

Devarics Jr., Stephen S.

Bethlehem Steel Worker Cited For Bravery 1 1944

CAPE GLOUCESTER, New Britain (Delayed) (INS)—Marine Private Stephen S. Dervarics, Jr., of Allentown, Pa., a veteran of the entire Guadalcanal campaign, has shown exceptional heroism under heavy fire in rescuing three wounded fellow Marines.

Dervarics, 23-year-old son of Mrs. Mary Dervarics, Route 60, Allentown, had been ordered with his machine gun platoon to cross a stream and relieve pressure on the flank of a Marine assault company under heavy fire.

The platoon was pinned down by Jap fire after reaching the far bank. For two hours, Dervarics lay motionless in the rock-studded stream bed, wedged between two mates—one dead and the other badly wounded.

Braving the dangerous firing area, Dervarics carried the wounded man to safety. He made two more successive trips into the bullet-swept region to bring back other wounded Marines.

The Allentown hero was commended by First Lieut. Elisha Atkins, Belmont, Mass., for his resourcefulness and utter disregard for personal safety.

Before enlisting on October 23, 1941, Dervarics worked in the structural shipping department of Bethlehem Steel Company.

January 31, 1944