

27th Sept. 45

ARMY HONORS 2 SLAIN HEROES

Two Bay area heroes received their final honors yesterday at the Presidio of San Francisco.

Posthumously, the Silver Star and Legion of Merit were conferred on Capt. Hermann J. F. Bottcher of San Francisco, and the Silver Star was awarded to Lt. David Crowder Waybur of Piedmont, both of whom were killed in action.

GIVEN RELATIVES.

Before a formal retreat parade these awards were presented personally to relatives of the two men by Maj. Gen. H. Conger Pratt, commanding general of the Western Defense Command. The medals were presented to Mrs. Alice Brueggemann, aunt of Captain Bottcher, and to Mrs. Dorothy A. Waybur, wife of Lieutenant Waybur.

Captain Bottcher, termed the "Sergeant York of the Pacific," had previously won the Distinguished Service Cross "for brilliant and heroic leadership of patrols behind the Japanese line on Buna in 1944, when for forty-one days he harried a numerically superior enemy, sending his forces deep into enemy territory with few losses."

HERO OF SICILY.

Lt. David C. Waybur, who was the first American to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor on European soil in World War II, was killed while serving with the Seventh Army in Germany. He had won a reputation for bravery in the Sicilian campaign by single handedly stopping an Italian tank force with a machine gun, and eventually capturing four tanks in the force.