

OKINAWA

1945

written by:
former



volume
4



U.S. MARINES

THE LAST BATTLE-WORLD WAR II
An Account of a Marine Rifle
Company during the Battle for
Okinawa.

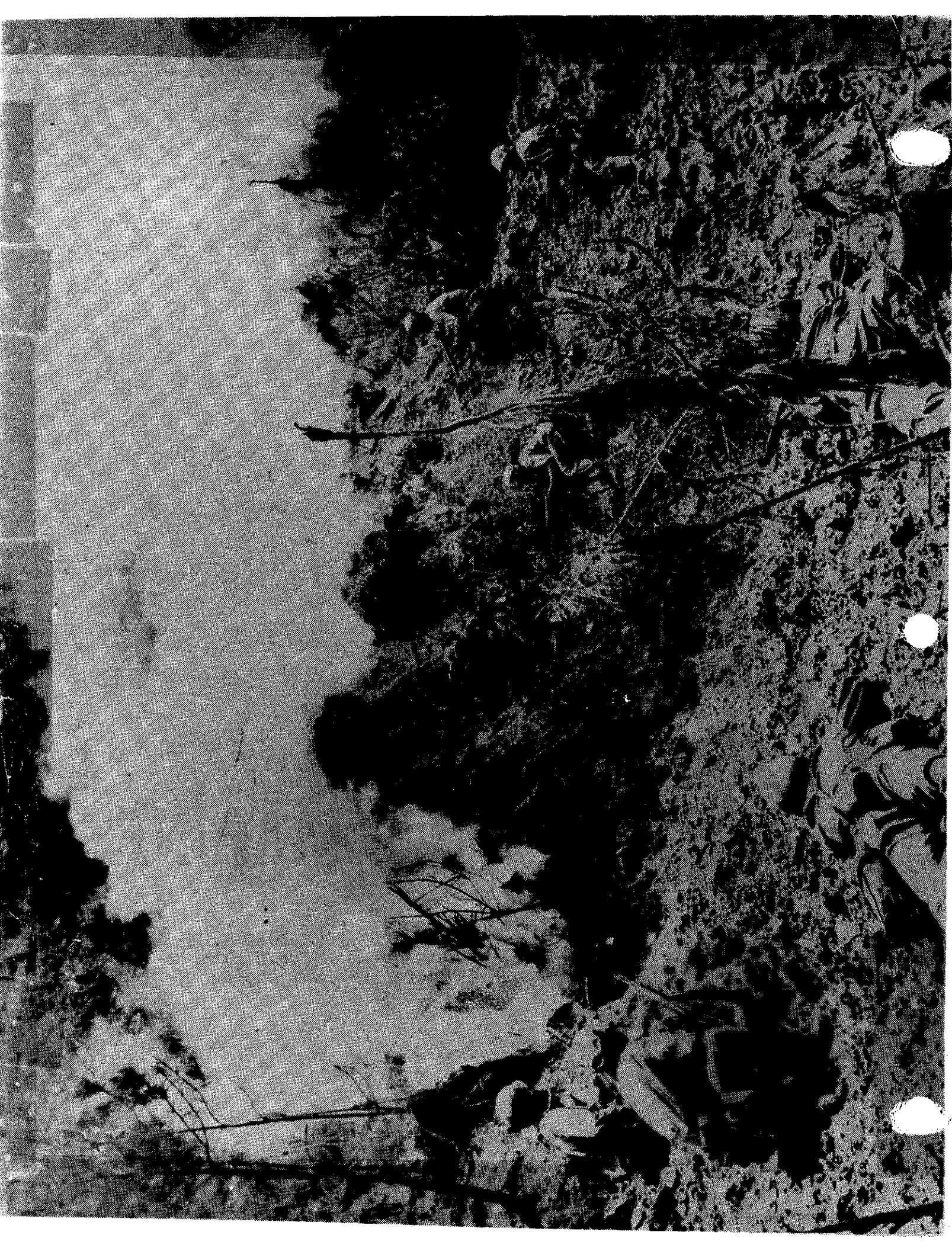


TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1--The Landing-----	Page 15-43
Covers the dates, April 1-3, 1945	
SECTION 2--The Battle Up North-----	Page 44-119
Covers the dates, April 4-30, 1945	
SECTION 3--The Shuri Defense Complex-----	Page 120-258
Covers the dates, May 1-27, 1945	
SECTION 4--Naha and the Kokuba Estuary-----	Page 259-278
Covers the dates, May 28-June 3, 1945	
SECTION 5--The Oroku Peninsula-----	Page 279-316
Covers the dates, June 4-19, 1945	
SECTION 6--The Southern Tip-----	Page 317-334
Covers the dates, June 20-July, 1945	

APPENDIX

Excerpts from the July, 1945, Leatherneck Magazine.-----	Page 335-339
Marines and Corpsmen Assigned to "I" Company-----	Page 340-348
Marines and Corpsmen, Killed in Action-----	Page 349-350
Marines and Corpsmen, Wounded in Action-----	Page 351-354
Marines transferred from "I" Company-----	Page 355-358
Medals/Awards Received by Marines and Corpsmen-----	Page 359-363
Type and location of wounds-"I" Company-----	Page 364-368
Our Commanders; Regiment, Battalion & Company-----	Page 369-370
United States Ships Lost at Okinawa-----	Page 371-372
Battle Statistics-----	Page 372-378
Maps:	
Territory Held by the Japanese-----	Page 14
Reading 1000 yard grid Maps-----	Page 379-380
1000 yard grid maps, covering area taken by the 6th Marine Division-----	Page 381-388
April 1st Landing Beaches-----	Page 389
Advance of 6th Division to Motobu Pen.-----	Page 390
Battle Maps:	
Motobu Peninsula-----	Page 391
Japanese Counter Attack of 4-5 May-----	Page 392
Advance of Tenth Army, 7-10 May-----	Page 393
Advance of Tenth Army, 11-21 May-----	Page 394
Battle Maps of Half Moon and Sugar Loaf Hills-----	Page 395-397
Oroku Peninsula-----	Page 398 401
The Southern Tip-----	Page 402 403

PREFACE

Volume 4, OKINAWA-1945, is the last of four volumes compiled covering the battle for Okinawa and all volumes will be filed at the Marine Corps Historical Center in Washington, D.C.. This volume is an account of a Marine rifle company during the battle for Okinawa in 1945; the unit is "I" Company of the 29th Marine Regiment.

There were 469 officers and men who served with our outfit from 1 April 1945 until 1 July 1945 and of these, 256 were members of the "original" "I" Company that landed as part of the Unit on 1 April 1945, 213 were replacements. Over 59 of these Marines and Corpsman were Killed In Action and more than 200 were wounded during the battle. Of the 256 original "I" Company Marines, 53 made it through without being killed, wounded or transferred.

In addition to the typographical errors in the text introduced by me, I have observed some errors in the military records used to research this material. As an example my records show I went to boot camp in San Diego, when in actuality I went to Parris Island, others include the type and location of wounds etc. No attempt was made to correct these errors since the necessary information was not at hand but if anyone feels the error is such that it should be corrected, send the correction to me and I will forward them to the Marine Corps Historical Center so they can incorporate the changes in Volume 4, which will be on file there.

Several of the Marines kept a diary covering their experiences and these were valuable in determining where our unit was located on given days as well events that have a tendency to disappear from our memory after 50 years. Most of the information included in this monograph was obtained from former members of I/3/29/6, or other Marine units, either in conversations or letters. "I" Company Muster Rolls as well as Service Records, (for Marines Killed In Action) and other military records were used when available. Although I have tried to introduce the material in chronological order it will be apparent to some that many of the items are out of sequence. The information covering the Navy Corpsmen attached to our Company has not yet been received but it will be incorporated into this volume when it comes in.

After months of studying the Company Rosters it seems as though I should personally know each member of "I" Company when actually I remember very few. Just those who were in the fox holes adjacent to mine can be recalled with clarity. Although I can't picture the faces or remember the names, the accomplishments of "I" Company make me swell up with pride at being a part of it. I think it is called "es sprit de corps".

Kenneth J. Long
11311 Fair Lake Drive
Delton, MI 49046
1995



Dedicated with respect
to those "I" Company Marines
who didn't make it home.



1st Rifle Platoon

1/3/29/6

(Picture taken at Guadalcanal, January, 1945)

STANDING L-R

Sgt Martin PRESSER	Cpl Harold L NICHOLS	Cpl Ambrose A SMITH, Jr	Pfc Edgar W BUDDAY	Pfc Leo E HARTMAN
Pvt Edward H HOEHN	J.M (Transf) STEEN	Pvt Leo F HOMON	Pfc Julian C CASEY	Cpl George D CARSON
Pvt Robert L HOLTON	Pfc William C CHERRY	Pfc Joseph T FADDEN, Jr	Pfc Wade H COOPER	PhM3c Fred. G PEARS

KNEELING

Sgt Carl J CLAYTON	Cpl Ralph M HELLER	Pfc "R" "K" MAST	Pfc George J POPE	Pfc Joe T BLEDSOE
Cpl Chester GENCZY	Pvt Michael L NAPPI	Pfc Maurice E BRYSON	Pfc Wilfred SEGARRA	(Transf) FELTMAN
Cpl Jackson W BENNETT	Cpl Gerald A TELLINGHUISEN	Pfc Arthur D BROWN	Pvt Roy HIPPI	Pfc Richard L JOHNSON

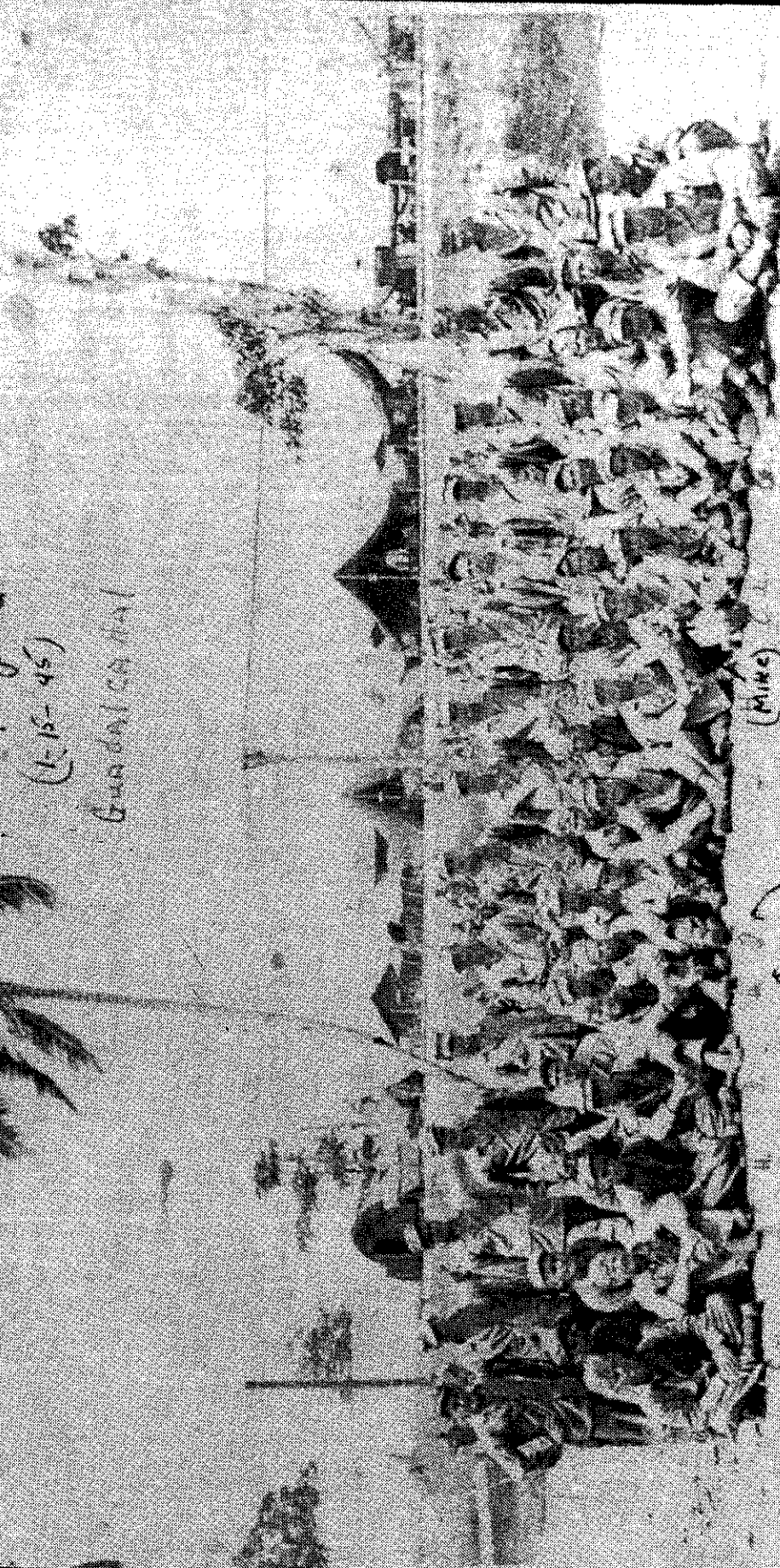
SITTING

Sgt William G PETUSKEY	Cpl James H JOINER	Pfc Carleton K SMITH	Pfc Darrall R SMITH	Cpl William M RAPP
Pfc Samuel A MULLETT	Pfc Harry R BERTRAM, Jr	1st Lt John P STONE	P/Sgt John D HEIM	Cpl Alvin F BERRY
Pfc Martin SUCOFF	Pfc James L BORDLEMAY	Pfc John J CHRISTOPHER	Cpl Gaylord P LEACH	Cpl Raymond G FRANCOEUR

Note: Steen and Feltman were transferred prior to the Battle of Okinawa.

SOUTH WEST PACIFIC
Co. 3rd Bn 21st Marine
1st Platoon
(1-16-45)

Guadalcanal



(Mike)

1st Platoon - Jensen - Chastain - Johnson - Rapp - Mallet - DeGroot - G. Stone - R. H. Sims - Derry - Mc. Donnell - Christensen
2nd Platoon - Clafford - Hallett - Mize - Deems - Geary - Haffey - Bryson - Seaman - Ferman - Bennett - Telling - Hassen - Brown - Hipp
3rd Platoon - Prosser - Newman - ...
Leach - ...
Carson - ...
Clenny - ...
Fadden - ...

1st Rifle Platoon
1/3/29/6
(Picture taken at Guadalcanal, January, 1945)

2nd Rifle Platoon

1/3/29/6

(Picture taken at Guadalcanal, January, 1945)

STANDING L-R

Sgt Charles J MARTIN	Cpl Richard R MILLER	Pfc Oman H DUCK	Pvt Jessie F KEETON	Pvt Vernon W MOHMAN
Cpl Tommie N TEAL	Pvt James L HOOVER	(Transf) PENTON	Pfc Chester GUNN	Pfc William KEANEY
Pfc Maurice F VAIL	Cpl William WALENSKI	Pfc Charles L THIBEAULT	Pfc William R FULTON	Pvt Robert E PARSONS
Pfc Wayne F MACKIN	PhM2c Everett RAYNOR, Jr	PhM2c Donald BRISCOE		

KNEELING

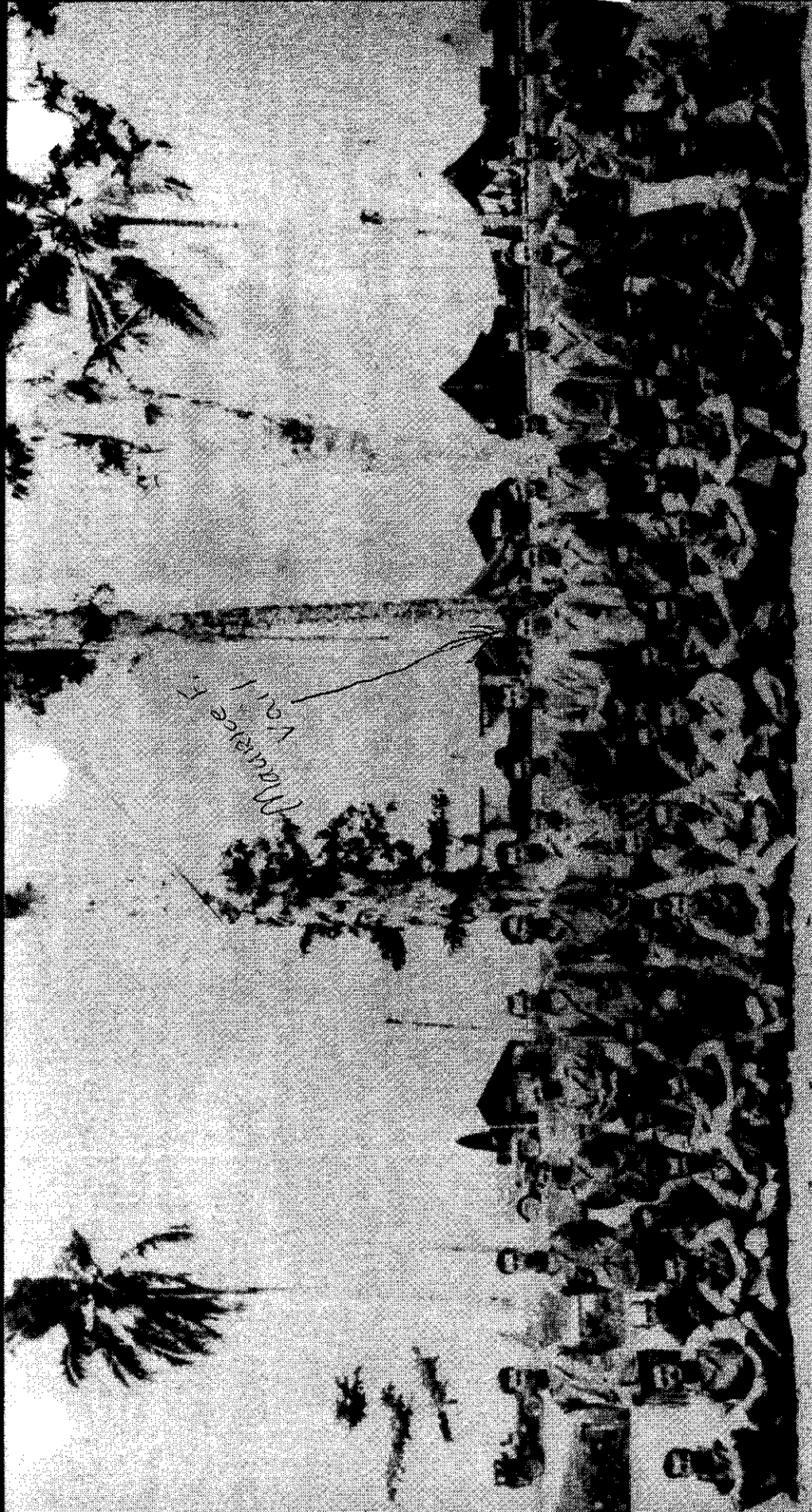
Sgt Jack L ELLIOT	Cpl Nicholas CIPRIANO	Pfc Frank M GRESKA	Cpl George L DUBOIS	Pfc Eugene B SIMS
Cpl Floyd S NIEDERER	Pfc William J STONE	Pvt Charles H MCKOWN	Pfc Daniel B STEEDLY, Jr	Cpl William H HARRINGTON
Pfc Paul R WELLS	Pvt Richard W ROSS	Pfc William A GAY	Pfc Donald C CORRIEA	

SITTING

Sgt Claude W KILLIAN	P/Sgt William LEE	Cpl George A BOUCK, Jr	Pvt Harry E BELLEN	Pvt Francis J KEARNEY
Cpl Melvin O NEWMAN	Pfc Arnold L O'DELL	PSgt Murray W FOWLER	(Transf) 1stLt SEIBERT	Pfc Woodrow STEEDLY
Cpl Allen A FURBUSH	Pvt Charles A CULLEM, Jr	Pvt James H HUBBARD	Cpl Jesse N JOHNSON	Pfc Joseph G DUBOIS

Note: Pfc Penton and 1st Lt Seibert, were transferred prior to the Battle of Okinawa.

Some original "I" Company men are not pictured because they were performing other duties at the time the picture was taken.



2ND. PLATOON - "I" CO. ~
 3RD. BN. - 29TH. MARINE REG.
 LINE DIV. ~
 FIELD)

2nd Rifle Platoon
 1/3/29/6

(Picture taken at Guadalcanal, January, 1945)

3rd Rifle Platoon
I/3/29/6
(Picture taken at Guadalcanal, January, 1945)

STANDING L-R

1stLt Lawrence SULLIVAN	Cpl Robert J PATE	Cpl Lawrence RIGGS	Pfc Kenneth T AUST	Pfc Lorenzo SPARKS
Pfc Clyde W KELLER, Sr	Cpl William C STAHLER	Pfc Elmer PATTERSON	Pfc Frank P SANTARPIA	Pfc William CUNNINGHAM, Jr
Cpl Moss MILLER, Jr	Pfc James C SCISM	Pfc John P ROSSI	Pfc George M BREAUX	PHM3c John F PAUK
P/Sgt Charles MCQUILLIAM				

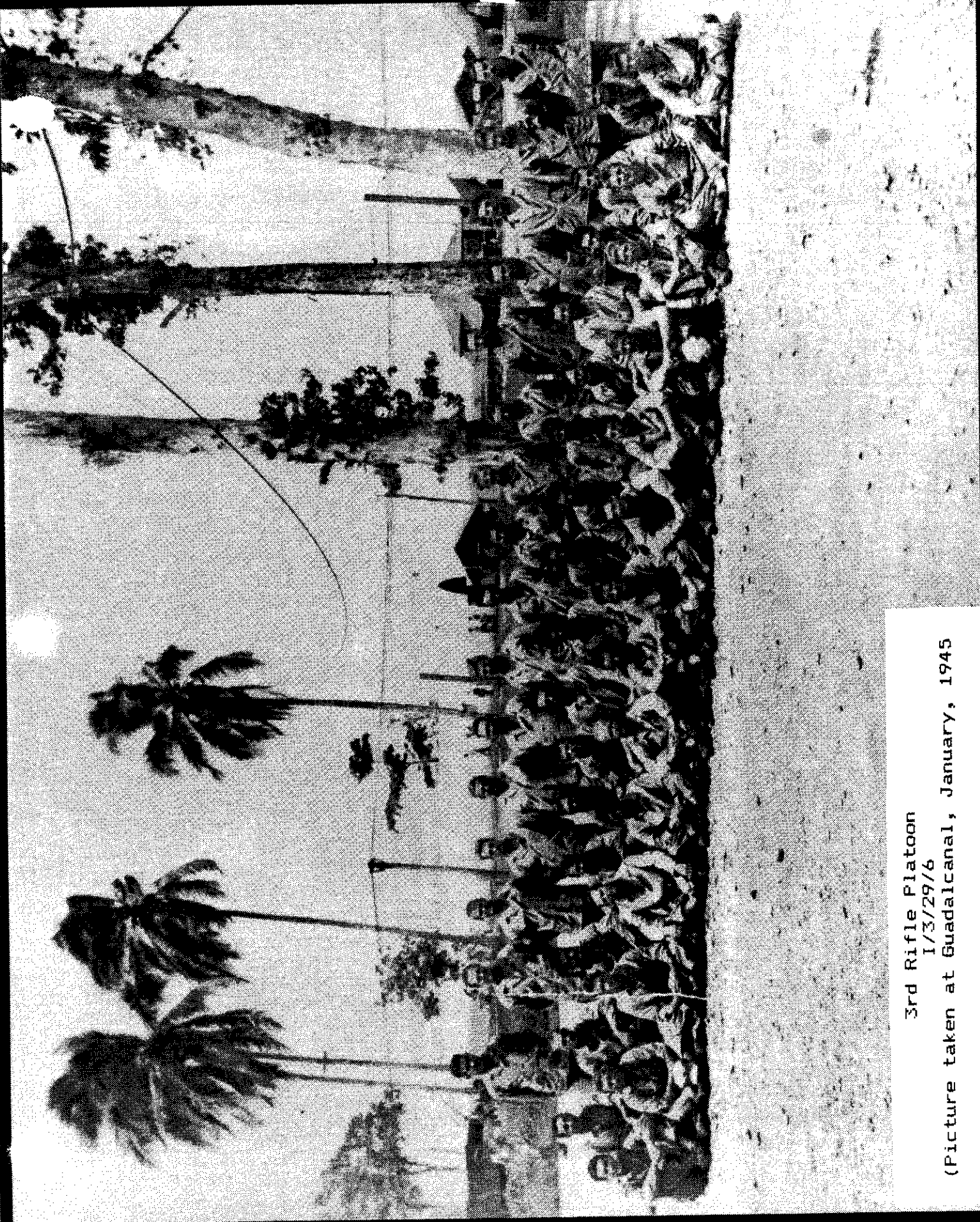
KNÉELING

Sgt Frank J FODERO	Sgt Robert A SIOSS	Pfc Robert W SAMPSON	Cpl Richard D STUCKER	Pfc Richard C WOODWARD
Pfc Franis J LALLY	Cpl Marcel J WICKA	Pfc Henry E LAVOIE	Pfc Donald J MOLLIKA	Pfc Thomas A LENNAHAN
Cpl Walter A SCHNEIDER	Pfc James P MENEFEE	Pfc Charles J MILLER	Pfc Eugene L WHITE	Pfc John H HERMANIES
Pfc Harrison F HANZLIK				

SITTING

Sgt Frank D LILLY	Cpl Harvey C SHARP	Pfc Donald SLADE	Pvt Grover C SHANKLE	Pfc Wendell M SULLIVAN
Cpl Frank J KUKUCHKA	Pfc Robert W LUDDECKE	Pfc Ivan G ZAHLER	Pfc Walter T RYAN	Cpl Ralph C SHINN
Pfc George S GARDNER	Pvt Richard W BUTTS	Cpl James V BROWN	Pvt John A O'LEARY, Jr	

Note: Some original "I" Company men, (those who landed on Okinawa and were already assigned to "I" Company) may not be pictured because they may have been performing other duties at the time or they were not assigned until after the picture was taken during January, 1945.



3rd Rifle Platoon
1/3/29/6
(Picture taken at Guadalcanal, January, 1945)

60-mm Mortar Platoon
I/3/29/6
(Picture taken at Guadalcanal, January, 1945)

STANDING L-R

Sgt William E CROMLING 1stLt William VELLMAN Sgt Oris JOHNSON

KNEELING

Pfc Herndon RUSSELL (transf) Pfc Don A SCHINNERER Pvt Willis M HAYES Pfc James D PLAYER

Pfc John E ALLEN Pfc Bernard A STABINSKY

SITTING

Cpl Abner BAKER Pfc James H RISPOLI Pfc Nicholas A SCARMOZZINO Pfc Leonard J CARDOSI Cpl William P O'MALLEY

Pfc William H REXROAD Pfc Thomas J PRESOCK



60-mm Mortar Platoon
I/3/29/6
(Picture taken at Guadalcanal, January, 1945)

Machine Gun Platoon
 I/3/29/6
 Picture taken at Guadalcanal, January, 1945

STANDING L-R

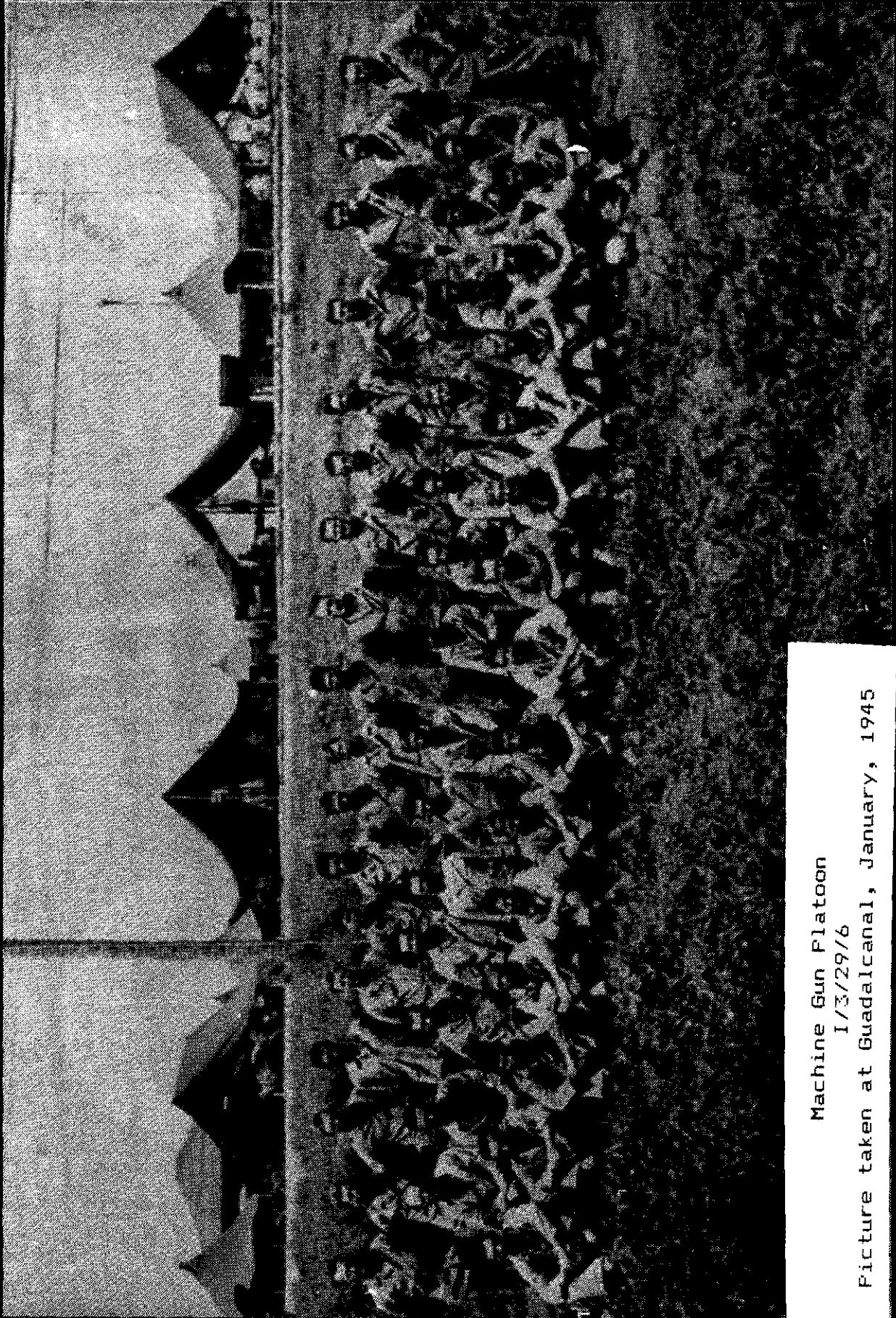
1st Lt Robert HONTZ	Pvt Jack H RILEY	Pvt Edwin A SCHUMACHER	Pvt Rex M SCOTT	Pvt Glendon SHALEEN
Pvt Harold E RICHARDSON	Pvt Harry D SIMMONS	Pfc Paul R MILLER	Pvt James K SCHROCK	Pvt Walter J. AVELIN
Pvt Myron I MC MAHON	Pvt William H MC KINNEY	Pvt Oscar F SCHAUB	Pvt Edward S FINKBEINER	Cpl Carl COOK, Jr
Pfc Joseph C HEAD	PhM2c Orville SAYLOR	G/Sgt David D DOERR		

KNEELING

Sgt John F GOOSMANN	Cpl Norman L MC COOL	Pfc Duff T STACKHOUSE	Pfc Harry L BURR	Pfc Joseph S KELLY
Pfc Joseph HOGAN	Pfc John W MONEYPENNY	Pvt Edgar R GARLAND	Cpl Frank L POYTHRESS	Cpl Benton R GRAVES
Pfc David P CLARK	Pfc Stephen J SPANO	Pvt Fredrick M MESHURLE	Pvt Edwin L HORTON	

SITTING

Sgt Joseph M SHEER	Cpl Joseph STELMACK	Pfc Richard E WALTER, Jr	Pfc James H KNIGHT, Jr	Pfc Pasquale PATRUNO
Pfc William M KEMP	Pvt Robert C CROUSE	Cpl Edwin C TINANUS II	Pfc Carmen F BASILE	Pfc Edwin P SHAUGHNESSY
Pfc Marvin A LONG	Pfc Paul E WEST	Pfc John ZUK, Jr	Pvt Howard H POTTER, Jr	



Machine Gun Platoon
I/3/29/6
Picture taken at Guadalcanal, January, 1945

Headquarters Platoon
I/3/29/6
(Picture taken at Guadalcanal, January, 1945)

STANDING L-R

P/Sgt Eugene JOHNSON	Pvt John E LENNON, Jr	Pfc Lewis M SIMMONS	Cpl Carl W HARLOW	Cpl William E KISER
1st Lt Harvey BROOKS	Maj J.H. BROCK	Cpl Charles SUBA, Jr	Sgt Walter H KEMPH	1st/Sgt Richard BERRY
M/Sgt Fred. S SLEZAK	G/Sgt Harold E TAYLOR			

KNEELING

Cpl Edmund J ANULEWICZ	(transf) V.V. BOARD	Pfc Anthony PERALTA	Pfc Edward M CLEARY	Pfc Donald C SHAKESHAFT
(transf) J.E. WALSH	Pfc James H MYERS	Pvt Randall E SNYDER	Pfc Junior E PARKER	Pfc Francis H LACOBEE
Pvt Arch R. MC CORMICK				

SITTING

Cpl Hubert H WELCH	(transf) R.W. WAMSLEY	(transf) A.G. WALLACE	Pfc Joseph J BRIENZA	Pfc Clayton E GALLAGER
Pvt William E MC CREA	Pfc Rufus F SPIVEY, Jr	A/Ck Stanley SOLTYS		

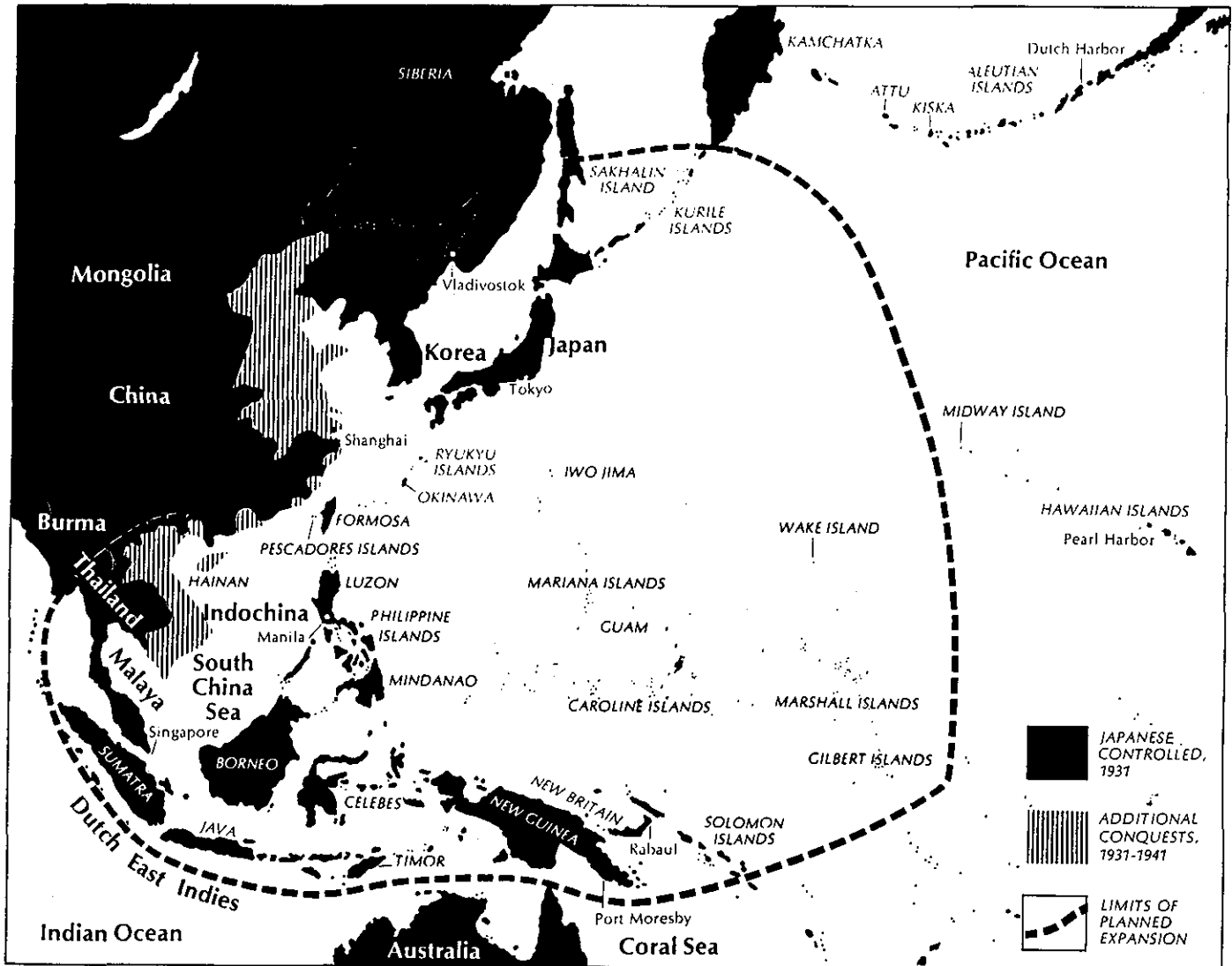
Note: Pfc Francis H. Lacobee, transferred to the 60-mm Mortar Platoon.

Pfc Spivey, Jr and Pvt Arch McCormick did not go to Okinawa.



Headquarters Platoon
I/3/29/6
(Picture taken at Guadalcanal, January, 1945)

AUDACIOUS GRAB FOR AN EMPIRE ON THE PACIFIC



In September 1941, the rulers of Japan decided upon a desperate gamble—they would seize control of the riches of Asia by expanding their empire to the limits indicated by the dashed line on the map above.

The Japanese had already outgrown their home islands. Between the turn of the century and 1931 they had acquired all of the territory shown above in solid red; they had snatched Manchuria, Korea, Formosa and the Ryukyu and the Pescadores islands from China and had taken southern Sakha-

lin and the Kuriles away from Russia. The Allies after World War I had also awarded Japan the Marshall, Caroline and Mariana islands, which were formerly held by Germany.

Starting in 1937, Japan extended its sway to the shaded areas on the map, seizing northern China and the main Chinese seaports from Shanghai south to Hainan Island. In July 1941, the Japanese occupied Indochina with barely a nod to the impotent Vichy French officials there. Japan then planned to smash outward, crippling the United

States Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor and subsequently conquering the Philippine Islands, the Dutch East Indies, Borneo, Thailand, Burma, Malaya, the Solomon Islands, the Gilbert Islands and the isolated American outposts of Guam and Wake Island.

Within six months Japan achieved most of these objectives. Then an ill-considered reach for Midway Island and the Aleutians encountered resurgent Allied resistance that checked—and finally reversed—the tidal wave of Japanese conquest.

SECTION I

The Landing

The Sixth Division

by Captain James R. Stockman, USMCR
Historical Division, Marine Corps Headquarters

Activated on Guadalcanal, British Solomon Islands, on 7 September 1944, the Sixth Marine Division was new in name only. For the most part its units were experienced, and its men seasoned veterans. Two of its three infantry regiments, the Twenty-second and Fourth, had already made names for themselves in the Pacific war. From the reinforcing elements of these regiments were formed, in a large measure, the Engineer Battalion, the Pioneer Battalion, the Tank Battalion and the artillery regiment---the Fifteenth Marines. The Twenty-ninth Marines, less the 1st Battalion, had been formed at Camp Lejeune in the Spring of 1944, and trained at New River prior to joining the division on Guadalcanal.

In command of the new division was Major General Lemuel C. Shepherd, USMC, who has a varied and colorful career. The Assistant Division Commander was Brigadier General William T. Clement, USMC, another colorful figure, who served as a colonel on corregidor and escaped from there by submarine.

Oldest of the three regiments, the Twenty-second Marine Regiment, was formed at San Diego in June, 1942, and within a month was on its way to Samoa. There it trained vigorously until the fall of 1943, before acting as a reserve during the Kwajalein battle and actually fighting at Eniwetok.

After Eniwetok, the regiment sailed to Guadalcanal to prepare for Guam. The regiment hit Guam side by side with the Fourth Marines on 21 July 1944, and quickly drove inland to the left, sealing off Drote Peninsula. Still linked with the Fourth, the regiment fought the length of the peninsula against bitter Japanese resistance.

The Fourth Marines, named for the famous Marine regiment lost on Bataan, was activated on 8 January 1944. It was comprised of veterans from the four Marine Raider battalions. Its men were veterans of Tulagi, Guadalcanal, Makin, New Georgia and Bougainville. The regiment's first operation was a bloodless battle on the island of Emirau, in the St. Mattias group. Next, on 21 July, the regiment landed below Agat on Guam. After taking Mt. Alifan, the Fourth Marines joined the Twenty-second in the drive down Drote Peninsula.

The 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the Twenty-ninth Marines were formed at Camp Lejeune from hand-picked men and officers. The 1st Battalion fought on Saipan, where it was attached to the Eighth Marines. Originally named the 2nd Separate Infantry Battalion, this unit was formed from elements of the Second Marine Division in February, 1944. On Saipan the battalion aided in the capture of towering Mt. Tapotchau, the highest terrain on the island. In this engagement it lost over 60 per cent of its men.

From September, 1944, until March, 1945, the Sixth Marine Division trained on Guadalcanal for its first and only operation--

--Okinawa. In its training the new division had two advantages: Its officers and men were seasoned veterans, with the combined experiences of almost four years combat; and, in addition, its staff structure was organized with an eye on functional efficiency.

During the training period emphasis was laid on individual marksmanship, combat-firing exercises employing all weapons and supporting arms, flame thrower, demolition teams, tank-infantry problems, and air-ground cooperation. An eight-day division maneuver, in which tactical principles for large unit employment were followed, concluded the training program, and then the division turned to ship-to-shore rehearsals. During the period 1-6 March 1945, inclusive, the Sixth Marine Division practiced debarkation and the deployment of landing craft. There was a full-scale dress rehearsal, including a limited logistical phase.

On 14 March, the division embarked and next day sailed for Ulithi, in the Carolines, the staging area for Okinawa, Acting as staff and regimental commanders were: Colonel J. C. McQueen, Chief of Staff; Major A. B. Overstreet, G-1; Lieutenant Colonel Thomas E. Williams, G-2; Lieutenant Colonel Victor H. Krulak, G-3; Lieutenant Colonel August Larson, G-4; Colonel Alan Shapley, Fourth Marines; Colonel Merlin F. Schneider, Twenty-second Marines; and Colonel Victor F. Bleasdale, Twenty-ninth Marines. Before leaving Guadalcanal only the higher echelon officers knew the identity of the target, but on the way to Ulithi the troops were briefed with all the information at hand. Gen. Shepherd ordered every unit commander to see that every man knew not only his assigned task, but that of his own unit, and of adjacent units, as well as the general scheme of maneuver. By now the men knew that the Sixth Marine Division, as a part of the III Amphibious Corps, was an element of the new Tenth Army, and that at the target, Okinawa, two corps would be landed simultaneously on Love Day. The III Amphibious Corps was to land the First and Sixth Marine Divisions abreast, the Sixth on the left. During this briefing the men learned that estimates indicated over 450,000 civilians on the island, and upwards of 60,000 enemy soldiers.

Upon reaching Ulithi, the troops were sent ashore for rest and relaxation, then transferred to Lsts for the last leg of the journey, which began on 27 March 1945.

Love Day, 1 April 1945, dawned bright and clear, but the troops on the transports could barely discern the outline of the island through smoke and dust, the result of the preliminary air strikes and naval bombardment. At 0837 the assault waves of the Fourth and Twenty-second Marines landed on the Hagushi beaches against virtually no opposition. After the bloody landings on Tarawa, Saipan, Guam and Iwo every man had expected that Okinawa would prove to be equally bad. But, on this bright Easter Sunday morning, the assault troops were astounded to find that there were few of the enemy in the area of the landing beaches.

Expectant and apprehensive, the units moved rapidly inland over the rising, terraced ground leading to Yontan Airfield and Hanza Town. By noon the Fourth Marines had captured Yontan Airfield virtually intact.

On the left flank the Twenty-second Marines moved rapidly abreast of the Fourth. By late afternoon the division had secured the line designated as the O--2 line.

The 1st Battalion, called up from reserve by Gen. Shepherd, landed at 1500 [hours] and was assigned a defensive position on the left flank of the Twenty-second Marines facing toward Zampa Misaki. With practically no casualties and with progress a day ahead of schedule, Love Day for the Sixth Division had proved successful beyond all expectations.

[On Love Day the 29th Marine Regiment came ashore on Green Beaches at about mid-afternoon. Although technically still in Corps reserve it was deployed defensively around and in the vicinity of Yontan Airfield. The 29th Marines were officially given to 6th Division command on April 4, 1945]



Listed are some of the abbreviations used in the report: (S-2)

Daphne, A code name given to one of the units within the 6th Marine Division.

Tp, Telephone

Rad, Radio

CP, Command Posts

Military Time, 0001=one minute past midnight

1200=noon

2400=midnight

Map Coordinates, Numbers used to indicate map grids and thus identify one's location. example: 7993 D(5)
The first two numbers (79) fix Longitude.
The second two numbers (93) fix Latitude.
The last letter and number D(5) pinpoint one's location within the larger grid, 7993.

Map Scales, Three basic scales were used, 1:50,000, 1:25,000 and 1:10,000; The scale of 1:10,000 was usually used by the Marine Rifle Company. The 1st Marine Division was issued a few maps with a scale of 1:5,000.

Co, Company, such as "G", "H" and "I" which were the three Rifle Companies within the 3rd Battalion, 29 Regiment, 6th Marine Division. (3/29/6).

BN, Battalion.

Reg, Regiment. Has three battalions.

Div, Division. Has three regiments.

Plat, Platoon. Has three squads

Sqd, Squad. Has three fire teams organized around a BAR. (Browning Automatic Rifle)

MG, Machine Gun.

CO, Commanding Officer.

Bastille, Code name for a Marine unit.

Recon Co, Reconnaissance Company. It is assigned to the Division and is used as an intelligence arm to locate and determine the strength and location of the enemy.

15th, 15th Artillery, 6th Division Artillery.

Pos, Position.

rt, Right.

lt, Left.

Nips, Japanese.

POW's, Prisoners of War.

KIA, Killed in Action.

WIA, Wounded in Action

NGF, Navy Gun Fire

Arty, Artillery.

Engrs, Engineers

RJ, Road Junction

O---F, A map designation indicating a unit objective, or front line positions.

Msg Cen (OP), Message Center Operations.

George Co, "G" Company

How Co, "H" Company

Item Co, "I" Company
MSG, ??
TD 7's, ??
Req, Request.
Ln O, Liason Officer
LVT-A, ??
LVT's, Landing vehicles tracked
Com, Communications
Msgr, Messenger
LMG, Light machine gun
ATK, Attack
Mort, Mortar
Posn, Position
Armed Gd, Armed Guard
Amb Jeeps, Ambulance Jeeps
Ldr, Leader
Rd, Road
Reinf, Reinforced
Obj, Objective
Am, Ammunition
Comm, Commence
Air Obs, Air Observer
A.G.L, Air Ground Liason
Sit, Situation
AA Fire, Anti Aircraft Fire
W/Rockets, With Rockets
Cal, Caliber
BCF, ??
Quickmatch, ??, Codename
Stepchild, ??, Codename
MIA, Missing in Action
Nambu, A Japanese automatic rifle
Rcn, Reconnaissance
Neg, Negative
Combat Efficiency 80 %, If a rifle platoon contained 50 men and 10 could not continue, for various reasons, the platoon would be at 80% combat efficiency.

Opr, Operator
Col Pressley, Executive Officer, 29th Marines
NGF LN's, ?? Naval Gun Fire Liaison's
Wpn, Weapon
22nd, 22nd Marine Regiment
Rds, Rounds, as in artillery rounds
Chloropicrin, A poisonous gas
Adv, Advanced
OP, -Observation Post
Hq, Headquarters
TRS, ??, Troops, ?
HE, High Explosives
TA, Target Area
AZ, Azimuth
Frnt, Front
w/o, Without

NGF FO's, Naval Gun Fire Forward Observers

RX, ??

TA, Target Area

RR, Railroad

Fox-Co, "F" Co, 29th Marines

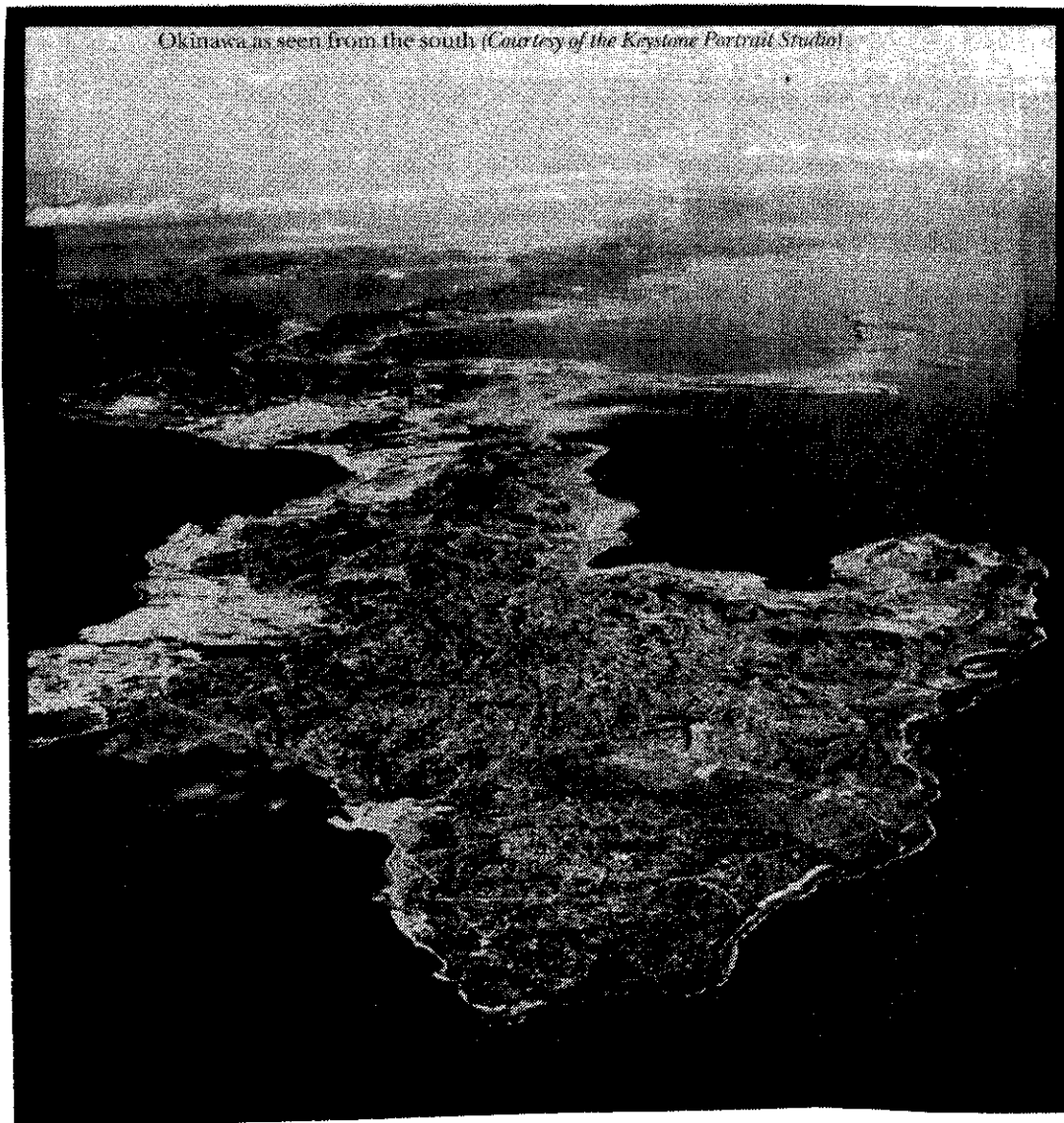
Capt, Captured

Rec, Recieved

Hvy, Heavy

HMG, Heavy Machine Gun

Nanago Buitai, [Boeitai] A military labor force made up of Okinawan civilians.



"2' & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
4/1/45	1811	Tp Fr: Daphne CP Located at 7993 D(5). (Action: m, s)
	1811	Tp Fr: "I" Co reports "F" Co not yet in position-- Request information time of arrival of "F" Co at position. (Action: R-3, x)
4/2/45	0735	Tp To 3/29: All overlays on 1:25,000. (Action: 3/29, s)
4/3/45	0903	Rad Fr: 3/29 CP located at 8392 R(1) (Action: x, m, s)
	1730	Tp Fr: Bn-3--Request permission to clear out MG in cave located 500 yards to front of 3/29 --one man killed fr G Co.(Action: permission granted)
	1812	Tp Fr Bn-3 Cave blown in by 3rd Bn with help of Engr unit from 7th Marines. (Action: s)

Marines Killed in Action

3/1/45	Stabinsky	Bernard	Pfc	854970



PFC Bernard Anthony Stabinsky, 854970

Private First Class Stabinsky, was born 4 July 1910, at Shenandoah, Pa., he was married when he enlisted and his wife lived at 223 Indiana Avenue, Shenandoah Heights, Pennsylvania.

On April 26, 1943, he enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve, at Shenandoah, Pa., when he was 32 years old, and joined the 10th Recruit Bn., Parris Island, for Boot Training. He was

assigned to the Naval Air Station, at Richmond, Fla., on July 13, 1943, and was promoted to PFC on November 10, 1943. PFC Stabinsky, joined Co "I", 3rd Bn., 29th Marines, FMF., June 13, 1944. On August 1, 1944, he embarked for Guadalcanal, aboard the USS Gen. C.G. Morton. He was a member of the 60mm Mortar Platoon, I/3/29/6.

PFC Stabinsky, died of "other causes", at Guadalcanal, British Solomon Islands, March 1, 1944. His remains were interred March 2, 1945, Grave 5, Plot D, Row 115, at the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps Cemetery, Guadalcanal, British Solomon Islands.

