

and encourage or counsel with" the Assemblymen who came to his office.

## Emporium Will Pay Tribute to Captain Bottcher

The Emporium will pay a posthumous tribute to a former employee, Captain Herman Bottcher, with a presentation of post colors to the Herman Bottcher Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, today at 10:30 a. m.

Captain Bottcher, known in the South Pacific as the "fighting fool from San Francisco," was killed while leading a reconnaissance patrol on Leyte, December 31, 1944.

Bottcher enlisted in the Army December 8, 1941 and received a battlefield commission in the Buna battle of the New Guinea campaign. Other awards include: Distinguished Service Cross with one Oak Leaf cluster, Silver Star and the Purple Heart with two Oak Leaf clusters.

Presentation of the colors will be made in the conference room on the sixth floor of the Emporium.

When Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt was touring Australia in September, 1943, she said she especially wanted to meet Bottcher. She finally ran across him in a Sydney ice cream parlor and they chatted for half an hour.

## 'One-Man Army' too Busy To Receive Citations

On Sunday, July 25, the "New York Herald Tribune" published the following item:

**SOMEWHERE IN AUSTRALIA,** July 23 (Delayed) (UP). — Captain Herman J. F. Boettcher, 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 to him the Distinguished Service Cross and Oak Leaf Cluster.

The captain was slated to be the star of the program when Major General W. H. Gill, commander of the 32d division, presented thirty-five decorations for gallantry, but the "one-man army" was too busy elsewhere preparing for more action. He didn't appear.

The German-born Boettcher, a veteran of the Spanish Civil War, in which he fought as a Loyalist, was a sergeant when the drive in the Buna area began. Dispatches at the time related how he fought like a man possessed, spark-plugged the drive to isolate the Japanese between Buna Mission and Buna Village and paved the way for final victory. His commission followed soon afterward.