

Marine Tells How Blechman Died At Guam

By TECH. SGT. THEO. C. LINK
Marine Corps combat correspondent
AGANA, GUAM—(Delayed)—
Staff Sgt. Solomon I. Blechman, of
Mamaroneck, N. Y., a Marine
Corps combat correspondent, died
July 23 aboard a Navy troop trans-
port of wounds suffered the morn-
ing the Marines established their
beachhead.

Staff Sgt. Blechman, a veteran
of the Third Marine Division's
Bougainville campaign, landed on
the right flank at Asan Point with
units of a crack Marine regiment,
whose activities he had reported
in the Solomon Islands and other
South Pacific bases.

Landing with Staff Sgt. Blech-
man was Staff Sgt. Joseph P. Hei-
berger, of 29 W. Street, N. W.,
Washington, D. C., a Marine com-
bat photographer. As the assault
troops hit Luminao Reef, the am-
phibian tractor in which Blech-
man and Heiberger were riding
was damaged, and they waded
100 yards to shore under heavy
shelling, mortar and machine gun
fire.

Sgt. Blechman, known to fellow
correspondents for his vigor and
enthusiasm in covering the activi-
ties of his regiment, left his part-
ner and moved up a slight hill to
where one of the units was en-
countering opposition. When about
150 yards inland from the beach,
the Japanese laid down a heavy
mortar concentration on the Ma-
rines, and caused a large number
of casualties.

Staff Sgt. Blechman was wound-
ed by the fragments of one mortar
shell which landed near him. He
was evacuated to the transport,
and died in the ship's hospital.

In the Bougainville campaign,
Staff Sgt. Blechman covered sev-
eral of the most important en-
gagements in which his units took
part and emerged from the tough
campaign unscathed. He covered
the Battle of Fiva Trail in which
the Marines smashed the Japanese
in the center of the line.

While "covering" his Marine
unit's activities, he wrote many
stories of the amateur bouts be-
tween Marines and other service-
men overseas. His natural curios-
ity and enthusiasm made him a
prolific producer of stories of all
types, ranging from home town to
comprehensive action stories.

Prior to enlisting in the Marine
Corps, Staff Sgt. Blechman work-
ed on newspapers in New York
State. He lived at 530 Palmer
Avenue, Mamaroneck, with his
mother and father, Rabbi and Mrs.
Nathan Blechman. He attended
Union College in Schenectady, N.
Y., where he edited the Concord-
ensis, college newspaper.



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