Members of the Original "I" Company, 29th Marines

4/1/45	Allen	John	Pfc	477478
4/1/45	Anulewicz	Edmond	Cpl	505980
4/1/45	Aust	Kenneth	Pfc	886671
4/1/45	Avelin	Walter	Pvt	563865
4/1/45	Baker	Abner	Cpl	339017
4/1/45	Basile	Carmen	Pfc	951275
4/1/45	Beck	Alexander	Pfc	805214
4/1/45	Bellen	Harry	Pvt	826023
4/1/45	Bennett	Jackson	Cpl	513812
4/1/45	Berry	Alvin	Cpl	526164
4/1/45	Berry	Richard	1st Sgt	241535
4/1/45	Bertram	Harry	Pfc	550495
4/1/45	Bledsoe	Joe	Pfc	847520
4/1/45	Bobo	Chester	Pvt	947174
4/1/45	Bordlemay	James	Pfc	951330
4/1/45	Bouck	George	Cpl	353139
4/1/45	Breaux	George	Pfc	369800
4/1/45	Brienza	Joseph	Pfc	924141
4/1/45	Briscoe	Donald	PhM2c	882-37-10
4/1/45	Brooks	Harvey	1st Lt	016758
4/1/45	Brown	James	Cpl	545073
4/1/45	Brown	Arthur	Pfc	847542
4/1/45	Bryson	Maurice	Pfc	530433
4/1/45	Budday	Edgar	Pfc	511821
4/1/45	Burr	Harry	Pfc	495356
4/1/45	Butts	Richard	Pvt	556356
4/1/45	Cardosi	Leonard	Pfc	511790
4/1/45	Carson	George	Cpl	285897
4/1/45	Casey	Julian	Pfc	837325
4/1/45	Cherry	William	Pfc	519053
4/1/45	Christopher	John	Pfc	530406
4/1/45	Cipriano	Nicholas	Cpl	312735
4/1/45	Clark	David	Pfc	888822
4/1/45	Clayton	Carl	Sgt	359052
4/1/45	Cleary	Edward	Pfc	541404
4/1/45	Combs	Gilmer	Pvt	847280
4/1/45	Cook	Carl Jr	Cpl	493026
4/1/45	Cooper	Wade	Pfc	343762
4/1/45	Corriea	Donald	Pfc	556542
4/1/45	Cromling	William	Sgt	305503
4/1/45	Crouse	Robert	Pvt	500279
4/1/45	Cullem	Charles	Pvt	541363

4/1/45	Cunningham	William	Pfc	556784
4/1/45	Demuth	Robert	PhM3c	250-92-32
4/1/45	Doerr	David	G\Sgt	264610
4/1/45	Dubois	Joseph	Pfc	962611
4/1/45	Dubois	George	Pfc	826024
4/1/45	Duck	Orman	Pfc	547641
4/1/45	Elliott	Jack	Sgt	464017
4/1/45	Estes	Charles	Pvt	328853
4/1/45	Fadden	Joseph	Pfc	951278
4/1/45	Farrell	Malcolm	Pfc	953298
4/1/45	Finkbeiner	Edward	Pvt	966509
4/1/45	Fisher	Francis	Pfc	951327
4/1/45	Flournoy	Rufus	Pvt	821365
4/1/45	Fodero	Frank	Sgt	482384
4/1/45	Fowler	Murray	Pl/Sgt	256804
4/1/45	Francoeur	Raymond	Cpl	446255
4/1/45	Fulton	William	Pfc	554574
4/1/45	Furbush	Allen	Cpl	470356
4/1/45	Gallagher	Clayton	Pfc	944101
4/1/45	Gardner	George	Pfc	921781
4/1/45	Garland	Edgar	Pvt	484138
4/1/45	Gay	William	Pfc	914418
4/1/45	Genczy	Chester	Cpl	508107
4/1/45	Goosmann	John	Sgt	237484
4/1/45	Graves	Benton	Cpl	301159
4/1/45	Greska	Frank	Pfc	953308
4/1/45	Gunn	Chester	Pfc	932854
4/1/45	Hamilton	Russell	Pfc	456746
4/1/45	Hanslik	Harrison	Pfc	532556
4/1/45	Harlow	Carl	Asst/Ck	940730
4/1/45	Harrington	William	Cpl	505905
4/1/45	Hartman	Leo	Pfc	548374
4/1/45	Hayes	Willis	Pvt	976219
4/1/45	Head	Joseph	Pfc	865320
4/1/45	Heim	John	Pl/Sgt	285004
4/1/45	Heller	Ralph	Cpl	375118
4/1/45	Hermanies	John	Pfc	448229
4/1/45	Hipp	Roy	Pvt	957262
4/1/45	Hoehn	Edward	Pvt	949802
4/1/45	Hogan	Joseph	Pfc	951292
4/1/45	Holton	Robert	Pvt	558872
4/1/45	Homom	Leo	Pvt	962605
4/1/45	Hontz	Robert	1st Lt	026012
4/1/45	Hoover	James	Pvt	960390
4/1/45	Horton	Edwin	Pvt	953893
4/1/45	Hubbard	James	Pvt	920799
4/1/45	James	Jack	HA1c	939-55-94
4/1/45	Johnson	Eugene	Pl/Sgt	266209
4/1/45	Johnson	Orus	Sgt	396067
4/1/45	Johnson	Richard	Pfc	554028
4/1/45	Johnson	Jesse	Cpl	933847
4/1/45	Joiner	James	Cpl	415134
4/1/45	Jorgensen	Walter	Capt/CO	09588
4/1/45	Keaney	William	Pfc	285744

4/1/45	Kearney	Francis	Pvt	951499
4/1/45	Keaton	Jessie	Pvt	960180
4/1/45	Keller	Clyde	Pfc	847510
4/1/45	Kelly	Joseph	Pfc	530427
4/1/45	Kemp	William	Pfc	956230
4/1/45	Kemph	Walter	Fld/Ck	530150
4/1/45	Killian	Claude	Sgt	297875
4/1/45	Kiser	William	Asst/Ck	853579
4/1/45	Knight	James	Pfc	898970
4/1/45	Kukuchka	Frank	Cpl	320867
4/1/45	La Cobee	Francis	Pfc	417446
4/1/45	Lally	Francis	Pfc	550533
4/1/45	LaVoie	Henry	Pfc	556526
4/1/45	Leach	Gaylord	Cpl	953888
4/1/45	Lee	William	P1/Sgt	452077
4/1/45	Lenahan	Thomas	Pfc	950770
4/1/45	Lennon	John	Pvt	953218
4/1/45	Lilly	Frank	Sgt	524413
4/1/45	Long	Marvin	Pfc	519098
4/1/45	Longerbeam	Granville	Pvt	947808
4/1/45	Luddecke	Robert	Pfc	943965
4/1/45	Mackin	Wayne	Pfc	944008
4/1/45	Magdich	Frank	Pfc	370451
4/1/45	Martin	Charles	Sgt	275558
4/1/45	Mast	"R"	Pfc	941018
4/1/45	Mc Kown	Charles	Pvt	554570
4/1/45	Mc Quilliam	Charles	P1/Sgt	282888
4/1/45	McCool	Norman	Cpl	362244
4/1/45	McCormick	Arch	Pfc	921740
4/1/45	McCrea	William	Pvt	951591
4/1/45	McDevitt	John	HA1c	635-25-52
4/1/45	McKinney	William	Pvt	979961
4/1/45	McMahon	Myron	Pvt	956919
4/1/45	Menefee	James	Pfc	911500
4/1/45	Meshurle	Frederick	Pvt	547638
4/1/45	Miller	Paul	Pfc	942473
4/1/45	Miller	Charles	Pfc	514436
4/1/45	Miller	Moss Jr	Cpl	312965
4/1/45	Miller	Richard	Cpl	477319
4/1/45	Mohrman	Vernon	Pvt	948899
4/1/45	Mollica	Donald	Pfc	843928
4/1/45	Money Penny	John	Pfc	368268
4/1/45	Moore	John	Pvt	826464
4/1/45	Mullett	Samuel	Pfc	910383
4/1/45	Muncy	John	Pfc	888815
4/1/45	Myers	James	Pfc	920825
4/1/45	Nappi	Michael	Pvt	953336
4/1/45	Newman	Melvin	Cpl	408184
4/1/45	Nichols	Harold	Cpl	292706
4/1/45	Niederer	Floyd	Cpl	803042
4/1/45	O'Dell	Arnold	Pfc	802409
4/1/45	O'Leary	John	Pvt	564843
4/1/45	O'Malley	William	Cpl	806688
4/1/45	Parker	Junior	FM/1st	871338

4/1/45	Parsons	Robert	Pvt	946957
4/1/45	Pates	Robert	Cpl	393317
4/1/45	Patruno	Pasquale	Pfc	949394
4/1/45	Patterson	Elmer	Pfc	935030
4/1/45	Pauk	John	PhM3c	873-10-73
4/1/45	Pears	Frederick	PhM3c	383-20-84
4/1/45	Peralta	Anthony	FM/1st	836425
4/1/45	Petuskey	William	Sgt	502292
4/1/45	Player	James	Pfc	409634
4/1/45	Pope	George	Pfc	949387
4/1/45	Potter	Howard	Pvt	552881
4/1/45	Poythress	Frank	Cpl	310613
4/1/45	Presock	Thomas	Pfc	551199
4/1/45	Presser	Martin	Sgt	270465
4/1/45	Propst	John	2nd Lt	039233
4/1/45	Rapp	William	Cpl	508934
4/1/45	Raynor	Everett	PhM3c	812-87-06
4/1/45	Rexroad	William	Pfc	914722
4/1/45	Richard	Russell	Pfc	900627
4/1/45	Richardson	Harold	Pvt	957035
4/1/45	Riggs	Lawrence	Cpl	403703
4/1/45	Riley	Jack	Pvt	990804
4/1/45	Rispoli	James	Pfc	844792
4/1/45	Ross	Richard	Pvt	556544
4/1/45	Rossi	John	Pfc	903361
4/1/45	Russell	Herndon	Pfc	865324
4/1/45	Ryan	Walter	Pfc	554011
4/1/45	Sampson	Robert	Pfc	800667
4/1/45	Santarpia	Frank	Pfc	844496
4/1/45	Sardo	James	Pfc	845784
4/1/45	Saylor	Orville	PhM2c	821-45-71
4/1/45	Saylor	James	Pfc	937234
4/1/45	Scarmozzino	Nicholas	Pfc	907152
4/1/45	Schaub	Oscar	Pvt	954848
4/1/45	Schinnerer	Don	Pfc	343071
4/1/45	Schneider	Walter	Cpl	390813
4/1/45	Schrock	James	Pvt	559482
4/1/45	Schumacher	Edwin	Pvt	989064
4/1/45	Scism	James	Pfc	815433
4/1/45	Scott	Rex	Pvt	959555
4/1/45	Segarra	Wilfred	Pfc	949392
4/1/45	Shakeshaft	Donald	Pfc	396274
4/1/45	Shaleen	Glondon	Pvt	975157
4/1/45	Shankle	Grover	Pvt	847467
4/1/45	Sharp	Hervey	Cpl	368545
4/1/45	Shaughnessy	Edwin	Pfc	951594
4/1/45	Sheer	Joseph	Sgt	838172
4/1/45	Shinn	Ralph	Cpl	394062
4/1/45	Shorts	Medford	Pvt	920945
4/1/45	Simmons	Lewis	Pfc	847529
4/1/45	Simmons	Harry	Pvt	956604
4/1/45	Simone	Dominick	Pfc	844977
4/1/45	Sims	Eugene	Pfc	946979
4/1/45	Siooss	Robert	Sgt	330091

4/1/45	Slade	Donald	Pfc	949398
4/1/45	Slezak	Frederick	MT/Sgt	296564
4/1/45	Smith	Darrall	Pfc	514616
4/1/45	Smith	Carleton	Pfc	853151
4/1/45	Smith	Ambrose	Cpl	444065
4/1/45	Snyder	Randall	Pvt	922613
4/1/45	Soltys	Stanley	Asst/Ck	802378
4/1/45	Souza	Albert	Pvt	989782
4/1/45	Spano	Stephen	Pfc	541448
4/1/45	Sparks	Lorenzo	Pfc	530409
4/1/45	Spisak	Frank	Pvt	528399
4/1/45	Spivey	Rufus	Pfc	955747
4/1/45	Stabinsky	Bernard	Pfc	854970
4/1/45	Stackhouse	Duff	Pfc	859210
4/1/45	Stahler	William	Cpl	410979
4/1/45	Steedly	Daniel	Pfc	957278
4/1/45	Steedly	Woodrow	Pfc	957271
4/1/45	Stelmack	Joseph	Cpl	872092
4/1/45	Stone	John	1st Lt	020217
4/1/45	Stone	William	Pfc	949144
4/1/45	Stowell	Robert	Pvt	962769
4/1/45	Stucker	Richard	Cpl	812746
4/1/45	Suba	Charles Jr	Asst/Ck	867888
4/1/45	Sucoff	Martin	Pfc	518386
4/1/45	Sullivan	Lawrence	1st Lt	022272
4/1/45	Sullivan	Wendell	Pfc	960539
4/1/45	Taylor	Harold	G/Sgt	245350
4/1/45	Taylor	Hubert	Cpl	310493
4/1/45	Teal	Tommie	Cpl	508978
4/1/45	Tellinghuisen	Gerald	Cpl	334062
4/1/45	Thibeault	Charles	Pfc	310072
4/1/45	Timanus	Edwin	Cpl	816137
4/1/45	Tincher	Glenn	Pfc	333650
4/1/45	Umstead	Archie	Cpl	895360
4/1/45	Vail	Maurice	Pfc	547364
4/1/45	Vellman	William	1st Lt	026155
4/1/45	Voelker	Paul	Pfc	551425
4/1/45	Walenski	William	Cpl	331992
4/1/45	Walsh	Raymond	Pvt	982612
4/1/45	Walter	Richard	Pfc	854978
4/1/45	Welch	Hubert	Cpl	813456
4/1/45	Wells	Paul	Pfc	943186
4/1/45	West	Paul	Pfc	907048
4/1/45	Wexler	Samuel	Pvt	971934
4/1/45	White	Eugene	Pfc	960173
4/1/45	Wicka	Marcel	Cpl	224633
4/1/45	Woodard	Richard	Pfc	526981
4/1/45	Zacame	Bernard	Pvt	565070
4/1/45	Zahler	Ivan	Pfc	495361
4/1/45	Zuk	John Jr	Pfc	470399

[After Frank Kukuchka wrote of his experiences recorded in his diary covering 14 April-16 May, 1945, He discovered another of his notebooks covering the period 1 April-12 April 1945. It is

then blank until 24 June 1945, and then continues until 20 July 1945. Below is a copy of his last diary plus a few short comments which he made relating to them and it was sent to me during February, 1995]---Kenneth Long

A note pad, (diary), discovered that was carried during combat with additional information regarding "My Days On Okinawa". This was found after the previous write-up was completed.

EASTER SUNDAY,--Such a busy morning. All up early. Donned on typhus dipped clothes: utility suit, sweat shirt and socks. flannel shirt went in the pack plus a suit of skivvies, two pair of socks and a utility cap, toilet gear, a heat box, [?], poncho, candy and rations for three meals. Such was the gear, plus helmet, ammo belt and ammo, rifle and rifle grenade. To get this on and discard all unnecessary gear caused a pile of rubble on the deck about one foot thick.

Most everyone too busy to be nervous. All sorts of shouting going on: "Where's Ryan?", "Does Lud. (Luddecke) have his ammo?", "Call Zalher from the mess hall!", "Anyone need more ammo?", "Stop blocking the passage!", "Get off my back!", "Hand me my pack!".

Ate breakfast of hash. Someone said we get a chicken dinner before we go in but I haven't seen it yet.

Hourly the news came in about the assault troops going in. Fast advances were made without opposition. Troops beyond Yontan airfield by noon. The ship's commander said he never saw a better spirited bunch of men going into battle as we were.

Stood over an hour in line for dinner, (lunch). Just as it was to be served, all were called below deck to prepare for debarkation. Everyone seemed very happy about it. As to settle their nerves could be their reason for the singing, humming and whistling. We fall in on weather deck. Platoon is checked and down the cargo net we go. The LCVP is a big boat but we take in plenty of water over the ramp before we reached the shore. Everyone was soaking wet. We landed on a secured beach after some time of reversing and going forward over coral reefs. Tide was going down so we had to wade in a good way to get ashore. Everyone was bitter cold coming in on the boat, being wet.

Just as soon as we got together, ashore, we took off some of our clothes to dry. In very few minutes we were on the move again. Discarding our gas masks on the beach and starting up the incline towards Yontan Airfield. Just between the airfield and the beach we put up for the night. Dug our fox holes, but shallow ones. Haven't seen a Nip yet. At about dusk, in comes several hundred civilians that were taken out of caves. Most everyone rushed over to the road to get a better look. All were small, shabbily dressed, under-nourished looking and half frightened to death.

At about dusk we got our first view of the Nips. Seven planes high in the air. Such a barrage of A.A. ammo was put at them. The tracers just produced a luminescent sky, filling the air like a spray. Much Ack-Ack too. Saw one plane downed over the ocean.

Luddecke and I in the same hole. Kept a strict watch. At

0400 a Nip plane came directly over the beach very low. I saw it's sheer color, (I believe I'm referring to the big red zero on its side), and a small amber light up on the side of the cockpit. About a mile down the beach the A.A. opened up on him and shot it down far out in the ocean.---Frank Kukuchka

I was born and raised in Jacksonville, Florida, where I spent most of my life. I joined the Marine Corps at the post office in Jacksonville.. I went to Boot Camp at Parris Island. I joined the 29th Marines during 1944, at Camp Lejeune. I was 25 years old during the battle for Okinawa.

When we first started out, I was fire team leader of the 1st fire team in the 1st squad of the 1st rifle platoon but as the number of casualties grew, I became squad leader of my squad during the battle for Half Moon Hill, in May. ---Ambrose A Smith

[Ambrose was known as "Double A" Smith at that time-author]

I was a Corpsman with the 2nd Platoon, "I" Company, 29th Marines. I was born in Kansas City, Missouri but raised in Bisbee, Arizona. I attended the University of Arizona, prior to the war and was in the V-6 program, which I attended for 6 months and then joined up, because all my buddies were going. I went to Naval Boot Camp, at San Diego,. I was 21 years old when I was on Okinawa. We left the states and were suppose to join the 4th Marines, there were about 8 of us but it seemed like we traveled all over the south pacific and couldn't find them so we ended up being assigned to the 29th Marines on Guadalcanal. We arrived at the Canal sometime before Christmas. Sgt Bill Lee took a bunch of C ration cans, cut them open and built a tree and put it on the outside of our tent, later we saw a group of fellows just hanging around and then they started singing Christmas carols. All those big, tough guys over there really got taken by that and I don't think there was a dry eye in the group.---Donald E Briscoe

One day when we were on Guadalcanal, I sent a guy to sick bay to have his in-grown toe nails taken care of because they were giving him quite a few problems, while he was there they circumcised him and when he got back to the unit, he spread the word: "Don't let Briscoe send you to sickbay".

Every time I talk to guys now about those experiences they remind me how insistent I was about them taking their atobrin, but you know, I don't think anyone in the outfit ever got malaria on Okinawa. The Anophilies mosquitoes were pretty bad.

Halogen was the tablet you put in your canteen to purify it however if you did you never drank the water because it tasted so bad.

Remember the NesCafe coffee, right at the end we got 10 in 1 rations.---Donald E Briscoe

I grew up in West Virginia and went to Parris Island, for his boot training. My platoon was 398 and I enlisted in 1943. I was 25 years old on Okinawa. I was the 2nd oldest guy in the company. Other guys from the unit used to get on us about being prisoners at large. Let me explain: When we were ready to ship

out from Camp Lejeune, Bill Lee who was our Sgt. said, if we unloaded a certain number of boxcars we could go on a weeks leave before we shipped out. We met the goal he set and then his superior wouldn't give us the leave. Needless to say, we were all pissed and Bill Lee, indicated our feelings to his company officer but it didn't do any good so he said to us one day, "men lets go on leave". He had us pack our greens in our packs and marched us to the train station where we changed into our greens and left the other clothes in lockers there and proceeded to go home on leave. Before we left Bill Lee cautioned all of us to be back at the base on time, which all of us were but we had all become prisoners at large or PAL. From that day on all of us got any shitty detail that came up from mess duty, guard duty and the like.---Jesse Johnson

The ship we went to Guadalcanal on was the Gen C.G. Morton and we called it the Kaiser's Coffin. On the way back to the United States it split open and they had to weld cables on the inside to hold it together.

On the way to the Canal, we went over alone and didn't have any escorts. A Japanese plane did circle the ship one day but since all of the troops were below deck the Japs might have thought the ship wasn't worth going after and left.

Yeah, I remember being initiated to become a "Shell Back" from a "Poliwog" when we crossed the International Date Line, the ships crew threw us in some slop and then made us crawl on the metal deck of the ship they had rigged up to give the guys an electric shock, hitting them with wet socks the entire time.---Jesse Johnson

When we were on Guadalcanal we used to go swimming in Lunga River not far from Henderson Field.---Jesse Johnson

Yeah, I remember Stabinsky, he was an older fellow and had trouble with his back and couldn't carry a pack. His skin became irritated in some way by the pack rubbing against it. He was designated to become rear echelon. While on guard duty one night he put the rifle in his mouth and committed suicide because he wanted to go along with the unit.---Jesse Johnson

We had three other fellows, the name of one was Tom Prichard, a friend of mine and he was a demolition man the same as I was, one day we went up what we called pass-out Mountain and it had real high grass on it and we practiced setting our charges in the craters there. One day the three men set their charges but didn't get out of the crater for some reason and all of them were killed.---Jesse Johnson

Most of us didn't go ashore on Mog Mog in the Ulithie Islands, but I remember a beer party they held prior to the invasion of Okinawa, I think we had some kind of entertainment aboard ship.

The area was also the rendezvous point for all or most of

the ships that were going to take part in the battle and the sky was covered with ships from horizon to horizon. We saw an aircraft carrier, it could have been the Franklin, that was returning from Iwo Jima, and it was really shot up, there were others too.---Jesse Johnson

I recall they let us out of the landing craft off shore because the boats couldn't get into the beach as maybe the tide was out. The coral was real rough and there were deep pockets of water in the coral, in fact, a guy by the name of DuBoise, stepped in one of these pocket and sank to the bottom real quick because of all the ammo he was carrying and I had to pull him out. When we were on Guadalcanal, a lot of the guys bought 45s, Thompson sub machine guns and other items from the Army there. We needed ammo for it so Bill Lee and went over to the Army supply and stole a couple cases and everything went well until the Army found it missing and by putting two and two together figured out who might have "borrowed it". They searched our camp but Bill and I had buried it under the floorboards of our tent and they never did find it. [Author's note: According to the recollections of the "I" Company guys I have talked to and the number of different items that were hidden under the floorboards of the various tents, quite a sizeable pile of contraband could have been made if all of those items had been discovered and stored in one pile. The author feels that the hiding place for stolen items should be changed for the next war, because the first place searched will be under tent floorboards.] We gave the 45 ammo to the men that needed it and since DeBoise, had a submachine gun, he took so much of it he could hardly walk.---Jesse Johnson

We landed about the same time the Jap plane landed on Yonton Airfield after the Marines had control of it. Of course the air field had already been taken but we crossed one end of it and started picking spots for our foxholes for the night. After we got our spots located I started to glance around to familiarize myself with the area and noticed a huge bomb that hadn't exploded a short distance from us. I notified Bill Lee and asked if he wanted us to disarm it since I had gone to bomb disposal school and flunked out, (that is why I was sent to demolition school) Bill said "No, we'll call bomb disposal." , which we did and the guy that showed up from bomb disposal was a guy I had gone to school with before I flunked out. He asked me, "What should I do?". I told him that I don't think he should try and disarm it because the Japs may have it rigged some way. I went on to suggest I would wait until tomorrow morning since our outfit was moving out early, and after we left, tie a TNT block to the nose of it and blow it. I'm not sure whether or not he handled it the way I suggested but quite early the next morning after "I" Company had moved out, we heard a loud explosion from that direction.---Jesse Johnson

The sea was quite rough when we went over the side of the ship on the landing nets to the boats below. The Higgins Boats were about 20 feet away from the ship by the time we got to the

bottom of the nets, we had quite a few problems loading up in fact a couple of fellows fell into the water but we got them out. We learned to time our jump into the boat and when it was at the top of the swell or wave we would jump and we finally got loaded.---Martin Sucoff

We hadn't got any reports on how the Marines were doing that had already landed so we didn't know what to expect. In fact, we heard the 22nd Marines had been wiped out and that was the reason for our going in. The fact was, we learned later the 22 Regiment and 4th Regiment had already taken Yontan Airfield.---Martin Sucoff

I was born in Brooklyn, NY, and was in the Old Marine Corps. I grew up on the west coast as my folks moved out there when I was quite young. During 1940 and 1941 I attended Platoon Leaders Classes during the summers for six weeks each. They were classes that were formed by the Marine Corps to attract young men into leadership roles within the Corps. What the Marine Corps would have done for officers had they not started this training program, I do not know, but since it was started in 1935, there was a group of young men who could be called when the war started. I began the program in 1940 and didn't know if I was going to make it because candidates were ejected quite ruthlessly. There were two of these Platoon Leaders Classes, one at Quantico, Virginia and the other at San Diego, California. Since I enlisted on the west coast, I am one of very few Marine Officers who has never seen Quantico, since all guys west of the Mississippi River were sent to San Diego. While attending classes one is given the rank of PFC throughout training and each was given a small lapel button identifying him as a cadet. Shortly after the war was declared, all of us who completed Platoon Leaders Class, got a telegram commissioning us in the Marine Corps. This was either late December, 1941 or January, 1942, and I was immediately ordered to the Philadelphia Navy Yard for Basic Training and this was the last basic class held there because officers basic training was then transferred to Quantico.

After I completed basic, I was transferred to San Diego, and immediately was assigned to Fleet Marine Force, and went to New Zealand, during October of 1942 and was with the 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines. The battle for Guadalcanal was winding down when the 6th Regiment arrived, but we were assigned to moving up to Cape Esperance, on the northern tip of the Island. Our unit was sent back to New Zealand, until about October of 1943 when we sailed out for the invasion of Tarawa, I was Executive Officer of a heavy weapons company, and stayed there for about 3 months.

I returned to Hawaii, where I attained the rank of Captain and although I was slated to go home, since I had been overseas about two years, my Commanding Officer had other ideas and I was sent back to the South Pacific where I became Company Commander of "I" Company, 1st Independent Assault Battalion, during the battle for Saipan; the unit later would become "I" Company, 3rd Bn., 29th Marines, 6th Marine Division.

I joined I/3/29/6, during February of 1944, on Guadalcanal.

I believe Major J. H. Brock, was the Commanding Officer, prior to my joining the unit.

On the 24th of April, shortly after the battle for Mt. Yaetake, on the Motobu Peninsula, I was assigned to the job of Executive Officer, 3rd Battalion, [Capt. Philip J. Mylod took over the command of "I" Company at that time] and I remained in this position until I was wounded, (shrapnel in the abdomen) May 16, 1945. On June 1, 1945, I returned to my assignment as Battalion Executive Officer and remained there until June 14, 1945 when I became Company Commander of Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Division.---Walter Jorgensen

Cipriano and I were in the same CCC camp in Nevada not at the same time though. He was there in 1939 and I was there in 1941.---Ken Aust

I went to Farris Island and then on to Camp Lejeune. I was stationed at the Philadelphia Navy Yard for several months and also with Marine Quartermaster for awhile, in fact for about 3 years. I entered the Marine Corps in August of 1941.---Frank Kukuchka

Going ashore, April 1, that bright, sunny Easter Sunday was much easier than we expected. Not without some apprehension though, this was reality not a training exercise and everyone knew it. Some elements of the Division had gone ashore ahead of us and what movement we could see from aboard ship was progressing inland without much obvious enemy action. There were smoke patches in various places on the slope towards Yontan Airfield which was on top, perhaps, one-thousand yards ahead, and the beach or landing craft didn't encounter any enemy artillery or airplane action. It was a breath of relief when we descended the ship to the landing craft without being harassed by enemy gun fire as in other previous landings by other Marines. I did have some trepidation going down the side on the ship's net with all my gear on my back, My gas mask and holding on to my rifle. The thought occurred that I could barely swim with nothing on at all and what if I had to now? That was only a flash in the mind amidst all the activity getting on to the landing craft, and before I knew it I was transported, safely, to the beach, getting my legs and feet wading in near the shore. I have to give credit and a salute to those courageous Navy fellows for a job well done.

Everyone discarded their gas mask on shore to a delegation of Marines collecting them and yelling back to us that they would be back at Headquarters. We deployed inland a short distance and to the left of the landing site. We dug in for the night, just as we trained, pairing up and spacing our fox holes and setting up for our guard watches. As dusk approached the Japs began to send their planes in and the ships opened up on them with spectacular fire works from their anti-aircraft weapons. The sky was ablaze with streams of tracers in every which direction. Like the 4th of July, it was almost a thrill to watch, yet realizing it was a deadly encounter and we had much to lose with what appeared like

myriads of ships offshore. I don't recall how many sorties the Japs sent over but for the most part the rest of the night was reasonably quiet.---Frank Kukuchka

I was raised in San Diego, CA, and I went to Navy Boot Camp at San Diego, then I went to Hospital School at Balboa, and Field Medical School at Camp Pendelton, CA. That's when I was assigned to the Marines. I enlisted when I was 17 years old and 19 years old when I lost my leg on Okinawa.

I went overseas on the USS Monroe, went to Guadalcanal and when I first went there I was assigned to the 6th Division Medical Hospital. I didn't like a chief there and the best way to get away from there was to apply to front line duty and I got it. I wanted to get as far away from the rear as possible and my wish came true.---Fred Pears

I grew up in Blackstone, Mass. and played football at Notre Dame during the years 40, 41 and 1942.

I remember George Frank, from the Minnesota Gophers and he later played for Great Lakes, the service football team. I also played against Bob Fitch, who played end and was a left footed kicker and I played against him at Camp Lejeune, he was in the Coast Guard and after he got out of the service, he coached at Indiana. I played tackle and George Murphy was the Captain of our 1942 team and Murphy was killed on Okinawa--- I think he was with the 2nd Battalion [29th Marines].---Lawrence Sullivan

I was with the 2nd Rifle Platoon and they call me "Mo". I grew up in Little Falls, NY. and I went to Parris Island, in platoon number 792 in September of 1943. I was assigned to the Hqs Bn. at Camp Lejeune for a couple of months and then joined the newly formed 29th Marine Regiment. No I wasn't married at that time. I went over seas aboard the USS Gen Morton.---Maurice Vail

I was born and raised in Valdese, North Carolina and moved to California about 38 years ago. I went to Boot Camp at Parris Island during 1940 and was then assigned to the Brooklyn Navy Yard, and from there to an ammunition depot a short ways from West Point. I then went to Washington D.C. on a London Detail, I was supposed to go to London, I was a Pfc and we had a Corporal there, one day he threw a punch at me and I returned one and the next day I was off the detail. Actually he did me a favor because after that I was on President Roosevelt's personal guard for a year and a half, Shangri La and Camp David.

I went to Guadalcanal aboard the USS Gen Morton during the last part of 1944.---Claude Killian

As we landed I asked the guy in charge of the boat to get us closer to shore and he replied, "your ankle deep now", at which time he lowered the ramp and let us out. Well, the water was up to our arm pits and maybe deeper in some areas.---Claude Killian

When we arrived at Okinawa during the night prior to the invasion, we had general quarters all night and everyone was edgy and as I recall I got up at about two in the morning and went up on deck and I could hear the Naval gun fire in the distance. No one was sleeping. Although we were ordered to remain below deck, we did get topside for a short time and I noticed several Jap planes off in the distance attacking some of the ships, they didn't last long though as our ships got them real fast. I recall too, our ship was firing low into the water and I couldn't make out what they were shooting at it might have been a Jap suicide boat of some kind. It was about mid-morning when they called our boat number and we went over the side to the boats below. We went in to the reef line in LCVP's (Higgins Boat) and then transferred to Amtracks for the rest of the trip in. We landed on one of the "Green" Beaches and after landing about mid-morning on the 1st of April, we stayed on the beach for awhile and I recall two dead Marines on the beach in that area. We advanced inland for a short distance and dug in about three or four times the first day. The terrain rose up gradually as we approached Yontan Airfield and upon looking back and seeing all of the landing craft coming in it was an awesome sight. It reminded me of taking part in a movie, fortunately we weren't under heavy fire. Halfway up the first rise leading to Yontan, Jones and I dug in together and while we were there a Jap plane came over and diving towards a ship a short way off shore, it came pretty close before one of the anti aircraft guns from the ship hit the plane on one of its wings and it crashed into the ocean. During the night time hours there was sporadic firing of small arms and just as dawn approached, one artillery [Jap] shell landed a short ways behind us but it was a dud. I recall during the third night or so we were told to expect an attack by Japanese paratroopers and we were instructed to shoot anything that moved above ground. Some of the conditions specified by the units to indicate the severity of the situation were Condition Green, Condition Red and in this case it was call Condition Black. A major attack never did develop although we heard several Japs landed on Yontan but most of the planes transporting the Jap paratroopers were shot down before arriving at Okinawa.[Apparently the "Black Widow", an Army night fighter of the P-38 design was credited with shooting down most of the Jap planes.]---Donald Honis

I was born and raised in Kentucky, across the line from Cincinnati, Ohio in a little town called Newport. I joined the Marine Corps when I was 16 years old in January of 1943. and went to boot camp at Parris Island and after boot camp I went to Quantico, Virginia, for a couple months. No, I didn't go to Officers school, hell I was only 16. I was sent to Photographers School and didn't like it a bit, I wanted to kill Japs. After leaving school our unit went to England, Scotland and then to Iceland and we did guard duty there. I made Pfc when in Iceland. I was one of about 13 Marines who were designated to come back to the States, in fact, Don Mollica, was also in that group. When we got back they were forming a new regiment at Camp Lejeune, North

Carolina, [29th Marines] and both Don and I hated Lejeune, cause there wasn't any liberty or anything. In order to join the regiment though we had to waive our 6 months limited shore duty that each Marine was guaranteed when they returned from overseas. That was no problem for us so we did it. After we joined the regiment, they sent us to Scout and Snipers School which was fantastic as it taught us a lot about combat conditions. That school included only the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the 29th Marines as the 1st Battalion was already formed and was to take part in the Saipan Battle.---Charles Miller

[1st Lt Harvey F. Brooks, was CO of "I" Company for a time on Guadalcanal while the unit was training there prior to the battle for Okinawa, during the latter part of 1944. Major J.H. Brock, was CO for a short period of time and then the unit was commanded by Capt. Walter E. Jorgensen, until April 23, when Capt. Jorgensen, was transferred to 3rd Battalion HQ of the 29th Marines. Capt. Phillip J. Mylod Commanded the Company from 24 April 1945 until 14 May 1945, when he was wounded. 1st Lt Harvey F. Brooks, who was Company Exec. Officer, took over command of the Company for a brief 24 hour period---until May 15, when he and his runner (Donald Shakeshaft) were wounded by a sniper during the battle for Half Moon (Crescent) Hill. 1st Lt John P. Stone, became Company Commander on the 15th of May until our unit returned to Guam, after the Battle.]---Kenneth Long

I went to college at Medford, Mass. and I signed up with the Marine Corps during my junior year as they had a program where one could finish school and then go in the service with a commission. After I completed college I was sent to Quantico, Virginia, during October, 1942. I was with the Women Marines in New York City about four months, this was quite nice change from the cold, damp weather at Tent City, Camp Lejeune. In order to qualify for the New York, assignment a person had to be recently married and since I met this qualification, I was transferred. My wife came with me and we spent about 4 months there while some lady officers were being trained at Mt. Holyoke because prior to this time, they had none. My wife and I had a good time in the City but at that time a 2nd Lt received about \$150.00 a month and with rent and other essentials being so expensive we found ourselves eating spaghetti without the sauce toward the end of each month. We did see a lot of the City sights, however and even got to see a couple of Yankee games.

My next assignment was Camp Lejeune for several months and then I was sent to Quantico for about 1-1/2 years as an instructor there. General Vandergrif's son was stationed at Quantico at that time too, this was about the time the General made the statement, "there are two types of Marines, one is in combat, the other will soon be there." I certainly recall when he said that and I realized my time in the States would be short.

I returned to Camp Lejeune again and this time was assigned to the unit which later would become the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the 29th Marines. During our stay there some of us attended Scout and Snipers School.

We took the train to San Diego, in the fall of 1944, where we left for Guadalcanal aboard the USS C.G. Morton from Camp McKay.(?)---Harvey F. Brooks

U.S. landing ships make a run to beachhead of Okinawa.



April 2

April 2,-- Very cold night and damp from the dew. After chow of "K" rations our first squad went out on patrol down to the beach and back again. Good places for hiding but not Nips. Looked into some of the tombs. Found half deteriorated corpse in a plain box, and several vase-like urns.

Watched the might of war come in off boats out of the ocean. More civilians came in today. Several boys caught chickens and fried them up. I went up on the top of hill above tombs and got a distant look at Yontan airfield.---Frank Kukuchka

I was born and grew up in Brooklyn, NY, and when I was young we played a game called punch ball. It was a soft ball and when you hit it you ran to different sewer plates for the bases, otherwise it was a lot like baseball. I went to Boot Camp at Farris Island, and I was 21 years old during the battle.---Ken Aust

I was really impressed with all the ships and planes the day we landed on Okinawa. We went over the side of the ship and onto the landing nets into the boats below, and after we got in we circled around for awhile. As we were circling I sure got seasick, and I was glad to get ashore. We didn't hit any fire when we went to shore. No, we weren't in reserve, as we went in about the same time as everyone else. I remember sitting near the outside of Yontan Airfield, eating an afternoon "K" ration, and there was a dead Jap laying next to me and all that was left of him was his chest, head and neck, everything else was blown away.---Ken Aust

To the left of our bivouac area (northwest), facing the airfield, the shore line was high and its contours were followed by a narrow strip of palm trees near the edge. When morning came so did the call of nature and since all was quiet I walked to the shore edge and leaned against a palm tree to relieve myself, when "Lo and Behold!" a Jap Zero comes by, gliding quietly with throttle down just below the tree tops following closely to the edge. I could see the pilot in it moving his head about and the big red zero on the side. My first thought was, "My God! My rifle is back at the fox hole!" Here I had such a golden opportunity to get my first Jap and missed it. I was very distressed and disgusted with myself, (F-Ded!) and was mentally kicking myself for ignoring a Paramount-Cardinal lesson. "Never leave your rifle!" "Always have your rifle at ready near you!" "Your rifle is your best friend!" How many times had we heard this? After a short moment I heard the plane's engine accelerate as rifle shots could be heard along the shore as the plane sped away.

Later that morning our Company moved out in column or columns going up the hill since we knew that Yontan was secure. We had already heard the news of the Jap plane landing without realizing it was in the Marines' hands already, and the fellows had taken care of him. That plane was there, plus others damaged and remnants of planes scattered about. It was my first

experience seeing plane revetments. Several of these semi-circle earth embankments encircled the field.

I believe it was that day we came upon an enormous sink hole. It had to be fifty or more feet deep and at last a hundred feet across with a cave to one side at the bottom. Some demolition had been used earlier so a few Marines were at the edge of the cave calling in for someone to come out, "De-Te-Coi!", but got no response.---Frank Kukuchka

While on Guadalcanal, when guarding the brig, (why a Corpsman was guarding the brig, I can't remember) containing a few Marines.---The Island was secured when we got there. Let me back up a little.--- We arrived at Guadalcanal in the evening and there was a nice moon out in fact it was a scene that was just like you see in the movies of a south seas island. It was absolutely beautiful. As I said before, the Island was already secured but some Japs were still around and occasionally would be captured around the mess hall where they were trying to steal food. One was always aware of their presence and the night I had the guard duty, the prisoners were all asleep and I heard some rustling in the brush, well I didn't know what it was but it was a scary situation, it turned out to be land crabs that were mating. Apparently they did this a couple times a year and one time one of the guys left the bottom of his mosquito netting out from under the mattress and a crab got into his bunk, well he almost tore that tent apart trying to get out of there when he discovered it.---Fred Fears

I was born and raised in Warrentville, SC, and I went to Boot Camp at Parris Island in 1944 about April. I was 19 years old when we were on Okinawa.

After you [Ken Long] joined the Company, we must have been together throughout the rest of the battle cause I sure remember most of the things you wrote about in that book you sent me. [Joe Bledsoe was my fire team and later my squad leader all the while I was with "I" Company. Several former Marines and I wrote of our experiences and made a monograph of them. This is the book Joe is referring to]---Joe Bledsoe

It seems we had a pinochle game going on all the time, we never did play for money. We played some poker but it was for small stakes.

No, I never did get sea sickness.

I got off of the ship at Mog Mog and played a little softball.

Yeah, I think we passed the Franklin, that aircraft carrier, it was really shot up.---Joe Bledsoe

We had three rifle platoons each with a platoon leader and when we landed the three were John Stone, 1st plt; Stumpy Seibert, 2nd plt and myself, 3rd plt.. Bill Vellman, was platoon leader of the Mortar Platoon. Dutch (Robert) Hontz, was the platoon leader of the Machine Gun Platoon. When we were first formed, Don McCafferty was our Company Commander with Harvey

Brooks as Executive Officer and a short time later we got Maj. Jim Brock as CO. The Headquarters Platoon might have been under the Executive Officer. As I remember, each platoon had a runner. John O'Leary was runner for the 3rd Platoon. Each platoon leader had a runner, and when the platoon leaders were called together to discuss action for the day etc, the runners would be used to inform squad leaders etc. Each platoon had a platoon sergeant but I dont think we had our full number of those.---Lawrence Sullivan

I was platoon sgt for the 60 mm mortar section for "I" Company, 29th Marines during the battle for Okinawa.

I was born and raised in Ohio, about 5 miles from where I live right now. I graduated from High School in 1940, and went right in the Marine Corps. I had an older brother that went in the Corps in 1938 so I just followed suit. In 1942 I had a younger brother who went in the Corps too and was later killed when the USS Indianapolis was sunk by a Japanese submarine. My older brother was aboard the USS Carolina and was wounded during the battle of Savo Island.

I went to Boot Camp at Parris Island and then went to Quantico, with a guard company, from there went to Washington DC where I was detached from the Marine Corps and assigned to Admiral Ernest J. King. I was a Corporal at the time. There were six Marines from Quantico and six from the Philadelphia Navy Yard assigned to Admiral King as his personal body guard. He told us when we joined him that he could have had security agents but they would keep log on what he did and where he went and since he didn't want that information known, he selected the Marines instead and all of us were sworn to secrecy. As the world found out later he was quite a gad and we went to Casablanca with him as well as Cairo Terhran Conference, and traveled several times with President Roosevelt. When we returned from the Conference, my brothers had both seen combat and I hadn't so I asked for a transfer which he first denied and later granted. I went to Lejeune and joined the cadre which formed the 29th Marine Regiment, in 1944. We went to Guadalcanal on the "snortin Morton", [USS Gen Morton] the latter part of 1944. I was 23 years old when I was on Okinawa.---William Cromling

We landed on the Canal during the night and there was nothing set up for us, they just dropped us off at the beach and took off. We did some swimming and fishing but most of the time we were in training and in the beginning, we trained for 7 days a week, in fact the Chaplains had to gripe about it so we could get time off to go to church. Bleasdale was in command of the Regiment and he was very, very tough when it came to training.---Maurice Vail

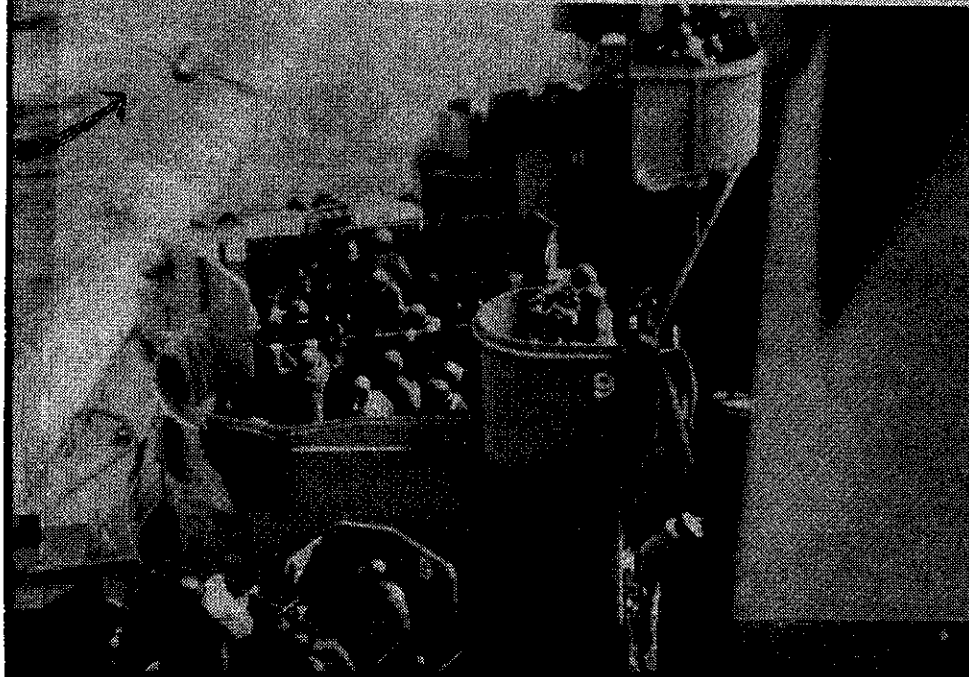
I and about six other guys from the Regiment had advanced swimming certificates and while on the Canal, our job was to teach the non swimmers of the Regiment to swim. All of them were natural floaters but they just didn't know it. I was a platoon Sgt.---Claude Killian

There were four guys in our platoon, one was Randall Snyder, John Hermanies, a guy named Sampson [Robert] and Hanslik, [Harrison] these guys were brains---I mean, I'm talking about brains. There was an army radio station on the Canal and they would have quizzes like what was Stan Musial's batting average in 1940 etc.. those guys knew all of the answers. They would get on the radio and challenge any group of guys from the Solomon Islands to a quiz contest. Their ranks were two Pfc's and two Cpls. I don't think they ever lost.---Charles Miller

On the second or third day we came upon an airfield (I don't think it was Yontan) and we saw quite a few dead Japanese in a row as though they had been killed by planes on a strafing run.---
-Harvey Brooks

Kamikaze planes were coming in constantly, putting the beach and ships on "condition red". Condition red was preceded by condition yellow which meant all friendly aircraft was supposed to get out of the sky. When condition red occurred, the sky became filled with tracers and anti-aircraft fire. When we huddled beneath our shelter halves the debris from the anti-aircraft shell explosions often bounced off the tents. Once, during condition yellow, a Navy pilot did not make it to his carrier or airfield before condition red was sounded. He was still in the air and wanted to be recognized as friendly to avoid being shot down. He flew his plane low in front of about a dozen LST's berthed side by side along the beach. It did not work. Every LST in line opened up on the plane and it went down and crashed at the end of the line.---Declan Klingenhagen, D/2/29/6

KAMIKAZE ATTACKS resulted in many hits, more near misses. U. S. S. Sangamon (above) was just missed but was hit in a later attack. Another near miss (below) sent U. S. battleship Missouri's gunners scurrying from upper turret while those in Turret 9 looked to see what was going on.



Apr 3

April 3,--Picked up gear and moved out, up on the hill and out across Yontan Airfield. Many Nip planes are wrecked on the runways and several in the revetments. Already our observation planes have landed. C.Bs. will have it in shape today for the fighter planes by tomorrow.

Bivouacked about a mile past the airfield, east of it. Everything so calm and peaceful can't believe there's a war on. Saw only one casualty this morning and he was shot through the leg by one of his own men.

Set up my shelter by a Nip sniper hole. Cpl. Sharp and I went out looking for everything in general. Found a radio shop with a lit of gear in it. I found some batteries and a big light bulb so I rigged up a light in my shelter.

Went through some of the native huts, found lots of books, letters and kimonos. Every house has goats about it, few chickens too, but no other living soul.

Had church services in the afternoon: Easter Tuesday.

Lot of Nip barracks and sheds around here, all camouflaged very cleverly. Boys ran into a dump of shelters. Theirs are gray and are rubberized.---Frank Kukuchka

I was born in Richland County, near Columbia, SC, and was raised about 17 miles from here in Bishopville, in Lee County, where I finished high school and then the war came along. So I enlisted and didn't come back til 1946. I went to Parris Island for my Boot Training in November or December of 1942 and went on active duty in January or February, 1943. My platoon number was 54 but they didn't take a picture of our platoon; some they did and some they didn't. All the guys east of the Mississippi went to Parris Island and those west of the Mississippi went to San Diego. While we were there we had an outbreak of meningitis so they shipped us right out, we didn't even have to go on "KP". When we landed on Okinawa, I had just turned 20 years old. I was assigned to the Headquarters Platoon.---Hubert Welch

I do remember a guy in our unit we called Brownie, he came from a small farm in Missouri and to him the only way to farm was with a mule, and he had no use for tractors. A tractor was just not what God intended.---Fred Pears

I remember when I first joined "I" Company, Lt Stone, told me to take it easy as we were going to an area and it was called Pass Out Hill, because it was a steep climb but I told him if a Marine can do it Lt, I can do it. Going up the hill the flame thrower guy fainted from the heat and after I treated him, I carried his flame thrower the rest of the way up the hill for him. Someone told me Lt Stone, was a track star and he could have been because as I recall he had real long legs and had the build of a track star. I thought, at that age, I could walk forever, but when Lt Stone set the pace we were just about flying. When we went in the jungle for training we had to cut our way through the

vegetation with our machetes and we had to do this everyday even if we had been in the same area the day before.---Fred Pears

The thing I remember about Guadalcanal was getting the broadcast of Tokyo Rose, all of us guys liked her alot cause she did a good job of playing the latest music.

We sure had a lot of rain and during our spare time we used to go swimming.---Joe Bledsoe

We were in reserve and didn't land right away. It was before we got to Okinawa, and I think Bleasdale gave us a talk and said since we were in reserve, we wouldn't land for a couple days. The way it turned out though we landed about noon on April 1st, for some reason. Before we left the ship, I think it was Col Bleasdale that said, "God bless you all and give'm hell".

I sure remember the first night cause I think a person could have stepped from one tracer shell to the other in the sky, it sure was lit up.---Joe Bledsoe

Stabinsky was from Pennsylvania, and was one of the oldest men in the outfit. [he was with the Mortar Platoon] It was about February, 1945 and when we boarded ship for Okinawa a contingent had to be selected to stay behind to do the cleanup and also other miscellaneous jobs. Some were very happy to get the assignment but Stabinsky took an opposite view and wanted to go with his unit in the worst way. He actually begged to go with the group but it didn't do any good and so he went out and killed himself.---Lawrence Sullivan

We used to hitch hike to the Sea Bee area some distance from where we were camped on Guadalcanal, and ate at their mess hall, they had good food.---William Cromling

To me it was surprising no one was killed during the training we had on the Canal as I recall during one of our landings, the landing craft sunk during bad weather and everyone was splashing around in the water without any lifebelts or anything. I felt as though I was adequately trained, in fact, sometimes I thought we were over trained. Bill Cromling told me an interesting story about when he was wounded and in a hospital in Hawaii. Some doctors said he must be a member of the 29th Marines because he withstood all of his operations and other medical treatment so well. They went on to say it appeared the physical training they received seemed to help the guys recover from the wounds they experienced.---Maurice Vail

While on Guadalcanal we did quite a few things we shouldn't have done like liberating a whole truckload of food and other things. We used to go over to the Sea Bee's mess hall on Saturdays and Sundays cause those guys ate good. In fact I think we would have starved to death if it wouldn't have been for them. They were a fine bunch of guys.---Claude Killian

During the middle of April the suicide plane attacks were at

their peak both day and night and reminded me of a huge fireworks display on the 4th of July. There is no doubt that the sailors aboard the ships being attacked and the pilots of our planes looked at it from a different prospective. Funnels of black smoke were seen rising from the ships that had been hit and this was seen many times during this period. One imagined the frustration and fear of the sailors aboard those vessels when a suicide plane was coming closer and closer, and then---the final impact!

Army, Navy and Marine pilots involved in the battle during that time were sure getting the attention of all of us on the beach as they were zooming through the sky chasing zeros, suicide planes or whatever they were chasing, in fact, as we watched from below there was cheering or groaning, depending on the outcome of the fight. Fortunately there was mostly cheering. One incident took place on a clear and sunny afternoon a short distance off the beach and so it was in full view of the troops working there. A fighter plane (I think a Corsair) flew parallel with the beach at about 2000 feet. It was directly out from us and there was a short burst of anti-aircraft fire from a small ship that was anchored not far from shore,(being unloaded) the Corsair went down. There was dead silence in the group that was around me and the only thing I heard was someone yell,"you trigger happy bastard". Everyone returned to work. (The sentiment in that marine's statement expressed the feeling of the entire group at that time, however had we known of the situations that we would be placed in a short time later I am sure we would have had a bit more compassion for the guy that pulled the trigger.)---Kenneth Long

Yes, our training on Guadalcanal was strenuous and 25 mile hikes were common. Of course back then we could walk forever it seemed. We used to walk to the top of a hill, I think the guys called it Pass Out Hill, quite often, and during the hot and humid weather on the Canal, it sure tested one's endurance. I was the Company Executive Officer at the time.---Harvey Brooks

Mountains of supplies were being unloaded at the beaches by now and the question entered my mind as to why so many pieces of equipment and so many supplies were needed. It was years later when I heard this explanation: It is a known fact that if you put a Marine in a small, bare room and give him two ball bearings. Lock the door and just leave him alone for 24 hours. At the end of that time when you let him out of his confinement you will find he has lost one ball bearing and broken the other. Marines are hard on their equipment.---Kenneth Long

SECTION 2

The Battle Up North

The Sixth Division

by Captain James R. Stockman, USMCR
Historical Division, Marine Corps Headquarters

By 4 April, the division had driven across the base of the Ishikawa Isthmus, and, together with the First Marine Division, had bisected the island. Thus the Sixth Marine Division began what was called Phase II (Campaign for Northern Okinawa) before Phase I (Capture of Southern Okinawa) was little more than started. On this day the Twenty-ninth Marines were released to the division as reserve. In daily advances that averaged 7,000 yards, the division moved rapidly, reconnoitering the inland terrain as it went, and by 7 April had reached the city of Nago at the base of Motobu Peninsula.

At this time Gen. Shepherd ordered the Twenty-ninth Marines to seek out and destroy the enemy on Motobu. Meanwhile, the Twenty-second and Fourth Marines were ordered to continue on up the remainder of Northern Okinawa. The Twenty-second Marines advanced along the northwest inland. At the same time the Fourth Marines moved slowly along the opposite coast over difficult roads. On 8 April the Twenty-ninth Marines moved out in three battalion columns, one along the south coast, one along the north coast and the third up the center of the peninsula. Light resistance was encountered but no contacts were made with other than small enemy pockets.

Captured civilians, enemy soldiers, and aerial observation had revealed that the main bulk of the Japanese forces were in Southern Okinawa, but that there was a sizable enemy force on Motobu named for and commanded by Colonel Udo. By 10 April the 3rd Battalion, Twenty-ninth Marines, had advanced around the southwest coast and made contact with Udo's force at Toguchi. The 1st Battalion was also in contact with the same force west of Itomi, in the center of the peninsula. As this dual contact was being established, the 2nd Battalion seized the enemy midget submarine base at Unten Ko on the northeast coast meeting no serious resistance.

In the next three days, contact with the enemy was maintained in the rugged and mountainous territory northwest and southwest of Itomi. Ambushes were frequent, and it was soon seen that Udo's force was attempting a form of guerrilla warfare. By 13 April, the enemy position was definitely fixed as being in the Mt. Yaetake area, where he was known to have considerable artillery and naval guns emplaced in hidden positions in the mountainous terrain.

In choosing Mr. Yaetake, Udo had selected excellent ground for defense. Its commanding elevations provided excellent observation in every direction, and rough terrain prevented use of mechanized equipment by the attackers. Therefore, it was apparent to Gen. Shepherd that additional troops would be required to destroy Uno's force. So he ordered the Fourth Marines, less its 3rd Battalion, to move to Sakimotobu and join

the 3rd Battalion, Twenty-ninth, which was near-by. Next he ordered a coordinated attack for 14 April, with the Fourth Marines driving in an easterly direction while the two battalions of the Twenty-ninth, near Itomi, drove west and southwest in an effort to reduce the Yaetake position. With the high Yaetake hill mass between them, the two regiments were afforded the opportunity of attacking toward each other without great danger of overlapping supporting fires.

The attack of 14 April was successful, although resistance was bitter and casualties high. One battalion commander was killed and several company commanders wounded. In the zone of the Fourth Marines, troops moved rapidly to the first high ground west of Yaetake and secured positions from which to launch the attack of the next day. The attack was resumed on 15 April. The Fourth Marines, with the 3rd Battalion, Twenty-ninth Marines attached, drove up the approaches to Mr. Yaetake. The 1st Battalion seized a key hill mass southwest of the Mr. Yaetake peak after extremely bitter fighting. At the same time, the Twenty-ninth Marines continued to drive into the rear of the Yaetake position against intermittent resistance, and over rugged terrain.

Next day the Sixth Marine Division prepared to attack the enemy from three sides in a giant nutcracker. The 1st Battalion of the Twenty-second Marines was directed to advance from Awa, where it had been in division reserve and close the gap between the two attacking regiments. By nightfall, and after the hardest fighting, the Fourth Marines seized Mr. Yaetake. The Twenty-ninth, now under Colonel Whaling, USMC, swung to the west and north, destroying fixed emplacements and enemy groups as it moved.

Next morning Col. Shapley in command of the Fourth, reoriented his direction of attack. While his two left battalions held their positions in support, he sent his other two battalions across their front. Opposition was entirely overwhelmed, and nightfall saw both regiments on high ground south of the Toguchi-Itomi Road. The nutcracker had closed its jaws.

On 19 April, the two regiments began a coordinated drive to secure the remaining high ground between the Toguchi-Itomi road and the north coast of Motobu. The 3rd Battalion, Twenty-ninth Marines, moved by truck from Toguchi to Itomi and struck rapidly at the crowning hill mass. There they found previously prepared enemy positions unmanned and a considerable number of dead bodies lying where they had apparently been hit by artillery and naval gunfire. It was known that several hundred enemy troops had succeeded in fleeing from Motobu and were at large somewhere in northern Okinawa.

Next day, 20 April, all units reached the northern coast of Motobu and quickly engaged in mountain warfare of the most rugged sort. It cost the Sixth Division 207 men killed, 757 wounded, and 6 missing. Of the Japanese, 2014 were killed. In material, the enemy lost 11 field pieces of 75- and 150mm; two 6 inch naval cannon and large numbers of mortars, machine guns and 20mm antiaircraft guns.

While the fighting raged on Motobu, the Twenty-second

Marines, commanded by Colonel Merlin F. Schneider, USMC, continued its march up the northern part of the island. On 13 April, in order to secure Hedo Misaki Peninsula at an early date the 2nd Battalion moved by forced march and encountered scattered resistance as it seized the northern tip of the island. After Hedo Misaki had been occupied, patrols were sent down the east coast where they contacted other patrols from the south at Aha on 19 April.

