

Derrico, Robert

Bethlehem Tankmen Help Free Americans From Jap Prison

Pfc. Robert Derrico, Cpl. Paul A. Turek, and T/4 Louis Galgocy, three veteran Bethlehem "tankers," shared honors in the recent awarding of silver trophies to the flying column troops that fought into the center of Manila to liberate 3,768 American and Allied captives in Santo Tomas Camp.

Pfc. Derrico, son of Mr. and Mrs. Diago Derrico, 512 Pawnee Street, served as an ammunition carrier for the tank battalion while Cpl. Turek, son of Mrs. Paul A. Turek, 1116 Russell Avenue, acted as truck driver. T/4 Galgocy, son of George Galgocy, 1819 East Third Street, is a tank driver. Together they spearheaded the First Cavalry Division's lightning attack on the Philippine capital. This dramatic chapter in the Pacific war was climaxed when their 33-ton Shermans

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battled their way up to and literally crashed the gates to bring freedom after 37 months the all but starving prisoners.

To symbolize their gratitude, the internees presented to the 37th Infantry Division, First Cavalry Division and to the 44th Tank Battalion, handsome loving cups together with official letters of com-

mendation. Although taking heavy punishment at times, the Forty-Fourth's score of Nips killed exceeds six times the battalion's total strength.

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