

## Thrice Wounded Marine, Hellertown G-I, Says Steel Fills Air At Okinawa

By MARINE PRIVATE NORMAN L. THURSTON  
SOMEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC—(Delayed)—As far as Marine Private First Class Joseph M. Belcak is concerned, the air was filled with flying steel at Okinawa.

Returning to the front lines after recovering from one shrapnel wound, Belcak, who is 19, was back in action only 10 minutes before he was hit a second time.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. John Paul Belcak, 1118 Furnace Street, Hellertown, Pa., the young Leatherneck is undergoing treatment at a forward area hospital here.

A Browning automatic rifleman with the Sixth Marine Division, Belcak received his first injury while directing tank fire into a tomb which Japs were using as a sniper hide-out. A piece of an exploding Jap grenade struck him above the ear.

After a two day rest he rejoined his outfit for an assault on "Sugar Loaf Hill." Just 10 minutes after the Marines started moving forward a heavy piece of shrapnel tore into his helmet and struck him in the back of the head. A corpsman dragged him to safety as the rest of the outfit successfully stormed the hill.

In the Marine Corps since May 18, 1944, Belcak has been overseas, seven months. He hit the shores of Okinawa with other assault forces on D-Day, participated in the Marine campaign which wiped out all resistance in the northern half of

### Jap Target



JOSEPH M. BELCAK

the island, and then was sent into the front lines outside Naha with Marines replacing Army troops.