FILE
FOR FILE
ALLAN - D & A BRANCH

SEP 21 1943

TO: Capt. Herman H. Bortolin

Enclosed herewith are two copies of a letter from
Hospital Director, Fort Belvoir, St. Louis, Mo., dated
April 10, 1946, in which the medal itself is not available for
distribution of this line.

Very respectfully,
Director, Research of Records, Fort Belvoir, St. Louis, Mo.

Very respectfully,
Director, Research of Records, Fort Belvoir, St. Louis, Mo.

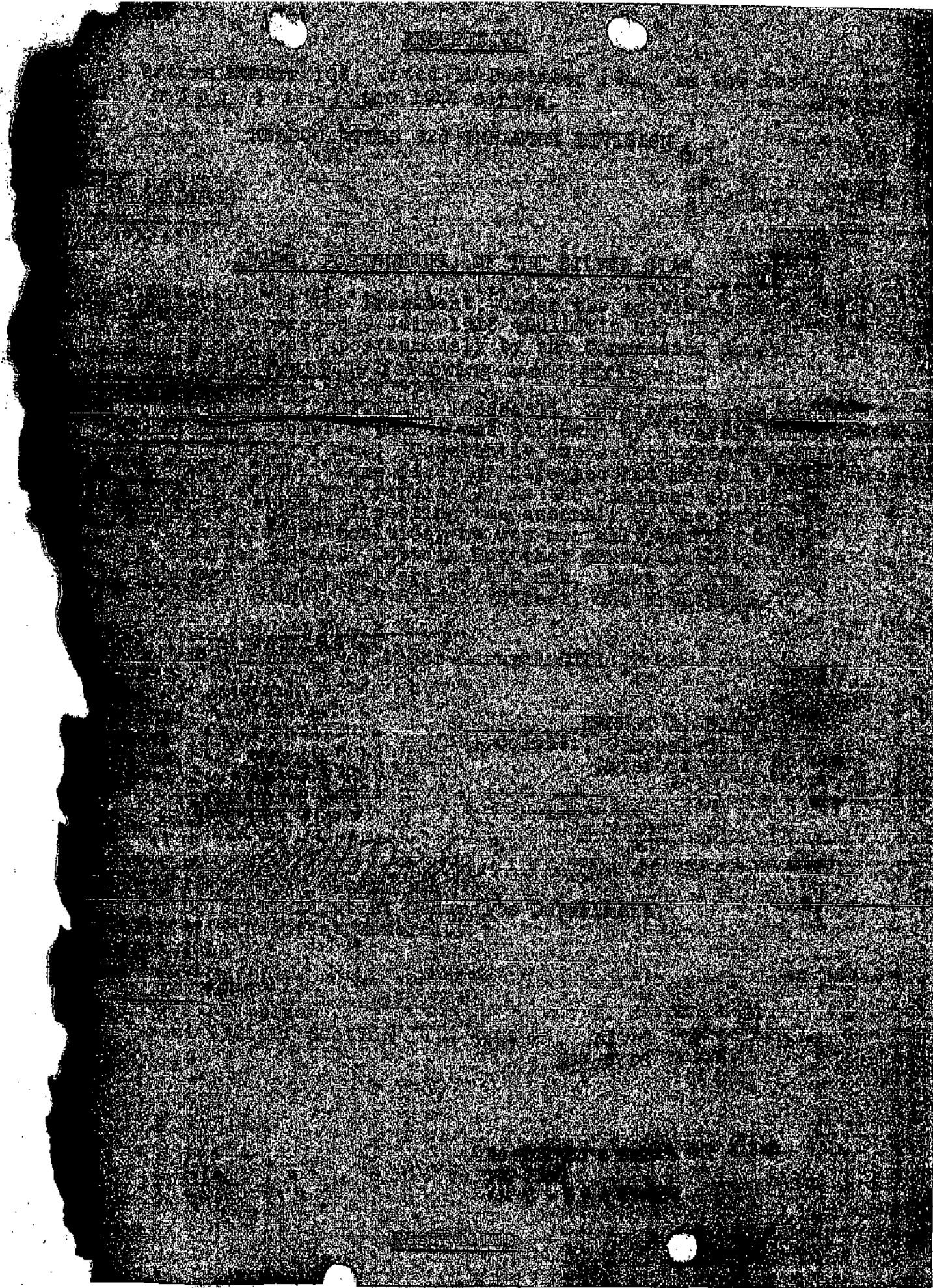
Very respectfully,
Director, Research of Records, Fort Belvoir, St. Louis, Mo.

