

Belcak, John Paul

## Wins Silver Star



SOMEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC (Delayed)—Marine Sergeant John P. Belcak, 21, son of Mrs. Anna Belcak, of 1118 Furnace Street, Hellertown, Pa., has been awarded the Silver Star for conspicuous gallantry in the battle of Saipan.

Then a private first class wielding a Browning automatic rifle, Belcak since has been promoted twice to attain his present rating. He also has been awarded the Purple Heart in recognition of wounds incurred during the Saipan-Tinian fighting.

Belcak is a member of a Marine combat organization commanded by Colonel Walter I. Jordan, one of the many heroes of Tarawa. His unit is also a part of the Fourth Marine Division, which has been awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary achievements on Saipan and Tinian.

The citation accompanying Belcak's Silver Star reads as follows:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy on the island of Saipan, Marianas Group, on July 12, 1944, while serving as an automatic rifleman with a Marine infantry battalion.

When a member of his patrol was killed by an enemy rifleman located on a rocky ledge, Belcak completely disregarded his own safety, scaled the cliff, and, despite heavy fire, killed the enemy single-handed. His outstanding courage and continued determination to annihilate the enemy, despite being painfully wounded on three separate occasions, were inspiring to his comrades and in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

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