By 20 April, all of Okinawa north of the original landing beaches had been secured, but it was known that some small enemy groups were still at large. Such a group, numbering about 200, was contacted by the 1st Battalion, Twenty-second Marines, near Taniyo-take, a hill mass immediately southeast of Motobu. In two days of heavy fighting the battalion destroyed most of the enemy group, but some elements escaped to join another remnant of the Motobu battle. On 27 April this group was located, and two battalions of the Twenty-second Marines moved southward in a forced night march from Hentona toward the suspected area. At the same time, the 3rd Battalion, Fourth Marines, moved inland from Kawada. Contact was made by the latter at noon. The battalion maneuvered swiftly around the enemy group and forced it to fight on unfavorable ground. This move knocked out most of the enemy group.

During the latter part of April, the Sixth Marine Division deployed its regiments to garrison and patrol northern Okinawa. All units began a period of rest and rehabilitation while they re-equipped themselves and received replacements. The month of April had seen the new division move over 84 miles, seize 436 square miles of enemy territory, capture 46 prisoners and account for 2500 enemy dead. Its own losses consisted of 236 men killed and 1061 wounded in action.

All during the fighting on Motobu, the men of the Sixth Marine Division had heard stories of the fighting down south. They had heard that the XXIV Corps had run into a virtual stalemate; that some sixty thousand of the enemy were offering fierce resistance from concealed positions; that the enemy was using mortars and artillery on an unprecedented scale; and that the enemy troops in southern Okinawa were excellent soldiers, well-disciplined, and well-prepared to fight a long and costly campaign. The Sixth sensed their help would be needed. This guess proved correct.

April 4

April 4,--Took an early shave and a bath in a fast running small stream down by the rice paddies. Cpl, Tellinghusien was wallowing in the water like a Nebraska hog. Good to get cleaned up again.

Looked around for souvenirs. Nothing very decent.

A fellow from G Company was killed by a Nip from inside a cave. The cave was demolished.

Wrote Ruth my first message from here on two post cards I found. The envelope was in very bad shape.---Frank Kukuchka

I can't remember much about 1st Sgt Berry but I can recall he wasn't wounded or killed and he did go to China with us. He was quite a bit older than we were. Of course he and I were in the Headquarters Platoon. We had become pretty good friends.---Hubert Welch

I didn't go ashore for the beer party at the Ulithi Island group, I guess the name of the island was Mog Mog. Instead, aboard ship they had Claud Thornhill and His Raiders, it was a jazz band that entertained us. It was held on the deck and it was raining very heavy that day and the band arrived and performed but since most of the guys went ashore, there was a very small audience. When the guys did return to the ship, most of them were so smashed from their beer drinking, they couldn't make it up the landing nets and the ship's Captain had to order the ship's ladder or ramp to be lowered so we wouldn't lose most of the Marines to the ocean. The next day, after the guys were halfway sober, the Captain got on the loud speaker and told them that he had never witnessed a spectacle like that as long as he had been in the Navy and we should all be ashamed of ourselves. I don't think his comments made too much of an impression on the guys though, most of them were just to hung over.

During the days prior to landing we had poker games going like crazy. During a black jack game I was in I won about five hundred dollars but I won it too late to be banked as U.S. dollars and had to take it ashore as Japanese occupational money and I think the money I carried took up as much space in my pack as the rest of my equipment, as everyone knows this money was very useless on the Island.---Fred Pears

Stabinsky, was considerably older than the rest of us, and he was bound and determined he was going to keep up with us and his age was not going to stand in his way. He did everything that anyone else was asked to do and when we went on our shake down cruise, where we made a practice landing near Cape Esperance on Guadalcanal, he was left as rear guard, and according to Lt Vellman, our Platoon Leader, Stabinsky was not told it was a practice session and he thought we had left the Island for combat. The first night we were out, he was on guard duty and he killed himself.---William Cromling

Yes, I got off the ship and had a few beers at Mog Mog, we

played some softball and that's all we did. The USS Franklin was anchored close to us and some of the fires were still burning on it. When the wind was right, one could smell the bodies burning from below deck I suppose.---Maurice Vail

On our way we stopped off at an Island in the Ulithi group called Mog Mog where we got off the ship for a day and went ashore for a couple beers; quite a few!---Claude Killian

I was 23 years old when I was on Okinawa. While at Guadalcanal we had heard we might be going as support for the guys on Iwo Jima. In fact all of our supplies were already on the beach. Since those guys could handle it themselves, we went on to Okinawa.---Harvey Brooks



U.S. anti-aircraft fire fills the sky above Yomitan airfield, striking off a Japanese air raid.

April 5

April 5.---Got word this morning we were moving up to relieve the 22nd. Pulled out shortly before noon. Took to the road past Yontan Airfield to the western beach, past Bolo Point and up. A forced march of 18 miles. Some swell scenes along here. High rocky cliffs and pine tree hills. All marveled at the skill used to make the lengthy sea wall all up along the beach. Most every village we passed was either burning or yet smoldering. Some of them were quite in tact.

All fogged out when we reached the bivouac area near some village. Dug in again. A quiet night. Had a shelter of house panels but plenty cold.

(A correction to my writing [earlier] about crossing the island to the Pacific side. That was written from memory, including the days events up to the 12th. Since Bolo Point is located at the end of a narrow portion of land that juts out westward into the China Sea, following the northern coast would make it appear going north and the ocean to the right being the Pacific.)---Frank Kukuchka

I recall going in to the beach and I think that was one of the most lonely times I've ever experienced, there still was artillery going over supporting the other units who already landed but we had to keep our heads down and couldn't look outside so see what was going on around us. After landing, we headed for the airfield [Yontan] and that is where we spent the first night. Someone shot a pig and some of us had roast pig for supper.---Fred Pears

I remember Mog Mog very well, most of the guys got off the ship and went to this small island where we all got stinking drunk and very sick before returning to our ship.---William Cromling

We landed about four hours after the initial waves went in and headed north. At times supplies, especially water was scarce, I suppose because we were moving so fast and the roads were in such bad shape with bridges blown out and all, it was difficult for the supplies to keep up. We had a few chickens on the way up and I recall Gy/Sgt Taylor, getting a pig that we ate.---Maurice Vail

We had some good officers in our outfit. "Snuffy" Seibert was our Platoon Leader.---Claude Killian

April 6

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
4/6/45	1537	Rad From: We are in pos and preparing to dig in for night--Our rt flank is 1.3 miles from beach. (Action: s, m)
	1630	Msg Cen To: My CP at 0411 Y(2) (Action: Div, 1/29, 2/29, 3/29, Wpns/29-info 4th, 22nd)
	1640	Rad To 1/29, 2/29, 3/29: Dig in on present position and organize for night--Illumination forward of own front line posns--Units arrange own NGF and Arty.
	1700	Rad Fr: 4th Marines have reported they cannot tie in with us tonight. Patrols touring daylight hours only. (Action: s)
	1705	Rad To: Make every effort to contact 4th on your right. 6th Div directs. (Action: s)
	1910	Rad To x,s,1/29, 2/29, 3/29: Bastille-2 estimate in North of Island: One (1) Bn of 144th Mixed Brigade, Navy Guard (2200 troops) --Possible landing Apr 7 in north--For info: 24 Corps reports 687 Nips killed, 5 POW's taken--63 U.S. soldiers KIA, 400 U.S. wounded
	2000	Rad Fr 6th Div: Send runner to tell CO 6th Recon Co to report to Bastille CP immediately--Recon Co CP at 0310Q (Action: ss team to Recon Co)
	2128	Rad Fr 4th Mar: Front lines are rt flank 0807 V, left flank 0708 K--CP at 0805 Q(1)
	2305	Rad Fr 6th Div: Have recieved word that there will probably be a big counter attack tonight.

April 6,--This is our big day. We go into the Assault. (We were told). Everone heavy laden with Nip and Marine blankets and gear. Our Lt. Sullivan said, "Lighten Up!" Another dusty road march of about 18 miles. Really getting up to the hilly country now. We passed a few piers and some small villages. Bivouacked along the slope of a big hill. Saw the first dead Nips since on the island. A tank buster got one. Second Battalion got several others.

Had lots of fun riding a horse while we waited to be assigned to our area. Dead tired, yet time for amusement. Cleaned and shaved in this area. Dug in. Luddecke and myself. Got chilly again. Some firing at stray civilians prowling around.---Frank Kukuchka

I think that one of the creeks the guys used to swim in on Guadalcanal, was called Cominsky Creek.---Donald E Briscoe

Stabinsky, was the name the Marine that committed suicide on Guadalcanal because they were going to make him stay behind in

the rear echelon to guard the tents or supplies that we left behind when we left for combat. He was an older fellow.---Donald E Briscoe

We left for Okinawa in March of 1945, on the way they let us get off the ship on a small island called Mog Mog and we had quite a beer bust. When they took us back to our ship they made us climb up the nets on the side of the ship. Some of us had a little trouble getting up those nets.---Donald E Briscoe

I was born in the Queens, NY and enlisted in the Marine Corp in 1942 at Parris Island. I was 17 years old when I went in and spent most of my time in Tent City, and Camp Lejeune, before I went overseas to Guadalcanal. During the first couple years I was training but when Gen. Vandergrift became the Commandant he made the statement, "There are two kinds of Marines, those fighting and those about to". He was as good as his word and I was sent overseas shortly after that.---Martin Sucoff

I was with the original "I" Company when we landed on Okinawa. I was born in Millville, West Virginia, and went to Parris Island for my Boot Camp during 1944. I was 18 years old during the battle. I was with the MPs in New Jersey before I shipped overseas to Guadalcanal, where I joined "I" Company.

We made a lot of practice landings while we were on Guadalcanal and had a lot of other training too.---Granville Longerbeam

During the landing on the Island, I wondered what I got myself into. We went down the landing nets along side the ship into the landing boats below.---Granville Longerbeam

There was no opposition on the beach when we landed and the only living thing I saw around there besides other Marines was one old horse. We dug in and the only thing I can remember were all of the air raids we had, most of the planes were after our ships. There were no big trees on our way up north, it seemed more like large shrubs. Some trees were right big but most were smaller.---Granville Longerbeam

Brown, Pates, Hermanies and myself and sometimes Rossi, used to go to the Red Cross on Guadalcanal before the campaign and challenge other units to quiz contests and we never lost once. The Red Cross girls used to invite us down for dinner and they had meat and potatoes, the works. We went on picnics, we were well liked down there. When I was wounded and left Okinawa on the 20th of May for Guam, I got off the plane and one of the Red Cross girls was there, and she said, "Ken!," came and threw her arms around me and everything and whispered in my ear, "Do you want some ice cream? We're running out and don't have enough to go around." Well, she brought me some ice cream and some of the Marines standing there asked, "Who is that guy?"---Ken Aust

I think Rufus Spivey was 35 years old or more and because of

his age he was left back at Guadalcanal. There were a couple others too. Arch McCormick was one. A fellow by the name of Board was our Company Carpenter on the Canal but for some reason he never went to Okinawa with us. He was a guy that cooked french fried potatoes all the time.

I don't know if Louis Simmons got the Purple Heart or not.

G/Sgt Taylor did get a Purple Heart.

I can't remember whether Harry Bertram got the Purple Heart or not.

I heard if a person went into the Marines before they were 19 years old, they got a low number but if they were older they got a higher one.

I can't remember James Bordlemay.

The name Robert Holton doesn't ring a bell either.

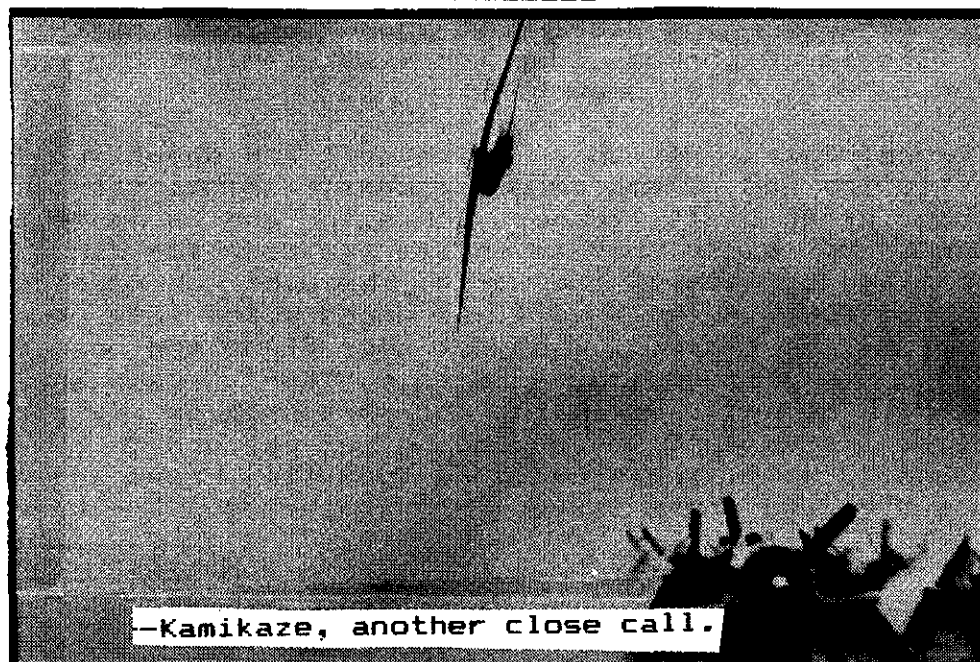
Ivan Zahler doesn't ring a bell.

Pfc Ed Cleary got a Purple Heart.---Hubert Welch

1st Sgt Berry, Plt/Sgt McQuillam, Plt/Sgt Fowler, I believe they were all in there late 30s. G/Sgt Harold Taylor was another one that was in his late 30s he kind of dogged off when we were training but when we got into combat he sure showed his colors.--Hubert Welch

Today we caught up to the Marines that had gone in ahead of us. [The 22nd and 4th Marines] We were spread out and sweeping through wide sparsely overgrown fields. Shots were fired occasionally on both sides of the flanks, possible snipers or trigger happy Marines. When we set up for the night we were told to find bulky things to cover our fox holes with because a Jap air invasion was expected during the night and shrapnel from our ship's weapons could be landing in our are, but nothing came of it.---Frank Kukuchka

As I recall, the name of our jeep driver was Tincher. He was a porky, heavy set guy.---Harvey Brooks



---Kamikaze, another close call.

"2" & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
4/7/45	0945	Rad To 2/29, 3/29: Daphne (3/29) pass through 2/29--Advance to O--F.
	1246	Rad To: 1st Bn 15th wants your O.K. to shoot on island at 0118 I (4).
	1505	Rad Fr: No War Dogs with our unit.
	1730	Tp From: Patrols report no contact with 4th Marines.

Marines Wounded
4/7/45 Souza Albert Pvt 989782

April 7.--What great luck for Co. I. this morning. Descended from the hill to the main road, got on top of tanks. "Ah! We ride!" But how far? Two miles perhaps, when we, 3rd platoon had to make an assault on a small village. We did make the charge but it seemed like a joke after it was over, nerving ourselves up as that and only capturing two civilians. Lost lot of time besides. Had to do a long forced march to catch up with the main column. After we did we had to march back again a couple of miles with the Company for the area was untenable at that point. A village with myriads of flies.

The third platoon stayed back as rear guard and then as a road block about 1000 yds. from camp area. At five in the evening we pulled in with the main force. Got an easy place to dig in at the beach just outside a big village. Steep hills all around. Sullivan got sore because we still insist on putting up panel shelters.---Frank Kukuchka

During this time we came upon a small creek where we washed up and shaved, then later as we moved across the Island we ran into a group of Geisha girls all decked out in their kimonos. One, with a big brimmed hat was the English spokes-person for the group. She was all painted up like a bordello madam and the Marines near this group all went batty with excitement, with whistles and cat calls, "Geisha!" "Geisha!" Most others kept their guard just in the event this was a Japanese trick to distract us.---Frank Kukuchka

No, we didn't get any rides on the way up north, in fact I can't remember seeing a truck up north, until we came back.---Joe Bledsoe

We had some tanks and some of us rode on them to get up north faster but we didn't ride all the way.---Lawrence Sullivan

"2" & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
4/8/45	0725	Rad Fr: We killed 2 Nips last night. (Action: s (R-2) Div)
	0735	Tp Fr: 3/29 off on time (0730). (Action: x, s,)
	0856	Rad From: Position of "I" Co. 0418 Q1.
	0910	Rad Fr: Request Engrs 0618-C-1
	0931	Rad Fr: I Co. on coast road nearly on objective-- G Co just behind preparing to send out patrols as assigned--H Co patrolled to 0618 C1--Civilian talking English captured--Bridge out at 0618 Engineers Req traffic tied up.(Action: m, x, s, info-Div)
	0940	Rad To: Engineers assigned you are forward of your troops on coast road--Use them to clear road at 0618.
	1015	Rad Fr: H Co patrols have reached 0521 W5. (Action: m, s)
	1120	Rad To: Hold H Co in present position until all of 3rd Bn can advance beyond 0---H.
	1137	Rad Fr: H Co has met moderate resistance at 0521--Three wounded--Patrols pushing ahead. (Action: m, s, 6 Div)
	1200	Rad Fr: 3rd Bn CP at 0318 F2--G Co has killed three Nips at 0319 K--H Co CP at [??] (Action: m, s, 6th Div)
	1301	Rad Fr: Civilians report about 1500 Nips on Motobu Peninsula. (Action: m, s)
	1310	Rad Fr: Rcn Co reports road to <u>suga</u> impassible due to mine fields--Have sent Recon Party out--In event road impassible request permission to stop at <u>Awa</u> . (Action: s, pw)
	1320	Msg Cen (OP) To: Request situation How Company--Urgent.(Action: Daphne 6)
	1325	Rad To: Permission granted to hold up at 0119 G.
	1340	Rad To: Occupy and defend <u>Awa</u> for night--One Co in Regtl reserve at <u>Yabu</u> .
	1356	Rad Fr: Situation H Co--1 man killed, 2 wounded due to light sniper fire--Patrols at <u>Yabu</u> . (Action: x, s)
	1415	Rad Fr: Two companies at <u>Yomanuwa</u> --One Co at <u>AWA</u> -- Request further instructions concerning Regtl reserve.
	1415	Rad To: Occupy and defend town at 0119 G,H&I, 3rd Bn less one Company--One Company reverts to Regtl reserve vicinity town at 0418 B&C.
	1528	Rad Fr: Request that town of <u>AWA</u> be sprayed with DDT it's infested with flies.
	1607	Rad Fr: Our present position runs through 0119 F3, A4, B2, C3, H4, M4. (Action: m,s)

1730 Msg Cen To: 1/29 digging in at 0522 R--
Engaged in fire fight--Nips KIA 10.
2/29 digging in on O--H Line--Outpost at 0725
W1. 3/29 organizing area 0119-- (Msg showed
0199)
2000 Rad To: How Co reverts to you at daylight.
(Action: s)

April 8.--We pushed out early in the morning. Reconnaissance warned us of mines, and so we did run into road mines, several of them. Also a couple of road blocks, deep pits in the road and all the way across. A live sign of the enemy.

A sniper far up in the hills kept popping at us while we were digging in our bivouac area. They just left the present area. We found their fresh cooked rice and mess gear. Expected trouble but got none.---Frank Kukuchka

I was actually a jack of all trades with "I" Company. Mostly I handled communications and my main job was to string the wire for the telephones between the Company CP and the Platoons. I was responsible too for the company runners and we had four or five utility men. In addition at times I acted as a runner, brought in the replacements, carried supplies to the front, and other things. No, each platoon didn't have a runner, the Executive Officer (Lt Brooks) had one assigned to him, (Pfc Shakeshaft).

Of course I was a runner too as well as two Marines with a rank of Field Music, [We had six men with ranks of Field Music, FM 1st Junior E. Parker, FM 1st Anthony Peralta, FM 1st Horace R. Stradley, FM 1st Otto V. Trignano, FM James J. Marciano and FM/Cpl Alvin L. Pruett.] in addition I was 1st Sgt Berry's right hand person as I did a lot of stuff for him.

Records were hard to keep straight over there, It was pretty much Berry's job to get the muster roll and other reports out but he got most of his information from us guys on who got killed or wounded and stuff like that. We'd write everything on a piece of paper and send it back to Battalion since they are guys who had the typewriters etc., they did our muster rolls. We sent this information back just about every morning. It was a status report on our Company including who was killed, wounded, sick bay, replacements who came in.---Hubert Welch

We crossed over to the Pacific side of the Island the next day and moved up the coast road. This I remember because of the attractive stone sea wall there that supported the road. We moved inland again, assaulted a small village by house to house action but found no enemy soldiers, just a few civilians, some chickens, ducks, geese and an old horse. We bivouacked up hill outside this village using some mats we found passing through and got infested by one of the Japanese irritating, secret weapons: Them nasty fleas! Couldn't sleep all night. this was worse than being shot at, it felt at times.---Frank Kukuchka

We kept moving North-West, passing through Chuda and Nago. Some homes along the road that were not destroyed had the nice,

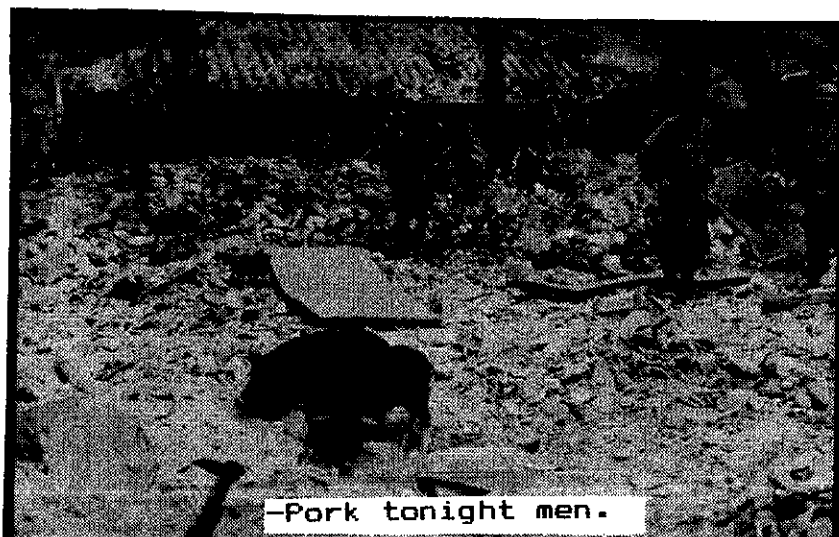
red tile roofs on them, with fierce looking animal gargoyles looking at you.

This was only April but I noticed sizeable cole plants in the natives gardens and some other plant which looked like sweet potatoes. The people didn't appear to be hostile and those that could speak English would answer your questions politely. I saw a couple groups of small children escorted by a woman attendant to an outside assemblage area for schooling. When I entered one home I was amazed to see, what looked like a one year old feeding itself mush with chop sticks.

For high winds and typhoon protection, some homes had stone walls around them, others had very high hedges. This part of the country was becoming more hilly and had a greater number of larger trees.---Frank Kukuchka

By Late afternoon on the eighth day we found land mines in the roadway that had to be cleared by our engineers so our support vehicles could come through. During all this advance northward we only encountered sporadic sniper fire along the way, but not casualties in our unit. We were coming into the Motobu portion of the Island. Just before dusk, part of our platoon or maybe just our squad, dug in on the higher portion of the beach for the night in case the Japs would use boats or swim in to infiltrate. Some of our amtracks were passing near us using the beach also because of the mines in the road.---Frank Kukuchka

The information for the Muster Rolls came from each unit but the actual preparation was done by Battalion HQ Company. 1st Sgt Berry was the one who handled all that for us, keeping track of the wounded and those killed, transferred etc and he got the information back to Battalion.---Lawrence Sullivan



-Pork tonight men.

"2" & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
4/9/45	0710	Rad Fr: No enemy activity during night.
	0912	Rad Fr: Structural supports of bridge at 9918 E are broken--Tank Reconnaissance reports bridge will not support tanks or TD 7's--Req inspection by Engr officer--Practically impossible to construct a bypass--will hold light traffic.
	0935	From 3rd for Div Bastille: Supports on Bridges at 0019 K4 destroyed Engineers say nothing larger than Recon can pass until 1200--2 deep ditches at 9819 V1 and V2--Suggest floating dozers in at 9819 V. (Action: R-4)
	0930	Tp Fr: 3rd Bn Patrols hitting sniper fire 0019 E1.
	0940	Rad To: Proceed to 9622 Y and patrol to interior-- Await orders there.
	0930	Rad Fr: We have reached <u>Suga</u> and are waiting for our patrols to complete their missions-- Upon their return will proceed unless otherwise instructed by you. (Action: m,s, info Div)
	0955	Msg Cen To: Current situation sent to all Buckshot units. (Action: All units)
	1055	Rad Fr: We are now at <u>Suga</u> --Request permission to push on.
	1228	Rad To: Where are your front lines--In general where are your patrols.
	1350	Rad Fr: Will secure at <u>Sakimotobu</u> --Having trouble communicating with Regt--Roads badly in need of repair--Will dig in S of town tonight--No Vehicles can traverse this road--Request LVT-A or LVT's be sent up for supplies and fire support.
	1450	Rad Fr: Have occupied town at 9622 Y--Encountered light sniper fire enroute--3 Nips killed--No casualties--Roads to my rear blocked in places--Impassible to all types of vehicles--Request you attach LVT's for balance of operation for supplies and evacuation--Impossible to employ tanks due to road conditions--Request LVTA's be substituted--Will remain in present position until tomorrow. (Action: m,s)
	1452	Rad Fr: Patrol dispatched through 9902 <u>Sakamatobu, Hamasaki, Momoyama</u> 9281.
	1500	Rad Fr NGF Ln O,3/29: My position 9621 O3 front line in perimeter 200 yards around outpost--Will not have com until 1730 hrs. (Action: m,s)
	1630	Rad Fr: Our Position 9621 O,K,P. (Action: m,s)
	1505	Rad To: Prepare all round Defense of ground

Con't
held--Report positions.
1700 Rad from: To NGF: What is our firing schedule
for tonight.
1810 Msgr From: Periodic Report recieved.
(Action: File)
1900 Msgr Fr: LMG brought in. (Light Automatic
Wpn) (Action: R-2)
1945 Msg Fr: Under atk--Request priority 81mm
mortar Am and night Illumination. (Action:
Notified Div at 2000)
2120 Intercept Fr NGF: Sit much improved--we're
recieving Mort & Arty fire. (Action: notified
Div, x, R-1)
2200 Rad Fr: via NFG: Our posn hit by 81mm &
3" Arty from 1900 to 1915--15 casualties.
(Action: notified Div)

Marines Wounded
4/9/45 Peralta Anthony FM/1st 836425

April 9,--Soon as all got up again we were annoyed by the sniper. Kept taking stray shots at our area. Just before we moved out we put some mortar and 37s in the hill but couldn't find him. Finally sent out a patrol the same time we moved out. He still was kicking dust all around us.

More road pits. More freshly dug and some shallower. Fresh tracks of a tank from one, Marched a good way up. Still along the beach. Bivouac area was a wide rounded knoll down near the beach. Steep mountains in the back.

Just after supper we got our first taste of the enemy. They put in a couple dozen shells from a mountain gun into our C.P.. At last we're on the heels of the sons of Nippons. Had our first casualties in the BN. Two killed, 12 wounded. Everyone dug in a few inches deeper after the shelling. Lilly and Sharp even built a barricade.

Rained all night. Our artillery shelled the hell out of the hills beyond us. Night required great vigilance. Our food and supplies came in by Duck. Road repair not caught up to us.---
Frank Kukuchka

No, the terrain sure didn't remind me of South Brooklyn there was no asphalt.---Ken Aust

On the way up north, we hitched a ride at times with tanks heading in the same direction. I guess we walked most of the way. I was marching next to a Marine who was carrying a couple cans of machine gun ammunition and I offered to carry them for awhile but those things are heavy and before long, I told him I was sorry, and gave them back to him. I really felt sorry for him because those cans are heavy.---Ken Aust

Stabinsky, he had kind of a weird story. It was a suicide, but here is the story I got in Baltimore from Sucoff when we were

at the 6th Marine Division Association meeting. When they told him he was too old to go with us into combat, and they were going to leave him behind along with several other guys, he wanted to fight and he was so disappointed at hearing this, he went out in the boon docks, put the rifle in his mouth and shot himself. Sucoff went on to say that in order to protect his family, his buddies took his body out in the jungle and buried him and didn't report the incident, but they kept his dog tags which they took to Okinawa and after one of the battles at the northern part of the Island, they turned them in and said he had been killed or something like that. It sounds like a strange story but Sucoff said that is the way it happened.---Hubert Welch

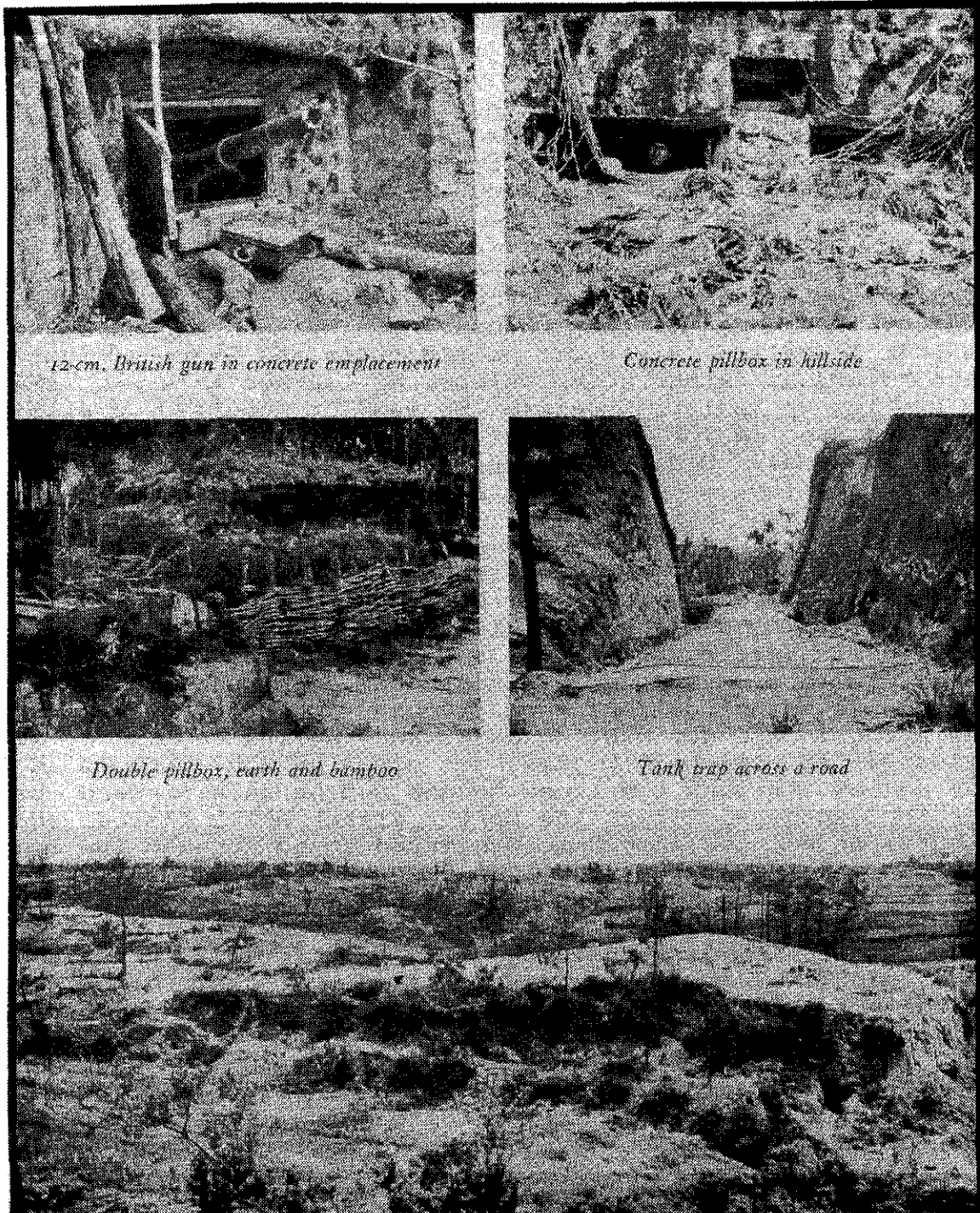
During the night Jap artillery came into the general area. Next morning we learned that a headquarters was hit, Killing three Marines. I remember the name of Crosby as one being mentioned, but none from Company "I", I could recognize. As the truck came by, moving the dead bodies to the rear, the smell of raw human flesh made an ominous impression everyone. The smooth sailing days were over.

We continued our advance. The road made a gradual bend to the right, pulling away from the shore and following the contour of the base of the hill in a northerly direction. Third platoon was at the head of the column, so when the forward section reached a shallow river, it halted there and made a right flank turn towards a rather steep slope. We learned this was the base of one leg of Yaetake Mountain. We went up about 50 yards off the road and dug in for the night. This slope was wooded and had sizeable trees. Orders were passed, "no flames!", to warm our food or coffee, or to smoke as some of the fellows had done earlier.---Frank Kukuchka

Occasionally we used war dogs, it was on the northern part of the island. One episode is recalled---we had dug in and we had some dogs with us along with their handlers, and all of a sudden a Japanese soldier dressed in a kimono tried to come through the lines. The dog was ready to tear him apart and at that point someone gave instructions not to turn the dog loose because it was thought the guy was an Okinawan, well a couple of minutes later we got the hell kicked out of us by Jap mortars and this guy we let through the lines turned out to be a forward observer for the Japanese. After the mortar attack which lasted about 20 minutes or so, the same Okinawan tried to go through the lines in the opposite direction and that is when the dog handler turned the dog loose and he tore that Jap apart. Another thing I recall about those dogs is, if you opened up a can of rations, you'd damn well better give that dog some too, in fact first, and the same thing went for taking a drink from your canteen. He was real friendly to the other Marines, as he was trained to recognize the uniform.---Lawrence Sullivan

4/9/45 We started getting heavy rains after we moved into an area of rice paddies and the rains came down so hard it flooded out our 105s. (See page 84 in the 6th Marine Division History.)

The 105 under the tarp with the helmet over the barrel was assigned to Glynn H Gutzeit, from Brighton, Michigan. He was later awarded the Bronze Star Medal from action that occurred on 4/13/45. When enemy artillery knocked out this gun with a direct hit, Glynn was blown out of the gun pit, got back up and went back into the pit and carried out two of his wounded buddies at once, with burning ammunition all about. He remained in the Corps for thirty years. I looked him up in the summer of 1991 and had an afternoon talk with him and his wife. (He is a story within himself).---Jeff Feiler, F/2/15/6



12-cm. British gun in concrete emplacement

Concrete pillbox in hillside

Double pillbox, earth and bamboo

Tank trap across a road

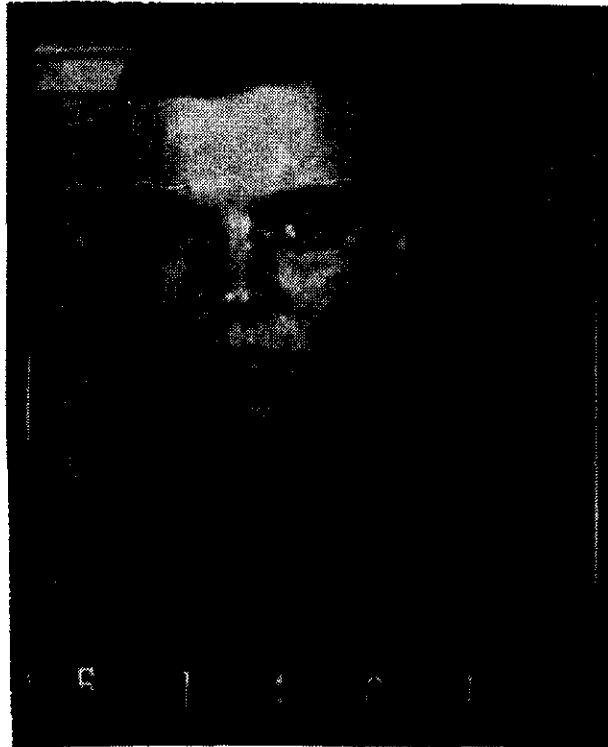
Reverse-slope caves, two levels
JAPANESE FORTIFICATIONS

"2" & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msqs, Orders, etc.</u>
4/10/45	0035	Rad Fr: 3/29 requests two (2) ambulance teams in the morning.
	0250	Tp from NGF 3/29: Capt Riggins arrived with truck and has departed with casualties--No enemy activity reported in any Bn areas. (Action: Div 3)
	0606	Dispatched armed guard to O----with 2 Amb jeeps.
	0730	Capt Riggins reports: Definitely 2 dead--12 wounded.
	1048	R-2 Patrol Ldr Report: 0730 G Co 3/29 patrolled N.E. toward <u>Momoyama</u> --0820: 3/29 out up coast road--Reinf Plat up rd 9622 B-9623 T-- When 3/29 column reached RJ 9622 B4, five (5) road blocks between LD and objective on coast road--On reaching Obj will send patrol toward <u>Itomi</u> . (Action: m,x,s)
	1707	Rad: Three trucks 1/4 ton 4 by 4 out of commission at Bn CP of April 9--Thanks for Am last night.
	1720	Rad Fr: Column now through <u>Hamasaki</u> --Captured and destroyed 6 40mm Anti Aircraft guns in that town--LVT A's present--Receive small arms fire from islands just offshore <u>Hamasaki</u> --Have Arty Comm--NGF Liason attempting contact ships--Engineers working on road--Engineers removing mine field 9623 B --Patrol sent out from 9722 P, 9622 B, and 9624 F--Marching on objective.
	1800	Daphne CP is 9725 Q5--G Co 9725 W4 to 9725 L3 --H Co 9825 Q5 to 9725 NO--I Co 9825 L5 to 9825 Q5--[I] Co received mortar fire, pinned down at 9925 Q5 and W1--2 snipers killed, 3 40mm dual purpose guns found and destroyed. (Action: 6 Div)
	1730	Rad Fr: I am waiting for todays orders, where are the positions of 1st & 2nd Bn.
	0945	Rad Fr: Patrols moved out 0700--0820 continue our advance to our objective.

Marines Killed In Action

4/10/45	Smith	Darrall	Pfc	514616
4/10/45	Joiner	James	Cpl	415134



PFC Derrall Rees Smith, 514616,

Private First Class Smith, was born 18 October 1925, at New Orleans, La., the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde R. Smith, 3172 Glendora Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve, June 30, 1943 at Cincinnati, Ohio, at the age of 17 years. On August 27, 1943 he joined the 2nd Recruit Bn., Parris Island, for his Boot Training and was promoted to PFC on October 28, 1943. PFC Smith was assigned to the Rifle Range Detachment, Parris Island, on November 12, 1943, and joined Co."I", 3rd Bn., 29th Marines, FMF., on June 20, 1944. On August 1, 1944, he embarked to Guadalcanal, aboard the USS Gen C.G. Morton. He was a member of the 1st Rifle Platoon, I/3/29/6.

PFC Smith, was Killed In Action, April 10, 1945. He received a gunshot wound to the head when our unit was ambushed by the Japanese on the east west road east of the village of Toguchi on the Motobu Peninsula. His remains were interred, April 13, 1945, Grave 81, Row 4, Plot A, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1948, his remains were returned to the United States and interred at The Zachary Taylor National Cemetery, Louisville, Kentucky.



Cpl James Hilton Joiner, 415134

Corporal Joiner was born 2 March 1921 at Colquitt, Ga.. He enlisted on 1 July 1942 at Orlando, Fla.. He was married at the time and his wife lived at 21 East Eleventh Street, Jacksonville, Florida. Cpl Joiner took his Boot Camp at Parris Island, N.C. with the 7th Recruit Bn. beginning on 2 July 1942, at the age of 21 years. He joined the Rifle Range Detachment, Parris Island on August 18, 1942 and then was transferred to the Rifle Range Detachment, Marine Barracks, New River, N.C.. Cpl Joiner was promoted to PFC on December 3, 1942 and received the rank of Cpl on March 9, 1943 and on March 10, 1943 was transferred to the Marine Barracks, Naval Aviation Construction Center, Camp Peary, Magruder, Va..

He joined Co. "I", 3rd Bn., 29th Marines, FMF., on June 21, 1944 and embarked to Guadalcanal aboard the USS Gen C.G. Morton on August 1, 1944. He was assigned to the 1st Rifle Platoon, I/3/29/6.

Cpl Joiner was Killed In Action on April 10, 1945 due to a gunshot wound to his chest and arm. This occurred along the east-west road outside of the village of Toguchi on the Motobu Peninsula.

Cpl Joiner's remains were interred Row 10, Grave 235, Plot A, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1.

April 10.--Everyone was wet and cold. First learned of the casualties. Built small fires to take the chill out and heat up chow. Moved out again. Patrols out along hills. Slowly now we went forward. Alarmed at one village we took to cover but a false one. Pushed through a large village. Kept on going around the bend of Motobu Peninsula. Can see the unoccupied island of Ie Shima to our left with the one big rock mountain at the right center.

Moved past many road pits around the tip of the peninsula. Here we ran into a small estuary leading into a long valley deep inland and quite wide too. Large burned village here.

Going up the valley we ran into a saw mill. Stopped here, unloaded our packs, took only a fraction of our ammo and decided to patrol the nearby area before we set up for the night. To our surprise we ran right smack into the Nips. We took one small village under heavy machine gun and mortar fire, but had to withdraw in haste due to lack of ammo and also late in the evening.

Had a couple hour skirmish. To me it was an exciting adventure. Mortars hit all around, one just on the other side of the wall. One foot further over and-- good thing it didn't. Its one time I had absolutely no fear. It seemed like fun. The mud paddies waist deep made it hard to get out but no one was hit in our platoon.

At bivouac area, a steep hillside, we learned we had two casualties, Smith [Darrall] and Joiner. both killed. Real war dawned on me then.

Still raining. Everyone wet and cold. No fires can be built. Couldn't dig deep in the coral hillside so just put up a panel roof and some straw to lay on. The hill gave us protection enough from Nip fire.

By morning I almost froze. All night I not only shivered but vibrated all over. Thought I'd die of pneumonia by morning. Thought I'd at least be down with a fever or something.--Frank Kukuchka.

We walked all the way up north. The terrain going up north was mixed in that to our left was something like rice paddies and on our right it was very hilly and mountainous. On April 10, 1945, two of the guys from my squad were killed they were Charles Joiner and Darrall Smith, who always carried two pistols he traded his 45 for. D.R., [Smith] was hit and since we didn't know how serious it was Joiner went out to check and was shot in the head. Cpl Ray Francoeur, was a demolitions man and was a real inspiration to our unit.--Martin Sucoff

After D.R. Smith got killed, I took over the BAR as I was his assistant up til that time; carrying ammo and the like.--Granville Longerbeam

It was April 10, 1945, and it had rained all night, at other times we received rain but not nearly as much as we got when we moved south. I shivered so much that night from the cold, I thought I'd be dead by morning. The next day it cleared up nice and the sun came out, and after moving around we got warm but both my foxhole buddy, (Bob Luddecke) and myself thought we were going to freeze as we were shaking like a couple of leaves in the wind.--Frank Kukuchka

The following day, first or second platoon went past third platoon following the road and across the river over a destroyed concrete bridge that had fallen down but one could still get over

by stepping on the high places.

The terrain on the other side of the river, to the right of the road, was flat for a hundred yards or more before the base of the hill turned up. The first low hill stretched out almost parallel to the road with a series of higher hills beyond it until a ways beyond was Mt Yaetake summit. The slope had almost no trees, just scrubby brush and tall dry grass, similar to broom sage, which covered the flat land.

The platoon moved some distance up the road, then a fire fight started and activity could be heard for most of the day and then it stopped as the unit withdrew to its original place for the night. I cannot recall of any casualties reported.

While all this activity was going on during the day, the 3rd platoon being just on this side of the river was well screened by the trees along its sides, so we didn't draw any fire in our direction. Still there was a lot of excitement in our area because during the night when the Jap artillery fired its guns, the same ones which hit the headquarters a couple days earlier, some of our men noticed its position high upon the mountain.---
Frank Kukuchka

During the fighting up north, I usually tagged along with the first squad. [Fred was assigned to the 1st Platoon] and I got to know Sgt Petuskey quite well, his nickname was "Bull", and he was from New Jersey. We got cut off during the first ambush we were in and it was pouring down rain, we crossed a rice paddy and recieved both rifle and machine gun fire. It was odd because no one was hit, there were bullet holes in canteens and packs but not a single guy was wounded. We went to a small stream which was nearby and it was in a depression so the Japs couldn't see us when we were in the prone position and we began to crawl to an area which gave us more protection from them. After a short distance, one of the guys from the squad, stood up and started to walk, the Japs spotted him and he was shot and killed. [This might have been Pfc Darral Smith, as he was part of the 1st squad, 1st Platoon and he was killed on April 10, 1945] I asked Joiner to help me with this guy who was wounded and Joiner was killed later that same day. He got shot up pretty bad with bullets to his back and head. [Cpl James H. Joiner, was killed on April 10, 1945. He might have been in the same fire team as Darral Smith and was the fire team leader]---Fred Pears

I remember at times we called for Naval fire for support but I don't know where the hell it came from, ie from what ships.---
Lawence Sullivan

It was a rainy day and our unit was out on point, as we looked over we could see a machine gun raking up and down the road and that's where Darrall Smith got killed. I recall both Darrall Smith and James Joiner were killed that day. [April 10, 1945]---Maurice Vail

I can't remember the names of any of the Corpsmen, but I sure recall all of them doing a super job.---Maurice Vail

Yeah, I remember Joiner. Doerr got killed the same day I was wounded. (April 12th)---Claude Killian

About the 10th of April our unit was sent up to Nago a village at the base of Motobu Peninsula for awhile and were not yet assigned to "I" Company. Washing Machine Charlie used to come over every night, a Nip plane that apparently we couldn't shoot down, they'd get him in the search lights but he would swerve and duck, he was a real pain in the neck. Nago, had been completely destroyed and about that time we got the word we were now part of the 29th Marine Regiment. (We had been attached to the 22nd Marines until then.) While at Nago we were assigned to the various Battalions within the 29th and there were ten of us from the group assigned to "I" Company. I recall Dutch Hontz, who was our Platoon Leader and since Gy/Sgt Doerr had already been killed, Sgt Goosmann or Sgt Sheer, was our Platoon Sergeant. [According to the Company Muster Roll, Donald J. Honis, joined I/29th on April 28, 1945, as part of the 33rd Replacement Draft. He was assigned to the Machine Gun Platoon) We did some patrolling up in the "boonies" for a couple days and I remember Red Brew, [PFC William A. Brew, joined "I" Company, Machine Gun Platoon on April 19, 1945 as part of the 26th Replacement Draft) this was his second time over-seas and he was wounded on Tarawa. He was from Kansas and planned on being a 30 year man in the Corps. At about this time we got a report on how things were going down south, not too well! We assumed our next action would be on that end of the Island.---Donald Honis

Our Company jeep driver used to haul water and rations to us and his name was [Glenn] Tincher.---Charles Miller



April 11

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
4/11/45	1100	Rad Fr: 2 road blocks believed leading to Arty Posns in area 9923--Sending patrols to area to draw fire so air Obs can spot Posns (Action: m, x, s)
	1225	Msg Cen to Div: 3/29 receiving Arty fire on their CP at 9725 M. (Action: Div)
	1054	3/29 reports bridge that Engineers were working on, fired on by Jap Arty. (picked up on Rad by A.G.L.) (Action: x, s)
	1400	Rad Fr: 3rd Bn patrol reports flash seen from cave at 9923 P.
	1400	Rad To: Report your Sit and position of head of your column.
	1517	Rad Fr: Head of two Co patrols was held up town of <u>Manna</u> by machine guns, Arty & mortar fire.
	1640	Rad Fr NGF: Jap Arty reported at 0023 P by A.G.L--NGF was brought to bear with no results--Airstrike with rockets now hitting cave area. (Action: D-3, x,s,m)
	1700	Rad Fr: Plane strike w/rockets, received small arms & 50 cal AA fire from 9923 U.
	1800	Rad Fr: Plane strike on MG nest 500 yds E of 3rd Bn CP--3rd Bn CP is at 9825 P.
	2100	* Airstrike planned on [entries in Journal are not clear] 9933 IQEV tomorrow--[also] at 0700 hrs, ZHSF, at 0730 hrs 9923 XUYD and IKDV--155 (BCP) planned on same throughout night--Will these fires be agreeable to you--* Target areas relayed to 3/29 via 15th Marines. (Quickmatch & Stepchild)
	2045	Tp,Rad To: Make situation reports every two hours. (Action: 1/29, 2/29, 3/29)

April 11.--When sun came up and warmed up everything I ate chow, heated up and felt fine. Never figured a human's constitution could hold out after the bitter cold night, by at least not being ill by morning.

Stood by all day and observed areas about. Other Companies went out but came back the same as we did.

My boy Wendell Sullivan, (of my fire team), spotted the 77 in the hill. Naval gunfire and our 75s pounded it all afternoon. We, 3rd Platoon, set out to observe damage but the mission was cancelled---Lucky too! The 77 (mm) made several attempts to knock out a bridge crossing the water. All near misses.---Frank Kukuchka

April 11, diary entry (expanded upon) Started out on the patrol about 0800, our objective being sea-borne reconnaissance along the shoreline of the Motobu Peninsula. This was up around the village of Manna (spelled Manana in my diary). It is the

front lines of the 29 Reg. The sea was very rough and everyone got soaked and bitter cold. (Just the second platoon was making this trip.) I even got damn sea sick and puked up all over my joe and atabrine. About seven miles up we pulled onto the beach and rolled into what was once a fair sized town for these parts. [possibly Toguchi] The 29th [Marines] had just moved up a few hours before and we were going to set up in the center of town to fire supporting artillery fire for them. We "laid the battery" (putting out aiming stakes and firing a round or two to establish our reference point). We then strung up our camouflage nettings over our five tanks. This done, we had just started to relax when incoming artillery rounds fell all around us. The Japs ALREADY had us pin-pointed! Engines started and we hauled ass just around a steep hill a hundred yards away. Sgt. Otis Guthrie's tank drove right out from under his netting, dragging it along with him and getting it all chewed up in the tank tracks. God, I was embarrassed as the riflemen grinned at us. They had been so glad to see us pull up into their midst. We hung around for a while, while a decision was being made as to the next move. The Jap guns couldn't be located so it turned out to be us waving bye-bye to the tired 29th [Marines] as we re-entered the water and returned to the bivouac area at Yabu about 1740 hours---" Cpl Fred Addison, "A" Co, 1st Armored Amphib Bn..

I remember 6 of the guys that got killed, Jackson Bennett, I saw him killed. Pfc Bryson, I was near him when he was killed, Cpl Carson, Sgt Carl Clayton, Gy/Sgt Doerr, he got pretty well blown apart on the hill we were on and I helped carry him out of there in a poncho., Cpl Joiner, Pfc Lenahan, PFC John Money penny.
---Ambrose A Smith

I remember we walked into one of the biggest ambushes the Japs ever set up. Sgt Heim was on point and I was right behind him. Heim was our plt/sgt and a hell of a nice fellow, and I was right behind him. Captain Stone, was our platoon leader. I remember being in a hole with a Corpsman who was doctoring someone else that had his toes shot off, I can't remember the corpsmans name, but he'd fire a rifle a while and I'd doctor the guy then I'd fire and he'd doctor and we went on quite awhile that way.---Ambrose A Smith

Another bad day we had was when we were on top of a high hill and we noticed that the Japs had dug trenches there. We kept moving and all of a sudden the Jap nambus opened up on us and the natural thing to do was to jump into the trenches which we did. Just two thing were wrong with that, number 1, they had the trenches booby trapped and number 2, they also had the trenches zeroed in with their mortars. They hit us with many mortar rounds and when the guys scrambled to get out of the trenches, they hit them with machine guns. They cut the hell out of us. We fell back a short distance to get out of their direct fire and it took us about two days to retake the area by going around it and coming in from the back side. During the original ambush one of our guys had been wounded and wasn't noticed by the other Marines when we

moved back so as a result he spent the two days it took to retake the area in the trenches by himself. The guy, and I can't remember who, had the presence of mind to gather a couple of canteens from the other dead Marines and cover himself with them so the Japs wouldn't notice him when they returned to the trenches at night. He did survive. [The man was Donald J Mollica]

We brought the guys down and we thought that we had all of the Marines who were wounded, but we did miss the person mentioned. I remember bringing down Orus Johnson a Sgt and he was wounded real bad, one leg and arm completely blown off and the other arm was just hanging by shreds and they had it stuck under his head. They got him down the hill, treated him the best they could and got him to a hospital ship, but he died. Some mail came for him that day or the day after and inside the letter from his wife was a picture of his son that was born a short time before and Sgt Johnson hadn't seen him yet. The guys put his son's picture in his billfold so his wife would believe that he had at least had the opportunity to see his picture.

I was married at the time too and had one daughter-- you can't help thinking about things like that.---Jesse Johnson

We had a lot of casualties when we were ambushed on Motobu Peninsula and I don't think the leadership was too great either. We got into that mess and Lt Stone, our Platoon Leader, yelled, "every man for himself", and we all scattered like a bunch of quail. Sgt Heim, Sgt Doerr, and myself, were three of the guys that set ourselves up to give supporting fire while the guys were evacuated. D.R. Smith was with us too as he was a BAR man and I was his assistant. D.R. Smith was killed. I remember a guy named Double "A" Smith in our Platoon too. I was in the first squad and I think Double "A" Smith was in the 3rd squad.---Granville Longerbeam

One of the guys who got killed we called "Chick", heck, he didn't look over 16 years old and he was with the Machine Gun Platoon.---Granville Longerbeam

On the northern part of the Island, during the ambush we had, there was a fellow from the company who was left for three days in those trenches we got out of. The guy had been wounded and was not noticed when the other guys fell back. He was pretty much out of his mind when we did find him. I think Maurice Vail, was the one who got him out.---Granville Longerbeam

During the ambush up north we were in some hills, and we were going up a path, I was on a flank as we had guys out on both sides. The Japs opened up on us, and as I remember they started with knee mortars. Since I didn't know where they were firing from I climbed to the top of the hill but there was a lot of firing coming from the other side so back down the hill I went to the path we came in on. Then the word came us to "leave anyway you can, get out of here." I remembered someone had told me during training at some time, "when you fall down don't let your

feet raise in the air." I fell to the ground about then because a machine gun opened up on us. I kept my feet down when I hit the ground but the guy behind me didn't and was shot through the leg. After going down through the woods a little further, a knee mortar dropped right next to me and didn't go off. A ways farther I met Sgt McQuillam, and he got shot through the ear and I said to him, come on, I'll help you out and he said, "naw, go ahead", and he just sat there. When I got back to where the Company had assembled one of the guys looked at me and said, "hey, you shouldn't be here, your dead." I guess someone thought I had been killed and started that rumor.---Ken Aust

I don't think we were prepared to attack some of hills we did, especially up north.---Ken Aust [Accurate maps of the Motobu Peninsula area were not available. When the army took their photographs for mapping during September and October of 1944, sections of Motobu Peninsula were under cloud cover and as luck would have it, the Mt Yaetake area was one of those areas where photographs could not be taken.]

Pates, my fireteam leader was shot in the back.---Ken Aust

Don Mollica, was the guy who layed out for three days after the ambush up north.---Ken Aust

I got wounded in that ambush on the 12th of April too although it wasn't bad enough to put down. I got a concussion and some small fragments in my leg. I went back to Battalion Aid Station but I was only there for 4-5 hours and went back to the company. I guess the Doctor didn't feel it was serious enough to put on my record because it doesn't appear there. About 36 years latter I explained the situation to a guy who was with the government in giving out awards and he told me to write it up and get a couple of witnesses and he would check my record. So I did get my Purple Heart after all those years.---Hubert Welch

I helped carry out the body of Orus Johnson, Frank Greska, John O'Leary was shot right by my side.---Frank Kukuchka

Today, the 3rd platoon was committed along with the mortar platoon to engage the enemy where 1st or 2nd platoon withdrew from the day before. We crossed over the bridge and up the road for several hundred yards in a column then turned right towards the hill. The morning was still damp and the fog hung low over the tops of the hills of lower elevation. We were in the clear and advanced towards the beginning of the slope. My fireteam turned off on an unused road, overgrown with weeds and led to the hill to our front. There was a small building the size of a utility shed near the base of the hill and in the shed there was a huge cast iron safe propped up against one corner. We were giving it the eye, thinking it might be booby trapped. At about that time the Japs opened up fire on us. We took cover at the shed. The Japs kept shooting sporadically, but as the fog lifted, more firepower was sent in our direction and at all other Marines

that had left the main road. Mortars now began to come in. The few of us at the shed opened up, shooting at every puff of smoke we could see on the hill. Soon, a mortar shell landed near the utility shed and the debris and soil it kicked up gave me an awful sting on the back side, but no shrapnel injury. At that moment everyone took off, back for the main road and back towards base camp. The mortars kept following the troops, as all were doing double time moving back. As we passed near Lt. Vellman, I believe he was in charge of our mortar platoon, he was running and yelling, "Take cover at the wall!" This concrete wall ran 75 or 100 feet along the road, out from a building not far from the bridge we crossed earlier. When most of us "tail enders" got there the Lieutenant was watching for the smoke trails of the mortars as they were fired, and yells out, "There comes another one!" and we hugged the wall even closer. The mortar shell landed and exploded just on the other side of the wall where the Lieutenant was standing. Without hesitation he yells out, "Let's get the hell out of here!" So we took off, probably at triple time now, back across the bridge to where we started.

