

Hovancik, Joseph J.

Marine Gives First Aid To Crash Victims

JAN 5 1944

Service on the home front is often as important to service men as service at the battlefield, and preparation therefor often is found important, especially in emergencies which faced Corp. Joseph J. Hovancik, a Bethlehemite now at Camp Lejeune, New River, North Carolina, being trained as a Marine.

According to a letter just received by Andrew Hovancik, 649 Ontario Street, first aid training received here while he was employed as an apprentice in the electrical department of the Bethlehem Steel Company plant prior to entering the service, was a valuable asset a few days before Christmas.

Corp. Hovancik was hitch-hiking to Asheville, N. C., when a car with two soldiers hit another machine occupied by two women. The soldiers' car was overturned and one was badly hurt. All four people were unconscious when he reached them. After rendering first aid he found one car still in running condition so he placed them in the machine and drove five miles over the icy highway to the nearest house from where a call was sent for an ambulance. On the way the machine ran off the road several times and spun completely around twice on the slippery road.

"Incidentally," Corp. Hovancik writes in closing his letter, "I was over-leave seven hours!"

January 5, 1944