

Ronyack, William J.

Local Marine Describes "Rugged" Guam Hill Fight

NOV 11 1944

U. S. NAVAL HOSPITAL, San Diego, Calif.—"I felt as if I had run headlong into a stone wall and bounced back," said Marine Pfc. William J. Ronyack, 20, of Bethlehem, Pa., in describing the sensation of being cut down by Japanese fire as he charged up a cliff on the island of Guam.

A veteran of Bougainville, he was assigned to the D-Day assault wave which swept over a Guam beach. His outfit rolled up the remnants of Japs left after a terrific naval barrage and swept across rice paddies toward their objective, a cliff 500 feet high.

"Japs in caves and pillboxes on the face of that cliff weren't exactly cheering us on," Pfc. Ronyack said. "It was extremely hot and we were carrying heavy equipment. We'd scramble up, run, and dive into a shell hole, wait, then go further up the cliff. About half way up I got behind a bush. When ready to move on up, I dug my feet in, pushed up and drove forward. A bullet crashed through my chest. It flung me backwards and I fell right at the feet of a corpsman.

"Snipers tried to pick off the corpsman as he crouched beside me



PFC. WILLIAM J. RONYACK

to put on a battle dressing."

Pfc. Ronyack is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph A. Ronyack, 251 Eighth Avenue, Bethlehem, Pa.

November 11, 1944