Fortunately, no one was killed or wounded during this futile encounter. We had no choice but to move back. We were in the open country and the Japs had the commanding ground.

Records do show that two Marines were killed on the 10th of April: J. Joiner and D. Smith. The day the events above occurred was 11 April.---Frank Kukuchka

Up to this point I have written of the most vivid things I can recall from memory. I am sure there are many more things that happened along the way. Almost 50 years is a long way to reach back.

During the winter months I shuffled through some of my old mail I have saved since day one from; relatives, friends, and Servicemen and it is still a joy to re-read. Among it I found a three and a half page diary I had copied from notes off a note pad I carried during the war. These notes must have been copied on Guam or back in the states where I had access to my sea bag with the correspondence paper. It has the 6th Division emblem on it with the San Francisco address.

Some inserts are brief, so, where possible, I will elaborate on the events I can remember. Such as for April 12th, I have only one word, "Ambush", yet this was a very eventful and tragic day for Co. I. The notes are daily, with a couple exceptions, and run from April 12 till the 16th of May when Co. I, made its first assault on Sugar Loaf Hill. The casualty dates, of only the ones I had knowledge of at that time, are right on the money when compared to the official records. This astounded me when I read them. Most of these notes were jotted down later from memory during reserve or rest periods when we did our mail.---Frank Kukuchka

I remember some of the guys: Francoeur, [Cpl Raymond G. Francoeur] we used to call him Frenchy and he was a demolition and judo expert. One episode occurred when Lt Stone, chewed his ass out because the Lt didn't think Frenchy did a good enough job

blowing up a cave. so he recharged his satchel and went back and did it again, that time I thought he blew up the whole mountain. He was exposed to the Japs a lot of the time too.---Fred Pears

Since they cut the roads on us, supplies were hard to get up to the front and we had to carry them a lot of the time. The jeeps sometimes could get through and we used to load ammo, water and food on them.---Harvey Brooks



DEATH OF ERNIE PYLE, American war correspondent, took place while he was observing the fighting on Ie Shima. Above he is pictured talking to a Marine infantryman on Okinawa a few hours after its invasion. After the close of the Ryukyus campaign Brig. Gen. Edwin R. Randle, assistant commander of the 77th Division, unveiled a monument (below) over Pyle's grave.



"2" & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
4/12/45	0840	Rad Fr: 3rd Bn having air strike made on 9923 P-U.
	0840	Rad Fr: Isolated patrols now operating in 98 25 T-U and 9925 P-U.
	0940	Msg Cen To: What is your situation--Can you give brief report last nights fire fight. (Action: Daphne 6)
	1000	Rad Fr: Our front line no change--Location of troops no change--Two Companies patrolled down road toward <u>Itomi</u> as ordered at 1030 [hrs]--Patrol was stopped at <u>Manna</u> by heavy small arms, MG, mortar and Arty fire--13 casualties none killed--Received heavy fire from--Our column reached 0025 N--Estimated 55 enemy killed, knocked out 5 LMG's and 1 light mortar--Nips are wearing civilian clothes and carrying arms--1 platoon patrol went to 9824 W and found Arty gun Posn, called air strike on this Posn, pilots claimed 3 Arty guns knocked out--1 platoon patrol went to 9624 D, no enemy noted.
	1050	To Rx 29th from R-3: Airstrike completed 9923 P and planes on station--3rd Bn patrol moving in to investig.
	1140	Rad Fr: 3rd Bn CP is receiving Arty fire. (Action: D-2, D-3)
	1200	Rad Fr: 3rd Bn patrols receiving heavy MG fire at 9823 C.
	1233	Rad Fr: I Co receiving heavy MG and Mort fire at 9823 O-T, 9923 K, P, X--H Co receiving Mort fire from 9924
	1300	Rad Fr: H Co now at 9925 I, they are receiving mortar, MG, and rifle fire--I Co now at 9824--I Co also receiving Mort MG, and rifle fire--G Co at 9727 K and have killed 4 Nips.
	1327	Rad Fr: I Co outflanked and has withdrawn to 9724 E--H Co has been recalled to give them a hand.
	1325	Rad Fr: Mort, small arms fire from 9724 C--3/29 flanked on all sides--not unified.
	1422	Rad To: (3/29) Send all 4 by 4's back to Regtl CP. excep
	1400	Rad Fr: I Co suffered heavy casualties in 9924--Enemy closing in on that flank--H Co withdrawn from <u>Itomi</u> & assisting I Co--Will keep you informed.
	4020	Rad To: I and H [Co's] falling back to beach--Japs are following through extricating themselves--A Co in rear of Japs 2000 yds.
	1440	Rad From: Situation better, H & I forming

Con't
tight perimeter defense--50 casualties.
1445 Rad To: Have G Co return your area at once.
1416 Rad To: If you need Arty relay your requests
to me, I will handle.
1500 Rad Fr: Withdrawn from perimeter defense in
9725--50 casualties--Require water and
evacuation--CP now receiving Arty and mortar
fire--Request Arty & Air support.
1500 Rad To: 1 Bn less 1 Co of 22nd [Marines] is
at Awa coming to your assistance.
1510 Rad Fr: NGF plane reports enemy S.E. of 3/29
Posn heading up the coast--Confirmed by 3/29
NGF.
1555 Rad Fr: NGF pinned down Japs--Relieved
prssure.
1606 Rad Fr: Have evacuated 24 casualties.
1615 Rad Fr: H & I Co's now back in position--
Evacuating casualties--Arty, NGF, LVT A's
have silenced most enemy fire.
1730 Rad Fr: 0237 V Present Posn of 3rd Bn.
(Action: m, D-3)
1645 Rad Fr: Our front lines are 9725 H-9725 T-
9825 F.
1425 Rad Fr: C.O. 29th is ordering 1st Bn to
return here immediately--He is going to send
them down toward 3rd Bn attempting to get the
Japs between 1st and 3rd Bn's.
1810 Rad Fr: G, H and I Co's all in--Supply and
evacuation going well--Organizing perimeter
S of town.
1830 Rad Fr: Recon Co now on high ground 1,000 yds
S of Objective you join us here.

Marines Killed In Action

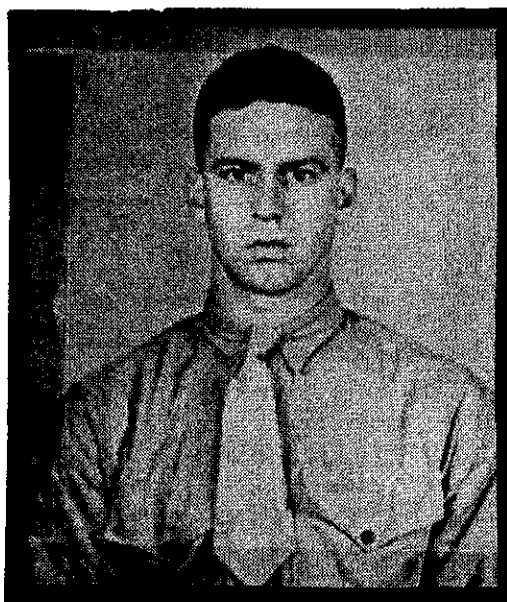
4/12/45	Genczy	Chester	Cpl	508107
4/12/45	Clayton	Carl	Sgt	359052
4/12/45	Burr	Harry	Pfc	495356
4/12/45	Johnson	Orus	Sgt	396067
4/12/45	Mc Kown	Charles	Pvt	554570
4/12/45	Doerr	David	G\Sgt	264610
4/12/45	O'Malley	William	Cpl	806688
4/12/45	La Cobee	Francis	Pfc	417446
4/12/45	Greska	Frank	Pfc	953308
4/12/45	Spano	Stephen	Pfc	541448



Cpl Chester Genczy, 508107

Corporal Genczy, was born at Webster, Mass., on 15 May 1919, the son of Mrs. Julia Genczy, 65 Pond Street, Webster, Massachusetts. He enlisted in the Marine Corps on 27 November 1942, at Boston, Mass., at the age of 23 years. He was assigned to the 12th Recruit Bn, Parris Island, S.C., on November 29, 1942 for Boot Camp. Cpl Genczy, joined the Parris Island Rifle Detachment, on 23 January 1943 and was promoted to PFC March 25, 1943. He attained the rank of Corporal on October 7, 1943. On October 30, 1943 he joined H&S Co. Range Bn., Training Center, at Camp Lejuene, New River, N.C.. Cpl Genczy, joined Co."I", 3rd Bn., 29th Marines, FMF. on June 21, 1944 and embarked for Guadalcanal aboard the USS C.G. Morton, on August 1, 1944. He was assigned to the 1st Rifle Platoon of I/3/29/6.

Cpl Genczy, was Killed In Action on April 12, 1945 due to H.E. fragments to the head. He was killed during an ambush by the Japanese, just east of the town of Toguchi on the Motobu Peninsula. His remains were interred 18 April 1945, Grave 194, Row 8, Plot A, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1948, his remains were returned to the United States and interred at Mt. Zion Cemetery, Webster, Massachusetts.



Sgt Carl Jones Clayton, 359052

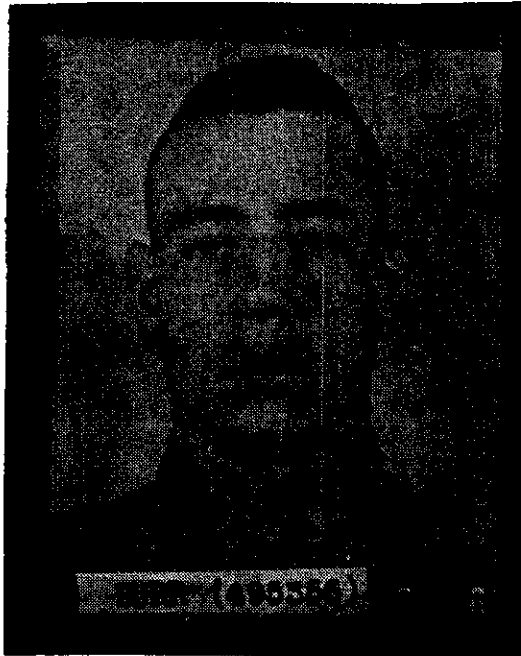
Sergeant Clayton was born 30 November 1922, at Norristown, Pa., and was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Clayton, 209 Chain Street, Norristown, Pennsylvania. He enlisted in the Marine Corps at the age of 20 years, at Philadelphia, Pa. on 14 January 1942. Sgt Clayton, was assigned to the 4th Recruit Bn, Parris Island, for Boot Camp, on January 15, 1942.

He joined Co "F", Quantico Va., Training Center and joined Candidates Class on March 8, 1942, completing his boot camp at Quantico, Va.. On June 1, 1942 he was promoted to PFC.

On October 22, 1942, he joined the 1st Guard Co, Marine Barracks, Quantico, Va.. He joined the Marine Barracks Navy Yard, Boston, Mass. on January 25, 1943 and was promoted to Cpl on June 3, 1943. On February 7, 1943, he was transferred to Marine Barracks, US. NOB., Argentia, Newfoundland, and was promoted to Sgt on July 15, 1943.

He joined Co "I", 29th Marines, FMF, at Camp Lejeune, on June 1, 1944, and sailed aboard the USS C.G. Morton to Guadalcanal, on August 1, 1944. He was a member of the 1st Rifle Platoon.

He was Killed In Action on April 12, 1945, by HE fragments to the head while his unit was traveling East of Toguchi, on the Motobu Peninsula. His remains were interred 18 April 1945, Grave 192, Row 8, Plot A, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1.



PFC Harry Lawson Burr, Jr., 495396

Private First Class Burr, was born at Elmira, N.Y. on 9 March 1926 the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry L. Burr, Sr.. He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve on 1 February 1944 at Atlanta, Ga.. PFC Burr, was assigned to the 5th Recruit Battalion at Parris Island, S.C. for his Boot Training. He was 17 years old. After his Boot training he was assigned to Co "I", 3rd Bn, 29th Marines, FMF and on August 1st, 1944 he left for Guadalcanal aboard the USS C. G. Morton. He was promoted to PFC on August 13, 1944 and was a member of Co "I" Machine Gun Platoon.

PFC Burr, was Killed In Action, on April 12, 1945, by enemy shell fragments to his chest and thigh while on the Motobu Peninsula

His remains were interred 16 April 1945, Grave #136, Row #6, Plot A, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. In 1949 his remains were interred in Arlington National Cemetery, Ft. Meyers, Va.



Sgt Orus Johnson, 396067

Sergeant Johnson, was born 4 December 1921 at Buies Creek, N.C.. He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve, 7 April 1942 at Chapel Hill, N.C., Platoon Leaders Unit. He was 20 years of age. At the time of enlistment, Sgt Johnson was married and his wife lived at 1900 13th Avenue, Hickory, N.C..

He joined the Marine Detachment of the Navy V-12 program at Emory University located in Georgia, on July 1, 1943. On April 12, 1944, he joined Co.C, Officers Candidate School at Quantico, Va.. On June 1, 1944 he attained the rank of Sgt and on 21 June 1944, he joined Co."I", 3rd Bn., 29th Marines, FMF.. He embarked for Guadalcanal, on August 1, 1944 aboard the USS Gen C. G. Morton. He was a member of the 60mm Mortar Platoon of I/3/29/6.

On April 12, 1945, Sgt Johnson was Killed In Action by a direct hit from an enemy mortar shell during the Japanese ambush that took place just east of the town of Togushi, on the Motobu Peninsula. His remains were interred 16 April 1945, Grave 139, Row 6, Plot A, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1948, his remains were returned to the United States and interred at Raleigh National Cemetery, East Davie & S. Pettigrew Sta., Raleigh, N.C.



Pvt Charles Henry McKown, 554570

Private McKown, was born 21 July 1926 at Pierce, Fla., the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. McKown, P.O. Box 476, Eagle Lake, Florida. He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve at the age of 17 years, on 8 March 1944 at Orlando, Fla., and went to the 10th Recruit Bn., Parris Island, S.C. for his Boot Training on March 9, 1944. He Joined Co."I", 3rd Bn., 29th Marines, FMF., at Camp Lejeune, N.C. on June 1, 1944 and went to Guadalcanal, via USS Gen C.G. Morton, on August 1, 1944. He was a member of the 2nd Rifle Platoon, I/3/29/6.

Pvt McKown, was Killed In Action by H.E fragments, during an ambush by the Japanese, near the east-west road, east of the town of Toguchi on the Motobu Peninsula, on April 12, 1945. His remains were interred 16 April 1945, Grave 137, Row 6, Plot A, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1948, his remains were taken to Hawaii, and interred at the National Cemetery.



Gy/Sgt David Donald Doerr, 264610

Gunnery Sergeant Doerr, was born 19 June 1918, at Johnstown, Ohio, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Doerr, P.O. Box 1301, Lake Alfred, Florida. He originally joined the Marine Corp on April 19, 1938, at Macon, Ga., at the age of 19 for a four year enlistment period and re-upped his enlistment for an additional two years on April 18, 1942, he again re-upped his enlistment on 24 April 1944 at Camp Pendleton, Cal.

On April 20, 1938, he reported to Parris Island for Boot Camp and remained there until June 22, 1938, when he was transferred to Quantico, Va., where he attended Platoon Leaders School until August 7, 1938, at which time he joined Co "A", 1st Bn, 5th Marines, FMF. During August of 1938, he was stationed at Camp Perry, Ohio and then in September of the same year was transferred back to Quantico, Va., where he joined Co "F", 2nd Bn, 5th Marines, FMF. His assignments took him between Camp Perry, Ohio and Quantico, Va., for the next two years and he was promoted to PFC on July 6th, 1939 and Cpl on August 8, 1940.

During October of 1940, Gy/Sgt Doerr, joined the Base Air Detachment, and joined the Marine Barracks, Naval Air Station, Lakehurst, N.J. during November of 1940 and became a 1st Class Parachutist on March 19, 1941. He joined Co "A", 2nd Parachute Bn and on May 31, 1941 he embarked on the USS Fuller attached to the 1st Marine Division FMF. During October 1941, he lost his parachute specialist class and it was necessary for him to requalify for a parachutist, which he did between June and November of 1942, at which time he was promoted to the rank of Sgt. On December 22, 1942 he joined Co "C", 1st Parachute Bn, FMF. on May 1st 1943, he was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant and Gy/Sgt on 30 June 1943.

Prior to his joining the 29th Marines, he was assigned to

I/3/26/5. He joined I/3/29/FMF on 23 May 1944, and became Platoon Sgt of the Machine Gun Platoon. He sailed to Guadalcanal aboard the USS C.G. Morton, on August 1, 1944.

He was Killed In Action due to multiple wounds from H.E. fragments he received on April 12, 1945, when his unit was ambushed traveling east of Toguchi, on the Motobu Peninsula.

His remains were interred 13 April 1945, Grave 89, Row 4, Plot "A", 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. In 1948 his remains were returned to the United States and interred at Lake Alfred Cemetery, Lake Alfred, Florida.



Cpl William Peter O'Malley, 806688

Corporal O'Malley, was born 1 July 1922 at Buffalo, N.Y., the son of Mr and Mrs. Patrick T. O'Malley, 56 Mineral Springs Road, Buffalo, New York. He entered the Marine Corps, March 3, 1943 at Buffalo, N.Y. at the age of 20 years. On March 12, 1944 he joined the 1st Recruit Bn., Parris Island, S.C. for his Boot Training and was transferred May 17, 1943, to Marine Barracks, Naval Air Station, Floyd Bennet, N.Y., and he was promoted to PFC on September 17, 1943. He joined Co."I", 3rd Bn., 29th Marines, FMF., June 13, 1944 and left for Guadalcanal aboard the USS Gen. C.G. Morton, August 1, 1944. Pfc O'Malley, was made Corporal on January 1, 1945 and was a member of the 60mm Mortar Platoon, I/3/29/6.

Cpl O'Malley, was Killed In Action, 12 April 1945. He died of H.E. fragment wound to the abdomen. He died during an ambush of our unit by Japanese forces east of the town of Toguchi on the Motobu Peninsula. His remains were interred 16 April 1945, Grave 140, Row 6, Plot A, 6th Marine Cemetery #1. During 1948, his remains were returned to the United States and interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York.



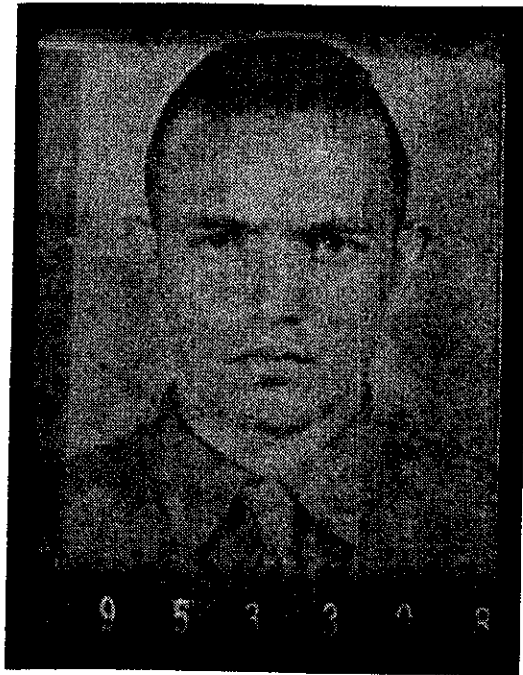
PFC Francois Houston LaCobee, 417446

Private First Class LaCobee was born 12 January 1925 at Shreveport, La., the son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin L. LaCobee, Sr., 1721 Claiborne Avenue, Shreveport, Louisiana.

He enlisted on 7 July 1942 at New Orleans, La. at the age of 17 years, and on July 10, 1942 he joined the 6th Recruit Bn., San Diego, Calif. for Boot Camp.

On October 8, 1942 he was In The Field, via the USS Henderson and on October 16, 1942 he joined the 90mm Anti Aircraft Group, 10th Defense Bn., FMF.. He joined Headquarters Company, Division Headquarters, 1st Marine Division, FMF., during 1943 and joined the War Dog Training Company, Camp Lejeune, N.C., on November 5, 1943. On June 1, 1944 he joined Co."I", 3rd Bn., 29th Marines, FMF., and on August 1, 1944 embarked on the USS General C.G. Morton for Guadalcanal. He was a member of the 60mm Mortar Platoon of I/3/29/6.

PFC LaCobee was Killed In Action on April 12, 1945, he died of H.E. fragments to the neck while our unit was east of the village of Toguchi on the Motobu Peninsula. His remains were interred 16 April 1945, Grave 140, Row 6, Plot A, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1948 PFC LaCobee's remains were returned to the United States and interred at Catholic Cemetery, Stonewall, Louisiana.



PFC Frank Michael Greska, 953308

Private First Class Greska, was born on 18 October 1925, at Hudson, Massachusetts, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Adam C. Greska, 56 Winter Street, Hudson, Massachusetts. He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve on March 14, 1944, at Boston, Massachusetts, at the age of 18 years.

PFC Greska, joined the 4th Recruit Bn., Parris Island, S.C., on March 16, 1944 for Boot Camp. He joined Co."I", 3rd Bn., 29th Marines, FMF., Camp Lejuene, N.C., on June 1, 1944.

On August 1, 1944, he embarked on the USS C.G. Morton and traveled to Guadalcanal for further training. He was promoted to Private First Class on August 13, 1944. PFC Greska, was a member of the 2nd Rifle Platoon of I/3/29/6.

PFC Greska, was Wounded In Action on 12 April 1945 sustaining a gunshot wound in the abdomen. He was wounded during a Japanese ambush a short distance east of the town of Toguchi, on the Motobu Peninsula. PFC Greska, died of his wounds on April 13, 1945. Remains were interred Row 4, Grave 95, Plot A, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1.



PFC Stephen Joseph Spano, 541448

Private First Class Spano, was born 12 March 1926, at Jersey City, N.J., and was the son of Mr. Stephen Spano, 548 Bramhall Avenue, Jersey City, New Jersey.

He enlisted March 7, 1944, at New York, N.Y., in the Marine Corps Reserve, at the age of 17 years. On 10 March 1944, he joined the 2nd Recruit Bn., Parris Island for Boot Training and joined Co."I", 3rd Bn., 29th Marines, FMF., June 1, 1944. He embarked for Guadalcanal aboard the USS Gen. C.G. Morton, August 1, 1944 and was promoted to Private First Class, August 13, 1944. He was a member of the Machine Gun Platoon, I/3/29/6.

PFC Spano, was Killed In Action, of multiple gunshot wounds, on April 12, 1945, as our Company was ambushed by the Japanese, on the east-west road a short distance east of Toguchi on the Motobu Peninsula. His remains were interred April 18, 1945, Grave 186, Row 8, Plot A, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1949, his remains were returned to the United States and interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Arlington, N.J..

Marines Wounded

4/12/45	Baker	Abner	Cpl	339017
4/12/45	Bouck	George	Cpl	353139
4/12/45	Christopher	John	Pfc	530406
4/12/45	Corriea	Donald	Pfc	556542
4/12/45	Estes	Charles	Pvt	328853
4/12/45	Fodero	Frank	Sgt	482384
4/12/45	Furbush	Allen	Cpl	470356
4/12/45	Hoehn	Edward	Pvt	949802
4/12/45	Homom	Leo	Pvt	962605
4/12/45	Killian	Claude	Sgt	297875
4/12/45	Lally	Francis	Pfc	550533

4/12/45	Mc Quilliam	Charles	Pl/Sgt	282888
4/12/45	McCrea	William	Pvt	951591
4/12/45	McKinney	William	Pvt	979961
4/12/45	Menefee	James	Pfc	911500
4/12/45	Miller	Moss Jr	Cpl	312965
4/12/45	Mollica	Donald	Pfc	843928
4/12/45	Niederer	Floyd	Cpl	803042
4/12/45	Pates	Robert	Cpl	393317
4/12/45	Patruno	Pasquale	Pfc	949394
4/12/45	Pope	George	Pfc	949387
4/12/45	Ryan	Walter	Pfc	554011
4/12/45	Sampson	Robert	Pfc	800667
4/12/45	Scarmozzino	Nicholas	Pfc	907152
4/12/45	Schneider	Walter	Cpl	390813
4/12/45	Scism	James	Pfc	815433
4/12/45	Sharp	Hervey	Cpl	368545
4/12/45	Simmons	Harry	Pvt	956604
4/12/45	Sucoff	Martin	Pfc	518386
4/12/45	Sullivan	Wendell	Pfc	960539
4/12/45	Umstead	Archie	Cpl	895360
4/12/45	Welch	Hubert	Cpl	813456
4/12/45	White	Eugene	Pfc	960173

April 12,--A most tragic day for Co I.--Moved out early along ridge ground. Waited for air strikes and artillery, then pushed in towards the enemy. After deep in enemy country we learned our mistake. We were surrounded in an ambush. From rear and sides came Nambu and from the front came automatic fire, plus a rain of mortars and their 77 artillery. For over two hours we were clamped in this hell on earth. Slightly disorganized withdrawal but natural for such surprise and first time under heavy fire. Taking out a wounded I was constantly fired upon by Nambus. Four of us took out Greska. Okay tho. [Frank Greska died of these wounds on April 13, 1945]

Had almost 70 casualties in the Co. Only through the grace of God did I miss injury in all this hail of bullets and hot steel bursting everywhere. Thankful is everyone to Almighty God this evening for coming out of it O.K.. Here our best buddies paid the fullest price of war.

Everyone known alive was taken out except two, Don Mollica and Frank "Smokey" Fodero. 19 Were hit in our platoon. None dead. Don and Smokey, missing. Both are known to be hit.

A list of most of the casualty names for April 12 in 3rd. platoon: Plt Sgt. Charles McQuilliam, Sgt. Frank Fodero, Cpl. Harvey Sharp, Cpl. Robert Pates, Cpl. Moss Miller, Cpl. Walter Schneider, Pfc. Walter Ryan, Pfc. Wendell Sullivan, Pfc James Menefee, Pfc. Robert Sampson, Pfc. Eugene White, Pfc Donald Mollica, Pfc. Henry LaVoie [LaVoie is listed as being wounded on 13 May in the Company Muster Rolls, this could be the first of two wounds however], Pfc Lewis Simmons, Pfc James Scism. (This is all I had knowledge of at that particular time.)

The daily accounts listed here, some were made the same day

or the next, others were written when we were in the reserve or rest mode. For some of the days, "present tense" was used even though it was written a day or more later.

The next entry in this note pad was for June 24, until Co. I. left Okinawa and were out at sea for 10 days. [on our way to Guam]---Frank Kukuchka

The following experiences of Donald Mollica during the Battle for Okinawa, 1945, were sent to Kenneth Long, in February 1995. Donald Mollica was a Marine and a member of "I" Company, 29th Marine Regiment, and was wounded on April 12th, 1945, on the Motobu Peninsula.

April 12th, 1945

We were headed in a north easterly direction on the forward slope of a hill--we came under fire--small arms, nambu, machine guns and 81-mm mortar rounds. We took the best cover we could find and Tommy Lenahan, my assistant BAR man spotted some movement in the grass to our front as well as a nambu position. We fired into the spot, I don't know whether we silenced them or they moved, but the firing stopped.

Word was passed for us to withdraw to the reverse slope of the hill and as I raised up to pass the word, a mortar shell hit about 10-15 feet to my front right and I was thrown into the open. I received shrapnel wounds to my stomach and right leg. Charlie Miller, heard my call for Corpsman John Pauk, and although they were already in the relative safety of the reverse slope, Charlie and John came down to my exposed position to treat me. They got me over the hill, and I begged Lt Larry Sullivan [Platoon leader of 3rd platoon] not to send me back to the aid station as I wanted to stay with the unit. Naturally that wasn't possible and with tears in his eyes he assigned 4 men to get me back for treatment.

They were taking me out on a poncho and I recall that Bob Sampson was at the lower right corner of the poncho but I can't recall who the other 3 men were. We were crossing the forward slope of a terraced hill when we came under fire again and three of the guys let go of their corners and got to cover but Bob Sampson stayed and I saw him take a round through his left shoulder. I yelled to him to get out of there! I dove off the poncho into a depression at the edge of the terrace and just as I hit the depression, I took a bullet in the back. (I later found out that it entered below my left shoulder, ran across the top of my ribs and exited about 4 inches from where it entered. Doctors later said that if I hadn't hit that slight depression, the round would have torn out ribs and it would have been fatal.)(Ken, I have always maintained that the reason I survived this event was the [hard] training we got as Marines)

I played dead and the firing stopped. A few minutes later a Corpsman raced down to me and gave me a shot of morphine, then he tried to lift me out of the depression alone but he drew more fire and I told him to get out of there as we were under mortar and small arms fire. He made it back over the hill. Our guys kept calling to me and I continued to tell them not to try to get me

because it was too dangerous for them. The morphine finally knocked me out and when they didn't get any response from me, they thought I was dead and they pulled out. When I came to later, I was in the shadow of the terrace and it was very quiet. I knew I would have to get to the reverse slope of the hill and to try to head in a south westerly direction if I was to have any hopes of locating our unit or any other Marines.

By the time I reached the back side of the hill it was dusk, but I did find an abandoned poncho, a wet blanket, a web belt with an empty canteen, a Ka bar knife and one grenade. This was my only weapon since they had taken my BAR and ammo belt when they were carrying me out. I crawled under some vegetation and covered myself completely with the poncho. During that first night I heard Japanese patrols moving around but fortunately I wasn't spotted. I dreamed that night about water; all kinds of water, water fountains, water falls, ice water from the refrigerator, all kinds of water. I also remember asking God what I had to do, and in my Father's voice, I heard Him say, "Seek and Ye shall find son." When daylight came I used the Ka bar to cut a fairly strong tree and try to make a crutch but I was not able to stand. Looking around I saw something over to my left, I crawled over to it and found a Corpsman pack. (another blessing) It contained dressings, sulfa powder, plasma and a small bottle of pills labeled poison. I sprinkled the sulfa over all the wounds I could reach and used a tight dressing to stop the bleeding. I set the plasma up and tried to get the needle into my vein but the needle fell off the ground and I was afraid I might infect myself so I gave up on that. I thought then that I might try to drink it, "bad move" as it was too salty and only made my thirst worse. I spent the rest of the day crawling, (always southwest) and resting.

Later I saw one of our spotter planes flying over and tried waving to get attention, without any luck. After the spotter plane left, I thought for sure my life was over as Navy Hell Cats came in and dropped napalm bombs. I could see them being released as the planes dove but fortunately they were all accurate enough to clear my side of the hill and hit the reverse slope and the valley across from it. I could feel the heat rising from there and was covered by hot ashes. When dusk came again, I found a ditch and crawled into it for the night.

At daylight the next day I was in pretty bad shape, mostly thirst. I knew I was running out of time so I thought I might get some moisture by drinking my own urine. I urinated in my helmet but the urine was full of blood so I didn't drink it. While resting, I heard a noise in front of me and below where I was. I couldn't tell if it was Japanese or Marines, but I knew that either way I had to take some action. I opened the bottle of poison pills, (if they were Japanese, I was going to throw the grenade then take the pills rather than become a prisoner or have them kill me) pulled the pin and held the grenade and called out for help. I heard a voice (in English) say, "what was that?" and I called out my name so they wouldn't think it was a Japanese trick. I also called the names Larry Sullivan, our platoon leader; Charles McQuilliam, platoon sergeant; Bob Sloss, my squad

leader and Charlie Miller, my best friend. I heard them talking back and forth and then I heard Harvey Sharp or Don Slade say that they recognized my voice and that I was Mollica. I called them in and they followed my voice. I was never so glad to see a bunch of marines as I was at that moment. I gave them the grenade and they replaced the pin. Corpsman John Pauk was with them and he gave me some water, not a lot as he was concerned about my wounds, and nothing has ever tasted as good as that first few sips.

I remember being carried out to a jeep and one of my most vivid memories was of Corpsman John Pauk. When they stretched me across the back of the jeep, my legs extended over one side and my neck and head extended over the other side and John sat on the edge of the jeep and supported my neck and head in the crook of his elbow. I don't know where he got the strength to do it, but he remained in that position all the way down the mountain to the aid station---he probably wouldn't remember that, but I'll never forget it.

That evening and the next morning I got to see some of the guys in the platoon who thought I was dead. I was then shipped by ambulance jeep with three other wounded Marines to the beach, where I was transported to a hospital ship off-shore. That night the fleet came under a Kamikaze attack and I could see them through an open hatch. I was amazed the planes didn't attack the Hospital Ship which was lit up like a Christmas tree. A Chaplain came by and told me that President Roosevelt had died the same day I got hit.

Later at the Army hospital on Siapan, I was visited by Bob Sampson who thought I had died after he had to leave me. He told me the reason he had not run was because he thought he could pick me up and carry me out, but he was afraid because of my stomach wounds that it would kill me. While all this went through his mind in seconds, it was long enough for him to get wounded; then there was nothing for him to do but take cover.

I kept meeting people who thought I died on Okinawa and were shocked I made it. I guess "Seek and Ye Shall Find Son" is all we can ever do.

Later at the Hospital in Hawaii, I located James P. Menefee, who was severely wounded by one of those Japanese "ash can" mortars they were using. I think of him often and I think he survived the taking of the Island. I believe he was from Youngstown, Ohio and his father was the sheriff there, or at least in law enforcement. His dad sent him a civilian model Colt .45 while we were in training on the "Canal". He and I used to practice firing it in the bush!

I have always felt like I did less than my share for our outfit. Just when I was needed most, I got myself taken out of the game and that I abandoned the ones who needed me most.

---Donald Mollica

I remember 6 of the guys that got killed, Jackson Bennett, I saw him killed. Pfc Bryson, I was near him when he was killed, Cpl Carson, Sgt Carl Clayton, Gy/Sgt Doerr, he got pretty well blown apart on the hill we were on and I helped carry him out of

there in a poncho., Cpl Joiner, Pfc Lenahan, PFC John Moneyppenny.
---Ambrose A Smith

I remember we walked into one of the biggest ambushes the Japs ever set up. Sgt Heim was on point and I was right behind him. Heim was our plt/sgt and a hell of a nice fellow, and I was right behind him. Captain Stone, was our platoon leader. I remember being in a hole with a Corpsman who was doctoring someone else that had his toes shot off, I can't remember the corpsmans name, but he'd fire a rifle a while and I'd doctor the guy then I'd fire and he'd doctor and we went on quite awhile that way.---Ambrose A Smith

Another bad day we had was when we were on top of a high hill and we noticed that the Japs had dug trenches there. We kept moving and all of a sudden the Jap nambus opened up on us and the natural thing to do was to jump into the trenches which we did. Just two thing were wrong with that, number 1, they had the trenches booby trapped and number 2, they also had the trenches zeroed in with their mortars. They hit us with many mortar rounds and when the guys scrambled to get out of the trenches, they hit them with machine guns. They cut the hell out of us. We fell back a short distance to get out of their direct fire and it took us about two days to retake the area by going around it and coming in from the back side. During the original ambush one of our guys had been wounded and wasn't noticed by the other Marines when we moved back so as a result he spent the two days it took to retake the area in the trenches by himself. The guy, and I can't remember who, had the presence of mind to gather a couple of canteens from the other dead Marines and cover himself with them so the Japs wouldn't notice him when they returned to the trenches at night. He did survive. [The man was Donald J Mollica]

We brought the guys down and we thought that we had all of the Marines who were wounded, but we did miss the person mentioned. I remember bringing down Orus Johnson a Sgt and he was wounded real bad, one leg and arm completely blown off and the other arm was just hanging by shreds and they had it stuck under his head. They got him down the hill, treated him the best they could and got him to a hospital ship, but he died. Some mail came for him that day or the day after and inside the letter from his wife was a picture of his son that was born a short time before and Sgt Johnson hadn't seen him yet. The guys put his son's picture in his billfold so his wife would believe that he had at least had the opportunity to see his picture.

I was married at the time too and had one daughter-- you can't help thinking about things like that.---Jesse Johnson

We had a lot of casualties when we were ambushed on Motobu Peninsula and I don't think the leadership was too great either. We got into that mess and Lt Stone, our Platoon Leader, yelled, "every man for himself", and we all scattered like a bunch of quail. Sgt Heim, Sgt Doerr, and myself, were three of the guys that set ourselves up to give supporting fire while the guys were evacuated. D.R. Smith was with us too as he was a BAR man and I

was his assistant. D.R. Smith was killed. I remember a guy named Double "A" Smith in our Platoon too. I was in the first squad and I think Double "A" Smith was in the 3rd squad.---Granville Longerbeam

One of the guys who got killed we called "Chick", heck, he didn't look over 16 years old and he was with the Machine Gun Platoon.---Granville Longerbeam

On the northern part of the Island, during the ambush we had, there was a fellow from the company who was left for three days in those trenches we got out of. The guy had been wounded and was not noticed when the other guys fell back. He was pretty much out of his mind when we did find him. I think Maurice Vail, was the one who got him out.---Granville Longerbeam

During the ambush up north we were in some hills, and we were going up a path, I was on a flank as we had guys out on both sides. The Japs opened up on us, and as I remember they started with knee mortars. Since I didn't know where they were firing from I climbed to the top of the hill but there was a lot of firing coming from the other side so back down the hill I went to the path we came in on. Then the word came us to "leave anyway you can, get out of here." I remembered someone had told me during training at some time, "when you fall down don't let your feet raise in the air." I fell to the ground about then because a machine gun opened up on us. I kept my feet down when I hit the ground but the guy behind me didn't and was shot through the leg. After going down through the woods a little further, a knee mortar dropped right next to me and didn't go off. A ways farther I met Sgt McQuillam, and he got shot through the ear and I said to him, come on, I'll help you out and he said, "naw, go ahead", and he just sat there. When I got back to where the Company had assembled one of the guys looked at me and said, "hey, you shouldn't be here, your dead." I guess someone thought I had been killed and started that rumor.---Ken Aust

I don't think we were prepared to attack some of hills we did, especially up north.---Ken Aust [Accurate maps of the Motobu Peninsula area were not available. When the army took their photographs for mapping during September and October of 1944, sections of Motobu Peninsula were under cloud cover and as luck would have it, the Mt Yaetake area was one of those areas where photographs could not be taken.]

Pates, my fireteam leader was shot in the back.---Ken Aust

Don Mollica, was the guy who layed out for three days after the ambush up north.---Ken Aust

I got wounded in that ambush on the 12th of April too although it wasn't bad enough to put down. I got a concussion and some small fragments in my leg. I went back to Battalion Aid

Station but I was only there for 4-5 hours and went back to the company. I guess the Doctor didn't feel it was serious enough to put on my record because it doesn't appear there. About 36 years latter I explained the situation to a guy who was with the government in giving out awards and he told me to write it up and get a couple of witnesses and he would check my record. So I did get my Purple Heart after all those years.---Hubert Welch

I helped carry out the body of Orus Johnson, Frank Greska, John O'Leary was shot right by my side.---Frank Kukuchka

April 12th, "Ambush!" This was a bright, sunny day. We were told early of our mission, it would be directly up the hill towards the summit of Yaetake. There was a trail, an unused road, at the left flank end of our bivouac area and up from the river, which led up the hill at a slight diagonal. It came out on the ridge above a few hundred yards ahead. We started our advance sometime early in the afternoon, using this trail. After a short distance the trees and shrubs ended and beyond was an open field with tall dry grass and scrub in patches here and there.

When we reached the ridge it was very broad and the Company could spread out reasonably well in fire team columns abreast of each other. The ridge gradient was a very gradual incline up for some distance with a step in the middle which went up about fifteen feet then it leveled off again until one got to the base of the summit. About 100 yards from the base of the summit there was a thicket of small trees of about eight or ten feet high and growing very close together. When we were within fifty to a hundred feet of the thicket, a single shot was fired and almost immediately all hell broke loose. The whole mountain exploded with enemy gun fire of all sorts especially mortar, rifle and machine gun. We were caught by surprise in an "Ambush!" Everyone just melted down in the grass and crawled or the nearest cover. I crawled to the edge of the thicket, seeing none of the guys from my unit around I crouched and kept moving around the scrub. I reached an opening where the Japs had cut a swath eight or ten feet wide in the center of this thicket and in line with the summit above. The first Marine I came upon was our radio man with the heavy equipment on his back. He was dead, lying in this open space. Others were running back and forth from the overgrowth. With the enemy fire still raging it was bedlam and there was a lot of confusion not knowing where or what had happened to the rest of our men. One Marine was running towards me still lingers in my memory. He was carrying no weapon. When we came together he stopped for a mement, looked me straight in the eyes, didn't say a word, then took off again. That terrified look I can never forget. Perhaps my look was no consolation to him either.

Soon I met up with a couple of fellows with a litter and helped carry a wounded man. In the process we were drawing machine gun fire. The dirt and grass was kicking up all around us. We made it over the knoll without any casualties and arrived at the first aid station which was located a short distance down, under a clump of trees. As we reached the entrance to the field station, the first person I noticed was our Platoon Sergeant,

McQuilliam, leaning against a tree with blood on his face and hands. We put the wounded Marine down and he didn't appear too badly wounded. Looking about I was horrified to see the number of casualties. Our platoon leader, Lt Sullivan, was assisting the Corpsmen, as were other fellows.

We went back up to look for other individuals, whether by command or voluntarily, I'm not sure---too much activity going on. The heavy enemy fire had subsided somewhat, still rifle shots kept coming in. The face of the mountain was all grey with smoke from all of the gun activity. I don't recall who the other fellow was with me. We went up through the thicket again, over the ridge, looking for other wounded. We met up with four other Marines carrying a badly wounded man down towards the trail from where we came. When they put him down to give him some morphine, I recognized him as Pvt Greska, from our 2nd platoon. He was shot through the stomach and the contents would ooze out each time he would make a crying moan. He was in terrible agony and pain. The two of us took turns helping to carry him to the road near our bivouac area from where we started, and we got him to a vehicle that took him away.

At the bivouac area, we met an officer who was studying his maps on a huge stump along the road. We told him of our plight up on the mountain and that assistance was needed. He looked at us very concerned for a moment, then said, "Go back up to the tree line and dig in, in case the Japs counterattack." He then turned back to his maps again. At least eight or ten of us were there by that time, so we did just that. By dusk I was so exhausted, I didn't recall how our remaining men came back or how our wounded or dead were removed.---Frank Kukuchka

I can't remember what time we took off from our area the day of the big ambush, I think it was about 8am [April 12, 1954] but I recall we heard rumors that Russia had just entered the war on our side against the Japanese. I was so busy treating the wounded that day I lost all track of time and the first time I looked at my watch it was 5pm., and I just couldn't believe it. I know Col Bleasdale was relieved about then.---Fred Pears

When sending all of the men you knew out on patrol, one always wondered as they were leaving, who was coming back? There were some hard decisions that had to be made.---Lawrence Sullivan

One of the Marines killed was Orus Johnson, he was also a member of the mortar section and his was a rather unusual story. When I went to the Canal I was a corporal, and during the time we were there a sergeant's examination was given and I took it along with quite a few other guys from our Regiment. One day shortly after taking the test they called me front and center at a company formation and gave me my sergeant stripes. Orus Johnson was also a sergeant so this meant we had two sergeants in the mortar section which was quite unusual but they didn't do anything about that and Orus and I got along real good. So he and I and Lt Vellman did the forward observation. (Lt Vellman, was from Lakewood, OH, about 18 miles from where I now live) Vellman

was given a commission because of his college education.---
William Cromling

When we landed, we did a left turn and headed for the north end of the island. The 2nd Marine Division was off shore waiting to see if they would be needed. We ran into a bushwhack during the time President Roosevelt died. and we lost quite a few people that day, Orus Johnson was one of them. [Orus Johnson was killed on April 12, 1945] I have always felt badly about that because he and I became very close and he always shared letters with me that he got from his wife who had to be some kind of an idiot. She was constantly complaining about the rationing of sugar and other items as well as how tough they had it at home, she bitched, and bitched in all of the letters she sent him. He would read the letters and then with tears in his eyes would ask, "Bill, what the hell am I supposed to tell her? What should I say?" I really felt for him.---William Cromling

I had a guy in my squad by the name of Jim Scism, who was wounded up north by a bullet in the neck. He was a tall skinny guy and had a huge adams apple and that is where he was shot. Well apparently it wasn't too serious because soon he was back with us again and in several days was wounded again. This one was a happy wound. He left on a stretcher with a smile on his face and I never saw him again.---Charles Miller

When Mollica was wounded on April 12, he had a gaping hole in his right side which was made by a mortar plus he had about seven bullet holes in him. There was a kid named Lenahan who was his assistant BAR man and another guy who I can't recall the name of who were with Mollica when he was hit. They were in a rather deep trench and because of Mollica's stomach wound he couldn't crawl out of the foxhole. Lenahan and the other guy tried to pull him out but every time they reached down and tried to pull him out, a nambu had a clear shot and nailed Mollica with a round or two and that's how he got the other seven bullet wounds. Mollica was in an awful lot of pain and finally after giving the guys his BAR so the Japs wouldn't get it he told the guys to take off because he couldn't stand any more. Later while he was in the trench, he needed some water and had enough strength to crawl over and get a canteen which had belonged to a Corpsman and at the same time picked up some plasma which he later administered to himself.---Charles Miller

On April 12th, they attacked from two sides and we had to draw back and of course as we were moving back we were receiving heavy mortar and machine gun fire. Many guys got killed and wounded that day including my radio man by the name of Wiggins, who came from Pennsylvania. [The name, Wiggins could not be found on the Company muster roll. It could be a nickname however]---
Harvey Brooks

"2" & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
4/13/45	0725	Rad Fr: 34 wounded in action--8 KIA--6 MIA yesterday--Cards to follow.
	0725	Rad Fr: I Co has 1 KIA, 8 missing, 50 wounded.
	0935	Rad Fr: Have 1 patrol to 9628 Y--Sent 1 patrol to 9724 EIMLK and 9624 J and I--Sent 1 patrol to 9824 BCD--Have communications with these patrols.
	1100	Rad Fr: 3rd Bn reports Arty came from 9823, 9923, 9924.
	1140	3/29 received Arty fire last night--Killed 1 Nip with nambu MG at 9825 F2 in early morning. (Action: m, s)
	1335	Rad Fr: I Co picked up notebook off Jap soldier containing notes on present Posns and force in that area--(notified D-2 & requested they pick up at 3/29 CP) (Action: D-2, x,s)
	1352	Rad Fr: Patrol to 9628 Y reported heard small arms fire north of them while trying to contact Rcn Co Patrol--Did not contact Rcn--Other patrol report neg.
	1430	Rad to C.O 3/29 (via 1/29): C.O. 3/29 report to Archon G (4th Mar) at 0715 N on return from 1/29 CP.
	1445	Rad Fr: Reported 8" Naval Gun at 0023 A.
	1707	Rad Fr: Request 6th Div for permission LVTA's remain with us tonight.
	1900	Rad Fr: Our front lines no change--Location of troops no change--Sent 1 patrol to 9628 Y to contact Rcn Co at 130900--Failed to contact Rcn Co--Killed 2 Nips--Met no organized resistance--Patrols around the perimeter negative report--At 130950 rec'd 2 rounds enemy Artillery fire 200 yds in front of our lines, fired return fire from 0714 2 into area believed fire coming from--Rec'd no more fire--NGF Officer spotted Nip Naval Gun at 0023 A, used Arty fire on the position--Unable to ascertain results--Combat Efficiency 80%. (Action: m,x,s)

Marines Killed In Action

4/13/45	Stackhouse	Duff	Pfc	859210



PFC Duff Tyrus Stackhouse, 859210

Private First Class Stackhouse, was born November 25, 1924, at Chandlersville, Ohio, and was the son of Mr. Duff A. Stackhouse, Route 1, Chandlersville, Ohio.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve, May 5, 1943, at the age of 18 years, at Cincinnati, Ohio. He joined the 11th Recruit Bn., at Parris Island, on May 21, 1943, for Boot Training, and joined the Guard Company, Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Fla., July 17, 1943. PFC Stackhouse, was promoted to PFC on December 1, 1943, and was assigned to the Naval Air Station, Boca Chica, Fla., on July 26, 1943. He joined Co. "I", 3rd Bn., 29th Marines, FMF., June 9, 1944 and embarked Guadalcanal, aboard the USS Gen. C.G. Morton, on August 1, 1944. He was a member of the Machine Gun Platoon, I/3/29/6.

PFC Stackhouse, was Wounded In Action, April 12, 1945 and Died of these Wounds on April 13, 1945. He received, "H.E. fragments multiple", during an ambush by the Japanese near the east-west road east of the village of Toguchi on the Motobu Peninsula. His remains were interred, April 13, 1945, Grave 88, Row 4, Plot A, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1948, PFC Stackhouse's remains were interred at the National Cemetery, Hawaii.

Bill Lee and I used to bring back something, like a chicken or a pig every time we went on patrol. One time we were moving up in a column and I was the last guy and I heard these chickens squawking and a fellow was running around a house with a flock of chickens in front of him. I said to him. "What the hell are you doing back here? your supposed to be way up front". He said. God

and he sure went by the book. He felt the only way to learn how to dig a foxhole was go out and dig one, and we dug many of them during training on Guadalcanal, well, on Okinawa too I guess. Bleasdale was a hard taskmaster. He took us in to combat and apparently couldn't take the stress or responsibility as he would blow his top when things didn't work out his way. He just couldn't handle it, and they had to take him out. This was my personal opinion. He came from England.---Hubert Welch

The Company Commander told me to take the point one day after the ambush on the 12th of April, I had five or six men with me and Pfc Brienza was one of them, we were all from the Headquarters group. I guess he thought we were all expendable and if we got shot it wouldn't make much difference. As we were going along the road, I saw a couple chickens and I told Brienza he and a couple of the others should fall out and get a couple of those chickens for supper. Brienza started to chase a chicken with a stick, he stumbled and jabbed the stick into his side and he got a hernia. Now whether or not he should have got the Purple Heart for that I don't know. I remember it well and we were about 500 yards ahead of the main body and I put him along side of the road until the Corpsman caught up with us. Being on the point is no fun and we were looking to be shot at, at any time, but we all made it OK.---Hubert Welch

Col Bleasdale, was relieved because of the ambush up north and I feel he was well liked and gave quite a few lectures while we were on Guadalcanal.---Frank Kukuchka

April, 14...Pulled down road about a mile. Began wide sweep movement toward Yaetake. Bivouacked to right of ambush area. (Art-As)

We moved back down the road toward Nago. Swept the opposite slope and valley of day 12, and bivouacked in the area of the first aid station on the day of the ambush.---Frank Kukuchka

No, I can't remember when Col Bleasdale was relieved, I guess they didn't need my advice on that so they didn't contact me.--- Joe Bledsoe

The only thing I can remember hearing about why Bleasdale was relieved of command was , we ran into a Jap ambush and right after that he was gone. during that time some of the wounded were removed, but several of the wounded were in front of the lines until we could remove them several days later.---Maurice Vail

Before we moved south George Breaux, was our "pack charge" man and his job was to lay charges on the pillboxes and blow them up. Because of the conditions up north he didn't get to use his talents much because there really wasn't much need for them. George Breaux was a good marksman and we had just got the hell kicked out of us on 12 April, and two days later Breaux and I were shacking up together as at that time you could pretty much pick the guy you were going to dig in with. When we got up in the

morning Breaux was looking over the ground we would be traveling over for the day, since we were dug in on some high ground, and while we were eating a ration, he made some remark and got his M-1 rifle and adjusted the sights. A couple hundred yards down a road was an Okinawan woman walking carrying a baby on her back papoose style. He brought his rifle to his shoulder, took careful aim and fired. The woman crumpled on the road. I said something like, "what'd ya do that for?" and he kind of laughed about it. Later in the day, the Company moved out and the 3rd Platoon took the lead and Breaux was still chuckling about the earlier target practice but he didn't say anything to me about it and I didn't bring up the subject either, but I was thinking the whole thing was kind of useless cause she wasn't doing anything to us. As we started to move out of the Company area I was assigned point and Breaux asked if he could walk point with me. Lt Sullivan, gave Breaux the OK and we started moving out spaced at intervals of 10 to 15 yards apart. I was carrying my BAR and I was a fantastic shot with it and carried it all the way through Okinawa. As Breaux and I approached the dead woman in the road, we could hear the baby squalling, not because he was hurt in any way but just scared. Breaux ran ahead of me at this point and with the barrel of his rifle pulled up the kimono of the dead woman. It wasn't a woman at all but a Jap soldier wearing khaki pants and leggings. I turned to him and asked, "How in hell did you know that was a Jap soldier?" He was still chuckling and replied, "you know how these Jap women walk, tippee toe, tippee toe, tippee toe, well this guy was taking regular strides. As far as the baby, we never did find out if it was his or the Jap was just using it for cover, we could see it wasn't hurt in any way but he was very frightened. Breaux was a good shot because he got the Jap in the back of the head and although he missed the baby completely, some of the Jap's brains had splattered on it's face. There was a guy in our Company named Wicka, who was a Cpl and a fire team leader who was an older guy and was in real good shape---he was a boxer. Wicka got hold of some of those real rough paper towels we used to get in our rations and wiped away the crud from the baby's face and after that was done he asked me for a pencil when he left the baby along side of the road he also left a note saying, "take care of this baby". That was the most compassionate act that I ever saw a Marine perform on Okinawa. As I look back on that event, I am still amazed that Breaux picked up that little detail of how the Jap soldier was walking.---Charles Miller

Colonel Bleasdale was a different person. He was getting up in years as he made quite a good name for himself during the First World War and I think especially immediately after the ambush we ["I" Company) were in and the action of some of the other units in the Regiment he just couldn't handle the strain. He was born in Australia and I heard he went to England to spend his retirement years there.---Harvey Brooks

"2' & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
4/15/45	0948	Rad Fr: (relay Fr 4th Mar) G-H Co's report they are being pulled out of position to the right at present and there is a gap between I Co on left flank & G Co-- Attempting to close gap by patrols--Advance about 100 yds this time. (Action: m, info)
	1025	Msg Ccn To: Have made urgent request for low verical coverage interior Motobu Peninsula for last 5 days--Had no results to date. Will send overlays of Mosaic and photos immediately upon receipt of same. (Action: 2/29, info-1/29)

We had quite a bit of rain in the valley of the hills up north and they had a lot of problems keeping us supplied with stuff. I have told people, I'll soon be 74 years old and the only time I have been hungry is when I was a hired gun for Uncle Sam.
---Ambrose A Smith

I can remember seeing the invasion of Ie Shima from the high hills we were on.---Martin Sucoff

Joe Bledsoe, was one of the few guys that got through it all without a scrape. Joe was with the 1st squad of the 1st Platoon during the beginning of the Battle, but was re-assigned to the 3rd squad later on because they needed fireteam leaders. I recall when I came back from the hospital after I was wounded near Sugar Loaf, he was about the only one I knew cause the rest of them were replacements that joined after I was wounded.---Granville Longerbeam

Bleasdale, yeah, he was a colonel and was the commander of the 29th Regiment, but I can't remember anything about his being relieved. The only thing I head about him and I doubt it was true, was that some big bruiser officer, who was an ex paratrooper, punched him in the nose while on Guadalcanal.---Ken Aust

It was the day I blew up the gun and climbed the hill in my poncho. We were on the side of a hill and behind us we watched the invasion of Ie Shima, where Ernie Pyle was killed. Riggs, my fireteam leader and I were dug in together, it was raining that day. It was like watching a big show.---Ken Aust

April, 15, ... "G" Co. assaulted Yaetake. "I" Co. came up later and extended line to the left. Dug in along a ridge. Nips and civilians infiltrate our lines. Seven were killed during the night outside our fox holes.

On this day the third platoon of "I" Company was in reserve and joined "G" Company's left flank in the evening. So during the day we could move up the hill and look down on the wooded thicket

where we were ambushed and see the advantage the Japs had. In addition to the open cuts of the trees they also had trenches dug parallel to the hill where some of our men took cover and were direct targets. I don't know how many were lost here. I was assigned with a couple other men to remove one dead body from within one of the trenches. The sun was hot the three days after the ambush and the odor from this shattered body was unbearably acute. The other fellows couldn't handle it. I had to plead and prod to get them to continue, suppose they were that poor Marine laying there in the dirt. Finally we got it out of the soil, on to a litter and to a location where it could be picked up. His name was Sgt. Orus Johnson. After this action, I was referred to by my fellow Marines as "blood and guts".

