

Medal of Honor Awarded to Marine Killed on Guam



Official U. S. Marine Corps photograph

Pfc. Frank P. Witek

For risking his life twice to save his platoon when they were pinned down by Jap fire during the Battle of Finegayan on Guam, Pfc. Frank P. Witek, USMCR, has been posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. The medal was presented to Mrs. Nora Witek, the marine's mother, by Gen. Alexander A. Vandegrift, Commandant of the Marine Corps, at Chicago last month.

While serving with the 1st Btn., 9th Marines, 3d Marine Div., his platoon was suddenly halted by heavy fire from well-camouflaged gun positions. Witek remained standing to fire a full magazine from his automatic at point-blank range into a depression housing Jap troops. He killed eight and enabled the greater part of his platoon to take cover.

During his platoon's withdrawal, he remained to safeguard a severely wounded comrade, courageously returning the enemy's fire until the arrival of stretcher bearers. He then covered the evacuation by sustained fire as he moved backward toward his own lines.

When his platoon was again pinned down by a hostile machine gun, Witek, on his own initiative, moved forward boldly, ahead of the reinforcing tanks and infantry, alternately throwing hand grenades and firing as he advanced to within five to 10 yards of the enemy position. He destroyed the machine-gun emplacement and an additional eight Japs before he himself was struck down by an enemy rifleman.

His valiant and inspiring action effectively reduced the enemy's fire power, enabling his platoon to attain its objective.

ALL HANDS

THE BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL INFORMATION BULLETIN

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