

Gallagher Jr., Robert E.

Bethlehem Marine Tells How Easton Youth Lost His Life

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Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Powell, 1035 Wilkes-Barre Street, Easton, have received a letter from Pfc. Robert E. Gallagher, Jr., son of R. E. Gallagher, 514 Fifth Street, Bethlehem, telling them of the manner in which their son, Pvt. Anthony Powell, Jr., U. S. Marine Corps, met his death on Guadalcanal over a year ago.

The letter from Private Gallagher, who became a friend of Powell while on Parris Island, S. C., reads in part:

"The details as best I can tell you are: About four to six weeks before we left (censored) we were operating in enemy territory on the east end (censored). Junior was in one of the advance parties along the beach when they ran into enemy fire. He was hit in the chest, and before he could be taken back to the hospital, he passed away.

"In the few minutes that elapsed after he was hit he said that he felt he was a small price to pay for the cause his country was fighting for.

"In his previous engagements with the enemy he had been outstanding, and had quite a few Japs to his credit. As a matter of fact, he had quite a few more than the average of 10 to 1. The boys who

know him agree on one thing, and that is that if ever any man had more than his share of courage, that man was your son."

Private Powell had enlisted in the Marine Corps on January 13, 1942, when he was 17 years old and still a student at Easton High School. He received six weeks of basic training at Parris Island, and was then transferred to New River, N. C., for two weeks. He was not heard from until he wrote that he was on Guadalcanal. Notice of his death was received December 9, 1942.

The Purple Heart was awarded him posthumously and was received by his parents a few months ago.

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