One artillery gun of the 15th Marines had reached our location now and was working the top of the mountain in conjunction with "G" Company.

It was this day also the bodies of the two Marines were found who, we assumed, were going for the big Jap gun in the cave on the mountain side. One was defecated on we were told. In the evening, Company "I" moved up on the left flank of Company "G" and set up its perimeter for the night near the top of the ridge. It had a bend in it which swung to the left somewhat. The top of the ridge had a narrow tree line on it. Below this was a clear field, like a meadow, twenty or thirty yards wide, and then a depression of assorted brush and medium sized trees. Company "G" was to our right, up the hill following the ridge toward the summit. Our Company "I" came in on a dirt road from below and continued along the edge of this wooded ravine. Third platoon came in last, so our squad was used to cover the right flank, where the open space between the road and the ridge was, facing toward and below Company "G". The rest were dispersed along the ridge in the back. My fire team was on the bank nearest to the road. Everyone dug in well, since we were on the front again.

Grover Shankle was the new BAR man in my fire team. I don't know what happened to Ivan G. Zahler. That was his position. Later during the night there was rustling in the weeds and low voices could be heard coming toward us---our squad opened up and fired in the direction of the voices. Grover Shankle, must have been dozing and was startled when the shooting started and began to spray the whole area with his BAR in every direction, including the back where most of our troops were. The next morning we found six women and a young boy dead, out in front of our fox holes. Our squad caught "holy hell" from everyone for the miss-guided shooting. Even Company "G" complained. Fortunately none of our men were injured.

Most of the bodies of the civilians we killed were in the roadway leading down the hill and I was involved helping to remove them from the road. I shutter now when I think about it; in order to clear the road, I grabbed the young corpse, (8 or 9 years old) by the heels and tossed him over the side into the wooded ravine. Cruel as this may sound now, it was nothing unusual then, it was just getting a part of the day's job done. Death wasn't unusual and we were too busy to dwell on it---its happening was ever present around us.---Frank Kukuchka



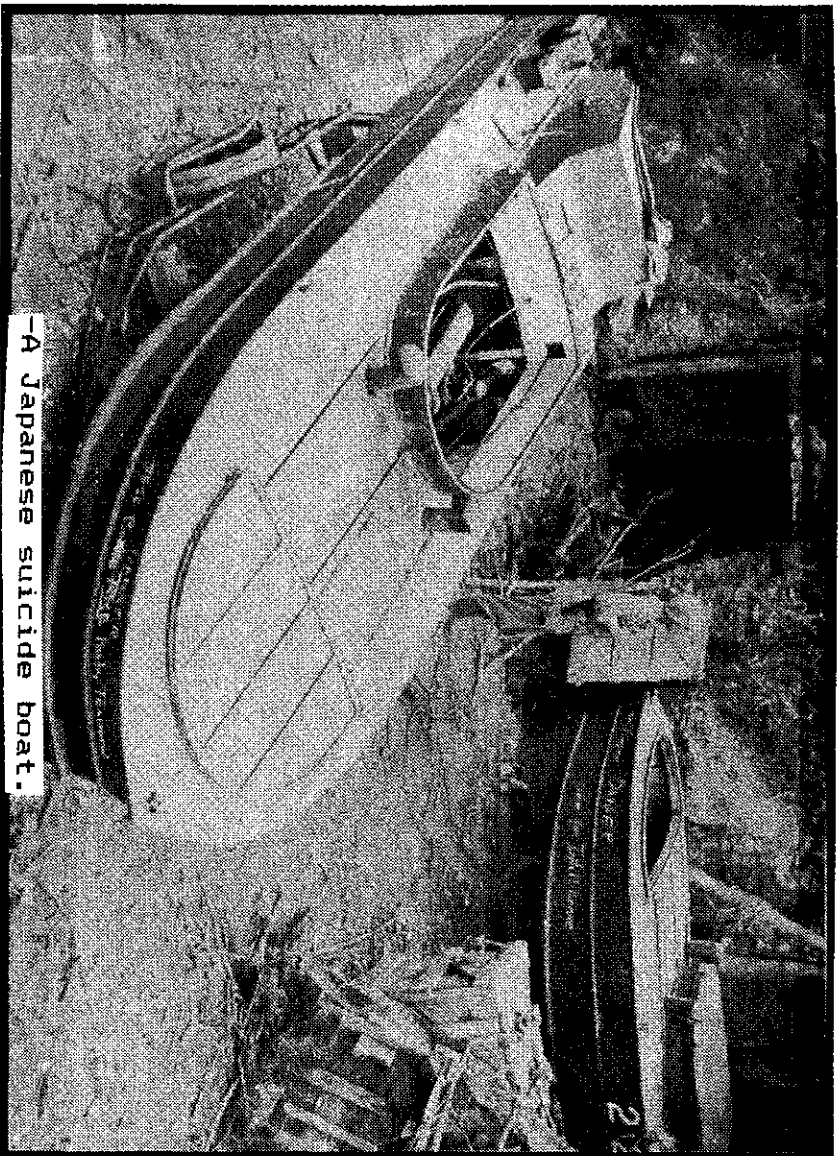
U. S. marines are happy to find an Okinawan pig killed by shell fire for barbeque dinner.



-A northern village.

I remember watching the invasion of Ie Shima; with the landing craft and all, but what I remember more specifically were our planes swooping in and attacking it with bombs, rockets and strafing. It was during that day we heard Ernie Pyle was killed. --Fred Pearis

Several days after "L" day, I started to feel more like an observer than a participant. The suicide attacks were still going on but it was a distant thing and so were the muffled artillery barrages that were heard to the north in support of the 6th Division rifle companies there. One day as I was working on the beach the green ponchos that were below a small incline about 50 yards from the waters edge, caught my eye. After learning they were the bodies of Marines that had been killed on the northern part of the island my outlook changed and the sight brought me back to the realities of war. I think the sight affected me too because it seemed that when their jobs took them near these dead Marines the spot was treated with reverence and there was no joking or laughing within that section of the beach area. I wondered whether the dead were going to be taken to the ships, or were they to be buried on the island; maybe they were going back to the States; how were they killed?; do I know any of them? are any from Minnesota? their family?----friends. The number of green ponchos on the beach grew and I knew that each one of them would have to be replaced, it wouldn't be long before many of us would be tapped on the shoulder and ordered to report to ?????????-- Kenneth Long



-A Japanese suicide boat.

"2" & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
4/16/29	1357	Rad To: We have received no answer to the following priority Msg sent 151220: In regard report from 3rd Bn sent 130725 that 6 men were missing in action, we understand 3 men were recovered-- Corps suggests possibility 1 or more wounded may be in enemy hands--Info about this is vital unless all dead are recovered--Send names, ranks, and all available details of conditions when last seen.
	1750	Rad Fr: Info furnished 4th Mar for forwarding this morning on daily report for 15 Apr.

Marines Killed In Action

4/16/45	Kemp	William	Pfc	956230
4/16/45	Zacame	Bernard	Pvt	565070
4/16/45	Propst	John	2nd Lt	039233
4/16/45	Walter	Richard	Pfc	854978



PFC William Marcus Kemp, 956230

Private First Class Kemp, was born 29 January 1926 at Fruitland, Tenn., his father, Mr. Marcus B. Kemp, lived in Corinth, Mississippi.

PFC Kemp, enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve 18 March 1944 at Jackson, Miss. and was assigned to the 7th Recruit Bn., Parris Island, for Boot Training on March 26, 1944. He was 18 years old. He joined Co."I", 3rd Bn., 29th Marines, FMF., July 12, 1944 and sailed for Guadalcanal aboard the Gen USS C.G. Morton on August

1, 1944. He was a member of the Machine Gun Platoon, I/3/29/6. He was promoted to PFC on February 8, 1945.

PFC Kemp, was Killed In Action on April 16, 1945 of H.E. fragments to the chest, our unit was located close to Green Hill, near Toguchi, on the Motobu Peninsula. PFC Kemp's remains were interred April 18, 1945, Row 8, Grave 188, Plot A, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1948 his remains were returned to the United States and interred at Hollywood Cemetery, Jackson, Tenn..

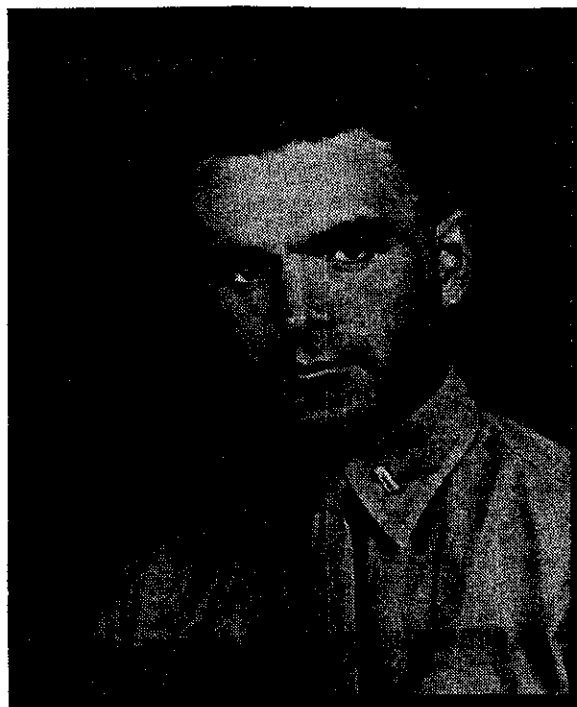
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Pvt Bernard Anthony Zacame, 565070

Private Zacame, was born 9 May 1926 at Waltham, Mass., he was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bernardo Zacame, 15 Charles St., Waltham, Mass.

On April 24, 1944, he enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve, at Boston, Mass., at the age of 17 and joined the 11th Recruit Bn., Parris Island, June 13, 1944, for his Boot Training. He joined the 33rd Replacement Draft, on November 8, 1944 and embarked to the south pacific aboard the USS Sea Bass, on December 27, 1944. He joined I/3/29/6 on February 6, 1945, at Guadalcanal.

Private Zacame, was Killed In Action on April 16, 1945, by multiple H.E. fragments received when Company "I" attacked Green Hill, a short distance west of Mt. Yaetake, on the Motobu Peninsula. His remains were interred April 18, 1945, Grave 193, Row 8, Plot A, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1948, his remains were returned to the United States, and interred at the National Cemetery, Territory of Hawaii.



2nd Lt. John Letcher Propst, 039233

Second Lieutenant Propst, was born 13 February 1922 at Sheldon, Iowa and was the son of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Propst, Sr., 801 East 10th St., Sheldon, Iowa. He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve, October 10, 1942 and served in an enlisted status until June 14, 1944, when he was commissioned a 2nd Lt. at Marine Barracks, Quantico, VA. He was assigned to the San Diego Area and joined the 26th Replacement Draft, November 13, 1944. Between January 1-10, 1945 he was at sea on board the USS Sea Bass, and arrived at Guadalcanal. 2nd Lt. Propst, joined I/3/29/6 as Company Officer on February 5, 1945.

2nd Lt. Propst, was Killed In Action April 16, 1945, he died of H.E. fragment wounds in the chest he received during our unit's attack on Green Hill, which is adjacent to Mt. Yaetake, on the Motobu Peninsula. He was a member of I/3/29/6, Machine Gun Platoon. His remains were interred April 17, 1945, Row 7, Grave 182, Plot A, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1948, his remains were returned to the United States and interred at East Lawn Cemetery, Sheldon, Iowa.



PFC Richard Elmer Walter, Jr., 854978

Private First Class Walter, was born 17 August 1921, at Phillipsburg, N.J., the son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard E. Walter, Sr., Green Avenue, Route #1, Williamstown, New Jersey.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve, 27 April 1943, at Philadelphia, Pa. and was 21 years of age. On May 11, 1943 he joined the 10th Recruit Bn., Parris Island, for Boot Training, and was promoted to PFC on July 13, 1943. On July 14, 1943, he was assigned to the Naval Air Station, Deland, Fla. and was assigned to Co. "I", 3rd Bn., 29th Marines, FMF., June 9, 1944. On August 1, 1944 he embarked for Guadalcanal, aboard the USS Gen. C.G. Morton. He was a member of the Machine Gun Platoon,

I/3/29/6.

PFC Walter, Jr., was Killed In Action as a result of multiple H.E. fragment wounds on April 16, 1945. The Company was attacking Green Hill, west of Mt. Yaetake, on the Motobu Peninsula. His remains were interred 18 April 1945, Grave 187, Row 8, Plot A, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1948, the remains of Pfc Walter, were returned to the United States and interred at Beverly National Cemetery, Beverly, N.J..

		Marines Wounded		
4/16/45	Brown	James	Cpl	545073
4/16/45	Cipriano	Nicholas	Cpl	312735
4/16/45	Hamilton	Russell	Pfc	456746
4/16/45	Keaton	Jessie	Pvt	960180
4/16/45	Knight	James	Pfc	898970
4/16/45	Luddecke	Robert	Pfc	943965
4/16/45	McMahon	Myron	Pvt	956919

We walked to the northern part of the Island, when the 27 Inf. Div. (Army) came up to relieve us, we did get a ride back. As I remember it though, Colonel Bleasdale rode his jeep all the way to Motobu Peninsula and the farther we walked the more money I would have paid him for that jeep.

We were on a high hill up north when the Army landed on Ie Shima, where Ernie Pyle got killed and we saw that invasion real clear.---Ambrose A Smith

We moved out pretty fast when we landed on the beach, what slowed us down on our way up north was the fact that the Japs blew out the bridges on the roads. There were a few snipers around but I don't think we got anyone killed until we got near Mt. Yaetake. I think we got our first big calamity on April 12, apparently the Japs pulled an ambush and they had dug some trenches in the area and when the ambush started our guys jumped in these trenches but the Japs had them zeroed in with their mortars and those that were there really got shot up. We lost Gy/ Sgt Doerr, and that sure knocked the socks off everybody. He was a nice guy and a typical Marine. I was kind of busy about that time. I remember Corpman James as he and I were together when he took a direct hit and he was killed. McDivitt, was a Corpsman and he was killed too. Yeah I remember Pears. Reynor was in our platoon but he got knocked out early. Saylor was in Headquarters Platoon I believe. I think of the eight Corpsman, Saylor, was the only one that came through without a scratch. I think Mahan, was the Corpman who joined the Company on Oroku Peninsula and had a front tooth knocked out.---Donald E Briscoe

We were on a high hill and could see the invasion of Ie Shima real good. We lost Lt Probst that day and he had the worst wound I was ever asked to treat, it was a neck wound and bleeding from the inside, there was nothing I could do for him.---Donald E Briscoe

We had several bad days up north, but I remember one well,

it was the day that Lt Propst got killed. [Note: Lt Propst was killed April 16] We were behind kind of a stone fence about 4 feet high and the Jap mortars opened up, as well as machine guns, after a short time Propst yelled back "Is any one hurt?" some one yelled back to him, "No men hurt!", well, Lt Propst thought the guy said Newman, was hurt and he made a rush to the area since he and Newman were good friends. He didn't keep his head down though and a Jap machine gun got him with about four slugs in the neck. Propst was treated by one of our Corpsmen. [Briscoe]--- Jesse Johnson

The day that Ie Shima, was invaded, that's the island where Ernie Pyle was killed, we were on a hill and could see the invasion quite clear. We suspended operation for the entire day and gave all of our air support to those guys. It was like being in a big amphitheater and the whole show went on down below us.-- Jesse Johnson

April 16, ... Patrols sent out. 4th assaulted from reverse side of Mountain. By evening area secure. Moved back down valley. Boarded Amtracks.

The morning of day 16 is already described in the above, day 15. This is more likely the day we viewed the invasion of Ie Shima while on patrol. I remember watching it for some time.

From this higher elevation we had a good view of the ocean and saw the invasion of Ie Shima, by our forces. This island was large enough to contain a sizeable, cone shaped, (volcano) mountain which stood out very prominently in the distance. This is where Ernie Pyle, a revered news correspondent met his demise from the Japs.

After the war, when we returned and entered the real world again, with our new tasks and responsibilities, there wasn't much time to think about the war. Years later, when I tried to retrace my steps of events there I could never put a date to a fierce battle we had. Now with my diary notes and a casualty list Ken Long sent me, I am able to place it on this day. I wondered where we went with the Amtracks. Suddenly, it came to me, we were transported quickly to another location where the assault was already in progress, and by foot we could have never made it.

At this new location where we were making our sweep, the terrain was very broad and bare, and had a gradual to steep incline. The top, we learned later, was flat like a plateau, with trees and the usual scrub among them. Everything was cleared about twenty feet or more back from the rim on top and possibly a hundred yards or more along it. When we started our drive up the hill, the Japs used some of these piles of scrub to camouflage their automatic weapons, we sure got pinned down by them for a good long while. This is one spot I said a lot of "hail Marys", barely squeezed down in a shallow erosion gully. When our mortar and other support fire came in we made our assault to the top and since we drew no Jap fire from the flat portion of the hill we were on, we slowly moved toward the other side of the hill. We found a few civilians there. One young man, probably in his 20's was dressed in a robe and was sent away since we didn't suspect

him of being a Jap soldier. We also found a young boy of about 14 years and I was frightfully taken back by his horrible disease. I had never seen anyone in the past with Elephantiasis. His whole right leg was as large as the torso of his body, all the way down.

The other side of this hill dropped down very quickly. A great view down at the valley, at least a mile down. A small stream was at the bottom and a road up the bank beyond it, then a small village. On this road we spotted a column of Japs moving quickly to the right, away from us. Just too far for rifle range. Probably the ones driven from this hill and other parts of Yaetake, setting up to give us a rear guard fight when we left the area. We had a sizable number of casualties. The ones I have marked for day 16 are; Bob Luddecke, Russell Hamilton, J.V. Brown, Gaylord Leach and Myron McMahon. J.V. Brown had light wounds so he was back with us soon. Leach got a buttock wound and had four punctures in his back side, we were told.---Frank Kukuchka

I do remember watching the invasion of Ie Shima, from a hillside. Thats where Ernie Pyle got killed.---Joe Bledsoe

When we were up north I think getting water was our worst problem but there were times we didn't have anything to eat either but it wasn't for long periods of time.---Joe Bledsoe

Yes, I recall seeing the invasion of Ie Shima, that day our unit was moved up to the side of a hill, in fact we rode up on top of some Sherman tanks.---William Cromling

I do remember watching the invasion of Ie Shima from a hill we were on at the time.---Maurice Vail

Lt Propst, was up north when he got killed by a bullet to the neck---that was in April I heard. They tried to get a needle in him [to give him plasma] but he died before they could help him. [Pears, who was a Corpsman, told me it was the worst wound he had to treat because Lt Propst was bleeding from the inside and there was no way to stop the bleeding]---Donald Honis



-Ohka, Japanese suicide bomb.

"2' & '3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
4/17/45	1500	Tp Fr: Of 6 men missing 2 are still unaccounted for--1 is almost surely dead --Other is most likely dead--Very slight chance he is living.

4/17/45	Leach	Marines Wounded Gaylord Cpl	953888
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April 17,....Scuttlebutt we rest two days then to south. Instead we rode trucks across to East side of Island. By 1500 my fire team ran into enemy. Killed several Japs. Found horn. Dug in on ridge.

This was the start of the mop-up operation. I originated from West Virginia. The hills we were about to undertake reminded me much of those back home, including the forest, so I kinda felt in my own realm here. One of the many names I was labeled with was "Ridge Runner". I never heard that expression till I left that state.

My first memory of this mop-up sweep was crossing a fast running stream. Probably it was excellent for trout. Some of the fellow even threatened to jump in the deep spots to take a bath, but we had to keep on moving. Our platoon moved through the low area for a while then started up the slope. We went through the forest and we were spread out in tire team columns. About fifty yards up, our squad came upon a spot where a fire had been made and the coals were still warm. This warmed up our coals too, in that we became more alert and excited. A short distance farther we found a mess container with warm rice in it. Now everyone was anxious and moved even faster up the hill. In no time at all a Jap was running directly in front of my fire team. We all opened up on him. He fell, but when we got practically on top of him, he reached for a grenade of which he had three or four strapped on his belt. Well, he didn't get that chance. He hadn't finished convulsing when we all grabbed something from him. Someone got his wallet with photos inside. I got the horn. It happened to be a two piece bamboo flute in a fancy, brown cloth bag. I still have it but I have never attempted to blow it to play a tune. I don't recall what the other fellows took. Someone must have taken his rifle.

During all this time we were occupied there was sporadic shooting to the right and left of us and occasionally up on the ridge. We made a patrol in that area before we dug in for the night.---Frank Kukuchka

"2' & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
4/18/45	1230	C.O. 3/29 checked in at Regtl CP
	1445	Rad To: Air observer reports extensive installations including large caliber guns in area 0427 B,R,M,N,T,O,W--Keep me informed your position and activity in order to coordinate support fires. (Action: m and 3/29)
	1410	Further report indicates installations in TA 0327 and in 0526 B and 0527 F.
	1400	Msg Fr: 3rd Bn jumped off from RJ at 0425 S 2 at 1400.
	1900	Tel Dpr: Head of column at 0325 E 3. (Action Div)
	1930	Rad To: Order for 19 April calls for continuation of present plan--Time is 0800-- Full order leaves here at 0600--Have guide meet at todays detrucking point.
	1950	Rad Fr: In position in perimeter defense at 0426 B--Killed 15 Nips--Own casualty 1 WIA-- (Arty claims 3rd Bn is at 0325 E.
	1600	Rad Fr: Cannot give exact location, think head of column is 700-1000 yds from Rd where Col Pressley gave me orders. (Action: m,s)

Supplies had a rough time getting to us, but we did get a couple cans of 10 in 1 rations for the first time up there. I guess one of those cans were mean't for 10 guys, hell, I could eat one of those cans myself. We'd get out and kill chickens or anything we could find and cook it in the old helmet.---Ambrose A Smith

While up north, they had a lot of trouble getting supplies to us, and at times, supplies were dropped to us from airplanes by parachutes.---Granville Longerbeam

Once up north I saw a guy walking on a path a short distance from my BAR man and me, I said, "Wicka, is that you?", we could tell that it wasn't Wicka and between the BAR man and me we got a lot of shots off. The guys that saw him after he was shot said you could have used him for a boat anchor.---Ken Aust

The weather up north wasn't real cold, but without a jacket you got chilly at night.---Hubert Welch

April 18,...Pushed ahead. Steep mountains. Bivouacked on ridge in woods. Short Art., wounded some of our men during night.

The artillery was from our ships. They had to be big shells by their explosive noise and concussion. The shrapnel would zing through the forest very near to us. Records show no one from Company "I" was wounded, so it could have been scuttlebutt or some other Company.---Frank Kukuchka

April 19
"2" & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
4/19/45	1035	Tel Fr: We are 700 yds from our objective-- No enemy activity noted--Two unimproved roads, one leading N and one leading south-- Will report condition of roads after we inspect them ourselves.
	1100	Rad To: Is Robert Cusack, Division Photo- grapher with you--if so send him back to Division immediately.
	1120	Rad Fr: Have 3rd Bn's AGL drive 3rd Bn jeep to 3rd Bn rear CP--Also NGF LN's jeep sent up with some water in it.
	1225	Rad Fr: Leading elements are on the objective --There are extensive fortifications and entrenchments on this point--Observe no enemy except dead which were killed by Arty or air strikes.
	1430	Rad Fr: We are now in position on objective and am digging in--Are patrolling high ground 500 yds to front and flank--Our perimeter is from 0327 K,P,V and 0326 B--Killed 12 Nips-- No casualties--No sign of recent enemy occupation--Extensive fortification and trench system.
	1805	Rad Fr: 3/29 requests permission to register in 0226 D. (not granted)

"I" Company Replacements from the 26th Replacement Draft

4/19/45	Anderson	Joseph	Pfc	337980
4/19/45	Best	Hydra	Pfc	470551
4/19/45	Blevins	Edward	Pfc	505702
4/19/45	Brew	William	Pfc	841835
4/19/45	Frese	Paul	Pvt	813047
4/19/45	Haynes	Vernon	Pfc	846452
4/19/45	Hinkley	Warren	Pfc	853055
4/19/45	Hutson	Jessie	Pvt	983557
4/19/45	Johnson	Johnie	Sgt	265725
4/19/45	Katavolos	Charles	Pvt	808289
4/19/45	Marz	John	Pfc	902286
4/19/45	McCarty	Harold	Pfc	518171
4/19/45	Morgan	Wesley	Pfc	527245
4/19/45	Morley	Jesse	Pfc	878895
4/19/45	Myers	Robert	Pvt	968178
4/19/45	Nagle	Glenn	Pvt	980908
4/19/45	Nangano	Walter	Pvt	972839
4/19/45	Nelson	Paul	Pvt	986643
4/19/45	Nelson	Norman	Pvt	985171
4/19/45	Newitt	James	Pvt	563718
4/19/45	Nichols	Hollis	Pvt	980909
4/19/45	Nokes	Ralph	Pvt	829249
4/19/45	Northcote	Charles	Pvt	985174

4/19/45	Olson	Norman	Pvt	981071?
4/19/45	Orange	Grayson	Pvt	978507
4/19/45	Parker	Charles	Pvt	990729
4/19/45	Payne	York	Pvt	993739
4/19/45	Peebles	James	Pvt	557502
4/19/45	Pennimpede	Phillip	Pvt	972425
4/19/45	Pepper	Ransford	Pvt	968213
4/19/45	Perez	Augustin	>Pvt	561971
4/19/45	Perkins	Albert	Pvt	950865
4/19/45	Phillips	Fulton	Pvt	980903
4/19/45	Polding	John	Pfc	845176
4/19/45	Porter	Harlan	Pfc	546641
4/19/45	Fryor	Billy	Pvt	993700
4/19/45	Puckett	Thomas	Pvt	568119
4/19/45	Richard	Philip	Pfc	470098
4/19/45	Rogers	Vernon	Pfc	871328
4/19/45	Rutzler	William	Pfc	517360
4/19/45	Shotwell	Samuel	Cpl	309148
4/19/45	Sullivan	Edward	Cpl	437090
4/19/45	Tardiff	Gerard	Cpl	484009
4/19/45	Terry	Floyd	Cpl	295893
4/19/45	Thornton	Clarke Jr	Cpl	543498
4/19/45	Utley	Cecil	Cpl	376861
4/19/45	Whitney	Arnold	Pfc	853335
4/19/45	Willoughby	Clarence	Sgt	281675

Gus Perez and Jim Peebles weren't with "I" Company when we landed but they joined us as replacements when we were up north. Gus and I went to Boot Camp together.---Granville Longerbeam

I have been trying to think of a guy, he was an Indian and was a boxer, he was in our outfit and real dark colored, I always liked him. He always did his road work even when we were aboard ship he would run around on deck. He was killed on Sugar Loaf, [Crescent Hill, the Marine Granville was trying to think of might be Pfc Vernon M. Haynes, who joined the Company as a replacement on April 19, 1945.]---Granville Longerbeam

April 19,...Swept down the mountain towards the ocean on West side. Passed through several villages.
all civilians evacuated towards the sea. Only sniper fire encountered. Bivouacked near village in valley. Rode horses. Cooked Okie chicken. Dug in.---Frank Kukuchka

I was born and raised in Philadelphia. I went to Parris Island for Boot training and was 18 years old when I was on Okinawa. My itinerary from the United States was Guadalcanal, Mog Mog, Okinawa, Guam and Tsing Toa, China.---Albert Perkins

We were on Guadalcanal during the rainy season and if it didn't rain during the day it would rain at night. As I recall, we didn't mind it too much cause we were able to get fresh water showers, we'd step out of the tent and because it was raining so hard, we would lather up and the rain would do the rest. Of

course we didn't like the fact that the crabs were so thick we would have to empty them out of our shoes in the morning.---Albert Perkins

I joined "I" Company as a replacement on 19 April 1945, and was assigned to the 60 mm Mortar Platoon.---Albert Perkins

I did not enjoy the climate one bit because it was so hot and wet. I remember one of the guys in our group told us we were shipping out to the Ulithi Islands, which must have been a lucky guess because I imagine that kind of information was very hush, hush, but I can't remember who it was.---Albert Perkins

One of the Marines who was assigned to "I" Company at the same time I was, asked one of the officers, when we were up north, if we would have to move to the south after we secured the north. I recall the officer laughed and said, "you don't have to worry about that because after all, they have about four divisions and we have two.---Albert Perkins

Enroute to Okinawa the convoy formed at night and when daylight came we saw ships everywhere. On Easter Morning the Navy opened fire with their artillery waking everyone up on ship, no more sleeping.---James Peebles

April 20

"2" & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
4/20/45	1150	Rad Fr: Our front lines 0428 I to 0328 H-- No contact with the 1st Bn--Slight resistance --2 POW's. (Action m, j, Div, 2nd Bn)
	1430	Rad To: Report your position-Urgent.
	1440	Rad Fr: (via 1/29 Fr mew) 3/29 present position at 0430 V (RSFX) (Action: m,J)
	1430	Tp Fr: 3/29 in town at 0529 MNO. (Action: m, J, Div)
	1500	Rad Fr: Present location of 3rd Bn CP 0430-- 3rd Bn has reached her objective at the coast.
	1626	Rad Fr: We have approx 150 civilian prisoners --request disposition, would like to allow them to return to their homes--Request answer as soon as possible.
	1725	Rad Fr: My CP located at 0330 O-4-- All patrols accomplished as ordered--All patrols are in--Report coming by Liaison Officer.

Marines Wounded

4/20/45	Duck	Orman	Pfc	547641
4/20/45	Walsh	Raymond	Pvt	982612

April 20, ... Souvenir hunted. made panel hut.---Frank Kukuchka

April 21
"2" & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
4/21/45	0825	3/29 repta killing 12 Nips, 2 POW's, and 6 civilians (female) captured in yesterday's bag.
	0919	Rad Fr: 3/29 patrols today in 0428, 0429, 0430, 0431, 0529. (Action: x,s,m)

While we were up north, John O'Leary and I came upon a US Navy jeep, it still ran good and O'Leary and I drove it all over. One day the Lt asked us where we got the jeep and we told him we found it. "Oh Yeah", the Lt said, "The Navy just reported one stolen". We didn't drive it again.---Ken Aust

April 21,...Patrolled in toward mountain. Wet day.---Frank Kukuchka

April 22

April 22,...Wrote letters. Cooked duck. Went on patrol along coast.---Frank Kukuchka

April 23

4/23/45	Mylod	Company Replacement Phillip Capt/CO	013152
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April 23,...Got dummy run on Nips being in caves. Inspected, found civilians only.---Frank Kukuchka

April 24

4/24/45	Turner	Company Replacement Alfred Sgt	289323
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April 24,...Moved almost two miles down the road to new bivouac area. Prominent ground along hill. Nice view toward ocean. Village and school house below. Made panel hut, Zahler and myself.---Frank Kukuchka

"2" & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
4/25/45	1925	Tp Fr: 3/29 patrols found evidence of many civilians--No indications of Mil activity--will keep area under surveillance. (Action: J, Div)

April 25-30,... Made patrols. Bathed in river near the ocean. Bathed at a spring. Souvenir hunted, mailed few home. Here the natives were very friendly. Kids were always around.

While patrolling near the edge of a village we found a well, the old fashion kind with a bucket and rope to pull the water up. Later a couple of us went back to take a dousing bath. We stripped down on the buff, then tossed the bucket down into the well but couldn't get it to tip over to fill up. Each time it landed bottom down. A very old woman was doing her laundry not far from us and after a while, seeing our futile attempts, came over and took the rope and gave it a quick jerk when the bucket was near the water level. She waited just a moment, then pulled up a bucket full. She did this several times while the other fellow and I poured it over each other, getting our dousing bath. We laughed and kidded each other all the time this was going on, not being accustomed to this bare exposure in front of a woman. Yet in all this lapse of time, not a single wrinkle moved to change the somber expression on this kind old lady's face. How could I ever forget this! So even in the adversity of war there were some occasions of lighter moments to ease our stress and anxieties.---Frank Kukuchka

The one thing which concerned me the most during the mop-up and patrols in the hill country, in spots where only a column could move and the fellows would never allow enough space between he and the next guy. Always bunching up. I worried what a grenade, mortar or artillery shell could do to a lot of men. I would have to shout for some of them to space out, "Keep your distance!" or "Keep your deployment!". From all the mail I received, they knew I was engaged to a girl named Ruth, back in Philadelphia. So to get back at me, they would razz me every chance they got. When they would find a certain candy wrapper in their rations, they would shout, "here's a Baby Ruth for you Frankie!". At times, we were so typically American, overcome by the "buddy, buddy, bunch syndrome", we were very irresponsible for our safety.

In one village several of us were invited inside a house by an English speaking native who gave us the names of various objects in Japanese. I have a short list of a few of the translations.---Frank Kukuchka

April 26
"2" & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
4/26/45	1930	Tp Fr: G Co patrol investigated beach area opposite <u>Sesoko</u> area--Few civilians--No sign of recent activity--Destroyed, 1 dugout and 150 ft motor launch unserviceable in area. (Action: Div)
	1710	Msg Cen To: Patrol craft report large groups of civilians moving to <u>Sesoko</u> --Inhabited caves in target areas 9626 and 9726-- Investigate & report immediately.

The weather up north at the time the 27th Infantry Division took our place was just about like Florida, weather and I kinda hated to leave. Yeh, we were up there resting kinda enjoying ourselves when they told us the Army was fatigued out and we had to relieve them so we jumped on the trucks and went.---Ambrose A Smith

April 27

Company Replacement			
4/27/45	Melcher	Thomas	2nd Lt 041974

April 28

Company Replacements from the 26th Replacement Draft				
4/28/45	Honis	Donald	Pvt	994282
4/28/45	Hood	Warren	Pvt	968332
4/28/45	Jones	Gerald	Pvt	987240
4/28/45	Litts	Bartley	Pvt	972758
4/28/45	Sports	Rupert	Pfc	544608
4/28/45	Stradley	Horace	FM 1st	828991

I grew up in Syracuse, NY, back in the 30's, there were some of those ancient movies about the Marines. Pearl Harbor came along and a couple of my neighbors joined the Marine Corps and as I recall, one went in the 1st Raider Bn and the other ended up in the 5th Marine Division and that's what got me going. In 1943 my brother Bob joined the Marine Corps, so my goal now was going to be Marine Corps. I was 18 years old when I joined and had just finished High School. My older brother went in the Army in January of 1943. Back then when one turned 18 he had to go through Selective Service and you really didn't have a choice. During the months previous to my enlistment, I spent a lot of time buddy buddying the Marine Recruiter as I knew I wanted to enlist in the Corps. I might have regretted that later on at Parris Island but I guess overall I was pleased about being accepted. My mother was disappointed about my being accepted, being the youngest and all, she thought I just wasn't strong enough.

I went to Parris Island for my boot camp and lived through

the usual misery they hand out there of tearing one down and building them up. It was August of 1944 when I went in and was part of Platoon #475. I got out of boot camp in October of 1944 and they put us on trucks and took up to Port Royal, where they shipped us to Camp Lejuene and after a 10 day leave, we began our training. We were placed in the training regiment at tent camp and some of my buddies got into mortars and I was assigned to machine guns. I recall we spent that Thanksgiving out on bivouac and the weather was damp and cold. I ended shipping out with the 43rd Replacement Draft and it was on New Years Eve, we shipped out of Camp Lejuene for the West Coast.

We arrived at Pendelton on the 5th of January and on the 8th of January, they got us up early and we had breakfast on the trucks as they transported us to the Navy docks in San Diego. We boarded our transport right away and we debarked for the South Pacific that same afternoon. I went back there to visit a couple of years ago, the Swab Jockey who was guarding it wouldn't let me go on it though.

As we left the harbor, there was a big billboard placed so that the embarking troops could see it from the ship and it said, "Good Luck" or "Good Hunting", I can't remember which. Coming back, they had one up too and it said, "Welcome Back--Well Done". On the way back we didn't go through Pearl Harbor and we landed on the same Navy Pier we left from. We left aboard the transport USS Mormacdove, she was a small ship and it was a real scow, it took us 8 days to get to Pearl Harbor. On the way to Hawaii, the ship started to pitch and roll and guys were getting seasick all over the place---some of them disappeared for three days. I remember one of the guys who got sick was Warren Hood, who was later killed with "I" Company, he was a Cherokee Indian from Oklahoma. Prior to crossing the International Date Line we were just slimy poliwogs and it wasn't until after we crossed that we became Shellbacks. When we left Pearl Harbor we joined a convoy which was heading for Iwo in fact at that time we were slated to become part of the 5th Marine Division. All that changed though and we left them somewhere and headed for Guadalcanal, although I have often wondered if my brother would have been in the same convoy. At about that time we changed ships and transferred to the USS Galliton, and what a difference, and the first Sunday night meal we had was a typical navy ship Sunday night meal with cold cuts, stewed tomatoes and beans which we thought was great! The crew thought we were crazy but we thought it was delicious after what we were getting on the other ship. We had two meals a day and you were issued a pass that identified the compartment you were from so one didn't go through the line twice.---Donald Honis

April 29

Company Replacements from the 26th Replacement Draft

4/29/45	Taylor	Eston	Pvt	960569
4/29/45	Whatley	Earl	Pfc	891000

 We joined the 22th Marines, the latter part of February,

1945, as replacements and were located in tents along the beach on Guadalcanal by a sunken Japanese ship, named the Kinigowan Muru, she had been beached and we used to dive off of the hull which stuck out of the water about 30 feet. It was the middle of February when we arrived and the rumors were already flying about where our next battle would be. I met one guy, his name was Art Hanlin from New York City and he told me where we were going. Although he didn't name them he stated it would be in the island group between Formosa and Japan so he was right on. The high point while on Guadalcanal occurred one day as we were on a work detail by the beach and a jeep drove up with the most gorgeous girl you can imagine and no doubt she was a Red Cross girl and we talked about her for days. Since we assumed our next battle would be a hot spot, the six guys in our tent were talking one night and asked the others. "I wonder of our group here, how many will be killed or wounded?" Our conclusion was, maybe one will get wounded. Just the opposite occurred as only one of the men, his name was Jones, made it through unscathed and the others were either killed or wounded. One was killed, Jimmy Hessler, who was with Baker Company, 1st Bn, 29th.. All of the rest were wounded.--Donald Honis

April 30

On March 12, and I think it was a Sunday, it started to rain and it came down in torrents, and it rained, rained and rained some more. I recall waking up as I laid on my cot and head the water sloshing outside of the tent. My rifle was hanging over the end of my cot with the stock in air and the sights were in the water and so I took it to bed with me. The next morning the entire area was an absolute quagmire. During the day though we packed up and marched several hundred yards down the road and got aboard a waiting LST. (LST 951) It had an LCT which was riding piggy back so we had to climb up a ladder into the LCT which became our living quarters. They raised the ramp and off we went, saying good bye to Guadalcanal. During that voyage we were part of a large convoy to the Ulithi Islands where we became part of even a larger one. The Carrier Franklin was at the Ulithi Islands and it was just a twisted mass of metal. It was miraculous it survived and made it back to New York under it's own power and arrived on V-J Day. While at anchorage in the Ulithi Islands, we played cards about 16 hours a day and we never even went to shore for the beer party most of the guys attended on the Island named Mog Mog. I heard some of the guys were quite drunk and during a swimming session they drowned. From that time on our time was spent playing poker, practicing general quarters and anti aircraft practice and being above the deck in our LCT we had a perfect view of the activities. In fact after witnessing some of the displays during air raids we had, I feel all fire work displays we have for the 4th of July are second rate. Our ship had a device called a para vane which was a cable attached to the side of the ship with a float containing a cable cutter on the end to cut sea mines if any were encountered.--Donald Honis

SECTION 3

Half Moon (Crescent) Hill
The Shuri Defense Complex

The Sixth Division

by Captain James R. Stockman, USMCR
Historical Division, Marine Corps Headquarters

On 4 May, responsibility for the defense of northern Okinawa passed from the Sixth Division to the Twenty-seventh Infantry Division as the Sixth began to move southward preparatory to being committed to the front. Two days later the entire Sixth Division was in bivouac near Chibana, east of the original landing beaches. According to Tenth Army order, the III Amphibious Corps was to assume responsibility for the western portion of the southern front on May 7. Already in the line, and attached to the XXIV Corps, was the First Marine Division, fighting in the, rough ground just north of the Asa River.

The first over-all mission assigned to the Sixth Division was the seizing of Naha and the line of the Kokuba River in its zone of action; the assisting of the First Marine Division by fire and maneuver; and the protecting of the Corps' right (west) flank.

Since the only bridge in this sector was destroyed, the 6th Engineer Battalion labored through the night of 9-10 May to construct a footbridge in time for attack.

At 0330, 10 May, the 1st and 3rd Battalions of the Twenty-second Marines crossed the Asa River. The 1st waded across upstream on the regiment's left, while the 3rd got a few men across the footbridge before it was demolished by suicide Japs with satchel charges. After that, the 3rd Battalion was forced to use the same crossing as the 1st. Enemy resistance was light at first, but as the day wore on, enemy fire became more intense and casualties were heavy. By nightfall a bridgehead 1400 yards wide and about 400 yards deep had been seized.

Next day the regiment's other battalion, the 2nd was committed on the left flank, where it covered the 1st Battalion's attack on a coral hill southeast of the old sugar mill near Asa Town. Attempts to take the hill from the flanks failed, and the troops withdrew while the USS Indianapolis shelled the hill. Just before noon, and despite enemy fire, the engineers succeeded in building a Bailey Bridge across the Asa. Soon afterward tanks rumbled across and, with the aid of their fire power, the infantry succeeded in capturing the hill. On the right, the 3rd Battalion engaged in a three-hour fight before seizing a precipitous cliff in its zone.

On 12 May, all three battalions of the Twenty-second continued to drive forward against increasing enemy resistance. From his positions on Sheri and Wana Ridges, the enemy was able to deliver heavy flanking fire and clearly observe segments of the Sixth Marine Division. It was plain that another regiment would be needed soon if the momentum of the advance were to be maintained. Therefore, Gen Shepherd ordered the 3rd Battalion Twenty-ninth Marines, into the lines on the extreme left.

Next day the division continued the attack with the 2nd Battalion, Twenty-second Marines, and the 3rd Battalion, Twenty-ninth Marines, in assault. Heavy enemy resistance limited the advance to about 300 yards for the day. Late in the afternoon the other two battalions of the Twenty-ninth Marines moved in behind the 3rd Battalion, and prepared to make the division's main effort on 14 May.

By now, seven vital facts were obvious to Gen. Shepherd and his staff: (1) the attack of the Sixth Marine Division had uncovered the western anchor of the enemy's main defensive position; (2) this anchor consisted of three terrain features, heavily fortified, and mutually supporting; (3) each of these features was at the end of a corridor and commanded all the ground leading into it; (4) the enemy was prepared to defend these three features (subsequently named Horseshoe Ridge, Sugar Loaf Hill, and Half Moon Hill) until the bitter end; (5) if the key points were lost, however, the Japs' main position at Shuri would be outflanked; (6) the Twenty-second Marines had lost over 800 men killed or wounded in the difficult advance south from the Asa River, the battle efficiency of the regiment was impaired, and it would soon be time for another regiment to make the main attack; (7) Naha lay exposed before the Twenty-second Marines, but could not be occupied until the triangular defense system, of which Sugar Loaf was the apex, was cleared of the enemy.

As an anchor for a defensive line, the enemy could not have found more suitable ground than that of the Sugar Loaf system. Its three elements were mutually supporting: Sugar Loaf, the apex of the triangle, commanded the surrounding countryside; its flanks and rear were covered by fire from cave and tunnel positions in Half Moon Hill and Horseshoe Ridge. Troops attacking any one of these three hills would be subjected immediately to fire from the other two. Worse yet, there were not covered avenues of approach leading to any of the hills; The whole triangular Sugar Loaf system was under observation; and heavy fire from Shuri hill mass to the left and left rear was being used to support Sugar Loaf.

Not yet aware of the tactical significance of the Sugar Loaf position, the Twenty-second Marines attempted a tank-infantry assault late in the afternoon of 14 May. Although enemy 47-mm. fire drove the tanks back, troops from G Company, 2nd Battalion gained the summit of Sugar Loaf and remained there during the night. But losses were so great that it was necessary to withdraw when the enemy counter attacked next morning in approximate battalion strength. This counterattack drove the 2nd Battalion back from the ground immediately to the north of Sugar Loaf, and finally spread over into the zone of the Twenty-ninth Marines who were engaged in an effort to seize Half Moon Hill.

After the counterattack had at last been broken, the 3rd Battalion, Twenty-ninth finally overcame a fanatically defended enemy pocket in the mouth of the corridor leading into the Half Moon. Meanwhile, the 3rd Battalion, Twenty-second, moved up to relieve the 2nd which had lost over 400 men in the last three days and which the 1st Battalion, driving toward Aced, was too busy to aid.

The night of 15-16 May saw the enemy use his artillery and mortars extensively along our entire front lines. Next morning, the Twenty-second and Twenty-ninth Marines again attacked in a coordinated effort to reduce the Sugar Loaf-Half Moon position. As soon as the attack began, the enemy replied with unusually heavy fire. It was evident that he was moving in additional troops to bolster the western anchor of his line. On the left of the Twenty-second Marines, its 3rd Battalion worked itself into position to assault Sugar Loaf Hill. Supported by tanks and artillery fire, the battalion moved rapidly up the steep north slope of the hill in the face of extremely heavy enemy fire from mortars, grenades, automatic weapons, and an increasing barrage from Sugar Loaf. Several times the troops reached the top of the hill and closed with the enemy in hand-to-hand fighting, only to be driven back. Finally, with casualties steadily mounting the battalion was forced to withdraw.

Over in the Twenty-ninth Marines' zone of action it appeared that Half Moon Hill might be seized. Working their way forward, closely supported by tanks, troops reached the edge of the ridge by late afternoon. Then the enemy unleashed such devastating fire from Sugar Loaf and Shuri that troops could not remain.

This day, 16 May, was perhaps the bitterest day of the entire Okinawa campaign for the Sixth Marine Division. Two regiments had attacked with all the strength at their command and had been unsuccessful. By now attrition had reduced the offensive capabilities of the Twenty-second Marines. Aware that the Sugar Loaf defense system had been greatly strengthened during the preceding 24 hours, and mindful that the Twenty-second Marines could no longer attack, Gen. Shepherd shifted the burden of attack to the Twenty-ninth Marines on 17 May.

In preparation for this assault, Gen. Shepherd ordered a tremendous combined arms bombardment, including 16 inch naval guns, eight-inch howitzers and 1000-pound bombs. Closely supported by tanks and following on the heels of a heavy and continuing artillery barrage, the 1st and 3rd Battalions moved slowly forward to the northern edge of Half Moon Hill. For a brief time the 3rd Battalion held a tiny foothold on the northwestern edge of the ridge before being driven back by intense enemy fire.

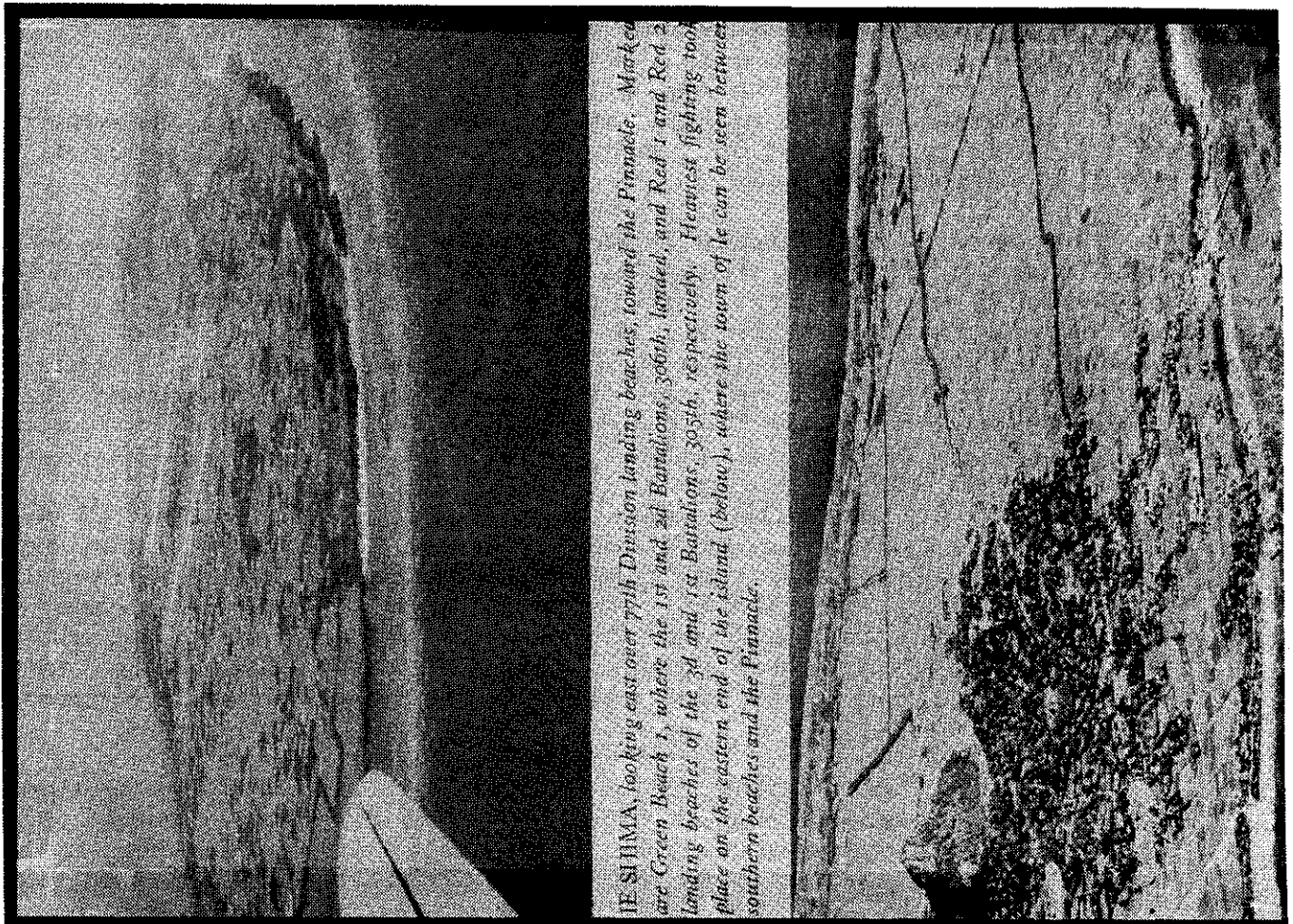
While these two battalions were engaged on Half Moon, E Company of the 2nd Battalion, Twenty-ninth, attempted a flanking attack around the left, or east, of Sugar Loaf. Three times the company worked its way to the top of the hill despite enemy mortar barrages, machine gun fire and grenade fire---only to be driven off by banzai charges. The last attempt was made as darkness approached. Upon reaching the top of the hill, the company beat off a counterattack, but found its casualties extremely heavy and its ammunition completely exhausted. There was little choice but to withdraw for the night.

Just at dusk, the enemy attempted to reinforce Sugar Loaf and began moving his troops in the open. Twelve battalions of our artillery immediately took these enemy troops under accurate time-on-target fire and broke the reinforcement threat. Thus, night found the left flank of the division fairly secure, with

the Twenty-ninth Marine Regiment now in position to make its final attack on Sugar Loaf.

At 0830 on 18 May the attack was launched. The 1st and 3rd Battalions, Twenty-ninth, again secured a foothold on Half Moon. Meanwhile, tanks attempted to encircle Sugar Loaf, but enemy mines, 47-mm. fire, and artillery fire disabled six and drove the rest back before any great success was achieved. At 1000, as the other two battalions engaged the enemy on Half Moon, the 2nd Battalion, Twenty-ninth, launched an assault designated to send tank-supported infantry simultaneously around each flank of Sugar Loaf. First, one tank accompanied by troops worked its way around the west flank of the hill. Then, as the enemy fought to repel this threat, another tank, also accompanied by infantry, worked its way around the left flank and fired into the enemy's reverse slope positions.

After an hour of heavy fighting the company was in possession of the hill and receiving continuous mortar fire from Horseshoe to the south. F Company immediately attacked the Horseshoe and engaged in a hand grenade battle with the enemy entrenched there. During the night the enemy counter attacked and drove F Company back to Sugar Loaf, but never seriously threatened our positions on that hill. For the period 14-19 May, the Twenty-ninth Marines and its attached units, were later awarded the Presidential Unit Citation.



IESHIMA, looking east over 77th Division landing beaches, toward the Pinnacle. Marked are Green Beach 1, where the 1st and 2d Battalions, 306th, landed, and Red 1 and Red 2 landing beaches of the 3d and 1st Battalions, 305th, respectively. Heaviest fighting took place on the eastern end of the island (below), where the town of Ie can be seen between southern beaches and the Pinnacle.

May 1

Company Replacements from the 26th and 33rd Replacement Drafts

5/1/45	Carlson	Harold	Pvt	989453
5/1/45	Davidson	William	Pvt	829204
5/1/45	Diamond	Eugene	Cpl	361668
5/1/45	Guzewich	Gerald	Cpl	292696
5/1/45	Hoffman	Woodrow	Pvt	968005
5/1/45	Kelty	Robert	1st Lt	030385
5/1/45	Kozlowski	Raymond	Sgt	354988
5/1/45	Long	Kenneth	Pvt	553783
5/1/45	McDowell	Nosh	Pvt	993357
5/1/45	McMichael	John	Pfc	398459
5/1/45	Norman	Eugene	Pvt	570727
5/1/45	Peterson	Harold	Pvt	1002044
5/1/45	Phelps	Leon	Cpl	305103
5/1/45	Rigdon	James	Sgt	361760
5/1/45	Stutte	James	Pvt	512322
5/1/45	Tremelay	Roland	Pvt	932484
5/1/45	Tucker	Owen	Pvt	829408
5/1/45	Turner	Lester	Pvt	984249
5/1/45	White	William	Pvt	568627
5/1/45	Williams	Ralph	Pvt	982760
5/1/45	Williams	Willie	Pvt	965547

I was born and raised in Dornsythe, PA and went to Parris Island for my Boot Camp in 1944. I joined "I" Company on 1 May 1945 and was assigned to the 1st Platoon.

The other day I looked at the money I made in the Marine Corps, and it reminded me I made \$44.00 per month or about \$1.50 a day.---Woodrow Hoffman

We were getting ready to move south and Pvt Dick Butts and I were bunking together, Dick was also a member of the Machine Gun Platoon, as was Frenchy Meshurle from Syracuse, NY. There was a guy named, I think, O'Brian, he was killed later on, [the Marine might have been named John A. O'Leary, Jr., who was killed on the 15th of May] and he used to give a group of Okinawan kids close order drill. He had a great voice and he had those little kids going through the commands pretty good. He always carried a Thompson Sub Machine Gun as that was his pride and joy.

We were loaded on trucks and headed south. The 27 Army Division was coming up north and we met in between, they took one heck of a ribbing, the comments were brutal and I think the feeling existed because of the poor showing the 27th made on Saipan, as well as their non-movement on the southern end of the Island. My personal feeling was, lets let these guys go up north and we should go south and get this thing over with.---Donald Honis

I joined "I" Company, 29th Marines on 1 May and was assigned to the 1st platoon, Double "A" Smith was my squad leader. Some landmarks are remembered and I'll tie these landmarks to the events as much as possible. The only directions that I was sure

of during that period of time was up and down and the only landmarks that interested me were those 10 yards to my left and right (where the next foxholes were located) and that piece of torn-up terrain directly to the front. I can't remember that I was ever shown a map and I doubt that I would have understood it had I been shown one. All this adds up to the fact that I was extremely qualified for the job I was trained for, spec. #521-rifleman.

The gear that I wore was typical of that worn and carried by new replacements and was to learn later identified a new replacement from a distance of 1/4 mile to the "old salts".

What I wore: (from the inside out)

- 1 pair scivvies-marine green
- 1 pair socks-marine green
- 1 set of dog-tags and chain
- 1 pair of leggings
- 1 pair of boots
- 1 pair of fatigues-marine green with emblem on jacket pocket
- 1 web belt-size 32 inch
- 1 helmet liner-plastic with a picture of Jane Russell laying in a haystack with a piece of hay sticking out of her mouth glued to the inside.
- 1 helmet-metal
- 1 wrist watch-waterproof with a marine green band. I got this from my brother.

In my pockets I carried a small Bible that was given to us in a packet that we received from the Salvation Army, when we were traveling on the train from Camp LeJeune to the west coast, this I carried in my jacket pocket. Also some atabrin(sp) and halagen (sp) tablets, plus a hankerchief and toilet paper.

- 1 M-1 rifle complete with cleaning tools and "lubriplate" inside the stock.
- 1 cartridge belt, with 8 (?) clips of ammunition.
- 1 canteen, complete with cover and cup.
- 1 first aid kit.
- 1 bayonet and sheath
- 1 K-bar knife
- 1 pack containing- a bed roll consisting of a shelter half and blanket.
 - 1 poncho
 - 3 pairs of socks
 - 2 pairs of fatigues
 - 2 packs of "K" rations
 - 3 sets of scivvies
 - 1 carton of cigarettes
 - 1 packet of matches wrapped in waxed paper.
- * we were issued a gasmask too but all of them were left on the beach.

