

Cpl Richard M. Johnson

Location - East-MC: R8, C1



MARINE CORPORAL SAW COMRADE KILLED BY JAP PLANE BULLET

U. S. Naval Hospital, Oakland, Calif. —(Special)— His comrade killed by a bullet from a Jap plane, Marine Corp. Richard Mulva Johnson, 20, of Bayview Park, Oshkosh, Wis., carried on alone in a machine gun emplacement on Vella Lavella in New Georgia until help arrived.

A member of an antiaircraft outfit, the young marine and another leatherneck had been assigned duty on a machine gun at a post a short distance removed from the main body when Jap planes came over, strafing anything and everything they could.

"We fired our heavy caliber machine gun at them and suddenly I saw the marine with me topple over, dead," he related. "I could not leave because of the hot fire and, anyway, I stuck to my post as I should have.

"The planes left pretty soon and some marines came up and relieved me. Guess I was pretty shaky after what happened, but I wasn't hurt."

Most of the 14 months that Corporal Johnson spent overseas, he was in New Georgia.

"We were there through quite a bit of the fighting for New Georgia and we went through numerous air raids," he added. "Some of the bombs fell mighty close, but none of them had my name on them, I guess."

Recently returned here to convalesce from a tropical ailment, Corporal Johnson served much of the time overseas with a gun battery guarding shorelines against surprise Jap landings.

A son of Charles Johnson, of the Oshkosh address, he enlisted in January, 1942, and went overseas in February, 1943. He attended the Oshkosh High school.