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Director, Research of Records, Fort Belvoir, St. Louis, Mo.

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Director, Research of Records, Fort Belvoir, St. Louis, Mo.

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Director, Research of Records, Fort Belvoir, St. Louis, Mo.

Very respectfully,
Director, Research of Records, Fort Belvoir, St. Louis, Mo.



ORIGINAL SOURCE

THE FOLLOWING

INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED FROM A SOURCE WHOSE CREDIBILITY IS NOT KNOWN TO THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE ARMY, BUT WHOSE INFORMATION IS BELIEVED TO BE RELIABLE.

ON 10/10/50, THE SOURCE ADVISED THAT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED FROM A SOURCE WHOSE CREDIBILITY IS NOT KNOWN TO THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE ARMY, BUT WHOSE INFORMATION IS BELIEVED TO BE RELIABLE.

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HEADQUARTERS
REAR ECHELON UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN THE FAR EAST

FEED 201-Bottcher, Herman J. (O)

APO 501,
27 February 1945.

SUBJECT: Posthumous award of the Legion of Merit.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C.

Inclosed is citation to accompany General Orders No. 29, Headquarters United States Army Forces in the Far East, 12 February 1945, which awards the Legion of Merit posthumously to Captain Herman J. Bottcher, 0888451.

✓ For the Commanding General:

William A. Howard
WILLIAM A. HOWARD
1st Lt, AGD
Asst Adj Gen

2 Incls.

1. Citation (duplicate).
2. GO 29, Hq USAFFE,
12 Feb 45 (duplicate).

*Admission not received in
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W.D. Daffene
3-21-45*

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RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS
REAR ECHELON UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN THE FAR EAST

FEED 201-Bottcher, Herman J. (6)

APO 501,
27 February 1945.

SUBJECT: Posthumous award of the Legion of Merit.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C.

Inclosed is citation to accompany General Orders No. 29, Headquarters United States Army Forces in the Far East, 12 February 1945, which awards the Legion of Merit posthumously to Captain Herman J. Bottcher, 0882451.

For the Commanding General:

WILLIAM A. HOWARD
1st Lt, AGC
Asst Adj Gen

2 Incls. ✓

1. Citation (duplicate).
2. GO 29, Hq USAFFE,
12 Feb 45 (duplicate).

RESTRICTED

WAR DEPARTMENT
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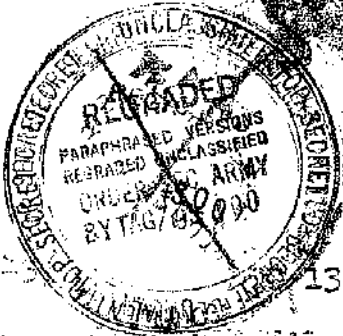
in War East, Hollandia, New

13 January 1945

MacArthur to AGWAR 00431,
containing 1 para.

Attcher, 0888451, Capt. Inf.
Lt. Colonel Leyte. Dated Includ

Noted in Book
Dec 1944



131330Z

ACTION CAS. FRANK

COPY NO.

REPORT OF ENTRY ON ~~(TERMINATION OF)~~ ACTIVE DUTY
(Par 119b, AR 140-5, and pars 13b and 34, AR 130-10)

AP0 32, c/o Postmaster,
San Francisco, California
(Place)

(Date)

TO: G-1, C, HQ, SWPA, APO 500.

NAME: Herman Johann F. Bottcher 0888451
(First) (Middle) (Last) (Serial number)

GRADE AND BRANCH Captain Infantry 18-12
(Grade) (Branch) A.U.S.
(ORC NGUS or AUS)

AUTHORITY: Par: 2 SO 227 Hqs C HQ, SWPA, APO 500. 18 December 1942
(Date of order)

DATE OF ENTRY UPON ACTIVE DUTY: 18 December 1942.

~~(DATE OF ENTRY UPON ACTIVE DUTY IS ORDINARILY THE DATE OF ENTRY UPON ACTIVE DUTY)~~

(Date of entry is ordinarily the date officer left home if such date is on or subsequent to the effective date shown in the order).

(Date of termination of active duty is ordinarily the effective date of termination shown in the order).

REPORTED FOR ACTIVE DUTY: 18 December 1942.
(Date reported at station)

Noted: 7a
4/5/43.
4310

132114/5/43

T. E. MACKRELL,
Captain, A.G.D.,
Asst. Adj. Gen.,
32d Inf. Division.

File
Noted ORS
Closed 2505

200.6

APO 32

3 January 1945

SUBJECT: Recommendation for the Posthumous Award of the Legion of Merit.