These items then were my earthly possessions and are what I arrived with when I reported to my squad leader of the 3rd

platoon, I Company. It is remarkable how rapidly a Marine rebounds from adversity, as about a week previous to this the company was having a rough time on the Motobu Peninsula and I'm sure many saw their buddies killed or wounded and now they were getting back their sense of humor. It was like walking through a verbal gauntlet with the veterans making such remarks as: "Hey look! more cannon fodder" or "yippee! fresh meat". Now as I look back on these remarks it was just their way of saying "welcome aboard".

It didn't take long to become accepted as part of the squad and my training started immediately, not the formalized training like we went through at Camp Lejeune, but rather numerous tips were given to me from the guys who had experienced the fighting on other islands and the northern part of Okinawa. Two Marines that I remember were named Double "A" Smith who was my squad leader and Bledsoe, who was my fire team leader. I cannot remember all of the advice that they passed down to me but I can recall that they never cut me off when I asked them questions or wanted more information on survival techniques. Two specific suggestions they gave me were: instead of wearing dog-tags around the neck (where they sometimes "clank" at night) lace one on each boot, laced through the bottom portion of the shoelace. The second was to put a sock around the canteen cup to prevent any noise when the canteen was removed or reinserted. My mess kit was also discarded at this time and only a fork was kept.

During this time our Regiment was located on the China Sea coast along with the 1st Armored Am-Trac Battalion, around Machinato Airfield, north of Naha. The only incident that I recall occurred along the beach area. A group of us spotted a Japanese floating mine that washed ashore. The mine was huge and looked to be about 3 feet in diameter with prongs sticking out from around its surface. We notified someone and it was blown up and made quite a bang.---Kenneth Long

I recall we used to call you Kenney, [Kenneth Long] and I remember Ken Aust, as he was kind of a short guy, never smiled a whole lot and was tenacious, and although I can picture him I can't quite picture you, and I personally---I was an ugly SOB.---
Charles Miller

May 2

Company Replacement
5/2/45 Winchester Jean Pvt 998401

I am getting so forgetful I can't remember a thing. The only two things I can remember is, who owes me money and who I owe money to.---Woodrow Hoffman

When we got south we stopped and camped at a place with quite a few tombs because I remember it rained quite a bit and we went into the tombs to stay dry. [North of the village of Machinato] Small pine trees were everywhere so we cut the branches for mattresses covered them with half a poncho and used the other half of the poncho to cover ourselves to keep dry---it didn't help though as we were always wet it seemed.

The counter attack by the Japs we expected was carried out mostly in the 1st Marine Division Area on our left flank. In a Machine Gun Platoon there are three sections and each section has two squads. Each squad had two guns, one heavy and one light so each MG Platoon has 12 machine guns.

Yes, I recall the Nip mine that floated ashore. It was out approximately 200 feet and it was a good sized mine. They decided to explode it so we got everybody back, they took cover, fire in the hole, and we blew it up. I remember that well.---Donald Honis

May 3

The head, during our training on Guadalcanal was the place we went to relieve ourselves it was also a spot where one could catch up on the latest scuttlebutt from the guys who were masters at spreading rumors since they used the head often as their pulpit. It was also used as a public library as it usually contained a lot of reading material in the form of funny books or magazines of which the most interesting pages had already been torn out by some over sexed Marine, and only the jagged edges of the tear was left to remind the present reader of what he had missed. Perhaps the most important function of the head was to give the guys an opportunity to sit, relax and think awhile away from the duties that had been assigned to them as no one could accuse them of goofing off from the job in that sacred place. One day when we were located on Banika, I was sitting in the head that had been constructed for our unit reading from the funny books that had been supplied by someone, I remember the door opening and although I didn't look up from my reading, assumed it was another guy that was thirsty for knowledge. All of a sudden there was an explosion that caused flames to belch from the two holes along side of me that weren't being used at the time and I was blown or I jumped up with my skivvies around my ankles ran outside realizing that my most tender parts had been scorched. Apparently the guy who was assigned to burn out the pit (with gasoline) had failed to let me know what his plans were and although I could be generous and say he just wasn't thinking, I

believe it was intentional and whoever it was is still laughing about it. Did my burns cause any permanent damage? I have 1 son and 3 daughters. ---Kenneth Long

May 4

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
5/4/45	0945	Msg Fr: "H" Co killed 1 Nip at 2115 3 May on road near 3/29 CP--Small body--No wpn-- Documents sent to Regt--Nip had shoes and leggings tied to waist--Covered by blanket. (Action: Div)

Sure, there were some bad feelings toward the 27th Infantry Division, because we thought when we finished the job up north, the battle would be over and we could get out of there, but now I realize they ran into heavy casualties and I guess our Division was in better shape than they were and that's why we were sent down. It's true though, our unit almost got into a fight with the Army as we met them on our way south, but they [the 27th Infantry] got their bad record during the battle of Saipan.---
Hubert Welch

When we moved south we stopped near the airfield north of Naha, [Machinato Airfield] and had about a week rest before we moved into the lines. On the way down south we were taken by truck and a group of us in one of the trucks were talking and all of a sudden the Jap artillery started to come in and the driver stopped the truck and headed for cover before he even let the tail gate down for us to get out. We were in the middle of a rice paddy so we had to go some distance for cover.---Hubert Welch

We thought the Army was in the south sitting on their duff and we were covering all of the miles up north and of course we kept asking each other "what the hell are they doing down there"? When we moved south though, we found out what they were facing and why they weren't making too much progress.---Frank Kukuchka

May 2-9, ...Going South! Rode down near Katena air field, set up bivouac. Again made panel shack. Fleas almost ate us up. Nip planes came over every night. Our A.A.A. busy.

I learned later that the spelling was "Kadena". At present, it is the main and largest air field on Okinawa.---Frank Kukuchka

We rode trucks back to the southern part of the Island south of Yontan Airfield and we stayed there about a week before going into the southern line. We did some swimming as I recall and one time the Japs shelled us during one of our swimming trips, but I don't think we had casualties. There was a little waterfall in a stream somewhere close by where we showered and stuff. I don't remember any mail calls on Okinawa.---Fred Pears

We rode trucks to the southern part of the Island and spent

about a week in an area near an airfield [Machinato] south of the beaches where we landed on "L" Day.

In addition to being assigned to the Mortar Platoon, I also handled demolitions and one day a large Japanese sea mine washed up on shore, it was huge with iron prongs sticking out of it. I attached some composition C-2 to it and blew it up. It made quite a bang.---Albert Perkins

About the only thing I remember about going south was when we got to our area down south, since many of us had not changed clothes or bathed for awhile, they had us strip and put all of our clothes in a pile, poured gasoline on them and set them afire. We had the biggest bonfire you ever saw in your life.---William Cromling

We had some bad feelings when we were told of our move to join the fighting down south and we would be replacing the 27th Infantry Division. We had been told originally our assignment would be to remain up north as a permanent part of the garrison so when the change was made, our guys were in rather a foul mood. Marine Officers must have been aware of the potential problems because we were told there would be no speaking to the 27th Inf as we met them on our way down south and it would be a court martial offence to provoke any incidents with them. I heard that the Artillery of the 27th Inf was so disgusted with the performance of the infantry, they didn't even go up north with them but rather stayed in the south and supported the 6th Marine Division.---William Cromling

VE Day was the 8th of May so the mine mentioned earlier might have been the 9th. A tank crew located adjacent to our area had it's radio on and was tuned to a Jap station which was broadcasting in English, I remember the message was, it made no difference what the Germans did, the Japanese would keep on fighting. In the distance one could hear the artillery fire from the front lines.---Donald Honis

May 5

My feelings toward the 27th Infantry Reg was Arf, Arf, Arf, and the guys let them know when we passed them on the road as we were moving south. One of the soldiers responded to a Marine that was barking, by saying, "go ahead and bark like a dog as you sure as hell live like one".

When we got to our area near Machinato airfield north of Naha, we stopped near a bakery truck that was baking bread and the bakers kept throwing loaves down the hill to us and I think we all ended up eating a loaf each. It was good I'll tell you!---
Donald E Briscoe

When we moved to the southern part of the Island and took over from the Army, (27th Infantry Division) we went to an area and they had dug foxholes so damn deep one could hardly get out of them. They were about six feet deep. We weren't too happy with the army. They took over from us about the time we had secured the northern part and were looking forward to going out and rounding up some swords, Jap rifles and the like, but we never got around to do that and the Army ended up with all of our souvenirs.

On the way south we did get to ride trucks but we walked most of the way.

Company "I" stayed in an area around the airfield [Machinato] south of the beaches we landed on for awhile. We were right on the beach, and this is the area where the army had dug the deep foxholes. We didn't want to stay in them because if anything happened especially at night, you couldn't get out of them. It was about that time too, the Japanese Imperial Marines tried to come in behind us by boat during a counter attack. By luck we had our machine guns set up in positions to cover the beaches and we beat them off. Each dead Jap was carrying about 50 pounds of explosives. Those Japs were sure big !

On the way down to Machinato we came upon a hand dug well and we took turns going into the well to take a bath while some of the other guys stood guard above. About then, about four women came by and wanted to do our laundry, they didn't want any pay but they did want what was left over from the bar of soap we had. We took the women up on their offer and how they kept the laundry straight so each man got his own back, I'll never know, but they did, and soon we were on our way south again.---Jesse Johnson

We were tee'd off when we had to go south and relieve the Army cause we fought hard up north and felt like we deserved a rest. It might not have been too bad but we were told after we got through fighting up north to make ourself comfortable cause we would be staying up there a couple months. Well, we met the 27th Army Division about half way back as they were coming up north in trucks. We started yelling back and forth, there was darn near a fight and one of our officers came back and said we didn't have time for that now but after we licked the Japs, if we still wanted to, he would personally come back and help take care of the army. I heard that Division lost their colors twice.

On the way south I remember getting a lot of Jap artillery and I think it was the first night after we moved toward the front a couple of us went into a small cave to get away from it. Somehow and I can't remember exactly how, I got white phosphorous all over my clothes and the guys brushed it off of me. That was one bad night.---Granville Longbeam

I know as we were heading south, I saw my first rocket launching truck as it cut loose at the enemy and I believe it was about this time we had the support of a tank or two. I didn't realize a tank drew so much Jap fire. I remember hoping we never got tank support again.

The first night after moving south, we really got raked with Jap artillery and it was solid coral where we were supposed to dig our foxholes and so we had to pile the coral pieces up to form sides because we couldn't dig down.---Fred Pears

We used to kid about the army down south hadn't moved off the beach during the time we were taking the northern part of the island but we didn't know at that time how many of the enemy they had down there. At that time anyone from the Army and Marines looked good as long as they had a rifle.---Joe Bledsoe

We rode trucks down south and stayed at a spot along the ocean south of where we landed on green beach. There were a couple of salts in our outfit, one was Sgt Heim and another was Cpl Heller and they both had seen other action before Okinawa, they told us a lot about the do's and don'ts of combat, and I think it is how all of us learned by listening to the older guys. [In the Company pictures, it seems Plt/Sgt Heim was our Platoon Sergeant and Cpl Heller was fire team leader of the first fire team, 2nd squad, 1st Platoon.]---Joe Bledsoe

There was no animosities felt by me toward the 27 Army Division although quite a few of the guys did have some strong feelings about them not doing their jobs down south. In fact on the way south I met a former college classmate of mine.---Maurice Vail

As far as what we did during the 1st few days after we returned south, I know we were issued new clothes but I cannot recall doing anything specific. We were ready along the beach for a possible Japanese counter attack. We were pretty dirty from being up north and we spent quite a bit of our time taking baths and resting.---Maurice Vail

As many will recall, we stopped at Mog-Mog Island on our way to Okinawa. Beer was rationed out so that each man (if they so desired) would get two cans, some of the guys didn't drink and so the others took their ration. In addition a mistake was made and our group ended up with double rations and of course we didn't turn it down. I was late in the afternoon and it started to rain and all of us were sitting on the ground with puddles forming around us in a depression so that we couldn't see any other part

of the island. The rain was still coming down and we were now sitting in a couple inches of water, this wasn't bad in itself and the real problem was that we were running out of beer. Just then a real saint came over the knoll carrying a case of beer under his arm. He was a sailor who was no doubt from one of the ships in the convoy and he asked if we would like to buy the case for 50 cents a can and we agreed in a second and after paying the guy he went back over the knoll again. After we drained the cans that we had, we opened the case purchased from the sailor and noticed that all of the cans had holes in them and on further inspection (taste) learned the swab had sold us beer cans filled with muddy water. We were more than pissed off and it goes to prove again that Marines cannot trust sailors. If that guy stayed in the Navy I'll bet a case of beer he made it to the rank of Captain. After our thorough discussion of the Navy in general, we noticed we could no longer hear the fun loving sounds of anyone on the other side of the knoll and went to investigate. After we stood up we realized that maybe that swab had done us a favor in that we didn't need any more alcohol as we made our way to the top of the small hill. When we reached the top, we were amazed to see we were the only ones left on the island. Panic began to set in, or as much panic as 15 drunken Marines can work up, and every guy had his own idea on how we were going to get out of this problem. Total darkness had set in by now and the majority decided to do nothing until the following morning and just suffer through the headaches, hunger and uncertainties we all had. (at least we wouldn't die of thirst as we still had those cans of water). At about midnight one of the guys noticed a sound that seemed to be getting closer and we reasoned if someone stopped at the island we could hitch a ride back to our ship with them. All this planning was needless however, the Higgins boat did stop at the island and just as we were about to make our request for transportation to the master of the boat he interrupted and said "Get your asses in here, your the guys I'm supposed to pick-up." There wasn't much conversation that went on during the ride back but I do remember thinking that fate is compassionate in that one swab took us for about 12 bucks and another swab was our savior, the scales were balanced. As we approached our ship anticipating the wrath that waited for us there we noticed that the ladder along the ship (the one with the steps and railings on it) had not been lowered yet and it was at that point the operator of the boat said "Get your asses up that landing net." With rifles at the sling we inched our way up, swaying first in and then out with the waves but finally we made it to the deck and made a bee line to the security of our bunks. We didn't hear anymore about the incident as I suspect our superior knew the real punishment would come in the months ahead. The event did give us the deserved reputation for the next few days of being "real fuck-ups, a reputation that was to be forgotten during the coming turmoil.

May 6

The material contained herein has been obtained from a book; THE CONQUEST OF OKINAWA, An Account of The Sixth Marine Division, by Phillips D. Carlton, Major, U. S. Marine Corps Reserve-Historical Division, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps.

The following information was sent to the units within the 6th Marine Division on 6 May 1945 and communicated to "I" Company, along with the other units in the Division.

COMBAT ON OKINAWA

6 May 1945

- ... Keep the following points in mind, ...
- a. Keep your head down. Even though well behind the front line take advantage of all possible cover. Keep off the skyline.
 - b. Camouflage yourself and your equipment with every means at your disposal.
 - c. If you are a unit commander,--whether it be a squad or battalion,--maneuver. Don't try to outslug the Jap;--outflank him.
 - d. Dig in. Even the most accurate German artillery holds no fears for a man in an adequate foxhole;--and the Japs aren't as good as the Germans.
 - e. Keep driving--- Your enemy can't think as fast as you can, and he is not match for a determined aggressive Marine, who has confidence in himself and his weapon.

The foregoing Training Order will be read to troops on two separate occasions by infantry platoon leaders and by commanders of similar sized units in other elements of the Division.

BY COMMAND OF MAJ GEN SHEPHERD:

J.C. McQueen
Col USMC
Cofs

---Phillips Carlton

We moved south and set up camp along the west coast south of where we landed on the beach and this was before we got to the front lines in the south part of the island. While we were there the Japs pulled some counter attacks and tried to get in behind us by coming ashore at night in these little boats, it didn't work though.

We didn't do much while we were there, just talked I guess and watched the air show, I mean the Jap airplanes attacking our ships. I remember when we were relieved toward the end of May, we came back to the same area that I just mentioned.---Ambrose A Smith

I'm sure most of the ships on the way to Okinawa had boxing matches, called Smokers, for the entertainment of the troops on board ship. They were boxing matches consisting of 3 rounds of 2

minutes each and usually were between men of approximately the same weight. The winner got 2 cartons of cigarettes and the loser 1. I took part in several but the one I remember most clearly took place enroute to Okinawa from Guadalcanal. The guy that was organizing the bout asked me if I would take on this Marine that weighed about 20 pounds less than me, at first I was a little hesitant, but after he told me to "take it easy" on him I agreed. The opening bell sounded and that was the last time that I saw him until the next round. Thats the way it went though the next two rounds, I never did see that guy because he was so fast and agile but I sure knew he was there. When the final bell sounded I had been beaten and there was no doubt about that, as I walked to the table to pick up my carton of cigarettes (which I smoked through puffed lips) I realized why the small Marines always got to carry the BARs and flamethrowers, they are darn fast. Only my ego had been seriously hurt and even that healed somewhat when I learned the guy I fought was a rated boxer in the South Pacific area and who knows, maybe I was responsible for his rating to go up a couple more points.---Kenneth Long



Marines used war dogs to ferret out Japanese snipers. Here they take a moment's rest in shelter.

May 7

On May 8, the 22nd Marines relieved the 7th Marines in their positions along the bluff [overlooking the Asa-Kawa,]---
Phillips Carlton

Looking at the boondockers we were wearing and the condition of them especially during the rainy season on Okinawa, occasionally I thought about the dress shoes we wore on liberty in the States There were shoeshines and then there were the spitshines, and the spitshine is the method used by some Marine "artists" to prepare their shoes to such a state of beauty that it was a shame they couldn't be worn on his head so as to show them off better. I never got in to that type of art work but I have seen the "masters" take an ordinary pair of shoes that appeared to have come from the cow within the last hour and transform them into amber brown things of beauty with a shine that was so deep, it seemed as though you were looking into coral pools at some south pacific island. As I recall the 1st step was to wash them with soap and water (if they had been shined before) and then let them dry. Lighter fluid was then used to remove all stained spots on the leather. Five or six coats of polish (Kiwi, I think) would then be applied and polished between each coat. At this point you would swear the quality of the shine could not be improved upon but then came the spitshine. In some fashion the "artist" would form his mouth in such a way that his spit would fall upon the shoe in small droplets resembling a fine mist and then, holding the shoe firmly between his legs he would use his polishing cloth to bring out a luster that was impossible to attain in any other way. This spitting and polishing continued for a long time and I don't think there was any prescribed number of times but rather it was continued as long as the guy had a supply of spit. The entire shoe area was treated in this manner and not just the toe and after several tedious hours the guy would gaze at those shoes with justifiable pride and place each one in a sock (that he kept for that purpose) and placed them into his locker box. They would stay there until the Marine got liberty and they were the last article of clothing that he put on. As he made his grand exit from the barracks, dressed in his tailored, starched khakis, and wearing those shoes that lit up the world, I felt a little sorry for him knowing that somewhere that night, perhaps on a crowded dance floor, another Marine would bump into him and glancing down would say, "sorry Mac, didn't mean to step on your foot."---Kenneth Long

May 8

I went to boot camp with Miles (Sparky) Luster, who was from Clarksdale or Clarksville, Mississippi, and one night as we were sitting outside on a warm, moonlit night at Camp Lejuene, N.C., he told me of the memorial services that they held in the stadium at Texas A&M for alumni killed in combat. He stated that the services were always scheduled during the period of the month of a full moon and at the point in the ceremony when the names were read, the stadium lights would be turned off and only the moonlight flooded the scene and at that point the bugle sounded taps, sending the sad notes echoing and re-echoing throughout stadium. I can still see his mesmerized appearance as he related the story to me. Sparky, was killed during one of the unsuccessful attempts to take Sugar Loaf Hill as a member of Fox Company, 2/22/6. I have often wondered if he was ever given that last opportunity to take part in Silver Taps?---Kenneth Long

Marines hurdle a stone wall as they advance in a drive across southern Okinawa.



May 9

TWENTY-NINTH MARINES SPECIAL ACTION
REPORT, OKINAWA OPERATION PHASE III

[Note: These reports are filed at the National Archives
if additional reports covering other Phases are desired)

a. Chapter I: General

The purpose of this report is to provide a synopsis of the activities and results thereof of the 29th Marines, Reinforced in the Battle for Southern OKINAWA from 9 May, 1945 when this regiment was alerted for action in DERAGAWA, until 21 June, 1945 when the island was declared secured. [note: only the portion of the report covering the period from 9 May, 1945 through 28 May, 1945 is included in this account.]

The overall mission of the 29th Marines, Reinforced, throughout Phase III of the OKINAWA operation was to seek out and destroy the enemy in its" zone of action.

b. chapter II: Task Organization.

1st Bn, 29th Marines

Lt Col Moreau

Attached

1st Plat, Wpns/29

Det AGL Team, 6th JASCO

Det SFC Team, 6th JASCO

Det 3d Sec, Band Det

2d Bn, 29th Marines

Lt Col Robb

Attached

2d Plat, Wpns/29

Det AGL Team, 6th JASCO

Det SFC Team, 6th JASCO

Det 3rd Sec. Band Det

3rd Bn, 29th Marines

Lt Col Wright

Attached

3rd Plat, Wpns/29

Det AGL Team, 6th JASCO

Det SFC Team, 6th JASCO

Det 3rd Sec, Band Det

Regtl Troops, 29th Marines

H&S Co, 29th Marines

Wpns Co, 29th Marines (less 1st, 2d & 3rd Plats)

Co C, 6th Medical Bn

91st Chemical Mortar Co (Sep) (USA)

5th Prov Rocket Detachment

3rd Plat, S&S Co.

Det 6th JASCO (less detachments)

Note: The 91st Chemical Mortar Company and 5th Provisional Rocket Detachment were withdrawn and reattached at various times throughout the operation.

c. Chapter III: Progress of the Operation.

This chapter includes a complete narrative of the regiment's operation divided into three phases:

(1) The Battle for NAHA

9 May 1945: Regiment departed from DERAGAWA area to assigned beach defense sector in vicinity of MACHINATO AIRFIELD and town of MACHINATO. Movement was completed at 1700. Units set up local defense with emphasis on defense against counterlandings. No enemy activity.

Date Time Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.
5/9/45 1332 Rad Fr: My CP located at 8079 J5--Overlay of position will follow later. (Action: Div)



-Moving toward Half Moon Hill.

May 10

10 May 1945: First Battalion moved into beach defense along MACHINATO AIRFIELD as 22d Marines advanced south toward NAHA. A two squad security detachment was detached from the Second Battalion to protect Corps Forward Switching Central. Fire from LVT(A)s in Second Battalion sector sank one known suicide boat during the night. Survivor from suicide boat was captured by First Battalion.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
5/10/45	2055	Tp To: Be prepared to move to Asa Kawa [river] to arrive by 0800 11 May--If move is made, Bn will be attached to 22nd [Marines] CP of 22nd is at 7575 N.

The engineers had completed a footbridge across the Asa-Kawa and on 10 May at 0300, "K", "I", and "A" Companies of the 22nd Marines crossed the river. As the last man of A Company got across the bridge, there was an explosion and a great hole was blown in the center of the structure. A Japanese suicide crew had succeeded in placing their charges. There is a mysterious and unverified story about this crossing. As the men of the last company went forward silently and cautiously in column they glimpsed a column of Japanese coming toward them. The Marines had strict orders not to fire; it was obvious that the Japanese were under the same restriction. The columns approached one another, wavered slightly, and went on their ways. Some of the Japanese supposedly got across the river under the silent noses of the howitzers of the Armored Amphibians on the farther bank and drifted inland toward the Divisional CP where several were killed later on.---Phillips Carlton

[The following was taken from an account of "K" Company, 22nd Marines, written by Raymond P. Gillespie. This discription covers a period of time shortly after units of the 22nd Marines crossed the Asa Kawa.] In the afternoon of 10 May, K-Company had to retreat out of the seawall ditch and go back down into the waters of the Asa Kawa. Many of them did this through the drain pipe. The tide was out and Tom and Squeaky found Coomer's bloated body. Again Squeaky was struck with grief and knelt down and gently lifted Coomer's body out of the mud. Squeaky said to Tom, "I just want to get him to a safe dry place. At that time Lt. Fincke was near and seeing the situation, he quickly surmised what was happening. He came over to Squeaky and offering to help he said, "I know just the place, you and I will put him up on the seawall here next to the bridge. That way the Japs won't see him and our people will pick him up, he'll be taken care of soon."--- Raymond P. Gillespie, K-Company, 22nd Marines

May 11

11 May, 1945: Two Jap barges were sighted off MACHINATO AIRFIELD and sunk by Naval gunfire. No personnel seen. Third Battalion, on order from Sixth Marine Division, was moved to new assembly area south of MANCHINATO AIRFIELD preparatory to supporting the attack of the 22d Marines. Artillery fire was received in vicinity of MACHINATO AIRFIELD in First and Second Battalion sectors. No casualties sustained. Second Battalion assumed responsibility for area previously assigned to Third Battalion north of town of MACHINATO. One squad was dispatched from First Battalion to guard the ASA KAWA BRIDGE.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
5/11/45	1155	Msg Fr: Moved out 11 1126 and is now heading for the assembly area. (Action: 6 Div)
	1510	Msg Fr: CP at 7675 A5.
	2145	Tp Fr: 22nd reports shelling--20 shells have fallen in area--Still falling--No casualties reported--Apparently dropping too near beach. (Action: 6th Div (2-3))
	2330	Tp Fr: 34 Rds dropped on 3/29 between 2030 and 2100--No casualties. (Action: Div)

May 11, ...Walked farther South. Dug in West of air strip. Got several rounds of artillery during night. No casualties.

This is about the time we got tanked up on grapefruit juice. I was sent to pick it up from some Master Sergeant with a Jeep, for our squad or platoon, four big, olive drab, gallon cans. Did we ever get our fill of it. Here we also experienced, for the first time, the use of trucks firing a battery of rockets at enemy positions.---Frank Kukuchka

On the 11th of May, on our march down south we were able to watch the warships off shore pounding the front lines with their big guns.---Donald Honis

On the 11th of May, we got the orders to move. Our company formed two columns, one on each side of the narrow dirt road leading south. Each Marine left a space of about 10 yards to the man in front of him and between the two men across from him for now we were starting to receive artillery fire from the high ground across the Asa-Kawa River. With our rifles at the "sling" we trudged forward, the replacements wondering what was in store for us and the seasoned troops thinking about the north end of the Island and the guys who were killed or wounded up there. (about 70 from I Company). As I remember, we had a partly sunny day and even some dust from the road surface, a condition that would soon disappear. The 1st platoon was positioned to the rear of the columns. As we rounded a slight curve in the road an artillery shell exploded to the front of our columns and after marching a short distance more I saw the body of a Marine lying in the middle of the road. Word had filtered back as to who he was and the guy in front of me turned and said, "Moneypenny" and then I turned and said the same to the man

behind me. I never met Money Penny, but his name was imprinted in my mind and it can still be recalled after 47 years. I believe we crossed the Asa-Kawa River that night and dug in at a position where we could see the remains of the sugar mill (with two chimneys) to our front and left. Japanese artillery was heavy now and each Marine and his fox-hole buddy prepared for the night by digging their hole as fast and deep as possible. Sardo, (my partner) were next to a 3 or 4 foot knoll that had an overhang and decided to dig our hole beneath the overhang so as to be sheltered from the incoming artillery shells. During the heavy barrage that followed a shell struck on top of the knoll above us and dislodged the overhang and the coral and dirt pinning us under our poncho or blanket that we had covered ourselves with. Both of us could talk but breathing was almost impossible because of the weight of the debris on top of us. We did manage to struggle free and stayed in the same spot the rest of the night because it was so good to us.

There must have been casualties that night in all platoons of the Company but I don't know who or how many.

It was learned later the chimneys of the sugar mill contained forward observers for the Japanese artillery and that is why the barrage was so accurate. I also learned that after hearing this the 15th Artillery took care of them in good fashion.---Kenneth Long

Foxholes were dug by the by the guys to provide some safety and also space to store needed equipment and supplies. The size of the hole varied depending upon the size of the guys that were going to share it but in most cases it was about 6 1/2 feet long and 1 1/2 to 2 feet deep. The dirt that was removed was usually piled around the outside perimeter in an attempt to reduce the amount of water flowing into it and to increase the depth of the hole for added protection. Everyone had their own ideas on how the hole should be constructed. Prior to darkness each member would study and memorize the terrain around them including shrubs, rocks etc. so at night they could recognize anything that was out of place. In many locations a lot of the digging had already been done for us in the form artillery and mortar craters and these were used to good advantage. A well constructed foxhole was a real friend and although we looked at it that way there was always one shortcoming and that was the lack of bathroom facilities. A Marine had to be very innovative and a contortionist to handle the calls of nature. Before dark, when we were laying in our temporary home and all of the necessary jobs were taken care of it was a treat to be able to have an uninterrupted cigarette and just "shoot the shit" for awhile. It was at times such as these that one really learned to understand his "buddy" as things like girl friends, wives and family, fears, goals and future plans were discussed freely without any feeling of shyness or embarrassment as private thoughts rolled out. I think all people are like an iceberg floating in an ocean where only 1/5 of their real make up is visible to everyone and the portion below the surface of the water is known only to that person, in fact some feelings or traits are so deep they are not

even recognized by the person himself. During that time of sincere conversation I described above I feel that we both explored those sub-surface feelings of each other. It is something I have never experienced (to that degree) since. When darkness came and my watch began, the unfamiliar sounds along with the shifting shadows brought me back to reality and I realized my job was important and yet simple; To be sure that we were both around in the morning.---Kenneth Long

During this period, either Battalion or Regiment called us on the radio and told us if we wanted some fresh rolls for the guys to eat, to come and get them, which we did. They sure were good. I think this happened twice. [just before crossing the Asa Kawa]---Harvey Brooks



May 12

12 May 1945: Third Battalion, attached to 22d Marines, moved out of bivouac area at 1345 and into lines on left flank of that regiment. First Battalion patrolled inland as directed by Sixth Marine Division to locate enemy soldier reported to have stolen dispatch case containing communication shackle code. Results were negative. First Battalion received an estimated 100 rounds of artillery fire in defense area along MACHINATO AIRFIELD. No casualties sustained. The 29th Marines were ordered to move on 13 May to assembly area in 7675 KING, LOVE, MIKE and OBOE; 7674 CHARLIE, DOG, and EASY; 7675 XRAY and YOKE, prepared to resume the attack in the left of the Sixth Marine Division zone.

Nothing recorded in the S-2 Journal today:

On 12 May 1945, Colonel Woodhouse [22nd Marines] had sent a grim and dispassionate series of notes to Regiment: "Got as far as 7672 George. [Sugar Loaf had not yet been named] but casualties were so heavy that George [Company] could not hold it." "Estimate about 75 men left in George Company including Headquarters platoon."---Phillips Carlton

On the 12th the brunt of the attack was shifted to the left flank of the regiment. Division had resolved to commit 3/29 to keep contact with the 1st Marine Division, and...3/29 had its zone of action the corridor that ran down to Crescent Hill:---Phillips Carlton

Statistical studies of casualties over the operations of the Marines in the Pacific have shown that the proportion of officers wounded is almost exactly equal to that of the enlisted men. The proportion of officers killed is slightly higher. If the average strength of a company going into the lines approximates 235 men, a high figure, and the number of officers to a company is seven, the number of men left in these companies after four days of fighting is simple to figure. The average loss of officers was 60% to 75% during the period.---Phillips Carlton

[On the 12th of May]...3/29 had taken over the old positions of 2/22 and maintained physical contact with the 1st Marine Division.---Phillips Carlton

Marines Killed In Action

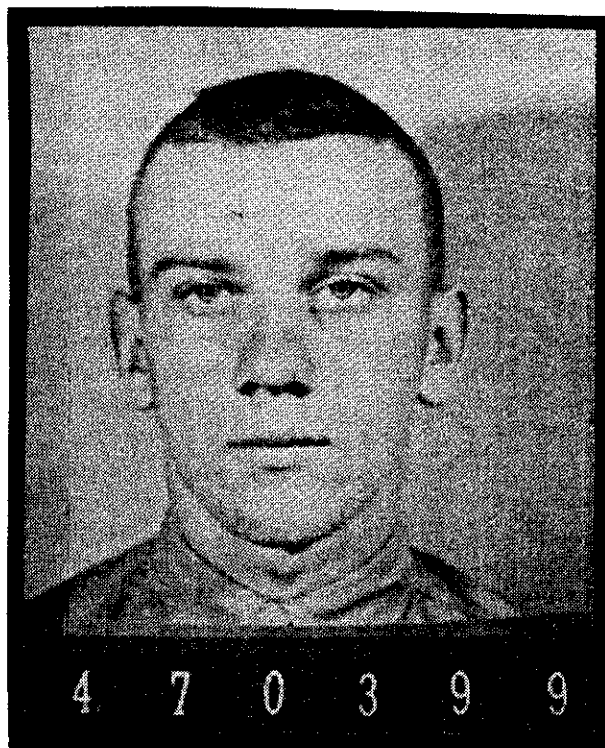
5/12/45	Moneypenny	John	Pfc	368268
5/12/45	Zuk	John Jr	Pfc	470399



PFC John Warren Moneyppenny, 368268

Pfc Moneyppenny, was born 1 November 1924 at Bridgeport, West Virginia, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Moneyppenny, 1720 Flint Avenue, Akron 5, Ohio. He enlisted in the Marine Corps at Cleveland, Ohio, 26 January 1942, at the age of 17 years. He took his Boot Training at San Diego, Calif., joining the 13th Recruit Bn., January 29, 1942. Pfc Moneyppenny, embarked aboard the USS Lurline, and joined the 3rd Antiaircraft Group, 3rd Defense Bn., FMF., Pearl Harbor, on April 4, 1942. On April 18, 1942, he boarded the USS Wm Ward Burrows and joined the Machine Gun Group, 6th Defense Bn., FMF., Midway Island.

He was promoted to PFC on February 26, 1943 and via the USS Monticello, was transferred to Camp Elliot, Calif. and then on to Camp Lejeune, N.C., June 1, 1944, when he joined Co."I", 3rd Bn., 29th Marines, FMF.. He embarked aboard USS Gen C.G. Morton on August 1, 1944 and traveled to Guadalcanal. Pfc Moneyppenny, was a member of the Machine Gun Platoon for I/3/29/6. He was Killed In Action by H.E. fragments on May 12, 1945, as our Company was heading south on the coastal road east of Machinato Airfield, north of Naha. His remains were interred 13 May 1945, Grave 412, Row 17, Plot A, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1.



PFC John Zuk, Jr., 470399

Private First Class Zuk, was born 12 February 1926, at New Market, N.H., the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Zuk, Sr., 33 Lamprey St., New Market, N.H..

He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve, September 13, 1943 at Manchester, N.H., at the age of 17 years. On October 29, 1943 he joined the 7th Recruit Bn., Parris Island, and was promoted to PFC, January 2, 1944. He joined the Marine Barracks, Naval Air Station, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Jan 7, 1944, and was assigned to Co "I", 3rd Bn., 29th Marines, FMF., June 9, 1944. He sailed for Guadalcanal aboard the USS Gen. C.G. Morton, August 1, 1944. He was assigned to the Machine Gun Platoon, I/3/29/6.

PFC Zuk, was Killed In Action, by multiple H.E. fragments on May 12, 1945, as "I" Company was going to the front line on the west coast road, south and east of Machinato Airfield during a heavy Japanese artillery bombardment.

PFC Zuk's service record reads; "Remains interred unknown"

		Marines Wounded	
5/12/45	Cook	Carl Jr Cpl	493026
5/12/45	Johnson	Jesse Cpl	933847
5/12/45	Nokes	Ralph Pvt	829249
5/12/45	Willoughby	Clarence Sgt	281675

When we started moving south toward the front lines (May 12, 1945) we ran into real heavy Jap artillery and it kept up at night and we thought it would be best to dig in under a overhang. A shell hit too close to the overhang and it broke loose covering

some of the guys below it and I had to dig them out. [Note: at this point in the conversation I told Ambrose that Sardo and I were two guys he helped dig out, he didn't realize it and neither did I until he told the story.]---Ambrose A Smith

On the way down toward Naha, I remember we got into some Jap artillery, and that's when Moneypenny got killed and Jesse Johnson got hit.---Donald E Biscoe

On the day of May 12, we started to move out to the front line and as we were passing the airfield I turned to Bill Lee and said, "Bill, tonight you had better round up someone to share the foxhole with because I won't be here". Bill said, "What the hell are you talking about". I continued, "something is going to happen to me today and I don't know what". We continued on for a short distance and the next thing I knew, I was flying through the air due to the concussion of a Jap artillery shell that landed among several of us. A Marine by the name of Moneypenny, was killed and a guy by the name of Brown, I think, and myself were wounded. [Moneypenny was killed and Cook, Willoughby, Johnson and Nokes were wounded that day] I had shrapnel in both legs and Brown, had a stomach wound. The jeep that arrived to take us to the aid station didn't have anymore stretchers and told me if I wanted to go back I'd have to sit up or I could wait for the next jeep, I sat up.---Jesse Johnson

Yeah, I sure remember the sugar mill with the high chimney near Naha.---Granville Longerbeam

We had an old GySgt, I used to call him "grenade Pete", every time you walked near him when making an attack, he would hand you a couple grenades.---Granville Longerbeam

It really shook me up to see all of the bodies along the road going into the southern lines. Where we spent the night on our way down, a Jap had moved a 37mm gun and kept picking away at us all night. I think the only reason he didn't get us was he couldn't lower the barrel enough to get at us and he was always firing a bit over our heads.---Hubert Welch

We started to move south on the road north of Naha and I recall Moneypenny was killed and Jesse Johnson was wounded by an artillery shell and this was our first encounter with the enemy after moving south. After spending the night near the old sugar mill, with the tall chimney, we were told (by Lt Sullivan) someone had received a direct hit by an artillery shell which didn't explode and drove him right into the hillside where he was standing. I can't recall the guy's name. At that time you really didn't concentrate on names you just hoped it wasn't yours.

I kept a diary from the 12th of April until the 14th of May and although some of the entries are vague, it does refresh my memory as to where we were at a certain time etc. [a lot of material from Frank's write-up are included in this account of "I" Company]---Frank Kukuchka

May 12...Moved farther South. Crossed river. Began to set up when Nip artillery opened up. Menefee, was first casualty in our platoon, one month since he was last wounded. Started to dig in on forward slope. Nip artillery found us. Withdrew to reverse side of hill. Dug in. About five casualties in our Company. 2 dead; Zug [Zuk] and Moneypenny.

We crossed the Asa Kawa, we are now near the Shuri Castle and it can be seen in the distance on a hillside. A lot of shelling and other activities going on there.

James Menefee had just returned that morning from being wounded a month earlier at Motobu on [Mt] Yaetake. This day he got a crotch wound from an artillery shell and was carried out quickly by two fellows, with their arms around his shoulders and under the thighs. I wrote to him shortly after the war. His mother answered, and he had died, not from his wounds but from some jaundice condition from contaminated blood he received at the hospital. She was in South America when she wrote.

Jesse Johnson and John Moneypenny were hit by the same shell. Jesse wrote me in April, '94 that he was wounded in the legs and Moneypenny was killed by shrapnel going through his helmet and head.---Frank Kukuchka

The sounds of battle for an 18 year old person are pretty nasty.---Albert Perkins

Yes, I remember when Moneypenny was killed by that artillery shell as we were going to the front.---William Cromling

Moneypenny was killed by a Jap artillery shell as we started our march to the south to enter the front lines. Jessie Johnson from my platoon was wounded by the same shell and it blew me off my feet although I wasn't wounded by it. The shelling continued as we proceeded south.---Maurice Vail

On the 12th at 12 or 1 O'clock, they passed out rations, that tropical chocolate. ["D" rations) John Moneypenny, helped pass these out. About one half hour later we started off again and as we were crossing a small depression we received one round of Jap artillery without any warning. Moneypenny, was just coming down a small bank near the explosion and he didn't have a chance and was hit in the head with shrapnel and killed instantly. Moneypenny was killed, Carl Cook, Jessie Johnson, Clarence Willoughby were wounded. Moneypenny was a gunner, the other three were NCO's and I never did see Johnson and Willoughby again as they loaded them on a jeep and took them back. We were delayed for a short time because of that incident and continued on past some burned out villages and in sight of the old sugar mill with the two brick chimneys still standing. The smell of burn't sugar was very strong. We proceeded beyond the sugar mill to a hill and we started to dig in about 1600 or 1700. The Nip artillery really started to shell us now, as it seemed it was raining shells. I saw a shell hit amongst a group of men ahead of us who were carrying rations and a leg flew through the air after the

explosion. It seemed as though all we did that night was dig our foxholes deeper and hit the deck when a shell came in. Pfc John, Zuk, was about 50 feet from me, a shell came in and landed right by his feet, I looked up and Zuk was gone. They could not find Zuk at all. [A comment on Pfc Zuk's service record states, "Remains interred unknown"] For the day we had two killed and four wounded. Ralph Nokes, who was one of those wounded was from Maryland.---Donald Honis

Bill Cunningham was promoted to Corporal in the field as I was.---Charles Miller

We were on the left of the 22nd Marines when we crossed the Asa Kawa and we were attached to the 22nd Regiment for a couple days. I recall that we got a lot of shelling during that time.---Harvey Brooks

It would have been about 12 May and we crossed the river [Asa Kawa] on the bridge the 6th Engineers put up and it seemed as though the Japs blew it up every 30 minutes. As we passed over it one got a strong cordite odor and to this day when I attend celebrations held for the 4th of July and smell the smoke from the fireworks my mind goes back to that period of time.---Harvey Brooks



May 13

13 May 1945: The 1st Platoon, Weapons Company, attached to the First Battalion, had one prime-mover destroyed by artillery fire during the night. Two men were wounded by artillery fire received on ASA KAWA BRIDGE. The 29th Marines completed movement to new assembly area at 1200. Received occasional artillery fire in regimental area throughout day and night. No damage reported. Fire believed to be coming from SHURI area.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
5/13/45	1715	Tp Fr: 1 gas shell fell in front lines-- Yellow vapor, lung irritant believed to be Chloropicrin--Investigating further--reports to follow. (Action: 1/29, 2/29)

During 13 May, 3/29 had still been under the control of 2/22. Item Company, under Lieutenant John P. Stone, which had been in reserve, was this day [14 May] committed to action ...[technically on 14 May, "I" Company was commanded by 1st Lt Havey F. Brooks, Lt Brooks was to be wounded the next day and then Lt Stone would take over command until the conclusion of the battle]---Phillips Carlton

		<u>Marines Wounded</u>		
5/13/45	LaVoie	Henry	Pfc	556526
5/13/45	Perez	Augustin	Pvt	561971
5/13/45	Schaub	Oscar	Pvt	954848
5/13/45	Sioss	Robert	Sgt	330091
5/13/45	Sullivan	Lawrence	1st Lt	022272
5/13/45	Woodard	Richard	Pfc	526981

During the time we were moving toward Crescent Hill, we didn't know the names of any of the hills, some had numbers given to them but none had names, and they were just referred to as "that hill". It was later they were given names.---Hubert Welch

May 13, ...Had five light casualties during night: Newman, LaVoie, Lally and Woodard. Moved out to join Battalion on line when Lt Sullivan and Plt/Sgt Sioss were hit by sniper, both simultaneously. Sgt. Lilly and I were in line behind them. J.V. Brown and Wicka take over the platoon. Capt. Mylod in charge of Company. Continued advance to front lines under fire. Dug in West of village at dusk. Exhausted from day's activities. Artillery pounded the village all night.

In the morning when we pulled out we passed by a sugar mill in that area. I overheard Lt. Sullivan say that an artillery dud pushed someone into the hillside. No name was mentioned. Francis Lally was wounded during the ambush on April 12, and now again. Sometimes when the number of casualties are mentioned they may be of another platoon or Company adjacent to you. I state five but have only four listed. In the record, Newman is listed wounded on the 31st of May. These are the names we heard. This was an extremely tough day for us so my mind could have been confused or newman may not have been injured badly enough to be sent back.

In the morning as we were advancing to join the rest of the Battalion we were passing the rubble remains of a house when a near rifle shot came in and hit Lt Sullivan in the foot or leg. He hopped around for a moment then fell to the ground. Sgt Lilly and I were just behind him. Two fellows grabbed him under the arms and walked him around the side of some debris for cover. Although my notes state that Sgt Siooss was wounded at the same time, he didn't show any reaction to it. My last recollection of him was helping Lt Sullivan get around the side of this house rubble. The next time I saw Lt Sullivan was on Guam in late July or early August. I had no information on Siooss from that day on.

Corporal J.V. Brown took over for Lt Sullivan and Corporal Wicka took over for Plt/Sgt Siooss. When we were on Guadalcanal we heard that J.V. Brown washed-out of officer training and ended up in a rifle platoon. Well, as a 'non-com', he did a very good job. We got Lt McCormick later for a few days until he was wounded and J.V. took over again and continued for the rest of the battle. I didn't like some of the assignments he gave me, but I did them complaining all the way, (not really). He was a Corporal too. That was the reason I had no hesitation doing so. [complaining] At times I thought he wanted to get red of me, and at others, I felt he knew he could depend on me. That may be the reason we got along real well. The one instance I remember is when an adjoining company needed to fill in a gap on a flank, I was sent with some others I had diarrhea all that day and was pretty exhausted and frustrated from all of this when he gave the orders to go I joined the other company in a trench so tight I couldn't turn or move to get any comfort. With the Japs in front and my dilemma in the back, it was a real miserable night. We were on the forward slope of a low hill with a gully and another low hill in front of us. All night long the Japs rolled grenades toward us from the other hill and we kept their heads down by bursts of fire all night from our side. Our flares lit up the area just enough to avert infiltration.

In the morning I returned to my unit and discovered my M-1 rifle barrel was split on the end. I must have picked up some dirt in it during my reloading in the trench. It was like parting with a faithful friend giving it up. I believe I had it since Camp Lejeune. Headquarters found me another one right quick, and I continued.

According to the records, Captain Mylod was in charge of Company "I" since near the end of April, but we, or I apparently, only learned of it this day.

The artillery pounding the village was ours, to eliminate and prevent the Japs from occupying it and using it for their defense.---Frank Kukuchka

Although the exact spot is not known to me, I recall blowing a cave on the southern part of the island. It seems as though it was a hospital cave and we sent one of the dogs that were sometimes with us into the cave for some reason, and the Japs shot it. It was then decided to blow it and we threw a couple of white phosphorous grenades into the opening and watched for other openings on the top where the smoke came out, we then put "

bangalore torpedoes" in these openings and blew them. We sealed the main entrance with several sachels of C-2.---Albert Perkins

As we started to move out toward the front line the weather cleared off and it turned hot. Of course being in the machine guns, I was carrying two boxes of Ammo and we were marching at a pretty good clip, everyone was hot and sweaty, and I was getting a little bushed. In fact, I threw my food away and I remember thinking, you can get along without eating but you've got to keep your rifle and your Ammo.. I had my gas mask pouch with my rations in it as everyone had thrown their gas masks away by then. We could hear a lot of firing ahead of us and about this time too, someone thought the Japs were using poison gas on us. [see daily S-2 Journal]---Donald Honis

The next day [the 13th] we found about six or eight dead Japs with a nambu adjacent to our area, we didn't get them but someone did. Crouse, is a gunner now and on the morning of the 13th we just laid low. We could watch across the valley where the 1st Division was attacking. [Wana Draw] A huge artillery barrage went up at about 0730 in their zone of action and one could see the shells going off as well as flame throwers, tanks and troops moving out. We were still moving to our left in an attempt to join up with the right flank of the 1st Marine Division and we had to pass down into a draw and then climb up the other side. During the night, several Jap infiltrators tried to penetrate our lines but didn't make it and they had civilian clothes on and bayonets strapped around their waists. The night of the 13th the artillery again started to come in very heavy, now it's even more accurate than it was the night before. We had our gun set up and [Richard] Butts and I were in our position watching for targets when an artillery shell came in and landed about 5 feet to our front, luckily it was a dud. Crouse, was with us at that time too and a short time later, several more rounds came in and hit quite close to us. Parachute flares had been fired and they were lit up, Crouse turned to me and said with a slight smile on his face, "you know, it got cold all of a sudden". Miraculously no one was killed that night.---Donald Honis

Darkness arrived; The word had already been passed that anything seen moving above ground would be shot so everyone stayed in their fox-hole, as attempted infiltration was common by the Japanese. Darkness never really came that night because from dusk until dawn the sky was constantly lit with magnesium flares fired either by Naval guns or from our own 15th Marines or our 60-mm mortar platoon. Under the mystic, green light the entire landscape looked entirely different from that seen during daylight. Shapes and shadows not seen before started to appear where none had been when the last flare was burning---neither Sardo or I slept at all that night and I suppose the same thing took place in every fox-hole across the front. As one flare was about to burn out, a pop would be heard and another would light, floating down to earth in its parachute. After each one was

burning low I was hoping they (whoever they were) to send up another one, and they did throughout the night. At about 1 or 2 AM that morning just as one flare was about to burn out I thought I saw movement about 20 yards to our front and fired several shots at it, when the next flare lit the area I saw nothing. The next morning however, 2 Japs layed where I had seen the movement so my eyes had not played tricks on me. Sardo and I were talking when one of the Japs jumped up and struck a grenade against his helmet, and at this point Sardo got him before I could raise my rifle. Previous to that incident thoughts came to mind of how I might react when faced with the situation of killing someone, and now I knew. No remorse was felt or, no hate registered in my mind, just the fact that two obstacles that needed to be removed, were removed. We got ready to advance and move we did, dodging from one crater to the other always hearing the steady chatter of the nambus, the constant mortar fire and the occasional artillery shell. The world had gone crazy! At most we advanced 200 yards that day and dug in. A fox-hole or two to our left one of the guys yelled for a machine gun or BAR because they had a sniper spotted in a tomb about 30 yards to their front. I got one from someone dug in to our right and proceeded to crawl to a spot that would make the front of the tomb visible and after locating it put a magazine of armor piercing ammunition into the concrete slab in front of the entrance. At this time I doubted that a sniper was in there because the slab was flush with the opening and didn't leave room for the Jap to fire and I mentioned this to the two Marines that had called me. All they said was "keep firing", so the second magazine was fired and the concrete slab crumbled. Behind the slab a Jap dressed in a black robe with a nambu, slumped forward. The guys were right.

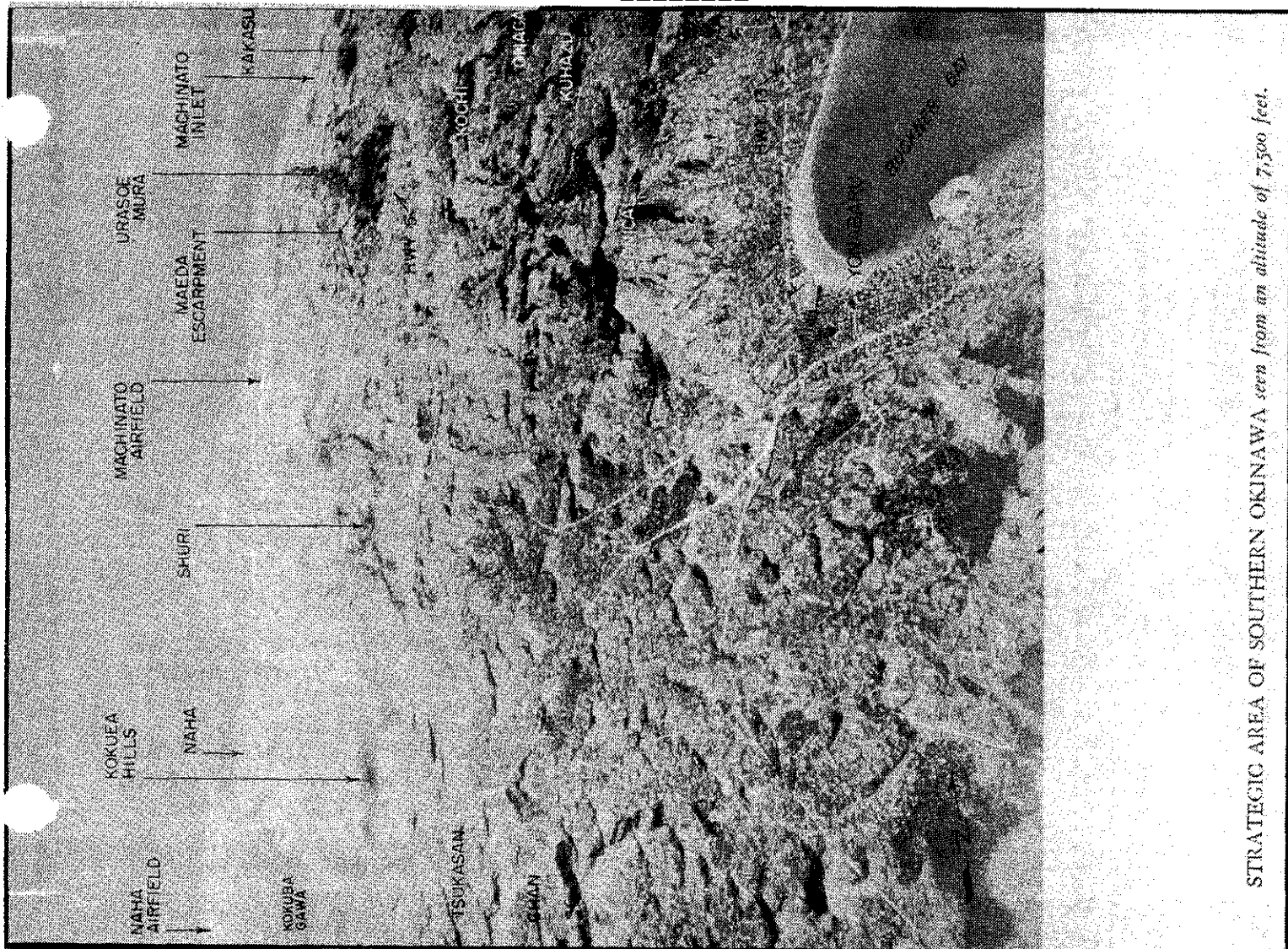
The night of the 13th of May, Sardo and I didn't get any sleep either and the strain was starting to show, Sardo, continued to comment on what "damn fools" we were if we expected to get out of this thing alive. Although we didn't have any action in front of us that night some of the guys to our right and left did and rifle shots and grenades were heard through the night. The next morning was May 14.---Kenneth Long

J.V. Brown was a great leader, he was real good at recognizing where to send the guys to get the best results and the guys all listened to him. He made me a squad leader and at first I didn't want to take it but I did accept it. One of the first things I did was make Bill Cunningham my assistant and he was also fire team leader of the 1st fire team in my squad. I was in the 3rd Platoon of "I" Company, 29th Marines.

We were at the southern end of the Island and I hadn't been a squad leader very long. We were around Sugar Loaf somewhere and assigned the job of taking a small hill, so I called squad together and told them we were not going to go to the top and stop as we would get too much mortar fire. We were going over the top! I turned to Cunningham and the rest of the squad and said, "You all got that?" and they indicated they understood, so I turned to Bill Cunningham and said, "Go ahead Bill!" Well Bill turned to me with a surprised look on his face and said, "Miller,

you F---ing SOB, your the squad leader you go first." Seeing the look on Bill's face, I couldn't help but laugh, soon the whole squad was laughing.

Well, we did go over the top and got a couple of guys hit as the Japs had a couple of good snipers around there so we decided it might be better to get back over the top of the hill and take our chances with the mortars. We could hear the Nips jabbering on the other side of the knoll and I suppose they could hear us. Well, we didn't get any mortar fire but they did have a couple of heavy 50 cal. or 20-mm guns trained on the hill but as luck would have it they couldn't get a low enough trajectory to get at us. Apparently a Jap was telling his guys on the other side of the hill, the same thing I was telling mine because soon here comes a Jap over the top, wearing a helmet with a star on it, with a grenade in one hand and a sword in the other; I guess he wanted to be a good role model for his troops over there, well, he came over yelling "Banzai!" and he took his grenade and struck it to his helmet but instead of just lighting the fuse, it exploded and blew his head off. We started laughing and said, "Made in Japan, Made in Japan". Yes sir, that Bill Cunningham was a damn good man in combat.---Charles Miller



STRATEGIC AREA OF SOUTHERN OKINAWA seen from an altitude of 7,500 feet.

