

S. F. German in U. S. Army Wins Decoration for Valor

By United Press

GENERAL MACARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS, Australia, Jan. 11.—General Douglas MacArthur has awarded the Distinguished Service Cross to America's "one man army," Captain Herman J. von Bocher of San Francisco, Hitler-hating native of Germany.

Von Bocher was a sergeant a little more than a month ago, but was promoted to rank of captain in the field. His citation said:

"During an attack on enemy positions in the period of Dec. 5 to 11,

the sergeant personally led a unit which cut communications between the enemy forces at Buna village and those at Buna Government station.

"On succeeding days he repeatedly repulsed strong enemy counter-attacks on his vital position. During one of these attacks he calmly stood up in the face of enemy fire and threw hand grenades at the advancing enemy.

"Although wounded in this action he stayed with his unit until it was relieved. His outstanding leadership and personal heroism repeatedly inspired his men and mainly was responsible for the success of the attack."

Captain Von Bocher left Germany for Australia after Hitler's rise to power because he could not endure Nazi ideas. From Australia he went to America and joined the Army. During the Spanish civil war he fought on the side of the loyalists.

By MURLIN SPENCER

Associated Press Staff Writer

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC, Jan. 26. — (Delayed) —

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 Botcher, 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 made in 1943.

IGNORES OWN SAFETY.

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. Botcher stood up without regard to his own safety and drew the enemy fire so the patrol could move up. He was wounded again.

It was Botcher who earlier had led a small group of men in the little but vital push that broke the Japs' backs at Buna by cutting Buna Village off from Buna Government Station.

AWARDS LISTED.

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: Capt. Herman Botcher, 239 Ransell Street, San Francisco; Lieut.