TO : Commanding General, X Corps, APO 310.

1. Recommend that Captain Herman J. Bottcher, 0888451, Cavalry, 32d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, be posthumously awarded the Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services on Leyte, Philippine Islands, from 20 November 1944 to 31 December 1944.

2. From 20 November 1944 to 31 December 1944 Captain Bottcher, commanding the 32d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, occupied positions in the enemy's rear areas and conducted extensive reconnaissance. He obtained information of enemy strength, movements, and supply installations. Because of the limited personnel available to him, and the numerous missions assigned to him, he maintained only a very small base. The enemy attacked this base, located deep in enemy held territory, many times, in an attempt to drive Captain Bottcher and his men from the area. By his shrewdness, lack of concern for personal safety, and knowledge of the enemy and his methods, Captain Bottcher repulsed all attacks, remained in the area, and continued on his missions. His reconnaissance patrols obtained much information of intelligence value. This information was extremely accurate, always timely, and because of Captain Bottcher's keen appreciation of the tactical situation, always applicable and important. The information gained as a result of his reconnaissance played an extremely important part in the overall strategic planning of the Ormoc Valley engagement.

3. Captain Bottcher, personally participated in many reconnaissance missions. He led small patrols in deep probes in enemy held territory, harassed and delayed the enemy by destruction of bridges and supply installations, and provided security for forward observation posts which directed artillery fire on enemy movements and installations in the rear areas.

4. Throughout the period, Captain Bottcher and his troop operated deep in enemy territory. Several days marching separated the troop from medical facilities; all medical attention was furnished by two aid men who were attached to the troop. Because of the separation from friendly forces, the supply problem was extremely complicated, and it was necessary for Captain Bottcher and his men to subsist for extended periods on native foods alone. Bracing tropic rains and rugged terrain made the completion of missions difficult. In spite of all hardships and dangers, Captain Bottcher, by intelligent planning and uncanny craftiness, accomplished all the work successfully with a minimum of casualties, and he inspired

this man to acquire information of intelligence value that he merited the praise of the Army Commander.

5. Captain Bettcher was killed in action on 31 December 1944 while his troop was repulsing an enemy attack.

6. Captain Bettcher's assignment during the period was that of Commanding Officer, 32d Reconnaissance Troop.

7. Captain Bettcher was previously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, as published in Section I, General Orders 64, GHO, SWPA, dated 28 December 1942, and Oak-Leaf Cluster to Distinguished Service Cross as published in General Orders 36, Headquarters USAFPC, dated 1 July 1943.

8. I have personal knowledge of the facts described above.

W. H. GILL,
Major General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

1 Incl - Draft Citation

DRAFT CITATION

By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 20 July 1942 (Section III, Bulletin 40, WD, 1942), and Executive Order No. 9250, 29 October 1942 (Section I, Bulletin 34, WD, 1942), the Legion of Merit is posthumously awarded by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces in the Far East, to the following named officer:

Captain MERMAN J. BOTTCHER, (0688451), Cavalry, United States Army. For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services on Leyte, Philippine Islands, from 20 November 1944 to 31 December 1944. Home address: Mrs. Alice Bottcher, (Aunt), 239 Ransell Street, San Francisco, California.

Subject: Recommendation for the Posthumous Award of the Legion of Merit.

200.6 - 5 (Bettcher, Herman J.) 1st Ind.

(3 Jan 45)

HEADQUARTERS I CORPS, APO 310, 10 January 1945.

To: Commanding General, Eighth Army, APO 343.

Approved.

P. C. SIMMONS
Major General, U. S. Army.
Commanding.

1 Incl:
n/c

Captain HERMAN J. BOTTCHER, (O-888451) Cavalry

Recommendation: Legion of Merit (Posthumously)

Recommended by: Major General H. E. GILL, Commanding General, 32nd Inf Division: approved by CG, X Corps, CG, Eighth Army.

Requirement: Awarded to members of the armed forces who distinguish themselves by exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services.

Previous awards: Distinguished Service Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster, Purple Heart with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters.

Circumstances: From 20 November 1944 to 31 December 1944 Captain Bottcher, commanding the 32nd Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, occupied positions in the enemy's rear areas and conducted extensive reconnaissance. He obtained information of enemy strength, movements, and supply installations. Because of the limited personnel available to him, and the numerous missions assigned to him, he maintained only a very small base. The enemy attacked this base, located deep in enemy held territory, many times, in an attempt to drive Captain Bottcher and his men from the area. By his shrewdness, lack of concern for personal safety, and knowledge of the enemy and his methods, Captain Bottcher repulsed all attacks, remained in the area, and continued on his missions. His reconnaissance patrols obtained much information of intelligence value. This information was extremely accurate, always timely and always applicable and important.