May 14

14 May 1945: Artillery fire fell in the regimental area throughout the night and casualties were light. Third Battalion reverted to regimental control as of 0600. Third Battalion jumped off in the attack in regimental zone of action supported by the 91st Chemical Mortar Company (Separate) (U. S. Army). They were held up by a strong pocket of resistance in 7673 MIKE, NAN, and SUGAR. George Company assaulted Hill in 7672 CHARLIE with one company of the 6th Tank Battalion in support; made contact on the right with the 2d Battalion, 22d Marines, in 7672 BAKER-4. The First Battalion moved into left of regimental zone of action pushing down left (East) side of enemy pocket connecting juncture with the Third Battalion. No contact was established on left with First Marine Division. The First and Third Battalions received heavy casualties from enemy artillery and mortar fire during the day. Lines for the night were as follows: Third Battalion on the right-7672 CHARLIE-3-2, 7673 XRAY-4-1, ROGER-2, MIKE-4-5, HOW-4, ITEM-5; First Battalion on the left- 7673 ITEM-5-4, OBOE-1-4, 7773 KING-3, LOVE-1, FOX-3, GEORGE-2, BAKER-5, ABLE-2.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
5/14/45	0650	Tp Fr: 2 WIA, 1 KIA, 6 Co casualties last night from mortar & Arty fire.
	0815	Tp Fr: 3rd Bn jumped off 10 minutes late-- Held up by Arty fire.
* 5/13/45	2000	Rad Fr: Position of 4.2 mortars 7575 01.
5/14/45	0910	Tp Fr: 3/29 Adv 150 yds to 7673 04 and S1-- Visual contact between H & I Co's V2--G Co to P5 around hill, heavy fire--Huge tunnel in Naha about 500 yds long--Runs NW Fr 7371 E (SW corner of school bldg) to 7372 W5. (Action: D-3, D-2, 2/29, 1/29 via 3/29, 22nd Mar)
	0920	Tp Fr 29th OP: 3/29 with 6th Tk Bn assaulting hill at 7672 C. (Action: D-3, D-2, m, s, 2/29)
	1510	Tp Fr: Arty fire falling behind the lines of H & I Co's and on 29th OP. (Action: Div)
	1610	Tp Fr: 3 Co's of mortars other end of pocket 7672 N--3rd Bn expects to clean up pocket tonight or encircle it with H Co & I Co trying to make RR tracks and tie in w/1/29 on left and G Co on right.
	1815	Tp Fr: I Co abreast 1/29 but there is 300 yd gap. (1/29 is to fill gap with several platoons.(CO 29th)
	2020	Tp Fr: Rt flank 7672 G3-tied in-Runs to 7673 W5-Gap-Then 7673 R5,M3,H4,I5,04---Two Plats I Co on left flank G Co--Remainder I Co tied in with H Co--A Co [1/29] 7673 Y 3&4. (Action: 6 Div, 22nd [Mar])
	2300	Tp Fr: G Co pinned down by mortar & Arty but

no small arms or contact with enemy--(Action:
6 Div)
2310 Tp Fr: 3/29 had 2 KIA and several shock
cases.

[On 14 May]...the fight for Sugar Loaf was drawing toward a climax. It is a difficult battle to write about. The struggle that began on the 11th and that was terminated only on the 20th covered very little ground; the whole battlefield and its approaches could be put inside a thousand yard grid square. But before the hill was won, every combat unit in the division had played its part and carried off its wounded and dead. Logically the battle began on the morning of the 11th when 2/22 started to move forward.---Phillips Carlton

As the days grew out under these difficult conditions--- possibly the worst that a soldier can suffer, since he can only endure, there began to be a mounting toll of combat fatigue cases. A man would suddenly fall out of patrol and his comrades would pull him sobbing from a shell hole. Or there would be the sudden blossoming of three or four grenade discharger shells, and a man in a foxhole would begin an involuntary shuddering. Most of these men were the youngsters some of them were the veterans of several operations. Military operations have in them something analogous to the malign power of X-rays. The human system can never completely eliminate the effects of either and at some point its tolerance is exhausted.

For this situation the Division's psychiatrist had prepared both men and officers a remedy. The problem was to keep the man's self-respect, to give him adequate food and rest, and to return him to the lines, paradoxically for his own good, when he was physically restored and mentally adjusted. Furthermore, the medical staff had to separate out from the men returning from the front those emotionally unable to go back to combat, and those who had simulated the symptoms of combat fatigue through fear. Rest areas were established not too far from the front lines, cases were marked "physically exhausted" to keep the man's regard for himself high, and as far as possible to an overworked staff of physicians, the men were personally interviewed. The results were successful; though the stream of non-battle casualties flowed and ebbed with the intensity of the fighting, large numbers of men were being constantly returned to the front lines with a better understanding of what they were facing and how they could face it. The young men, particularly, who suffered from combat fatigue had a strong sense of guilt. The mental breakdown was usually precipitated by physical exhaustion which ended the conflict between fear and conscience. After a day or two of rest and food the average young man was willing and often eager to return to the front lines. Others were still filled with dread but the doctors could help them.---Phillips Carlton

[14 May]...3/29 was to report a strong point at the head of their corridor which was the apex of a triangle formed by three hills, really ridges in 3/29's sector. [Crescent or Half Moon

Hill]---Phillip Carlton

If the situation was static, the captain [Company Commander] was fortunate if he had sound power phones and wire to his platoons; if the platoons were moving out, he had to depend on the little boxlike 536 radio which had an annoying habit of cutting out behind hill masses and failing altogether in wet weather.

It is apparent that much of our tactical success lay in the maintenance of communication both wire and sound. The heart of the communications system was the imperturbable wireman, moving up toward the front lines or along them with the unrolling reels of thin black wire along which in a very literal sense were to come food, ammunition, and reserve manpower. These wire men suffered heavy casualties without even the compensation of shooting back. [many men stringing wire didn't carry rifles as they were too inconvenient to handle]...---Phillips Carlton

The emphasis now shifted to the left flank, where until now the main effort had been to maintain contact with the 1st Marine Division. As the 3/29 endeavored to maintain control with both the 1st Marine Division its lines had stretched; George Company had pulled forward down Queen Ridge; How Company was still locked in struggle before the hill at the mouth of the corridor. Item Company entered the lines between the two. Though it worked through the burned village behind the hill How Company was assaulting, Captain Blanchet still had to keep his company close to Queen Ridge. He could not drive down the corridor itself. The trouble was that the progress of the 1st Marine Division was much slower than had been expected. The lines on the left waited for the 1st Marine Division to take the high ground ahead of them before they pushed down the draw in front of them toward the formidable Crescent Hill.

Much has been written of the bitter defense of Sugar Loaf. Crescent Hill was named-- as are many terrain features by men who saw only one side of the hill. Its reverse slope is a long arc with its concave side facing down the corridor. Actually it is a queer T-shaped ridge.

From the stem of the T the Japanese could deliver fire on the crest of the hill and enfilade any troops trying to attack the forward slope. At the base of this slope were two 47-mm antitank guns. The hill to the rear dominated Crescent Hill. The Shuri bastion hung above it and gave direct observation. It was, in fact, barely 800 yards from the hill. Some 500 yards north of the hill was the long ridge known as Charlie Ridge, from the company that took it. The draw between Charlie Ridge and Crescent Hill was covered by fire from two conical hills at its end. In short Crescent Hill could not be attacked frontally until Charlie Ridge was taken. If it were taken it would be almost impossible to hold until the Shuri Hill was conquered. The hill first came into the zone of action of 3/29. The conquest of the corridor itself devolved on 1/29, which entered the lines on 14 May. The 3rd platoon of Able Company, under Lieutenant Warren B. Watson, came up on the left of How Company, still on the edge of the

sunken road before the hill it was trying to take. Just then it was in severe trouble. A platoon leader had gone down into the draw with two squads and had disappeared. The company could not get in touch with him. A runner was sent after the squads but he too never was heard from. Able Company had succeeded in getting two tanks in through the territory of the 1st Marine Division. The tanks came down the road; the infantry with them were wounded or killed but the survivors managed to seal the caves and get out the wounded. Captain Gamble could now take his company over the draw. Item Company got tanks in behind its lines and together the two companies cleaned out the burned village. (Of invaluable aid in cleaning out this troublesome pocket was the work of the 4.2 chemical mortars attached to the battalion. On this particular day fire was placed in the desolated village in the draw and the intense volume of fire impressed all the Marines who watched it. The work of these mortars contributed materially to driving out the enemy.)

The two battalion commanders, Lieutenant Colonel Erma A. Wright, and Lieutenant Colonel Jean W. Moreau, now set boundaries for their battalions in the corridor; The railroad tracks were roughly to be the right flank of 1/29.

The night of 14 May artillery fire increased in intensity; the Japanese were pulling out down toward Crescent Hill, and as they left, their artillerymen were free to fire down the western end of the corridor. Here, at the end of the corridor where the road ran down to the Asa-Kawa, was a protected little canyon among jumbled small hills; the was lined with tombs and in the tombs there were set up the battalion CP's. They were from now on under constant bombardment. It was practically direct fire about 2000 yards. The sharp faces of the tombs on the side away from the guns offered fairly effective protection, but the shells hit on the crests of the hills, in the little rice paddies beyond them. Men lived among the constant exploding of shells that shook the ground under their feet. During the day the firing was sporadic; at the early evening it increased to a terrific tempo. Numerous azimuths had been taken on the gun flashes and our batteries had thrown hundreds of shells trying to knock out the cannon, called Pistol Pete by tradition dating from Guadalcanal. They did not succeed. Our dispersion patterns could not break open the concrete casements which hid the guns. The cannon continued to fire till well after we had passed the Asato River.--
--Phillips Carlton

Marines Killed in Action

5/14/45	Tellinghuisen	Gerald	Cpl	334062
5/14/45	Terry	Floyd	Cpl	295893
5/14/45	Lenahan	Thomas	Pfc	950770
5/14/45	Rossi	John	Pfc	903361



Cpl Gerald Alvin Tellinghuisen, 334062

Corporal Tellinghuisen, was born May 31, 1922, at Oldham, S.D. and was the son of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Tellinghuisen, Box 123, Lennex, South Dakota.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps, 27 December 1941 at Minneapolis, Minn., and joined the 6th Recruit Bn., San Diego, December 30, 1941, where he completed his Boot Training. He was 19 years of age. He was assigned to the Marine Barracks, Naval Air Station, Kaneohe Bay, Territory of Hawaii, March 2, 1942 and was promoted to Private First Class, July 1, 1942. On June 1, 1944, he joined Co."I", 3rd Bn., 29th Marines, FMF., Camp Lejeune, and on August 1, 1944, embarked for Guadalcanal, aboard the USS Gen. C.G. Morton. He was assigned to the 1st Rifle Platoon, I/3/29/6.

Cpl Tellinghuisen, Died Of Wounds on July 13, 1945. On May 14, 1945, he received a gunshot wound to the abdomen as the Company was getting into position to attack The Half Moon Hill. Our Company was about due west of Charlie Hill, when he was wounded. The remains of Cpl Tellinghuisen, were interred, July 16, 1945, at the 2nd Marine Division Cemetery, Plot H, Row 1, Grave 23, Saipan, Marianas Islands.



Cpl Floyd Douglas Terry, 295893

Cpl Terry, was born June 3, 1923 at Lowell, N.C., the son of Mrs. Dolly S. Terry, 211 Faith Street, Charlotte, N.C..

He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve, September 11, 1940, at Charlotte, N.C., at the age of 17 years. The records were not clear as to where he took his boot training but it appears it was at Parris Island. He joined the Norfolk Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Va., March 31, 1941, and was promoted to PFC on October 3, 1941. On October 1, 1942, he was transferred to Marine Detachment, Section Base, Moorehead City, N.C. and was promoted to Corporal, February 26, 1943. He joined the 33rd Replacement Draft, November 6, 1944 and embarked to the south pacific aboard the USS Sea Bass, December 27, 1944. He joined I/3/29/6 at Okinawa, April 19, 1945.

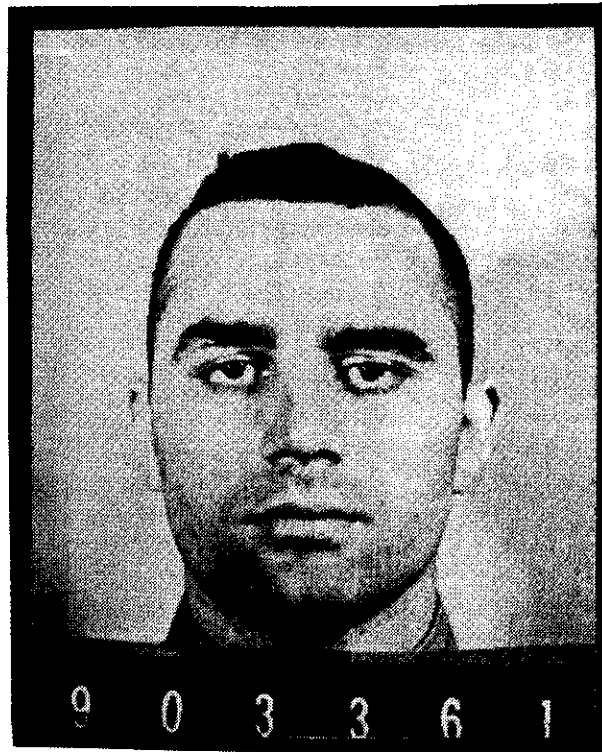
Cpl Terry, Died Of Wounds, May 14, 1945 of wounds he received on May 14, 1945. He received H.E. fragment wounds to the head and shoulders as "I" Company, was moving up to attack the Half Moon Hill and we were located at the time about 100 yards north of Charlie Hill. The remains of Cpl Terry, were interred, 15 May 1945, Row 22, Grave 32, Plot B, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1948 his remains were returned to the United States and interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Charlotte, N.C.



PFC Thomas Anthony Lenahan, 950770

Private First Class Lenahan was born at Girardville, Pa., on December 1, 1925, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Lenahan, 369 Preston Ave., Girardville, Pa.. He was 18 years old and received his Boot Training in the 9th Recruit Bn., Parris Island, S.C., starting on February 25, 1944. Pfc Lenahan, joined Co."I", 3rd Bn., 29th Marines, FMF., at Camp Lejeune, N.C. on June 1, 1944 and embarked on the USS Gen C.G Morton for Guadalcanal, on August 1, 1944. He was a member of the 3rd Rifle Platoon, I/3/29/6. He was promoted to Private First Class, on August 13, 1944.

Pfc Lenahan, was Killed In Action, May 14, 1945 by multiple wounds from H.E. fragments in the area around "Charlie Hill", about 400 yards north of Sugar Loaf Hill. His remains were interred May 16, 1945, Row 3, Grave 74, Plot B, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1948 his remains were returned to the United States and interred at St. Joseph Cemetery, Ashland, Pennsylvania.



PFC John Peter Rossi, 903361

Private First Class Rossi, was born 5 December 1919 at Syracuse, N.Y.. He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve, at Syracuse, N.Y., 1 December 1943, when he was 23 years of age. He was married and his wife lived at 124 Schiller Avenue, Syracuse 8, New York.

PFC Rossi, joined the 2nd Recruit Bn., Parris Island, on December 8, 1943, where he went through Boot Training. On May 27, 1944 he attended Cooks and Bakers School at Camp Lejeune, and joined Co."I", 3rd Bn., 29th Marines, FMF., July 12, 1944. He sailed aboard the USS Gen. C.G. Morton on August 1, 1944 and was a member of the 3rd Rifle Platoon, I/3/29/6.

PFC Rossi, Died Of Wounds received on May 14, 1945, (Gunshot wound to the chest) while Company I, was located just north of Sugar Loaf and Charlie Hills as we were advancing toward The Half Moon Hill (Crescent Hill). His remains were interred, May 14, 1945, Row 1, Grave 7, Plot B, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1948, his remains were returned to the United States and interred at Woodlawn National Cemetery, Elmira, New York.

		Marines Wounded		
5/14/45	Cromling	William	Sgt	305503
5/14/45	Crouse	Robert	Pvt	500279
5/14/45	Hartman	Leo	Pfc	548374
5/14/45	Heller	Ralph	Cpl	375118
5/14/45	Kearney	Francis	Pvt	951499
5/14/45	Longerbeam	Granville	Pvt	947808
5/14/45	Miller	Paul	Pfc	942473
5/14/45	Mylod	Phillip	Capt/CO	013152

5/14/45	Nangano	Walter	Pvt	972839
5/14/45	Nelson	Norman	Pvt	985171
5/14/45	Nichols	Harold	Cpl	292706
5/14/45	O'Dell	Arnold	Pfc	802409
5/14/45	Pears	Frederick	PhM3c	383-20-84
5/14/45	Peebles	James	Pvt	557502
5/14/45	Raynor	Everett	PhM3c	812-87-06
5/14/45	Rogers	Vernon	Pfc	871328
5/14/45	Santarpia	Frank	Pfc	844496
5/14/45	Shotwell	Samuel	Cpl	309148
5/14/45	Simone	Dominick	Pfc	844977
5/14/45	Sparks	Lorenzo	Pfc	530409
5/14/45	Steadly	Woodrow	Pfc	957271
5/14/45	Stucker	Richard	Cpl	812746
5/14/45	Tellinghuisen	Gerald	Cpl	334062
5/14/45	Thornton	Clarke Jr	Cpl	543498
5/14/45	Voelker	Paul	Pfc	551425
5/14/45	Wicka	Marcel	Cpl	224633

I was wounded twice, the first time was April 12 and I was treated by a Marine named Jim Bordlemay for some shrapnel in my hand and the second time was May 14, 1945 with shrapnel to the stomach and broken ribs and I was treated by Fred Pears, a Corpsman.---Martin Sucoff

I was assigned to the 1st Rifle Platoon and I got wounded about the 14th of May, a couple days after we went to the front lines down on the southern part of the Island. It was during the time we were trying to take Sugar Loaf Hill and I was hit with a Jap knee mortar. It kept me out of action for about 30 days and then I came back and joined the Unit. I was wounded up north when we were ambushed too but it was fragments from a Jap concussion grenade I didn't even report it cause I could pick those fragments out of my leg with my fingers.---Granville Longerbeam

When I was wounded, we were pushing up towards Sugar Loaf Hill, [Crescent Hill] and this damn Jap was in a spider trap and had an old door over the top of him. When I got close to him, he pushed the door aside, stood up and threw a grenade at me. I was backing up trying to get away from the grenade and a Jap knee mortar hit kind of close to me and I got fragments in my right leg. I went up and "fixed that Jap's works" not knowing I was wounded cause it had felt like a stone hit me in the leg. It wasn't until we were a little farther up the slope someone yelled to me, "Longerbeam, your hit", No I aint, I said, he hollered, "the hell you ain't, I can see blood coming through your pants." I went back to the Battalion Aid Station, and then on to the 96th Division Field Hospital.

I can't remember the names of any of the Corpsman, but I can see the guy, he really did his job, he didn't pull no punches, and went out front and got the wounded Marines when he had to. [Fred G Pears, was the Corpsman attached to the 1st Rifle Platoon]---Granville Longerbeam

Pfc John P Rossi and I were in the same tent on Guadalcanal. He had had polio and one leg was about 1/4 inch shorter than the other, but the Marine Corps took him anyway. Rossi was married and had a couple children.---Kenneth Aust

The night Rossi got killed we were in a field and all dug in, artillery was coming in on us. Rossi was killed May 14, just before we got to Crescent Hill. Every shell was going off too and I had heard from one of the guys once, that I shouldn't worry about Jap artillery because 50% are duds and don't explode. I sure wish I could think of that guys name because all of them were going off and most of them were to close for comfort. Rossi popped up and let off a shot and he got shot at the same time.---Ken Aust

I recall the day, about May 14th, that Bob Demuth, and Jack James got killed, they were both Corpsman. It was near Crescent Hill.---Frank Kukuchka

May 14,...Advanced not more than 30 yards this morning at 8AM when we lost half of our platoon. Mortar and artillery barrage was laid in on us, also SA fire.[Small Arms] Lenahan was killed at my side carrying Wicka out of the village. Bob Demuth and [Jack] James, (corpsmen) killed, so was Rossi. Tellinghuisen hit in chest, (died in Hawaii). Others hit, Nokes, Nangan, Miller [Paul], Santarpia, Thornton, Sparks and C.J. Miller. J.V. Brown led rest of platoon to Charlie Hill. Long advance. Shankle was hit. Didn't miss him till next day. We hid in ready made trenches, separated from our main units on both flanks. One machine gun section was with us. Capt. Mylod was hit badly during morning.

This, I believe, was the most "Hellish" day of the battle since the ambush up north. From where we dug in, just ahead of us, were three terraces of rice paddies in steps, following to the left, down hill somewhat. Beyond that, about seventy five yards, was a hedge row or narrow strip of trees that broadened out considerably farther to the left. To our right the slope went up ten or twenty yards and this gave us cover for our right flank. Our third platoon was at the end of it here. The zero hour for take off was 8Am.

We started our advance and moved only a short distance when the Japs opened up on us with everything they had. Besides the gun fire they began to sweep the area with their mortars, starting at the tree line and working towards us. We took cover on the back side of the rice paddy terraces and waited as the mortars kept coming in closer and closer. Mortars were my greatest terror, having that gut ripping sound. They came right to the edge of the terrace on top then worked their sweep back again towards the wooded area.

We were more fortunate than our other platoons because the terraces slowed us down to a walk around them. The other good thing was they gave us some good cover. Had the mortars come in an increment farther, most or all of our platoon could have been

wiped out.

The other platoons, less impeded, had already reached the woods and had many casualties, including their corpsmen. When our support fire came in we took advantage of it to get our wounded out.

Four of us with a litter, went around the terraces and ran into the wooded area directly ahead. We found Corporal Wicka laying on the ground where a house had burned down. He was conscious but very disoriented from concussion. We asked him of his wounds since we saw no blood and all he could muster out was, "Give me a cigarette!" We propped him up against part of a brick chimney which was still standing there till he took a few drags, then put him on the litter and ran him out towards the terraces. Half way across the field a very loud shot came in. Tom Lenahan let out a short, High pitch squeak and fell to the ground. He and I had the rear handles of the litter. I had the right side. The shot came from that direction, passing my back and hitting Tom. I managed to grab the other handle to bring Wicka to a less exposed are. Our Corpsman, John Pauk, ran back to Tom but found he was already dead.

I don't know what I meant by "S A fire", unless it was sniper action. [I'll bet you meant "small arms fire" Frank.]

Just above the terraces and towards the woods from where Wicka was recovered, was a dirt road. The wooded section ended here. The slope on the right of us which I mentioned earlier, also ran out at this point to a field with a gradual decline. One of our Tanks came in and parked at this location. We were to continue our drive with the assistance of this tank. It was exposed somewhat, to the right flank. Very shortly, the Japs opened up on the tank and it began to back up. Several of us were behind the tank ready for the drive, but had to jump away from it quickly when it went in reverse. My last vivid memory of Corporal Tellinghuisen was being up on the road ban looking very disgusted as to why the tank was going in the wrong direction. He got wounded this day.

The time could have been noon or later when all of us got organized again and started our drive along the right slope of Charlie Hill, all the way out to the butt end. This was a long hill and a "forever" advance, with constant gun fire from the enemy. To our advantage, located fairly high on the butt, (Someone may describe this the nose end, facing the enemy) we found a ready-made trench our platoon settled into. We also got a Machine Gun section in and were practically elbow to elbow in this tight groove...All this must have been calculated very carefully by the Japs, who are smaller, and they reasoned if these trenches were occupied by Americans who are larger they would be cramped and therefore placed at a disadvantage. I, being a small fellow, barely making it into the Marine Corps by the stretch of my neck, was able to squeeze into it...Nothing was on our flanks. I have no idea where the rest of our Company was.

Captain Mylod was wounded this day...I met Captain Mylod at the 1983 Reunion in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. When he introduced himself as my Company Commander on Okinawa. I told him that I didn't remember him. This was an embarrassing moment for me. Now

I can see why---I cannot remember ever seeing Captain Mylod in combat, and being acquainted with his name for so short a time would have made it even more difficult to remember. When I wrote Ken Long, (I-3-29), over a year ago, I was under the impression that Mylod was in charge when we left Guadalcanal, but it was Captain Jorgensen.

It is amazing how a few reference items such as the casualty list and my diary, with a jolt in my memory have put into perspective the movement and the daily events of the war and the location of the dead and wounded that I was aware of at that time.---Frank Kukuchka

As we approached Crescent Hill, I remember our telephone lines were being cut as fast as we repaired them, during one afternoon and evening I remember treating 4 guys who were wounded trying to repair the phone lines, in fact one of the Marines was wounded again as I was treating him. There was a lot of metal whizzing around out there when I was treating the guys but I didn't get hit. It was during this time my dog tag chain broke and I just through it aside, I guess I thought I had a charmed life and when I got through treating the guy, I thought about that and before I left I went over to where it was laying, wadded it up and put it in my pocket. The next day I got hit about 5pm.

The word had been passed down stating that Corpsmen should not expose themselves to fire unnecessarily because replacements were very scarce and although this sounded good it wasn't always possible. As we were dropping back from an attack of the hill, [Crescent] I had just treated a wounded Marine and had him in a poncho so we could get him back. There was heavy enemy fire from our rear. A group of us grabbed the poncho and took off to some cover a short distance to the rear when a single slug from a nambu got me in the leg and I fell and started rolling toward a shell hole a short distance away. I can't remember seeing that shell hole at all but I must have seen it since I rolled right into it. Nappi, [Pvt Micheal L. Nappi, who was a member of the 2nd squad, 1st Platoon.] after I was by myself in the shell hole for 15 minutes, he came out and took his personal dressing out of his pouch and placed it over my wound. It had been a very busy day and a lot of the guys were wounded, in fact my unit-3 [first aid kit] was empty except for some morphine and I did give myself a shot of that. I didn't even have the presence of mind to put a tourniquet on, and the only reason I didn't bleed to death was because the artery must have constricted and when I got back to the aid station, they pumped plasma into me right away, but it was almost dark at that time. When I got on the hospital ship the next day, the Doctor told me the main artery was severed and gangrene had already started to set in and although they would make every attempt to save the leg he wasn't sure of the outcome. I recall when he told me I would lose my leg I was very upset for awhile and felt extremely sorry for myself. Now, I visit other people who have lost their leg and let them know what they can expect. I jog, play golf, (16 handicap) and other things and I don't feel I'm at a disadvantage at all.---Fred Pears

Later on we were shelled by our own artillery and I believe it was coming from the ships. [We were near Crescent Hill] There was a fellow from our Company by the name of JV Brown, who was very instrumental in getting it stopped as he was running around trying to find a telephone so he could to the rear to get them to stop firing. He was a Corporal I believe and he took over command of his rifle platoon because all of the Officers and senior NCOs had been wounded. [3rd Rifle Platoon]---Albert Perkins

Corpsman James, was the Corpsman who treated me when I was wounded [May 14, 1945] and he was killed later. He was a good looking kid from Mississippi and we were at Sugar Loaf Hill, [Crescent Hill] it was about the second attempt we made to take the hill and several tanks were brought up to assist us. The 1st Rifle Platoon was about half way up to the top and I got a call on the phone from them to see if they could have use of our corpsman because theirs had just been hit. [Fred Pears was the 1st Rifle Platoon Corpsman who had just been wounded] I had been talking to Whitey (Don) Schinnerer back at the Mortar Platoon and asked him to send Jack James, the Corpsman up to me. When James arrived he and I were kneeling behind a rice paddy wall and just his head was above the top of the wall, I was standing next to him, bent over with my hands on my knees telling him where I wanted him to go. At that time, the Japs were starting to register in on these tanks which were setting about 25 yards behind us and a round came in and hit the top of rice paddy wall decapitating James and the same round wounded me and when I came to, the concussion had blown me about 10 yards from where I was standing with James.---William Cromling

When I was wounded, I don't know how long I was unconscious, it wasn't too long but when I woke up I started to wave my arms to get someones attention and it was Lt Stone, the Platoon Leader of the 1st Platoon who came over and rounded up several guys (I think they were from the Mortar Section) and they carried me out in a poncho and placed me on the top rack of a jeep to take me back to the aid station. I was wounded quite bad as I had a lot of shrapnel in my right side. I drifted between consciousness and unconsciousness on the way back to the aid station, but I do remember waking up at one point and hearing the wounded guy below me saying, "is that bastard above me still living?" "Yeah, Why?" responded the jeep driver. "Because he's bleeding all over me", he said. After awhile we arrived at a cave which had been converted to an aid station but since they didn't have the facilities to take care of me they told the jeep driver to take me to the Army "Mash" unit by Yontan airfield where they had the ability to perform major surgery and I believe it was part of the 77th Infantry Division. It was a rough trip and again I was in and out of consciousness the entire way. I recall being taken into a tent with a naked bulb hanging above me and after stripping me down, they carried me in to surgery. I was laying there for a short time and I heard the nurse say to the doctor, "Do you want me to catharise him?" at that, since my knowledge of medicine wasn't to good, I looked at the nurse, because I

thought she mean't "castrate" and said, "What did you say?" she said, "Don't worry Marine, we aren't going to take anything away from you", and at that point they put me out. I was on the Island for several days after the operation before they evacuated me and luckily I overheard my doctor telling some other doctors what he had done to me, since when I arrived at Guam a short time later my health records were not with me and the doctors there depended on what I could tell them prior to their giving me treatment. When I arrived at Guam, the first person I talked to was a nurse who had gone to school with one of my brothers back home in Ohio. Later I was sent to the Naval Hospital at Hawaii, then to Oakland, from there to a hospital at Oceanside, California, and that's where I met my wife. She was a Corps-Wave at the Hospital.---William Cromling

We had a Corpsman by the name of Raynor, one heck of a good man, he should have got a medal. On Motobu Peninsula he was running around treating Marines like he couldn't be hit, he was born with a silver spoon in his mouth and his Dad didn't want him to come in the service but he joined anyway, he was a good man. There was another Corpsman too, Briscoe, he was with us too.---Claude Killian

[May 14] We start out and we had to take a rough road around a bend, the squad members were keeping some distance between themselves and the next Marine to them. Graves, was the squad leader, Crouse is the gunner, Riley is the assistant gunner now and a nambu opened up---dat dat dat!, Crouse came dashing back and his arm was bleeding. His right arm was hit and it was laid open pretty good. We bandaged him up but now we realize we have to go where he just came from and there was a nambu out there waiting for us. We started out and sure enough, the nambu opens up on us and he's kicking up dirt all over me and the bullets are just about at my feet and how he missed, I'll never know but he didn't get anybody else. He was firing from our left rear. [This would put the snipers location in the direction of Wana or Shuri.] Graves, dashed out and picked up the tripod and we had a little cover but from another direction a different nambu opened up and hit John Rossi in the chest, I don't know how many times. I can't recall if he died there or back at the hospital.---Donald Honis

[May 14] We worked our way up the hill and now there are a lot of hand grenades flying [in both directions], bullets flying and artillery flying. I figure we lost about 40 men on the 14th and it was quite a day!. [4 were killed and 26 wounded] The entire day was as if the world exploded and this day too we had a close call with a large Nip artillery shell as we were firing the gun, it might have been a 150 but we heard it coming and we ducked. When that shell blew up it seemed like 15 seconds before the air cleared as the rocks and shrapnel were flying all over the place, to me it's amazing no one was hurt and we were concerned too because a short time before a shell landed a little behind us and we thought the Japs had us bracketed. We kept

firing our machine gun and nothing came close to us after that. For the remainder of the day we kept advancing and paying the price for it of course. We were moving to our left on the approach to Crescent Hill [Also called Half Moon Hill] and next to us they was a tank destroyer with a 105mm on it blasting away. A couple dead Marines laying face down in dirt were next to our position but I didn't recognize them or know who they were and we started to work a little to the right and some more artillery started coming in. We jumped into some spider traps in the area and waited it out---during that time a shell landed on top of or near one of the guys near us and although he wasn't hurt, the concussion made him somewhat dazed similar to a boxer who had just received a solid blow and he was taken back toward the Company CP. There were about a half dozen dead Nips and as I jumped into another shell crater I noticed just the torso of another dead Nip. Just his legs were there. We went a little farther and ran into "I" Company of the 22nd Marines and now we are co-mingled with them causing some confusion. At this point both Half Moon and Sugar Loaf Hills are on our left and the condition is big time. A tank near there was either taken out of action by a mine or a Jap with a satchel charge and it burned and burned, I don't think anyone got out of it. The tank burned all night. Later on the command was heard, "'I" Company over here", but since we had two "I" Companies in the area it got quite confusing but eventually everything was straightened out and we were on our way again. I feel if the Nips would have hit us during this time we would have lost a lot more people because of the confusion and the concentration of Marines in a small area. The spot where we were wasn't Charlie Hill because that hill was directly behind us and Sugar Loaf was directly to our front. I think it was during the night of May 14th, Major Courtney got his group together and made his rush on Sugar Loaf. We had dug in that night a short distance from them after we got untangled from "I" Co. of the 22nd Marines. I recall seeing him with his 45 and shoulder holster before the charge. Butts and I dug in together that night and the rest of the squad dug in below us, Richardson, Horton and Meyers dug in below us and they had the gun. We were exhausted that night and after digging in we decided to go a little deeper than usual because of all the artillery we had been getting, so we went down another 6 inches or so. It was common when on the front lines to pair up in two man foxholes and one person from each foxhole was on watch at all times and I think Graves was dug in behind us on a bank. I have often thought of Courtney and his men on that hill [Sugar Loaf] and we couldn't do anything to help them.---Donald Honis

May 14. The night Major Courtney and his group attempted to take Sugar Loaf. Butts and I dug in and Richardson, Horton and Meyers are below us a bit and handling the gun. During the night some Jap infiltrators tryed to get through the line and Richardson took the gun off the tripod and shot the Nip. The next morning, since Courtney and his Marines were unable to hold Sugar Loaf Hill, the Japs had retaken it and were looking right down our throats. Butts and I were laying in our foxholes on our backs

and this Nip nambu started firing and was hitting inches above our heads and the dirt is flying in the hole. If we hadn't decided to dig in an addition 6 inches or so the night before, we would have been dead meat.---Donald Honis

That morning we were receiving heavy small arms fire from our left rear as we had lost contact with with the 1st Marine Division on our left flank. Many casualties occurred that day and the yell "corpsman" was to be repeated over and over as the wounded were being removed with the help of fellow Marines. Toward the end of the day we had managed to gain a few hundred yards but with heavy mortar fire from our front and rifle fire from the front and rear, it seemed like an impossible situation. Rifle ammunition and grenades were getting low and we were now throwing any surplus we had to the Marines that were in the shell crater to our right and left. About this time an incident took place that I have thought of many times over the years that points up the efficiency and bravery of our support troops. Sardo and I were at the time, counting the ammunition and grenades we had left when a Marine came lumbering with his back and hands full of supplies along with a couple other guys; enemy fire was continuous and heavy and instead of just dropping their loads at intervals (each foxhole would then go out and pick up their own) they delivered the ammunition and some rations (K) to each foxhole or crater where the troops were located. The guy that delivered ours was a sergeant. True, he didn't stop and exchange pleasantries but that group of "delivery men" created a warm spot in my heart. That night was similar to the previous night with no Japs spotted directly to our front but a lot of rifle fire and grenade explosions both right and left. Along with darkness came the constant flares, which were always welcome, the conditions that night also brought the opportunity for some sleep, not the deep uninterrupted type of sleep one gets at home in your own bed, but rather a relaxation where the mind drifts to remember pleasant thoughts of the past; The lilacs during May in Minnesota, or the smell of freshly baked bread after Mom took it out of the woodstove oven, they were more thoughts than dreams. During that period Sardo and I had one hour on watch and one hour off, of course this varied with the conditions, but apparently he and I were both geared to the fact that our eyes started to play tricks with us if we watched any longer than that under the light of those flares. I remember being poked by Sardo when it was my time for watch and I would feel that fate had played a cruel trick to bring me back from those satisfying thoughts to this hell hole. Dawn arrived and the 1st Battalion of the 29th had moved to our left flank to fill the gap between I Company and the 1st Marine Division.---Kenneth Long

There was this hill on the south end of the Island near Sugar Loaf that Cunningham and I called Grenade Hill. I think it might have been Half Moon Hill and between us we must have thrown about three cases of grenades. Hermanies carried up a case for us and I think that's the day he got hit.---Charles Miller

Gy/Sgt Taylor was a damn good man, he stole us a whole truckload of mortar ammunition one time. In fact, he even stole the crew to unload it at the front lines for us. The event went something like this: Gy/Sgt Taylor was responsible for keeping us supplied with what we needed in the way of food and ammo.. This particular day our Company was in dire need of some mortar ammunition so off he went in the Company jeep and I assume the driver was Pfc Tincher, they had planned on putting some ammo in the jeep and coming back with it when low and behold they met a truck with a whole load of 60-mm ammo and along with it were six or seven black Marines who where the unloading crew and were enroute to the ammunition depot. Taylor being damn quick mentally, told Pfc Tincher to turn on the red light and siren the jeep was equipped with and stopped the ammunition truck. Taylor then jumped out of the jeep and in a very military fashion confronted the ranking (Sgt) member of the unloading crew. "I am ordered to divert this load of ammo to the front lines. My driver and I can take the truck back, however if you guys drive it for us and unload the ammunition, there might be a medal in it for all of you." The unloading crew agreed to do just that and it wasn't long before they arrived at the site of our mortars and had that truck unloaded. After unloading they didn't stick around for any conversation but rather got the hell out of there as any sane person would have done. "What about those medals?" you ask, Well, I'm not sure but I think that part of Gy/Sgt Taylor's conversation was forgotten.---Charles Miller

We made a couple of trys at Sugar Loaf in the afternoon that were not successful so that night our Battalion Exec., Major Courtney took what was left of Fox Co. to the top of the hill. We got some replacements diring the night but suffered heavy casualties including the Major. Six of us from Fox Co. survived. We got replacements enough so we had 3 man fire teams, so 3 of us dug in together at night. I was married 10 days before entering the Corps. I dug in with George Berteletti, a BAR man, for sometime. We have stayed in contact over the years. He used to tell my wife, "I slept with Fred more the first year of your marriage than you did. My wife got a big laugh out of that.---Fred McGowan, F/2/22/6

About this time we received short rounds from our own artillery, since the Navy guns were supporting us too I don't know for sure what unit it was. During that time too I had quite a few conversations with Navy observers as they we with us to identify targets and radio the locations back to the ships, [The cruiser, USS Indianapolis, was one of the ships which gave us fire support during that time.]---Harvey Brooks

May 15

15 May 1945: First and Third Battalions attacked to seize OBOE-CHARLIE line in zone of action. The strong point in 7673 MIKE, NAN, and SUGAR was eliminated at 1630 by How Company. Quantities of enemy material were destroyed; approximately 260 enemy found killed. Attacking against heavy enemy resistance, the assault battalions secured the line- 7672 BAKER-3, CHARLIE-2, 7673 WILLIAM-4, 7672 DOG-5, EASY-5, 7772 ABLE-1-2. Contact was established with 22d Marines on the right and the First Marine Division on the left. Received heavy casualties during the day from small arms, mortar, and artillery fire. Direct artillery fire from the SHURI area in 7772 ROGER, SUGAR and TARE greatly hindered the advance throughout the day. Dog Company was sent to the area of the 22d Marines to assist in mopping up enemy in the rear of 2d Battalion, 22 Marines. The enemy had penetrated their lines during the previous night. On arrival Dog Company was ordered to move into the lines to assist in repelling counterattack by enemy on SUGAR-LOAF HILL, 7672 GEORGE. They arrived in position during height of attack and suffered heavy casualties until ordered to withdraw by battalion commander, 2d Battalion, 22d Marines. The 29th Marines suffered heavy casualties during the day from all types of enemy fire.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
5/15/45	1105	Tp Fr: G Co in fire fight but holding on and giving fire support to 2/22--Is on line 7672 G2, H3, L2. (Action: D-3, 2/22)
	1410	Tp Fr: In draw captured 1-47mm AT gun--burning and sealing caves--Slow but thorough. (Action: 6 Div)
	1520	Tp Fr: H Co cleaned out pocket with exception of one house containing 3 MG's.
	2015	Tp Fr: Results of today's Opns--Cleared pocket at 7673 M,R,S--3 HMG, 8 LMG, 2 47mm AT guns, 10 knee mortars, captured or destroyed--150 counted dead. D Co 30 counted dead, 40 Est--1/29 25 counted dead, 45 Est.

[This is the account of the 2nd Platoon, Dog Company, 29th Marines during the morning of 15 May 1945 and their attempt to hold Sugar Loaf Hill after the attack of Major Courtney and his men from 2/22 during the previous night.][Lt George Murphy, was Platoon Leader of the 2nd Platoon, Dog Company, 29th Marines and was a college classmate of "I" Company's Lt Sullivan, (3rd Platoon). Both Murphy and Sullivan played on the 1942 Notre Dame football team of which Murphy was the captain.]

The story shifts now to the attempt of the isolated platoon of Lieutenant George Murphy to hold Sugar Loaf. Dog Company, under Captain Mabie, of which the platoon was a part, had left the battalion CP early that morning; it had a not too difficult task, to mop up behind 2/22.

When Captain Howard L. Mabie reported to Major Glen E Martin at the CP of 2/22 he was ordered to send one platoon forward to the OP of 2/22 carrying grenades for further distribution. From

what he could see of the situation, Captain Mabie was sure that the company would soon be committed to the front lines. He stayed at the 2/22 CP to telephone his own Bn-3 and tell him that. When he got to the forward OP where Lieutenant George Murphy had taken his 3rd platoon, he found that the platoon was already on its way to Sugar Loaf. He got in touch with Murphy over the radio and asked him what the situation was. Murphy told him that he didn't think he could hold the hill without supporting weapons. Captain Mabie did not know at this time that his platoon was relieving the companies of 2/22. [Yet at 1000 this day, Colonel Woodhouse, Commanding Officer of 2/22 called in to say he was sending a platoon from 2/29 to relieve his troops ie. 2/22 from Sugar Loaf] To him [Capt. Mabie] from his post it looked as if his platoon was being abandoned on the hill. He could see the movement of troops coming back that were not his own. He asked Colonel Woodhouse for permission to withdraw. It was refused.

In communication again with Murphy he told him that he would have to hold the hill. Later men from Murphy's platoon said that Lieutenant Murphy actually gave the order to assault the hill with fixed bayonets. From the top they threw all the grenades they carried, 350 in all, and then began to feel acutely their helplessness. Murphy again called back to Mabie and asked for permission to withdraw. He was told that he would have to hold the hill at all costs. Murphy reported that knee mortar shells were falling so heavily that he could not stay. That was the last they heard from him. Finally on his own initiative he ordered a withdrawal; the whole face of the hill was alive with the gray eddies of smoke from mortar shells and men were being killed or wounded faster than they could be moved or evacuated. Murphy, his pistol in his hand, covered the withdrawal as best he could; near the bottom of the hill he stopped to aid a wounded man and was fatally hit by a shell fragment. He turned deliberately fired his pistol seven times up the hill and then dropped down dead.

As Murphy's platoon retreated, Captain Mabie took the rest of the company forward to Hill No. 3 to cover the withdrawal and to set up an aid station. The Journal of 2/22 records his [Mabie's] conversation with Colonel Woodhouse.

1136-D 29th to 6

Request permission to withdraw. Irish George Murphy has been hit. Has eleven men left in platoon of original 60.

1138-6 to D 29th

You must Hold!

1143- D 29th to 6

Platoon has withdrawn. Position was untenable. Could not evacuate wounded. Believe Japs now hold ridge.

1144-6 to D 29th

Protect your unevacuated wounded.

1230- E 5 to 6

Japs are trying to put 47-mm gun on top of Sugar Loaf. Will have to fire regardless of troops.

1240 -D 29th to 6

All wounded believed to be removed from Sugar Loaf.

1240-D 29th to 6

Still evacuating wounded, send more smoke.

1522- D 29th to 6

Men sent in for casualties returned safely. Brought out one man. Could not find any more.

PlSgt Henry Korkuc took over command and got out all the wounded he could find in two amtracs.---Phillips Carlton

[15 May] Division by now had determined to make the assault without waiting for the 1st Marine Division. The whole burden of the attack rested on 1/29. How, Item, and George Companies were linked down along Queen Ridge. From Sugar Loaf the Japanese were threatening a counterattack. In the morning, (9:15 A.M.) Captain Heiden (C/29) took his company through the lines of Able Company and assaulted Charlie Ridge.

This wide, long ridge lay across the front; near the east end was a little pinnacle. As the company moved down the railroad tracks they came under fire from the ridges in front of the 1st Marine Division. They rushed the hill from the west end, where a nose came down nearly to the tracks. The first time they were driven back by grenades. They fell back, reorganized, and went up the hill again. This time they got to the top of the ridge and halfway along it. They had the partial protection of a Japanese trench system but they could not move along the ridge without coming into the line of direct fire from Crescent Hill and from the ridge beyond. The men were badly shaken and feeling desperate, as grenades still came over. At this moment Captain Heiden came clambering up the hill with his open cartridge belt clashing, walking alongside the trench in his haste. The men quieted down and held. Later that day Captain Heiden was wounded and evacuated and Captain Ramsay took the company.

After the first rapid expansion of the Corps after Guadalcanal, promotion had been slow. Many of these young company commanders now at Okinawa had seen service at Guadalcanal as lieutenants. ...Captain Walter E. Jorgensen had been CO of Item Company, 29th Marines. He had eight times trained a company and had been at Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan, and Okinawa. He was now suddenly executive officer of his battalion. He had been out over 30 months. On their shoulders (Company Commanders) rested ultimately the responsibility for casualties. A captain is an officer without a staff. He must see to the disposition of every last man in his company; he must make all the final decisions. During combat a captain hardly eats or sleeps or has time to dig a foxhole. He sleeps in snatches, eats when he can, and grows more haggard every day.

Heiden's men, then, clung to their ridge. Captain Specht (B/29) brought his company up along the railroad track, and sent one platoon up on a long ridge behind Charlie Company to cover the draw that led down to the tracks. Now before the division could seize either of the two hills, was the time for the Japanese to counterattack down the Asa-Kawa basin where the 1st Marine Division was maintaining only tenuous contact with the 6th Marine Division. Two battalions of Japanese troops thrown down this corridor could cut the ridge, destroy our communications and snap our supply lines. ...General Ushijima...had of course knowledge of our movements, but he could not know or did not know

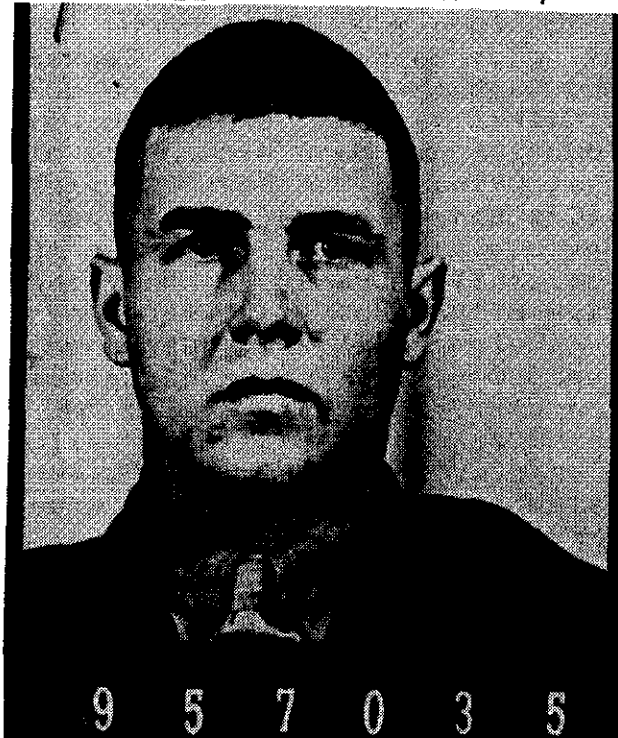
that during this time only two companies stood between him and the sea.

There was more artillery fire during the night but no counterattack. There were a few more wounded. Up here in this narrow churned-up valley, amtracs were again being used to carry up supplies and to carry back the wounded. There was a road of sorts leading along the southern ridge of the corridor but bridges were blown or unsafe and in the fields there were ditches. The amtracs could go where no truck or even jeep could venture; they could carry immense loads; the great empty deck could be loaded with stretchers carrying wounded. Finally the steel sides offered some protection against flying shell fragments, or even against spent bullets. Behind the companies the amtracs were rolling up, rocking across draws where AT [anti-tank] guns fired at them, crawling up behind hills. A good many were hit; many under the heavy grinding of daily runs were breaking down. Presently when the rains started they were to be the only means of transportation.---Phillips Carlton

Marines Killed in Action

5/15/45	McDevitt	John	HA1c	635-25-52
5/15/45	Richardson	Harold	Pvt	957035
5/15/45	Horton	Edwin	Pvt	953893
5/15/45	Whatley	Earl	Pfc	891000

[No information is available on Corpsman McDevitt]



Pvt Harold Eugene Richardson, 957035

Private Richardson, born 8 January 1924, at Summerfield, Kansas, was the son of Mr. John W. Richardson, Route # 1, Pawnee City, Nebraska.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve, on 2 June 1944, at

Omaha, Nebr., when he was 20 years of age. Pvt Rcihardson joined the 12th Training Bn., San Diego, for his Boot Training on June 5, 1944. He joined the 14th Replacement Draft, November 1, 1944 and embarked aboard the USS Gen. C.G. Morton for Guadalcanal, November 10, 1944. (Author's note: The USS Gen. C.G. Morton also transported Co "I", 3rd Bn., 29th Marines, FMF., to Guadalcanal on 1 August 1944 and returned to the United States and transported the 14th Replacement Draft to the Canal In November, 1944). Pvt Richardson, joined Co. "I", 3rd Bn., 29th Marines, FMF., December 26, 1944. He was a member of the Machine Gun Platoon, I/3/29/6.

He was Killed In Action, 15 May 1945 by H.E. fragments during the preparation for "I" Company's attack on The Half Moon Hill, east of Charlie Hill. His remains were interred, 22 May 1945, Row 13, Grave 317, Plot B, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1948, his remains were returned to the United States and interred at, Summerfield Kansas Cemetery, Summerfield, Kansas.



Pvt Edwin Leroy Horton, 953893

Private Horton, was born 24 October 1925, at Utica, N.Y., the son of Mr. and Mrs. Erving Horton, R.F.D. #1, Remsen, New York.

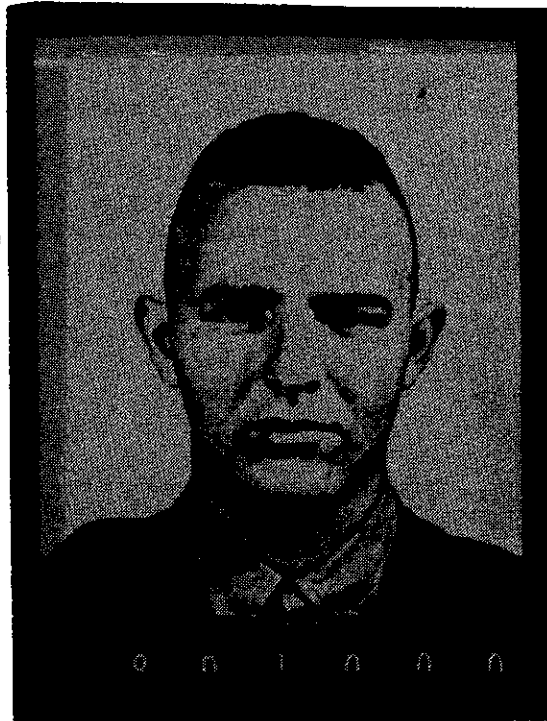
He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve on 23 March 1944 at Albany, N.Y., at the age of 18 years and was assigned to the 11th Recruit Bn., Parris Island, S.C. for Boot Training on March 24, 1944.

On June 9, 1944, he joined Co. "I", 3rd Bn, 29th Marines, FMF., at Camp Lejeune, N.C., and embarked on the USS C. G. Morton, for Guadalcanal on August 1, 1944.

Pvt Horton was a member of the Machine Gun Platoon.

On May 15, 1945, Pvt Horton, was Killed In Action by enemy

H.E. fragments. He was killed in near the narrow railroad tracks between Sugar Loaf and The Half Moon Hills. Remains were interred 22 May 1945, Row 14, Grave 341, Plot B, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1948, Pvt Horton's remains were interred at the National Cemetery, Territory of Hawaii.



PFC Earl Donavan Whatley, 891000

Private First Class Whatley, was born 26 March 1925 at Selma, La., and was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Samps W. Whatley, c/o Veteran's Hospital, Alexandria, La.

He enlisted August 24, 1943, at New Orleans, La.. He entered the Marine Corps Reserve and was 18 years of age. He joined the 4th Recruit Bn, San Diego, September 10 1943, where he attended Boot Camp. He was promoted to Private First Class, November 2, 1943, and joined the Rifle Range Detachment, San Diego, November 3, 1943. On November 13, PFC Whatley, joined the 26th Replacement Draft and embarked for the south pacific aboard the USS Sea Bass, on December 27, 1944. He joined I/3/29/6, at Okinawa on April 29, 1945.

He was Killed In Action, 15 May 1945, from H.E. fragment wounds he incurred while Company "I", was attacking the north slope of The Half Moon Hill, west of Charlie Hill. His remains were interred, 24 May 1945, Row 16, Grave 282, Plot B, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1948, his remains were returned to the United States, and interred at Greenwood Memorial Cemetery, Pineville, Louisiana.

		Marines Wounded	
5/15/45	Breaux	George	Pfc 369800
5/15/45	Brooks	Harvey	1st Lt 016758
5/15/45	Brown	Arthur	Pfc 847542

5/15/45	Cherry	William	Pfc	519053
5/15/45	Cullem	Charles	Pvt	541363
5/15/45	Melcher	Thomas	2nd Lt	041974
5/15/45	Miller	Charles	Pfc	514436
5/15/45	Mohrman	Vernon	Pvt	948899
5/15/45	Mullett	Samuel	Pfc	910383
5/15/45	Muncy	John	Pfc	888815
5/15/45	Nichols	Hollis	Pvt	980909
5/15/45	Polding	John	Pfc	845176
5/15/45	Shakeshaft	Donald	Pfc	396274
5/15/45	Shankle	Grover	Pvt	847467
5/15/45	Steadly	Daniel	Pfc	957278

I recall too, about this time three of us were in a shell hole and a truck that fires those rockets came up behind us and fired their load, one of the rockets started wobbling and I thought it might land where we were laying so I said to the other two guys, "d d d dud", but it went over our heads and skidded on the ground, it didn't explode though.---Ken Aust

I recall when our artillery was shelling us, I can't remember the exact location but John Hermanies came by foxhole and he was yelling, "headquarters, headquarters, they're laying the shells in on us", or something like that. Of course he was trying to get the message to our CP as soon as he could as he was Company Runner.---Frank Kukuchka

May 15,...Stayed low in trenches. Didn't expose ourselves. Very cramped area. Artillery always coming in at set times except when we make an assault, at 11PM and 5AM. Intermittently during the day. Breaux hit by sniper near eye. Was sent back. Second platoon sent one squad to help us. More cramped than ever. During day, rest of Company advanced to a low hill just forward of Charlie Hill. Dug in. Second platoon squad joined their unit. Our artillery on our men.

The artillery mentioned above was ours. The reason the second platoon squad came in during the day was to allow us to sleep some, since there was infiltration all during the night and everyone had to be extremely watchful and alert. A number of Japs were killed here doing just that, including a woman soldier, J.V. Brown, said he got one with his K-Bar knife.

Sugar Loaf hill was in front of us some distance yet. We could see a tank burning to the right of it. I don't know if it was ours or the Japs.

"Our artillery on our men." This comment was in the margin section of my diary. It could be that I didn't remember the exact day and put it there. John Hermanies was our message runner, who had a brilliant memory and I suppose was chosen for the job [for that reason], came running back past our position shouting at the top of his voice to Headquarters to stop the artillery because it was coming in too short.---Frank Kukuchka

I can't remember much about the hill, [Crescent] but I think it was the hill our machine guns did an awful lot of shooting, in

fact one of the guys got his barrel so hot, the only way he could stop it was to twist the ammunition belt before it entered the gun. We were hit by our own artillery too and Sgt Heim was right on the telephone to call it off as the shells were landing all around us.---Joe Bledsoe

There was a railroad track between Crescent Hill and Sugar Loaf Hill and as our group was passing through this area one day we were attacked by Jap mortars and small arms fire. One of our guys luckily found a deep Jap foxhole and called, "come on in here, there's room for another one", otherwise I feel I would have been killed or at least wounded. After they lifted the barrage, we got the hell out of there.

