

Northern California Heroes Are Many In the Air, in the Jungle They Win Honor

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THE ROLL CALL

Here are some of the Northern Californians whose work gained notice and some of the medals they won:

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS FOR EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM IN ACTION—Captain Herman Bottcher, 233 Ransell street, San Francisco; Lieutenant J. T. Britton, Woodland; Technical Sergeant George E. Kendrick, 1963 Roosevelt avenue, Richmond.

BOTTCHER'S RECORD

In addition there were those pilots who were not supposed to fight, the pilots of transport planes



CAPTAIN BOTTCHER
Scourge of the Japs

who flew their twin-engine ships into enemy territory to land supplies and troops on fields little more than grass pastures and dared enemy fighters to complete their missions. They included:

Lieutenant Harold W. Vechels, Watsonville, DFC and Air Medal; Technical Sergeant Dominick L. Syce, 2324 Ninth avenue, Sacramento, Air Medal; Technical Sergeant George A. Yasser, San Joaquin, Air Medal; Lieutenant Arthur R. Palmer, Lodi, Air Medal; Captain Donald G. Anderson, Davis, Air Medal; Lieutenant Clinton E. Atherton, 1412 Funsion avenue, San Francisco, DFC; Major Arthur D. Thomas, Sacramento, DFC, and three clasiers, equivalent to four DFCs; Technical Sergeant James F. Russell, Redding.

Out of the jungle war in New Guinea came the name of a single man who stood out above all American mud-sloggers. He was Captain Bottcher, who went into the campaign a sergeant and was promoted to Captain on the spot. While his acts were performed in the closing days of 1942, his awards, the Distinguished Service Cross and an oak leaf cluster, equivalent to two such medals, were awarded in 1943.

His second award was won after he had been wounded in fighting the previous day. He volunteered to lead an infantry detachment against a Japanese strong point. As he and his men moved forward, intense machine gun fire held them up. Bottcher stood up without regard to his own safety and drew the enemy fire so the patrol could move up.