

Paul B. Binder, 50-Year-Old Veteran of First World War, Dies in South Pacific Battle

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Paul B. Binder, Chief Pharmacist's Mate, USNR, who was known widely in Bethlehem and the Lehigh Valley as proprietor of the Old Lehigh Golf Course, has died of wounds received in performance of duty somewhere in the South Pacific, his wife was informed today.

The former golf professional and insurance salesman, who was a veteran of World War I and holder of the famous French Croix de Guerre literally forced himself back into military service in this war at the age of 48. He was 50 at the time of death.

He fought in the first World War with an ambulance unit attached to a French division. In this war he has been stationed in the Pacific and was attached to the Marines. He was cited for bravery on Bougainville and is credited with saving a number of lives. He also served with the Marines on Guadalcanal.

Mrs. Binder, when informed of her husband's death today, was not notified as to the field of action in the Pacific in which her husband's wounds were sustained.

Besides his wife, whose home is at 807 West Broad Street, Chief Binder leaves two children, Mary Ellen, at home, and James K. Binder, a graduate of Lehigh University and instructor at Johns Hopkins University. He was the son of Mrs. M. M. Binder of Pottstown.

Binder entered the service in October, 1942, after having been turned down several times by the Army and Navy. He trained with the Marines at San Diego, Cal., and left for overseas duty in March, 1943.

IN WORLD WAR I

For 50-year-old Chief Binder, this was a pretty tough war physically, but he stood the gaff. He stayed in pretty good shape between World War I and II by playing golf over his own nine-hole golf course.

Four years ago he went into the insurance business because the golf line was running smoothly. Then the war came. His wife, the former Edna Kauffman, of Reading, Pa., was managing the golf end capably, and the Chief figured his associate could do the same for the insurance business.

He tried to enlist in the Army. The Army said no. The Navy said no, but Chief Binder was persistent



PAUL B. BINDER
fifty-year-old Marine
dies hero's death

and finally wore the Navy down. He was signed up as a chief pharmacist's mate in October, 1942, on the basis of his previous experience in the Army Medical Corps.

As soon as he was safely signed up, he applied for service with the Fleet Marine Force. He got his wish.

The going has been tough for the 138-pound corpsman for he has to lug an 80-pound pack of medical supplies. Some of the younger men in his outfit have broken. Chief Binder hasn't even bent.

During the trying Bougainville campaign, where rain was more common than sunshine and death hid behind every banyan tree, Binder often could be found sitting up in a front-line foxhole reading passages from the Bible in a low voice to a gaunt, silent audience of begrimed Marines.

GOT CROIX DE GUERRE

He was awarded the French Croix de Guerre with Palm for helping lead 800 blinded Frenchmen out a poison-gas filled hollow, though his own mask leaked. He got the Croix de Guerre with Star for directing repairs to an ambulance in No Man's Land and successfully evacuating the wounded during World War I.

In this war he had been commended for his courage by his commanding officer. Chief Binder went to the aid of a wounded Marine who lay bleeding to death in the face of heavy enemy fire. The Marine lost his leg, but Binder saved his life.

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