



WAR DEPARTMENT

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

AGPD-R 201 Bottcher, Hermann J.
O 888 451

9 August 1945

Mrs. A. Bottcher
239 Ramsell Street
San Francisco, California

Dear Mrs. Bottcher:

I have the honor to inform you that, by direction of the President, the Legion of Merit and the Silver Star have been posthumously awarded to your nephew, Captain Hermann J. Bottcher, Cavalry. The citations are as follows:

LEGION OF MERIT

"For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services on ***** Islands, from 20 November to 31 December 1944. Captain Bottcher, commanding a cavalry reconnaissance troop, was ordered to conduct a reconnaissance and make harassing raids on enemy supply installations and communications. He promptly established a small base deep in the enemy's territory and organized, directed and in many instances led reconnaissance patrols through the area. His keen analysis of the tactical situation enabled him so successfully to plan his reconnaissance missions that they were able to provide accurate and timely intelligence which was of vital importance to his superior officers in planning the strategy of the ***** engagement. He kept his troop behind the enemy's lines for forty-one days, during all of which time his base was continually under attack. His thorough understanding of the enemy's tactics and methods of attack was so well used that he successfully repulsed all assaults and sent his patrols deep into enemy territory with few losses. His harassing raids on bridges and supply installations delayed and confused the enemy. He provided security for forward artillery observation posts. He was cut off from medical facilities and without normal supply lines, but by his careful though bold planning of defenses and raids he kept his casualties to a minimum. Just before the order came for withdrawal from the advance base, he was killed while leading his men in successfully throwing back another enemy attack. Captain Bottcher's outstanding leadership, sound judgment, and keen understanding of the tactical situation were of vital importance throughout this difficult and dangerous undertaking in providing intelligence urgently needed for our success in later operations."