



S. F. HERO— Maj. Gen. William H. Gill pins the Distinguished Service Cross on Capt. Herman Bottcher of San Francisco, for heroism in New Guinea. Bottcher, then a sergeant, led his section through Jap lines at Buna, dug in and prevented Japs from reinforcing Buna Mission garrison. Although injured himself, Bottcher directed evacuation of his wounded men, destroyed a Jap machine gun post singlehanded and set afire a bargeload of Japanese.

—Official United States Army Signal Corps Photo.

Bottcher AWOL as Medal Time Comes

By United Press

SOMEWHERE IN AUSTRALIA, July 23 (Delayed). — Captain Herman J. F. Bottcher of San Francisco, who jumped to his present rank from sergeant almost overnight for his fiction-like fighting in the Papuan campaign last December, today stood up the general, who was to present him with the DSC and Oak Leaf Cluster.

When Maj. Gen. W. H. Gill presented 35 decorations for gallantry, the "one-man Army" was too busy elsewhere. He didn't appear.

The German-born Bottcher, veteran of the Spanish Civil War, in which he fought as a Loyalist, was a sergeant when he led the charge in the Buna drive.