

EYEWITNESS TELLS HOW U. S. OCCUPIED BUNA

S. F. 'One Man Army' Paved Way
to Victory by Establishing Key
Beachhead; Many Japs Slain

By FRANK ROBERTSON
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WITH AMERICAN FORCES IN
NEW GUINEA, Dec. 15.—(Via
Courier)—(Delayed)—The Amer-
ican flag waves over Buna to-
night.

American troops, advancing re-
lentlessly behind a withering
tommy gun fire, stormed the
town which is only a shambles
after weeks of bombings and
artillery barrages.

MANY DEAD JAPS.

I walked in on the heels of
green clad Yankee troops. There
were many dead Japs all around
us.

This morning's attack was pre-
ceded by a terrific barrage laid
down by American mortars. Then
the doughboys stormed in from
two sides, pouring a hail of lead
before them.

One striking unit moved from
the east and the other from the
west bank along the river. They
swung inward and finally joined
forces for the last assault.

S. F. SERGEANT LEADS.

Ten days ago, Sergt. Herman
Bottcher of San Francisco, led his
men through enemy lines and suc-
ceeded in establishing a beach-
head west of Buna. Since then,
the Americans have been grad-
ually edging in, forcing the Japs
to the rear step by step through
torrential rains and neckdeep
swamps.

It is Bottcher who has become
known as a "one man army" be-
cause of the havoc he and his lone
platoon has raised with the Japs.
He's tough as nails, doesn't know
the word quit and held his im-
mensely valuable beachhead de-
spite repeated attacks by the en-
emy.

USE CAPTURED GUNS.

Bottcher really gave the Japs
a taste of their own medicine for
his platoon used two machine
guns that Bottcher and a buddy
captured from the enemy in one
of their numerous unsuccessful
attacks.

Isolated snipers were peppering
us as I walked into the village and
talked with the attackers. They
included Privates Ira Nichlaus,
Ogden, Utah; Bob Packard, Mil-
waukee, Wis.; Virgil Wright, Pot-
lach, Idaho; Walther Swiercznski,
Chicago; Erwin Bard, Sturgis,
Mich., and Ed Thompson, Curlew,
Iowa.

NEW JAP BEACHHEAD



ENEMY BOMBED—Allied bombers (plane symbols) pounded Jap troops lodged in a new foothold (black area) in the vicinity of Cape Ward Hunt, New Guinea. Meanwhile, efforts to wipe out Japanese pockets remaining near Gona and Buna, coast towns recently captured by the Allies, were continued by American and Australian troops.

—Associated Press Wirephoto.

under command of two captains
from Wisconsin, Mike U. Stupak,
of Ripon, and Al Meyer, of She-
boygan.

SNIPER KILLED

Packard, who was covered
from head to foot with mud, got
one enemy sniper.

"We poured everything we
had into Jap machine gun nests
and into trees from which I
knocked out one sniper," Pack-
ard said. "We advanced, we got
some Jap fire from the rear so
we turned around and poured
fire into Buna Mission while
the artillery also barraged
them.

"Then we saw our own boys
advancing from the other side
and we went around tossing
hand grenades into pill boxes
just to make sure there were
no live Japs there."

"JUST MOVED IN."

One American soldier modestly
recounted the part he and his
comrades played.

"There wasn't much to our
end of the show," he said. "We
poured withering rifle fire
ahead and just moved in, that's
all."

As soon as we had taken over
Buna, our troops busied them-
selves burying the dead whom
the Japanese were unable to
bury. That certainly cleared the
atmosphere

badly damaged native huts. Bul-
let torn coconut palms and
other trees torn up by artillery
make the scene desolate. The
Japs had built strong pill boxes
facing land and sea but there
isn't much left of them now.

They left much equipment be-
hind them, too—I picked up pow-
der, razors and tooth brushes,
all with American trade names,
as well as food, paper and fans.
It was a field day for souvenir
collectors.