Present status: Deceased

Action recommended
by A.G.

25 JAN 1945

By G-1

Recommendations: Col. Donnell - L of M
Col. Pollin - L of M
Col. Fraile - L of M
Gen. Baird - L of M

By President,
Decorations Bd

Awarded L of M by GO 29, Hq USAFFE, 12 Feb 45.

Captain HERMAN J. F. BOTTCHER, 0888451

Recommendation: Distinguished-Service Cross.

Recommended by: CG, 32d Div.

Requirement: Awarded to persons who, while serving in any capacity with the Army of the United States, distinguish themselves by extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy.

Circumstances: Captain Bottcher, although wounded, volunteered to lead a company on a mission which consisted of knocking out an enemy bunker. In advancing, Capt. Bottcher talked to the men and encouraged them. He led the attack and when the men were pinned down he encouraged them to advance to within fifteen yards of the bunker. Here the patrol became trapped by enemy fire. Without regard for his own life, Capt. Bottcher stood up in order to draw the enemy fire and allow the other men to withdraw to safer positions. Capt. Bottcher volunteered to go back to get more help for the patrol and in return was wounded in the arm, the second time in two days. His courageous voluntary leadership was over and above the ordinary call of duty.
(Draft of citation attached)

Action recommended
by A.G.

Comments: G-1

Action by DG of S:

Awarded OLC to DSC
by GO #36
Hq 0-547E
1 July 43

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
MILITARY PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER
ST. LOUIS 20, MISSOURI

IN REPLY

REFER TO:


AGRC-SA 201 Bottcher, Hermann J. F.
O 888 451 (11 Mar 54)

23 March 1954

SUBJECT: Letter Orders - Withdrawal of General Orders

1. So much of paragraph 3, General Orders 5, Headquarters 118th General Hospital, dated 1 June 1943, as pertains to the award of the Oak-Leaf Cluster to the Purple Heart to Captain Hermann J. F. Bottcher, O 888 451, is withdrawn.
2. The Oak-Leaf Cluster to the Purple Heart was awarded this officer by General Orders 26, Headquarters 127th Infantry Regiment, dated 1 September 1943.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:


Adjutant General

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
MILITARY PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER
ST. LOUIS 20, MISSOURI

IN REPLY
REFER TO:

AGRC-SA 201 Bottcher, Hermann J. F.
O 888 451 (11 Mar 54)


23 March 1954

SUBJECT: Letter Orders - Combat Infantryman Badge

1. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-70, as amended, the Combat Infantryman Badge is posthumously awarded to Hermann J. F. Bottcher, 39 085 246, for satisfactory performance of duty in active ground combat while assigned as Staff Sergeant, 126th Infantry Regiment, effective 7 December 1942.

2. Under the provisions of Public Law 351, dated 12 October 1949, no additional pay shall accrue by virtue of this award.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:


Adjutant General

23 March 1954

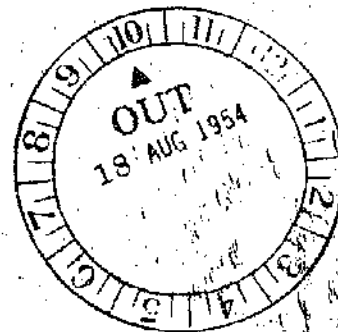
TO: Special Service Sec

The records show that Hermann J. F. Bottcher, O 888 451, is entitled to the following decorations:

Distinguished Service Cross with First Oak-Leaf Cluster - General Orders 62, General Headquarters Southwest Pacific Area, dated 28 December 1942 and General Orders 36, Headquarters US Army Forces, Far East, dated 1 July 1943
Silver Star - General Orders 1, Headquarters 32d Infantry Division, dated 5 January 1945
Legion of Merit - General Orders 29, Headquarters US Army Forces, Far East, dated 12 February 1945
Bronze Star Medal - based upon the award of the Combat Infantryman Badge
Purple Heart - posthumously awarded for having made the supreme sacrifice in defense of his country
Purple Heart with First & Second Oak-Leaf Clusters - General Orders 5, Headquarters 128th General Hospital, dated 1 June 1943 and General Orders 26, Headquarters 127th Infantry Regiment, dated 1 September 1943

Hutchings-Awards Unit

Please place in 201 file.



