

## Captain Herman Bottcher—Hero

CAPTAIN Herman Bottcher of San Francisco has been awarded the much coveted Oak Leaf Cluster for conspicuous bravery in action in the South Pacific theatre. Previously Bottcher had been honored with the Distinguished Service Cross. Thus he emerges as one of California's outstanding war heroes.

It is with special pride that we learn of the heroic record of Captain Bottcher, who was a close friend and active supporter of The People's World, known personally by many of our staff members.

As a veteran of the Lincoln Brigade which fought against the Hitler-Mussolini invasion of Spain, Bottcher showed his anti-Fascist mettle when our country tragically was following a policy of official neutrality which actually amounted to aiding Franco.

Closely paralleling Bottcher's record is the case of Bob Thompson, formerly of Oakland, outstanding Young Communist League leader and former Lincoln brigadier who also has received the Distinguished Service Cross for heroism in action.

President Roosevelt in his report on the course of the war has reaffirmed our country's implacable determination to wipe the monster of fascism off the face of the earth. And it is brave and patriotic men like Bottcher and Thompson, who as members of the immortal Lincoln Brigade, blazed the trail for the present titanic struggle of liberation.

How false and puny seems the red-baiting cant of a Martin Dies or a Jack Tenney when stacked up against the records of such war heroes as Herman Bottcher and Bob Thompson.

### Captain Bottcher Again Decorated For Gallantry

Captain Herman J. F. Bottcher of 239 Ransell street, a hero of the capture of Buna, New Guinea, has had the Oak Leaf Cluster added to his Distinguished Service Cross. It was announced last night by the War Department in Washington.

Captain Bottcher, then a sergeant, though wounded, volunteered to lead a detachment of infantry in an attack on an enemy strong point between Buna village and Buna Mission. He exposed himself to enemy fire so his patrol could move to another area, and was again wounded, the citation said.

Also receiving the Oak Leaf Cluster for heroic action at Sanananda, New Guinea, was Brigadier General Jens A. Doe of Carmel.

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### Captain Bottcher, Spain Veteran, Is Decorated Again!

WASHINGTON, Sept. 19.—Captain Herman J. F. Bottcher, San Francisco veteran of the Abraham Lincoln Battalion in Spain in the present war, has been decorated for the second time in recent months for heroism in New Guinea, the War Department has announced.

Bottcher has had the Oak Leaf Cluster added to his Distinguished Service Cross. The DSC was awarded toward the end of last year for heroism in leading a dozen men against a Japanese position near Buna, and though wounded in holding off the enemy's counterattacks and eliminating the enemy's stronghold. At that time he was a sergeant, but shortly afterward he was promoted to captain.

A native of Germany, where he was born in 1909, Bottcher came to San Francisco in 1931. As a clerk at the Crystal Palace Market he was active in union organization of the clerks there. He was a student at San Francisco State College when he left for Spain to fight with the Loyalists against fascism. There he distinguished himself and reached the rank of captain.

Returning to San Francisco after his fighting in Spain, Bottcher went to work as a cabinet maker at the Emporium. The day after Pearl Harbor he enlisted in the United States Army.