Hermann J. F. Baer, O 888 451, is entitled to the following:

Distinguished Service Cross with one Oak-Leaf Cluster - GO 62, Hq SW P
28 Dec 42 and GO 36, Hq US Army Forces, FE, 1 Jul 43
Silver Star - GO 1, Hq 32d Inf Div, 5 Jan 45
Legion of Merit - GO 29 Hq US AF FE, 12 Feb 45
Bronze Star Medal - based on CIB - CIB awarded posthumously
Purple Heart (Posthumously awarded for having made supreme sacrifice
Purple Heart with 2 OLC - GO 5, Hq 128th Gen Hosp, 1 June 1943 and GO 26
Hq 127th Inf Regt, dtd 1 Sep 43
Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with three Bronze Service Stars for Leyte
Papua and New Guinea Campaigns
World War II Victory Medal
Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Bronze S S
Distinguished Unit Emblem
Combat Infantryman Badge
Philippine Presidential Unit Citation Badge.

Moser 16 June 1965

~~Medal of Honor - not in book in Library~~

GO 64 GHQ SWPA

coastal vessel which proceeded to the aid of personnel from the blazes. In spite of repeated enemy bombing and strafing attacks, the party continued search for survivors until long after dark.
Home address: Mrs. Lois Mae Myers (wife), 102 East Tenth Street, Macomb, Nebraska.

II. AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS AND OAK LEAF CLUSTER

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS: By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved July 9, 1918 (Bul. 11), the Distinguished Service Cross is awarded by the Commander-in-Chief, Southwest Pacific Area, to the following officer:

HENNING, EDWARD (0386476), First Lieutenant, Infantry, Headquarters 32nd Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action at Cape Sudest, New Guinea, on November 16, 1942. When enemy airplanes arrived and set fire to four small ships carrying United States Army personnel supplies, First Lieutenant Henning called for volunteers to attempt to board the ships. With four enlisted men he boarded a small coastal vessel and ordered it to proceed to the blazing vessels. In spite of repeated enemy bombing and strafing, and without regard to his personal safety, he continued the search for survivors until long after dark.
Home address: Mrs. M. S. Peabody (mother), Foulton, Vermont.

OAK LEAF CLUSTER: By direction of the President, the Distinguished Service Cross awarded to First Lieutenant Henning is awarded with the Oak Leaf Cluster by the Commander-in-Chief, Southwest Pacific Area, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved July 2, 1926 (Stat. 94, D. 1926). The citation is as follows:

HENNING, EDWARD (0386476), First Lieutenant, Infantry, Headquarters 32nd Division, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action at Cape Sudest, New Guinea, on November 16, 1942. First Lieutenant Henning, with four enlisted men, boarded a small coastal vessel and ordered it to proceed to the blazing vessels. In spite of repeated enemy bombing and strafing, and without regard to his personal safety, he continued the search for survivors until long after dark. When the advance of the coastal vessel was checked by enemy mortar fire and machine gun fire, First Lieutenant Henning crawled forward through an enemy position to the point of the ammunition thus delivered possible the holding. In spite of repeated enemy counter-attacks, of this point during hostile communication. Home address: Mrs. M. S. Peabody (mother), Foulton, Vermont.

III. AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

Under the provisions of the Act of August 8, 1932, the Silver Star is awarded by the Commander-in-Chief, Southwest Pacific Area, to the following named officer on the basis of gallantry in action in the Southwest Pacific Area:

Captain ~~WALTER A. BOTTCHER~~, 688751

Recommendation: Distinguished Service Cross

Recommended by: CG, 32d Div.

Requirement: Awarded to persons who, while serving in any capacity of the United States, distinguish themselves by exceptional heroism in connection with military operations against an

Circumstances: Captain Bottcher, although wounded, volunteered on a mission which consisted of knocking out an enemy tank advancing, Capt. Bottcher talked to the men and encouraged them. He led the attack and when the men were pinned down he encouraged them to advance to within fifteen yards of the bunker. The men became trapped by enemy fire. Although severely wounded, Capt. Bottcher stood up in order to lead the attack. He encouraged the other men to withdraw to safer positions. Capt. Bottcher volunteered to go back to get more help for the mission and was wounded in the arm, the second time in 50 days. His voluntary leadership was over and above the ordinary call of duty.
(Draft of citation attached)

Action recommended

by A.G.

Recommend DSC - cluster

JSP

Comments: C-1

Recommend DSC (cluster)

JSP

Action by DC of S:

DSC (cluster) CP3

DS