For several nights the mortar section was busy keeping the front lines illuminated. You could see the shell arching into the air and we were told to fire another round just as the preceding round started its dip toward the ground, in that way the area would be under continuous illumination. I remember too, in the morning we would have piles, and piles, and piles of empty casings behind us.---Albert Perkins

May 15. We were pinned down all day of the 15th of May and as usual the incoming artillery and mortars were ferocious. I couldn't tell from which direction the shelling was coming from because for most of the day we had our faces buried in the dirt of our foxhole. Horton, Richardson and Meyers, who were dug in below us and therefore a better target for the Japs, were all killed. (The records indicate Meyers being killed on the 18th of May, but he was killed on the 15th.) [Muster Rolls for the Company show that Myers was killed on the 18th, but with all of the confusion that was occurring then and which continued for the next several days it is understandable a mistake could have been made] Horton got hit in the neck by mortar shrapnel and Richardson was also killed by a mortar round---Meyers was wounded and bleeding quite bad, he got up to go to the aid station behind the lines and was killed. Bob Meyers always carried a Zippo cigarette lighter that was his pride and joy.---Donald Honis

Ed Horton, is buried in the Punch Bowl Cemetery, at Hawaii, Section 10, Grave 120.---Donald Honis

We advanced about 500 yards that day and early afternoon when Sardo and I broke out from a slightly wooded area, we saw seven Marines propped up against a stone wall that was about 4 feet high as though they were going to fire at the enemy to their front, however when we got a little closer we realized they were the bodies of some Marines that had been ambushed. We didn't know what happened, we thought we were the first troops through the area, but apparently the patrols from some unit had been there before us. Although I Company advanced several hundred yards, things hadn't changed much as we were still getting heavy fire from our front and from Charlie Hill area as well as the left rear. We spent the night on some flat ground about 300 yards north of the Half Moon Hill. Activity started to pick up and in

addition to the rifle, mortars and the flares that night, our artillery was a lot more active. It was about this time that I started to think about that bible I had in my pocket (the small one given to me by the Salvation Army) because someone on the island had said a good passage to read was a certain Psalm, (I can't remember the number but the passage went something like this) "Tho thousands may die to your right and thousands to your left, it shall not come nigh to thee". Another writing that I remember reciting in my mind was: "Out of the night that covers me, dark as a pit from pole to pole, I thank what ever Gods may be, for my unconquerable soul". These two writings were to cross my mind many times during the days ahead.---Kenneth Long

I'll tell you another guy that did a great job was Johnny Pauk, our Corpsman.---Charles Miller

Yeah, Breaux was a good man, the last time I saw him he had just been hit in the face with a Jap bullet and was being evacuated by being placed on the blind side of a tank. [George Breaux was wounded on 15 May]---Charles Miller

Yeah, I got wounded about the time O'Leary got killed. I got some shrapnel in the back but I didn't realize I had it. I might have been wounded a lot more seriously if it hadn't been for my pack cause the shrapnel passed through that first.---Charles Miller

On 15 May, it was in the morning and we were near Crescent Hill. Shakeshaft, my runner, and I were looking over the situation to our front and the entire company was getting a lot of mortar and artillery fire. We were just heading back to tell the guys to withdraw so we could saturate the area with our own artillery and mortars when a sniper shot Shakeshaft in the stomach. Shortly after that the same sniper shot me in the head. There was heavy fighting going on at that time and very difficult to evacuate the wounded. A grey haired Corpsman came over to treat us but I can't remember his name [it could have been Pauk or Briscoe], they placed me in a small depression until later in the day when they took us out. Heavy mortar fire was still falling around us and on the way out I was again shot, this time in the hand and right leg. I can't remember the details but a fellow from either "G" or "H" Company by the name of Dave Ruth, was instrumental in my evacuation. I never did rejoin "I" Company, as I was hospitalized for about 16 months after being wounded. I had heard later that my runner, Shakeshaft, died as a result to his wound. [During our phone conversation I informed Harvey Brooks that according to Donald Shakeshaft's service record he did not die and he was discharged from the Corps in November of 1945---Kenneth Long]---Harvey Brooks

On May 15, early in the morning, my squad was told we were going up behind the front lines to help mop up Japs who had infiltrated during the night. On the way up we saw stark evidence of the previous day's fighting. About half way we passed a

bayoneted, dead Jap on his back with his right arm across his forehead. There was an American bayonet on the ground above his head. The Jap could not have been more than 14 years old. I thought to myself, "he was only a youngster" (I was just turning 19 years old myself) (I learned later that the Jap Army had conscripted Okinawans from 12 years old). Not far from the dead Jap kid, I saw a pair of legs leaning nonchalantly against a low stone wall. The torso from the waist up was lying on the other side of the wall. A longitudinal split half of an artillery shell was laying nearby. Later as we approached a big hill (which I later learned was Sugar Loaf Hill), we were walking in a long ditch with foxholes spaced every so often. Some of the foxholes had dead Marines in them. We went half way up the big hill and I sat down and took off my pack to rest. No one had told me that mopping up Japs was off and assisting the 22nd Marines during the fifth assault of Sugar Loaf was on. We were in the middle of the fiercest fighting to occur on Okinawa. I did not know that just over the crest of the hill (about 15 yards away) the Japs were counterattacking. I found out pretty fast. After a moments rest, I and a buddy were told to man a machine gun about 30 yards away near the other side of the hill. We headed for the gun but never got to it. A mortar and hand grenade barrage interrupted our trek about half way there and pinned us down. I was in a foxhole for I do not know how long. During that time a grenade went off in front of my face and blew my helmet to the back of my head. I did not get a scratch and I grabbed the helmet and reset it. I do not know if I had been unconscious for any length of time. I looked over at the machine gun we were headed for and saw two dead Marines by it and thought that its a good thing we can't get there--its well exposed and, if we get there, we will be two more dead Marines. During this time my platoon leader, a First Lieutenant, was a few yards behind me giving everyone encouragement. Suddenly I heard a "poof" behind me. I turned around and saw that the Lt. was killed instantly by a direct mortar hit and the body was a black hulk. A little later a Marine ahead of me began calling for a corpsman (I found out later the corpsmen were all dead or wounded). The Marine finally gave up calling and crawled to the rear of the hill. As he passed me, I saw that his right foot up to the middle of the calf had been blown off.

I expected the Japs to come over the top of the hill in a banzai attack. I put my bayonet on my rifle and was holding the rifle ready for the attack. After awhile things quieted down. A little later I heard a Marine ahead of me yell "We can't hold!" I went to the back of the hill to pass the word along, but nobody was there. Everybody had left. I went back to my foxhole and yelled ahead, "fall back!", which they did--four Marines (one wounded being helped by three others). We went back down to the bottom of the hill. When we reached the bottom, one of the Marines headed along the base of the hill about 10 yards to help a wounded Marine lying on the ground. I followed him to help out. The Marine squatted to help the wounded Marine and as I came up behind him, he fell back dead at my feet with a bullet hole in the center of his chest. Since I was upright, all I could think

of was that I was next. I took off heading for the cover of a disabled tank. As I left, one of the other Marines yelled, asking me to leave my rifle with him, which I did (instinct-Boot Camp training-told me not to give up my rifle and part of my mind was asking why he gave up his, but he needed it and I could not refuse).

I ran to the disabled tank which had a shell crater next to it. As I slid into the crater I grabbed an M-1 rifle lying there (which made me feel better about giving up my rifle). When I got into the crater I saw three other Marines there. I looked at the top of Sugar Loaf and saw Japs moving back and forth at the top of it. I looked at the rifle I had and saw that it was very muddy. I loaded the magazine and threw the bolt home-except it did not go all the way home. The rifle was so muddy the bolt did not seat. I lowered the rifle and kicked the bolt home with my foot and it seated. Since the rifle was so muddy, I was afraid to aim and fire it-I was afraid the bore was clogged with mud and would explode in my face. I held the rifle away from me, turned the bolt area away from my face and fired. It fired O.K.. I then had to kick the bolt home again and then fired at the Japs on Sugar Loaf. Each time I fired, I had to kick the bolt home.

The three other Marines and I decided we would get out of there. We huddled behind the tank and decided that we head back to a ridge behind Sugar Loaf one at a time-leaving according to the book---at 5 second intervals. The first man left. 5 seconds later the second man left. 5 seconds later the third man left. I was the last man and as I noticed the regularity of leaving of the other three, I quickly decided that if a Jap were watching, by the time I left, he would be counting 5 seconds also, so I counted 3 and took off, As I ran across the field heading for the ridge, I saw stones and dirt kick up to the front and right of me. At the same time I heard the dit, dit, dit...of the Jap Nambu machine gun. I ran faster and came upon a ditch, dove into it and began crawling along it. It headed in the same direction I was heading for---the ridge. All of a sudden I could not move. I discovered that I was jammed in place in a narrowing section of the ditch. I was wearing two water canteens on the sides of my hips and they were jamming me in place. (always after that, I wore one of my canteens on the back of my hip). As I left the ditch I rounded the edge of an embankment and found one of the other Marines. He kept going across a rising field heading straight for the ridge. Three-fourths of the way he fell down wounded and started crawling for the ridge. I saw four shell craters around the side of the field, so I went from crater to crater and got to the ridge at the same time as the wounded Marine. I helped him over the top of the ridge. He was wounded in the buttock and seemed to be alright otherwise. The ridge was where my company ["D" Company, 29th Marines] was digging in and a couple of Marines came over to help the wounded man and relieved me. I settled down and rested and found out there was not much to do. I noticed a lot of machine guns in various stages of disassembly on Sugar Loaf. This was where my machine gun training paid off. I went out onto the field and gathered enough parts to assemble three working machine guns which I put up on top of the

ridge to help form a defense line. While I was gathering the parts, my company [Commander] told me that, while I was on the field, I was subject to Jap mortar fire. I continued anyway. As I put the guns in place on the ridge, machine gun squads took them over. I stayed with the third one as part of its squad. While assembling the machine guns, the Marine who borrowed my rifle got safely back and came to me to return my rifle.

That evening we were relieved from the front lines (I found out later that we lost-dead and wounded-two-thirds of the platoon to which my squad was attached during the fighting on Sugar Loaf that day). We returned to the rear pretty much along the same route we used to com. We again passed the dead Jap kid and the nonchalant legs.--Declan Klingenhagen, D/2/29/6

May 16

16 May 1945: The 29th Marines attacked with First Battalion on the left and Third Battalion on the right to seize the remainder of the OBQE-CHARLIE Line. The attack progressed favorably initially with tanks moving through draw in 7672 DOG and EASY to clean out enemy pocket. The Third Battalion was ordered to move out after the First Battalion had progressed about 300 yards on their left flank along the Sixth Marine Division boundary; Third Battalion's objective being HALF-MOON RIDGE in 7672 ITEM and JIG. On reaching the HALF MOON RIDGE, Third Battalion was hit hard by enemy fire from pocket in 7672 DOG-2 and EASY-4. Because of fire from front and left flank, First Battalion could not at this time clear the draw; requiring them to withdraw to lines held the night before. The position of the Third Battalion became untenable with both flanks exposed and enemy firing into their rear. The 3rd Battalion, 22d Marines, did not seize SUGAR-LOAF HILL in 7672 GEORGE on the Third Battalion's right flank. Third Battalion was ordered to withdraw to jump-off position and to establish contact with 22d Marines on right. Our lines at this time ran from right flank in 7672 FOX-1, BAKER-4, CHARLIE-3-2, DOG-5; 7673 XRAY-4, YOKE-3-2; 7773 UNCLE-1, PETER-5 to KING 3-1 where contact was made with the First Marine Division of the left. Fires were coordinated for night defense with adjacent units. Heavy casualties were received throughout the day by both assault battalions. Artillery fire continued to drop throughout regimental zone during day and night of 16 May making evacuation and supply difficult. The enemy had excellent observation over our entire zone of action making any movement hazardous. Major R. P. Neuffer, USMC, assumed command of the First Battalion when Lieutenant Colonel J.W. Moreau USMC was hit and evacuated this date.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
5/16/45	0850	Tp Fr: Have secured 37 Plat of Wpns Co-- Sending it back to join Wpns Co Hq.
	0900	Tp Fr: Arty fire falling on 3rd Bn right flank, can see flashes from area 7772 S.
	0935	Report from Air: Counter attack being made on 3/29. (not verified)
	0923	Tp Fr: Enemy gun in 7772 L,M--Arty will fire --1/29 too close for air strike.(Action: 6 Div, 1/29,3/29)
	1020	Tp Fr: 4.2 mortars, need smoke and HE-- Imperative.
	1220	Tp To: 3rd Plat Wpns detached from 3rd Bn-- 2nd Plat Wpns attached to 3/29.
	1230	Tp Fr: Arty emplacement in exchange reported by 4th Wpns Plat--AZ from H Co, A 7673 R 90 degrees, distance about 2500 yds--(permission granted to 3/29)
	1430	Tp Fr: G Co receiving mortar, small arms and MG fire--Pinned down--"A" Co cant move out w/o exposing his Rt flank--Frt Line Panels going out.

1500 Tp Fr: Our Rt flank on O---C, our left flank is exposed--G Co on Rt, I Co on Left-- Receiving heavy fire from Sugar Loaf--3/22 now preparing to move in behind us to hit Sugar Loaf--Both flanks hanging open. (Action: D-3, 22nd, 1/29)

1530 Tp Fr: G Co is on O---C in Q and R. (Action: Div)

1600 Tp Fr: G and I Co's in Q and B held up and under fire from left rear in 1st Bn zone-- H Co in reserve. (Action: Div, 1/29, OP, 22nd)

1700 Tp Fr: 1700 NGF fired 10 salvos at cave containing Arty piece at 7872 A4--3 direct hits did not knock it out. (Action: Div, m, p)

1735 Tp Fr S-2: 3/29 reports 1-20mm gun knocked out w/mortars, 1-77mm gun at 7672 I2 knocked out--i coastal gun at 7472 F1 received 4 direct hits (3NGF, 1 Arty)--One tomb with heavy Ammo, 7673 G1--Cave and tomb previously reported at 7674 Q3&4. (Action: Div-2, m)

The 16th was the first day on which a concentrated attack was to be made. We had taken the outer bastions of the defense fronting both Half Moon (Crescent Hill) and Sugar Loaf. Now across a front of 1000 yards, five companies were going in against the two hills. The main objective was Sugar Loaf Hill. Item Company/22 was to take that with the aid of tanks, striking in from the northeast. On the right, Love Company/22 was to drive along the ridge it was on and cover the right flank. To the left George Company/29 was to seize the east end of Half Moon. On the very left Baker Company/29 was to clean out the draw and village in front of the ridge Charlie Company/29 was on and then turn south to aid George Company.

Things went badly from the first; ...It was the same scene that had been repeated before. The Japanese on the reverse slope [Sugar Loaf Hill] could not be dislodged by mortar or artillery fire; the tanks could not creep around the west side of the hill without coming under the fire of antitank guns from behind and in front; and no infantry who tried to accompany them could live very long. The air crackled with messages up and down the battalions. Love Company/22 had removed its wounded under cover of smoke, but the company still lay in a cloud of smoke that the Japanese continued to pour on them. 3/22 wanted to know if 3/29 could tie in to give them greater support; 3/29 clinging desperately with George Company to the very edge of Crescent Hill radioed back that they themselves would have to draw back. 1/29 had tried to drive down the draw between Crescent Hill and Charlie Ridge but had itself been thrown back. Under machine gun fire from Hill No. 3 the two platoons of Item Company [22nd] managed to pull back; under smoke Colonel Wright got the remnants of George Company back into defilade. Nothing had been accomplished save possibly a weakening of the defenders. Long after the battle had surged past Sugar Loaf, it was possible to

see how the Japanese could hold so tenaciously to a reverse slope defense. Two thirds of the way up the Japanese reverse slope, a narrow terrace curved across the hill. On the terrace there had once been shallow tombs; these had been supplemented by man-made caves. In the caves the Japanese could sit out any bombardment; from the terrace they could throw both hand grenades and knee mortar shells. Great caves opened at the bottom of the hill into which replenishments could be fed to crawl up to the higher levels.

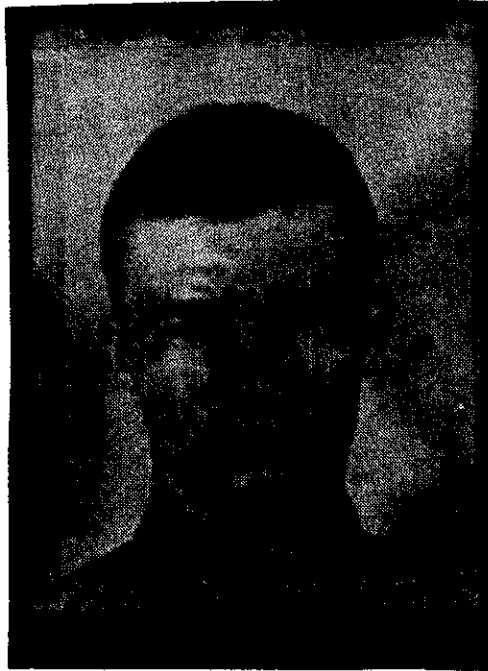
Baker Company/29 had the roughest day of all the companies involved. Early in the morning Colonel Jean W. Moreau had taken Captain Jason B. Baker, the CO of Able Company, and Lieutenant Charles P. Gallagher, who was CO of Baker Company, to his OP and had shown them what he wanted to do. Baker Company was to use nearly a company of tanks to sweep the village in front of Charlie Ridge so that Charlie Company could come over the summit and drive toward Crescent Hill. Immediately the company faced east it came under fire from the defenders of Shuri itself; they were only about 800 yards from the rugged folds of the ridge which was the anchor of the Ushijima line and the very nerve center of the defensive set-up.

Lieutenant Gallagher planned to move three tanks across the railroad tracks and into a little defilade at the head of the draw where they could fire at the farther slopes of Crescent Hill. The eight remaining tanks would come down the railroad tracks, line up abreast, and move down through the village supported by infantry; the tanks were told to go as near to the forward slope of the hill as they could. The fire teams of Lieutenant Robert H. Neff's platoon were distributed along the cut in the railroad tracks to pick up the tanks as they went past. As soon as the tanks came into the clear at the bottom of the draw Neff had been defending they came under antitank gun fire and heavy mortar shells, but no tank was seriously hit, and the fire teams with the tanks ducked close to the turning treads and escaped injury from the mortar shells even when they fell on the broad backs of the tanks. Gallagher had been told that George Company was to move off at 0800 and he waited in partial shelter for their columns. When they did not appear, he called up Colonel Moreau and was told to drive ahead anyway. The tanks moved out, but they drifted down hill from the ruins. Snipers fired from the forward slope of the hill, and machine guns began to rattle from Crescent Hill and from the ridges at the end of the draw. The tanks could not offer any protection to the men following them here because the fire came from so many directions. They tried most of the morning to go on through, but couldn't. Finally Lieutenant Gallagher got permission to withdraw the men and the tanks pulled back to reload with machine gun ammunition. That was the last order of Colonel Moreau. A heavy artillery shell exploded in the OP and blew off one leg. His runner got him to safety. Major Robert P. Neuffer, executive officer of 2/29, was sent up to take over the battalion. Captain Specht came back that evening and the company went over to its old positions. That was the end of the 16th. The Concerted attack had failed because over that long line it was almost impossible for battalions to move

together---and it was no country in which maneuver could be tried. It was assault pure and simple.---Phillips Carlton

Marines Killed in Action

5/16/45	Player	James	Pfc	409634
5/16/45	O'Leary	John	Pvt	564843
5/16/45	Shinn	Ralph	Cpl	394062
5/16/45	Winchester	Jean	Pvt	998401



Pvt John Anthony O'Leary, Jr., 564843

Private O'Leary, was born 5 June 1926, at Lawrence, Mass., the son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. O'Leary, Sr., 360 Ames Street, Lawrence, Massachusetts. He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve, 13 March 1944 at Boston, Mass.. He was 17 years old. He went to Boot Camp at Parris Island, S.C. on March 18, 1945 and was a member of the 11th Recruit Bn.. He joined Co."I", 3rd Bn., 29th Marines, FMF., and embarked for Guadalcanal aboard USS Gen. C.G. Morton on August 1, 1944. He was a member of the 3rd Rifle Platoon, I/3/29/6.

Pvt O'Leary, was Killed In Action by a gunshot wound to the head, on May 16, 1945, during an assault by "I" Company on The Half Moon Hill. His remains were interred 17 May 1945, Row 6, Grave 130, Plot B, 6th Marine Cemetery #1. During 1948, Pvt O'Leary's remains were interred in the National Cemetery at Hawaii.

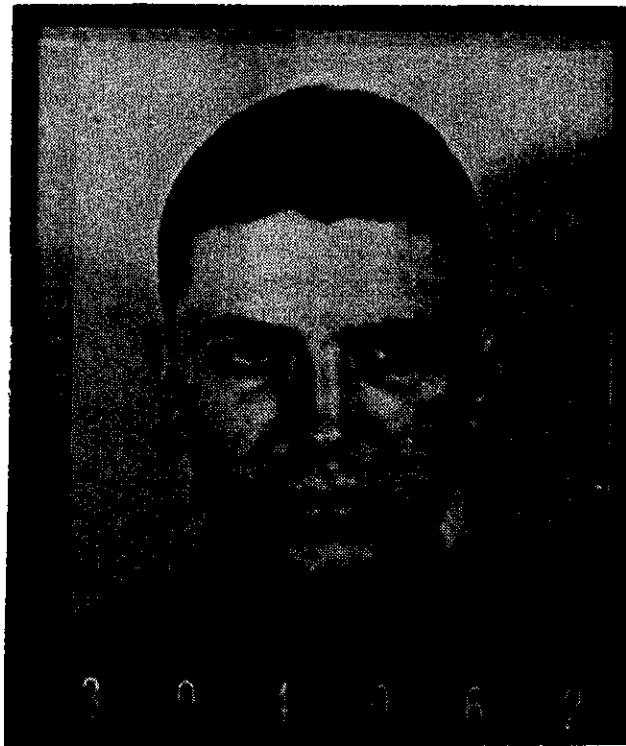


PFC James David Player, 409634

Private First Class Player, was born 22 December 1922, at Columbia, S.C., the son of Mr. and Mrs. William C. Player, 241 West Church St., Bamberg, South Carolina.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve at Savannah, Ga., on July 4, 1942 and joined the 8th Recruit Bn., Parris Island, S.C. for his Boot Training, July 4, 1945. He joined the Barracks Detachment, Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., August 28, 1942 and was promoted to PFC, December 21, 1943. On June 21, 1944 he joined Co."I", 3rd Bn., 29th Marines, FMF., at Camp Lejeune, N.C. and went to Guadalcanal, aboard the USS Gen. C.G. Morton, August 1, 1944. He was a member of I/3/29/6, 60mm Mortar Platoon.

On May 20, 1945, PFC Player, Died Of Wounds Received In Action, (gunshot wound, head) on May 16, 1945, when our unit was attacking The Half Moon Hill, adjacent to Sugar Loaf Hill. His remains were interred 21 May 1945, Row 12, Grave 294, Plot B, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1.



Cpl Ralph Curtis Shinn, 394062

Corporal Shinn, was born 9 January 1921, at Elba, Nebraska, and was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thornton R. Shinn, Elba, Nebraska.

He joined the Marine Corps Reserve, 13 April 1942, when he was 21 years of age and enter Platoon Leaders Unit, 9th Res. Dist. on April 17, 1942. On July 2, 1943, he joined the Navy V-12 program and was transferred to St. Peter, Minnesota. On December 29, 1943, he was assigned to a training unit at Camp Lejeune, where he received his Corporal rating, and joined Co."I", 3rd Bn., 29th Marines, FMF.. August 1, 1944 he embarked for Guadalcanal aboard USS Gen. C.G. Morton. Cpl Shinn, was a member of the 3rd Rifle Platoon, I/3/29/6.

On 16 May 1945, Cpl Shinn, was Killed In Action. He died of gunshot wounds to the abdomen as our Company was attacking the Japanese in the area of the north slope of Half Moon Hill. His military records state, "Remains interred Unknown".



Pvt Jean Winchester, 998401

Private Winchester, was born October 15, 1925, at Smithville, Ark., and was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Winchester, Smithville, Arkansas.

He entered the Marine Corps, 11 July 1944, at the age of 18 years and was assigned to the 1st Recruit Bn., Parris Island, for his Boot Training. He joined the 29th Replacement Draft on November 6, 1944 and embarked for the Russell Islands, aboard the USS Gen. O. H. Ernst, on December 14, 1944. He joined the 26th Replacement Draft, February 2, 1945 and joined I/3/29/6, at Okinawa, on May 2, 1945.

On May 16, 1945, Pvt Winchester, was Killed In Action, he died of a gunshot wound to the head, while Company "I" was attacking the north slope of The Half Moon Hill. His remains were interred, 22 May 1945, Row 14, Grave 342, Plot B, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1948, the remains of Pvt Winchester, were returned to the United States and interred at New Hope Cemetery, Smithville, Arkansas.

Marines Wounded

5/16/45	Blevins	Edward	Pfc	505702
5/16/45	Brew	William	Pfc	841835
5/16/45	Cardosi	Leonard	Pfc	511790
5/16/45	Carlson	Harold	Pvt	989453
5/16/45	Casey	Julian	Pfc	837325
5/16/45	Cooper	Wade	Pfc	343762
5/16/45	Elliott	Jack	Sgt	464017
5/16/45	Farrell	Malcolm	Pfc	953298
5/16/45	Finkbeiner	Edward	Pvt	966509
5/16/45	Fulton	William	Pfc	554574
5/16/45	Gallagher	Clayton	Pfc	944101

5/16/45	Gunn	Chester	Pfc	932854
5/16/45	Heim	John	P1/Sgt	285004
5/16/45	Hogan	Joseph	Pfc	951292
5/16/45	Honis	Donald	Pvt	994282
5/16/45	Mast	"R"	Pfc	941018
5/16/45	McCool	Norman	Cpl	362244
5/16/45	Miller	Richard	Cpl	477319
5/16/45	Myers	James	Pfc	920825
5/16/45	Phillips	Fulton	Pvt	980903
5/16/45	Presser	Martin	Sgt	270465
5/16/45	Schinnerer	Don	Pfc	343071
5/16/45	Shorts	Medford	Pvt	920945
5/16/45	Vail	Maurice	Pfc	547364

Company Replacements from the 46th Replacement Draft

5/16/45	Balchunas	Francis	Pvt	550666
5/16/45	Camarata	August	2nd Lt	040383
5/16/45	Kimick	Bernard	Pfc	356907
5/16/45	Lewis	Robert	Pfc	311075
5/16/45	Mattera	Vincent	Pfc	314422
5/16/45	Mayhan	Ernest	HA1c	931-74-68
5/16/45	McCormick	James Jr	2nd Lt	041936
5/16/45	McCreery	William	Pfc	914964
5/16/45	Pawl	Michael	Cpl	248012
5/16/45	Pottenger	William	2nd lt	040528
5/16/45	Stockwell	Harry	Pfc	835691
5/16/45	Vasiliou	William	Pfc	563617

Sgt Heim was our platoon sgt and was a darn good Marine, I heard they sent him back to the States and made a Warrant Officer out of him.---Granville Longerbeam

O'leary, was standing in a field with a wall around it, it was a small area, about 20 by 20 feet. He had a rifle over his shoulder and a sniper shot him through the head.---Ken Aust

During the time we were on Crescent Hill, our Gysgt had picked up a bunch of grapefruit juice that had been airdropped to us. he called some of us to help him get it to the guys on the front lines which we did. I drank so much grapefruit juice that day, it was a long time before I could stand to drink any more.--
-Frank Kukuchka

May 16,...Third platoon in reserve now. First and second platoon made an assault on Sugar Loaf Hill. We (3rd) withdrew through trenches on reverse side of hill, waited for developments. While waiting near a village on reverse side of hill, John O'Leary was hit in the head with a sniper's bullet. Killed almost instantly. Rest of Company was routed on Sugar Loaf. We returned back to the trenches as support fire unit in case the enemy followed with an assault. Many casualties in Company. Shinn was killed, (from Company Headquarters). At dusk we cleared the trenches, joined rest of our Company.

Several of us were sitting on a low stone wall that

supported a terrace, waiting for instructions for our next movement. All had their helmets on and rifles ready to go except John O'Leary. He was wearing a soft cap, and I can still visualize the twisted wad in his green skivvy shirt at his belly, where he kept his cigarettes. He was standing out from me on the terrace about an arm's length away when a shot came in and hit him in the temple. He made a short sound, "Eh" and nearly fell on me. It is even difficult to write about it. I never realized such a stream of blood could come from a wound like that. I realized his fate at that very moment. He was rushed off in a Jeep almost immediately, but never made it.

At this point three of my tent mates at Guadalcanal have suffered fatal wounds: Shinn and O'Leary, dead. Tellinghausen died later.

This is the last day of my diary notes. I have no idea why I stopped since the hardest part of the battle was yet to come. Perhaps, after Sugar Loaf, I figured the diary wouldn't be necessary.---Frank Kukuchka

I recall we were machine gunned by our own planes but I heard we didn't move our marker panels out so I guess it was our fault, but I don't remember any planes dropping supplies to us.--
-Joe Bledsoe

We had a GySgt in Headquarters Platoon, I think his name was Taylor and he was an older guy, (in his 30's) he usually took charge of getting our supplies to us. As I recall he would use other men from the HQ platoon too.---Lawrence Sullivan

We were on the right side of Crescent Hill near Sugar Loaf, on April 16, and there were many, many wounded there at the time so there were three of us, one of the guys was named William Keaney and I can't remember the name of the other. We placed quite a few wounded guys in a ditch there and all of a sudden a Japanese machine gun opened up on us and raked the ditch so we had to stay there till eventually we were able to get out. One of the guy went back and got an amtrac and when it came up we were able to load the wounded on it. At that point we had to make a decision, whether we should try and go back to our line or stay where we were, we thought "I" Company was quite close but we weren't sure. It was decided we should spend the night there and so we hid out in a Japanese cave which was in the vicinity and the next morning we were afraid to come out because either our guys were going to shoot at us or the Japs would, anyway we stayed there until we saw a guy stringing some wire and we called out to him, he got on a telephone and located "I" Company which wasn't too far away from us. In the meantime an Army Captain came up and said, "hey, I'm replacing you guys", so I said come on up, it's OK as he started to come up he said, "OK, you can start pulling all your guys out". I told him, Captain, I'm a Pfc, I'm in charge here but there are only three of us at this position. He had a whole company that he was moving up and was amazed there were only three of us. Well, he started moving his troops in so

we took off and rejoined "I" Company. (I think we had been on Sugar Loaf Hill, but I'm not sure.) I rejoined Company "I" on the morning of April 17th and we moved up, in fact there were six of us who moved up to give supporting fire for some of our machine gunners. It was late in the day and we could see the machine guns withdrawing and since no one had come up to give us the word what to do I told the Marines I would go back and signal to them what action we should take. I was told we should pull back as quick as we could, so I signaled them from a shell hole to come and the first guy that came was Richard Miller and he got shot in the stomach. I went out to pull him in and as I was pulling him in, I got shot in the leg. The other guys made it back to the lines OK and Miller and I waited for a short time and a couple guys came and got us. I was then evacuated. I was moved to the USS Comfort, and then to Saipan for a couple months and then I flew back to San Fransisco to a hospital there. I was hospitalized for about six months as the bullet went through the bone on my leg and it was slow to heal.---Maurice Vail

May 16th. All day we had tried and didn't succeed in taking Crescent Hill and there was a lot of small arms fire coming at us. At one time I took some Ammo to a gun and a snipers bullet hit between my feet and Orange, [Grayson] who was from Richmond, said, "hey, he would have liked to have gotcha" and you know, thats the way it was with hill fighting, if you moved one inch in the wrong direction it could cost you your life. In the afternoon, we dashed down across the railroad tracks and up the other side and now we are dueling with the Nips about 50 yards away. They are throwing hand grenades at the rifle men and of course we are losing a lot of men and now the artillery and mortars open up on us. Brown was hit about this time and got a bullet in the thigh---he wasn't J.V. Brown but rather another one. [It could have been Pfc Arthur D. Brown] As I remember he was from South Carolina. A mortar round came in at about then and apparently I was a little below the level of Finkbeiner, as the shrapnel whistled over me and peppered Finkbeiner in the rear end and the back. The entire area was one big melee. McCool got hit in the neck and it was a miracle he wasn't killed as I feel if the bullet had been imm any direction he would have been killed or at least it would have severed his spinal column. O'Leary, was hit in the chest and killed. Pfc Breaux, was at one of the guns and a Nip bullet hit his machine gun belt, exploding a round of Ammo and his face was hit with the brass from the exploding casing---none went into his eyes. At this point we are literally getting blasted off of the hill with artillery and mortars and guys are dropping all over the place as we're receiving fire from three sides. To complicate the matter we became mixed in with "G" Co. 29 Marines and I remember Barney Wright, from "G" lost both of his feet and his right hand. We were up on the hill and we had to get Barney Wright, out of there. He was a big guy too, he was from South Carolina. We started to carry him out on a poncho and I was one of the guys carrying the back and a nambu started firing at us as it seems the Nips were gaining fire superiority because our unit had lost a lot of guys and of course the fire

power that goes with it. I recall seeing the bullets striking the ground near me and kicking up the dirt between my legs and after taking a few more steps I got hit the leg. I fell of course and the rest of the guys, Ralph Tucker, [it might have been Owen Tucker] and Glen Nagel, were also helping to carry Barney out and of course they kept going. The first thing I did was look at my dungarees and saw the two holes so I crawled and rolled down the hill to the tracks and a Corpsman was down there but I don't know which one and he bandaged it up and gave me a shot. [morphine] Some of the guys then placed me on my poncho and carried me out to the Company CP and of course Fowler, took out his pad and marked me down. Butts, the guy I was digging in with had the heel of his shoe shot off and although it didn't hurt him the bullet did take a big hunk of his heel. I saw Hood and he looked pretty grim, and I said, "Warren, I'll see you around", and I can see the expression on his face and it was not optimistic, of course he was killed the next day. After a short time, an Amtrac came up and we were loaded into it and before we left it was really packed with wounded guys including Barney Wright, (From "G" Co.) as he was on a stretcher next to me. There were two or three on stretchers and the rest of us were lined up around the walls of the vehicle and we started back under heavy Nip artillery and we could hear the shrapnel bouncing off of the outside of the metal walls. Even with all that going on, they stopped the amtrack long enough to put a needle in Barney's arm so they could give him some plasma. Of course everyone on the Amtrac was bleeding and although there were many kinds of wounds represented there, bleeding was one thing we all had in common. The guy I was sitting next to on my right was bleeding on me, the guy on my left was bleeding on me, I'm bleeding into my shoe. Because of the amount of blood and the number of men in the Amtrac, (about 15 men) when we went over bumps, which there were many, the blood would slosh from one side to the other. We got back to the Battalion Aid Station and they dropped the ramp, a guy helped me off but before we got inside the tent, an artillery shell came in and the explosion sent dirt, rocks and shrapnel all over the place and as surprising as it was, no one was hurt. I was taken inside where they quized me for vital information and I was rebandaged. Driving back in the ambulance, at some point the silence was absolutely deafening as all of a sudden it was quite, I couldn't believe it and all that one could hear was the noise of the motor of the vehicle I was riding in. I ended up in the 168th Army Field Hospital, I didn't leave the Island. After the usual questions the answers of which were needed for their records, the doctor filled both holes in my leg with gauze saturated with Vasoline, bandaged it and said, "we'll have you back to your unit in no time". I remained in the hospital until June 6th and one day during that time, Gunny Taylor came in to visit---McCool, was the only other guy from "I" Co. that was in the ward with me. We had other guys from the 1st Marine Division as well as the 77th Army Division. One of the Marines I remember seeing from the 1st Marine Division, both of his legs were completely shattered or mangled but the doctors thought they could save both both of them.--Donald Honis

James Player was killed May 16th, a shell was coming in and he hit the deck and the others around him didn't, he was laying flat as the shell landed and got hit in the head with shrapnel, the other who didn't hit the ground were wounded in the legs.---
Donald Honis

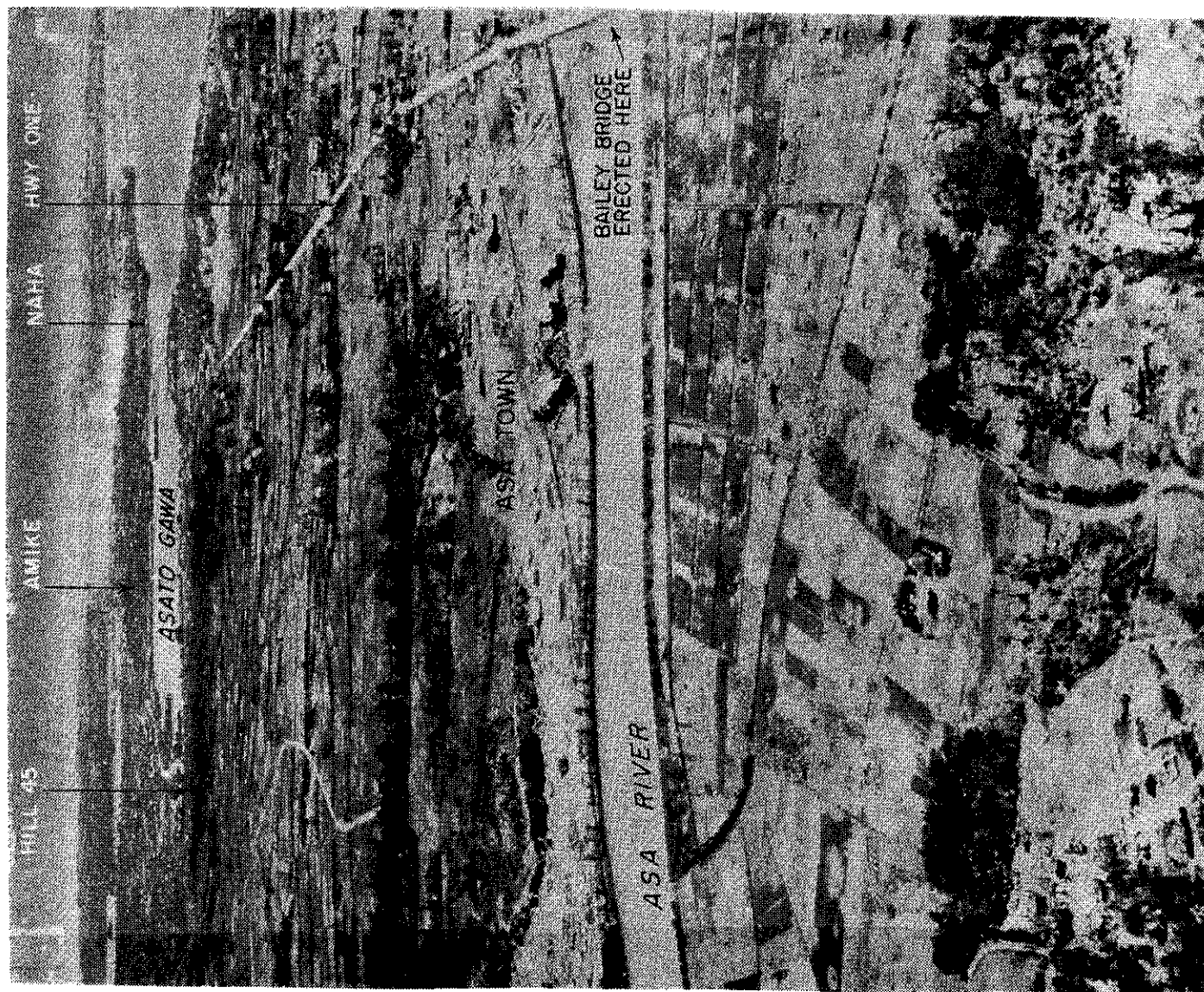
In our squad we had what was called a five man fire team [they were usually four] it was also called an antisniper fire team and it was our job, if our unit caught fire from a sniper, was to immediately go out and get him. The world revolved around me because I had the BAR. In my fire team there was Walter Schneider, and there was a guy named J.P. Menefee who committed suicide shortly after the war, and a little guy named White, [Eugene] from Washington D.C., who was my assistant BAR man. We had an extra rifleman in the fireteam and he was an older guy named Paul Miller. Miller had a wife and a couple of kids at home, two of which were twins. He was wounded with shrapnel in the kneecap. and I treated him the best I could and Johnny Pauk came over to look at him. Johnny complimented me on the job I had done. Prior to Johnny coming over another guy from our unit was hit in the back with an 8 inch piece of shrapnel, Johnny Pauk glanced at him, turned to me and asked, "How about this guy?" I responded, "F--- him, he's a goner. Look at the size of the hole in him?" Well, Johnny looked at me as if to tell me I wasn't supposed to say things like that and we should make an effort to save all the wounded guys. He then asked if I could get him back to the aid station and after my telling him I didn't know where the damn aid station was he gave me directions and off we went. At about that time I was thinking about a guy we were carrying on a stretcher up north and we started to get some mortar fire and that damn guy actually got off the stretcher and started to run. Apparently we weren't going fast enough for him.

I finally got Paul Miller back to the aid station as I had to carry him by myself kind of piggy-back. When I layed Miller down one of the guys at the aid station said, "Hey, your bleeding." and then they started picking the pieces out of my back.

At about this time in walks J.V Brown and Pop Leach who were supposed to be evacuated had jumped ship and came back to join the outfit. Leach was a real good buddy of John O'Leary and after John was killed Leach was never the same. After all of the shit we had just been through, J.V. turned to me and said, "We're goin back up there, aren't we Miller?" Well we did go back up and there was a cave where the 3rd Platoon was. We were expecting a counter attack and guess what? Yep, J.V. said, "Miller go out on the point!" Well all this time I had to take a crap and didn't have the opportunity and I was getting damn uncomfortable. I walked a short distance to near the point of an outcropping above the Japs, in fact I could smell their cigarette smoke and occasionally hear their jabbering. The way it worked out I was on point all night and I still hadn't taken that crap and I was getting desperate so I turned to the guy who was about 7 or 8 yards behind me and said, "pass the word to J.V. I have to take a

crap." so the word travelled back through the foxholes, Charlie has to take a crap, Miller has to take a crap, Charlie Miller has to take a crap and so the word was passed until it reached J.V. Brown. Well, J.V sent the word back, take it there, take it there take it there, etc., when I heard that I said pass this word back, I ain't got a shovel, I ain't got a shovel I ain't got a shovel. The last message was, Here's a shovel, Here's a shovel, Here's a shovel. I finally took my crap.

The following morning I learned that J.V. and O'Leary had spent the night in a cave in the hill we were on. At some time towards morning a Jap soldier and his girl friend entered the cave thinking it still belonged to the Japs and J.V. and O'Leary killed both of them. The next day was the day O'Leary was killed.
---Charles Miller



WEST FLANK ZONE, where the 2nd Marines, 6th Division, crossed Asa River toward Naha. (Photo taken 5 May 1945)

May 17

17 May 1945: Due to the difficulty in coordinating the attack on SUGAR LOAF and HALF MOON hills, the regimental boundary was shifted to the right (West) so as to include SUGAR LOAF HILL in 7672 GEORGE in the 29th Marines zone of action. The attack jumped off with three battalions abreast at 0855 under heavy artillery and Naval gunfire preparations. The Second Battalion on the right was assigned the mission of seizing SUGAR LOAF HILL and had one company in the assault. The First Battalion on the left started working south along the ridge in 7672 EASY and DOG. Easy Company jumped off at the same time to seize SUGAR LOAF HILL. Easy Company on reaching the draw along the railroad track in 7672 HOW-2-4, came under heavy mortar and machine gun cross fire emanating from 7672 ITEM-3 and 7672 Mike. How Company was ordered to push south through 7672 HOW to HALF-MOON RIDGE in 7672 JIG to release the pressure on Easy Company. At 1530 Able Company, the right flank company of the First Battalion, was nearing the OBOE-CHARLIE line in 7772 FOX-3 7676 JIG-4 with Charlie Company moving up on the left of Able Company. At the same time Third Battalion had reached HALF-MOON RIDGE in 7672 ITEM. At 1630 Easy Company was in position to assault SUGAR LOAF HILL from the southeast, but was held up by artillery fire coming from SHURI. Between 1700 and 1830 Easy Company assaulted SUGAR LOAF HILL four times, receiving heavy casualties at each attempt. At 1840 Easy Company was ordered to withdraw to hill in 7672 CHARLIE for the night. At 1635 two platoons of Fox Company were ordered into the lines in order to stiffen the center of the line between the Third Battalion and First Battalion. At 1840 the entire line of the Third Battalion and First Battalion was established on high ground in 7672 ITEM-3, JIG-4, and 7772 FOX-4. At 1930 the line became untenable in the center between First Battalion and Third Battalion and both battalions were forced to withdraw to more favorable positions under cover of darkness. The location of troops at this time was difficult to determine due to darkness. The remainder of Third Battalion was on the reverse slope of HALF-MOON HILL in 7672 HOW and ITEM and were tied in by fire with Easy Company in 7672 DOG and EASY and 7772 ABLE. Extremely heavy casualties were received by all assault units during the course of the action. However, heavy casualties were also inflicted on the enemy throughout the day. Supply and evacuation from SUGAR LOAF HILL and HALF-MOON RIDGE proved extremely difficult because of intense mortar and artillery fire.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
5/17/45	0825	Tp Fr: NGF registering on 7872 A4--Gun in caves until How Hour. (Action: OP)
	0930	Tp Fr: NGF FO's report many hits on gun in 7872 A4--Blew the cave up--tracks flew in the air. (Action: Div, OP)
	0950	Tp Fr: E Co ready to move as ordered on word from 1/29. (Action: 1/29, OP)
	1010	Tp Fr FO: Arty placed on 7672 O4 to J4,3--Japs on reverse S. slope of that hill. (Action: OP)

1255 Tp Fr: RX ordered 3/29 to move out as ordered by C.O. 29th. (Action: 1/29)

1233 Tp Fr: 3/29 ready to move as soon as E [Co] takes hill in 7672 G--29th QP just received a direct hit. (Action: 22, 6Div, 1/29)

1330 Tp Fr: 3/29 shoved off at 1315--suggest strike in 7771 G,H,L,M,--AGL of 3/29 would not go to front lines, insisted on staying at jeep--C.O. 3/29 is not using him.--29th AGL will see if 1/29 AGL wants strike and can observe in that area.

1425 Tp Fr: H Co on left of RR [tracks] in 7672 I(1-3)--E Co can't move until H [Co] drives thru--B Co pushing down Rt flank of 1/29 to help H Co--"H" moving slowly. (Action: Div)

1450 Tp Fr: 3/29 receiving mortar fire from 7872 A--NGF called in at 1505.

1800 Tp Fr: 3/29 front lines--Left flank, 7672 R2 to M3, M2--2 Plats Fox Co moving to close gap --Japs forming up in 7571 H,I--Japs seen in 7672 P. (Action: Div, 1/29)

1840 Tp Fr: Have visual contact with both 1st and 2nd Bn--Tying in fires now--2/22 tying in in fires w/"E" Co on "E"'s Rt.

2000 Tp Fr: 3/29 pulled back on left flank to tie in with 1/29.

There was still a fresh battalion of the 29th, the 2nd, and that was committed on the 17th. The plan was to strike and hold on the left; then having secured the left flank to rush and conquer Sugar Loaf Hill. The remnants of How and Item Companies were to assault the western nose of Crescent Hill; Able Company/29 was to drive down the draw as Backer Company had done the day before, and then wheel right to protect the left flank of 3/29. The idea of taking Crescent Hill and then driving forward had been abandoned; the theory of the attack was simply to neutralize the slopes of the hill long enough for Easy Company of the 29th to encircle and cut off Sugar Loaf.

This plan called for three different companies to attack fanlike from the end of the draw. The attacks were not simultaneous; the success of the maneuver depended on Able Company. This time the tanks moved close to the hill and through the village, but progress was slow. The Japanese lay hidden among the stones and ruined walls till tanks were nearly on them and then they threw grenades. Men wheeled out of line and fell with fragments blown into their bodies. Toward afternoon the forward slope was clear and Charlie Company could move. It began cautiously to struggle toward the little hills on the eastern ridge. Lieutenant Watson and Lieutenant Stone [Lt John P. Stone, took over the command of "I" Company/29th, on 15 May, when Lt Harvey Brooks was wounded.] got their men lined up for the assault. Captain Alan Meissner with Easy Company came up behind Able Company and laid his plans for the capture of Sugar Loaf in the protection of the western end of the burned village. In all

previous attempts there had been no attempts to circle or envelope the hill. Captain Meissner had a tank officer with him and wanted to send three tanks down the railroad tracks and around the forward slope of Sugar Loaf. Between Crescent Hill and sugar Loaf there was a deep cut; beyond that cut was a fill that curved on down the valley. The tank officer did not want to take his tanks down through the cut and onto the fill which would limit his maneuverability. The tanks remained in the little valley between Sugar Loaf and Charlie Hill Meissner determined to send his first attack down through the cut and up the forward slope. The 2nd platoon under Lieutenant E. C. Green crept forward through the cut, with the 1st platoon under Lieutenant C. J. Lynch about 75 yards behind.

Lieutenant Green got through the cut and then deployed two squads preparatory to rushing the slope. He was still in partial defilade; as he started to move out the Japanese suddenly opened up with rifles, nambus, and mortars. While that fury of firing kept up, he could go neither forward nor back. Captain Meissner could see no hope of relieving him at that time even if he committed his whole company. He called Lieutenant Colonel William G. Robb, and suggested that they wait to push the attack until 3/29 had mounted up on the slopes of Crescent Hill and could keep down the fire coming from its forward slope. While the waited for the attack of 3/29 Lieutenant Lynch of the 2nd platoon was hit and Plsgt. L.S. Cockerill took over.

Lieutenant Stone talked with Captain Meissner and they finally agreed that they would make the assault simultaneously. The long lines of 3/29 and Able Company got to the top of Crescent Hill. As they went up Captain Meissner sent his men forward. The 1st platoon was to go down the railroad tracks to the rear of the 2nd platoon and then swing into the assault; the 3rd platoon under Lieutenant Wales was to leave the railroad cut at its northern end and push up over the little saddle that lay below Sugar Loaf. On the saddle the two platoons would be in contact and could envelope the eastern nose of the Hill. The attack was desperate but both platoons got to the top; ten men were left in the 1st platoon and 25 in the 3rd. They could not hold, and Captain Meissner pulled them both to the foot of the hill where they could still deliver fire on the top. They waited here for about an hour. Fox Company/29 had been waiting in reserve, and late in the afternoon, Captain Robert B. Fowler sent up his 2nd platoon under Lieutenant Charles E. Beeham to climb the western nose of the hill and work across the top under protection of a machine gun section and the fire from Easy Company's platoon. Lieutenant Wales sent up one squad from his platoon to help cover their advance. As the platoon worked along the summit of the hill, Lieutenant Beehan was killed, and the platoon was withdrawn. They managed to get out their wounded and pulled back to Hill No. 2 where they spent the night. It was now about 1800 and beginning to grow dark; Captain Meissner withdrew his platoons to Charlie Hill; Men crept back after dark from the 2nd platoon, but Lieutenant Green was missing. He had led an assault late in the afternoon to the top; the men thought he had been killed.

(It was on this day, the 17th, that the one man attack on Sugar Loaf occurred. Corporal O'Connor, a machine gun section leader, in Item Company/22, during a quiet interval at 1000 decided to make an assault by himself on Sugar Loaf. Tanks were firing in the valley between Hill No. 3 and Sugar Loaf, but O'Connor got under muzzles of their guns and started up the hill with a bag of grenades under his arm and a pistol in his hand. He ran up and down the summit firing his pistol and throwing the grenades till cartridges and grenades were gone. Then he returned across the valley. The tanks had obligingly stopped firing while he was on the summit. Captain Marston, Jr., CO of the company had been told that there was a Marine on top of Sugar Loaf and he had watched him through his field glasses; he had believed, however, that he was only one of many who had secured the top. Later on one of his men said, 'There comes that crazy Marine of ours back from Sugar Loaf.' The captain was incredulous at first and then ordered the corporal up. The corporal said that he'd had a good many buddies killed or wounded the day before and that he wanted to get even. Captain Marston sent him to the rear for 24 hours, to have him examined for a psychoneurosis.)

On the left flank things were bad, though at first the assault had seemed successful Stone and Watson led their men from the shelter of the village up to the summit. Captain Gamble had used the shelter of the cut to get his men near the western end of the hill. Two platoons of Item Company got to the forward slope of the hill and held; on the left, Lieutenant Gherke had rushed clean over the summit and came back to report to Lieutenant Watson that he had found the Japanese massed in trenches on the forward slope of the hill---more Japanese than he had ever hoped to see. His men had thrown all the grenades they had, sprayed their BAR's along the trenches, and dashed back to the protection of the reverse slope. There were now three companies, or rather the remnants of three companies on the hill: How and Item had less than one-third their number and Able Company had already been cut down driving up through the valley. There was some lessening of fire, to their rear and Captain Ramsay took his tanks and company along the front of his ridge and attacked the little conical hills at the end of the draw. Lieutenant Stone asked for additional men and two platoons of Fox Company were sent up to strengthen the line. The situation was still very serious. Men were clinging to the hill as men would cling to a reef in heavy surf. They could not go forward; while they were in partial protection, they could not attack, only endure. Captain Baker of Able Company asked that Baker Company send up a platoon to fill in the thin line. Captain Specht had already been wounded and evacuated and now Gallagher went up to find out where to place his men. He could not get in touch with either Stone or Watson on the little 536 radios and the 300 was not working properly. He and Watson, Stone and Gamble huddled into the machine gun bunker that the tank had destroyed the day before and talked the situation over. Watson had already lost half his men he said. He thought that to put more men on the hill would be merely to lose them. Stone and Gamble thought that they could continue to hold. While they were talking, Gallagher's two

platoons had followed him across the draw and were now at the foot of the hill. Gallagher went back and placed Lieutenant Neff's platoon along the road behind Able Company so that their machine guns could cover the company and came back to his two platoons.

There was still fire coming from behind them and Watson had spotted, he thought, the hill and emplacement from which the gun was firing. He went down into the valley and sent a tank up against it with orders to blast the hill, but to beware of firing to their left where Neff's platoon was. The tank successfully stopped the machine gun but on its way back, the driver became confused and the gunner fired his 75 into the midst of Neff's machine gun section. It was drawing on to dusk now and the tanks began to pull back. As they vanished, the Japanese fire redoubled and the air was alive with the Japs' yellow tracers. At the very left flank the fire very literally began to peel the line of men back; they began to slide down the hill. Both Gamble and Stone were now calling up asking permission to withdraw, but even as they asked the line bent back toward the base of the hill. In the dusk the lines got down into the draw and across the road where they dug in. In the dusk the lines got down into the draw and across the road where they dug in. They had no chow or water that night; a dump that was being set up at the end of the draw was under constant fire.---Phillips Carlton

Marines Killed in Action

5/17/45	Scott	Rex	Fvt	959555
5/17/45	Haynes	Vernon	Pfc	846452
5/17/45	Bennett	Jackson	Cpl	513812
5/17/45	Tardiff	Gerard	Cpl	484009
5/17/45	Sardo	James	Pfc	845784
5/17/45	Patterson	Elmer	Pfc	935030



Cpl Jackson William Bennett, 513812

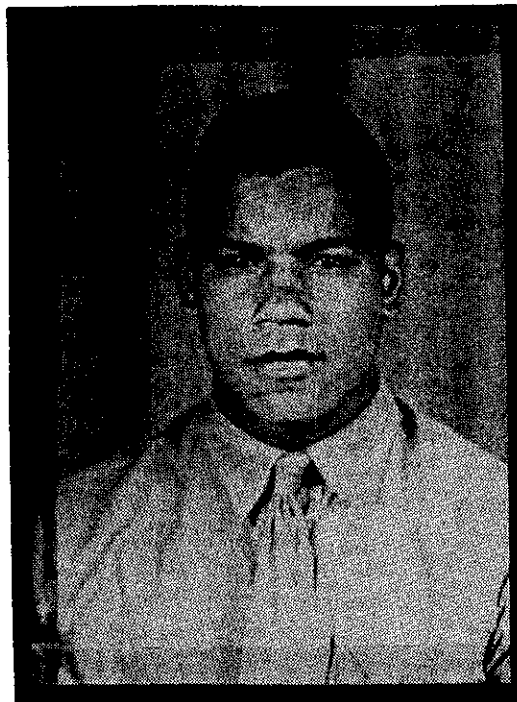
(all pictures were taken at enlistment)

Corporal Bennett, was born at Philadelphia, Pa. on the 28th of July, 1923, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bennett, 637 East Thayer Street, Philadelphia, Pa.. He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve at Philadelphia, Pa. on 15 December 1942 when he was 20 years of age. He went to Marine Basic Training (Boot Camp) at Parris Island, S.C. as part of the 5th Recruit Battalion. On 21 April he attained the rank of PFC and was assigned to the Parris Island Rifle Range Detachment shortly after. He remained at this assignment for about one year and was promoted to the rank of Corporal October 7, 1943. On June 1, 1944 he was transferred to the Range Battalion, Camp Lejeune Training Center, until he joined Co "I", 3rd Battalion, 29th Marines, Fleet Marine Force on June 21, 1944. (Note: Effective 24 November, 1944, the Third Battalion, Twenty-Ninth Marines Reinforced, Sixth Marine Division, In the Field, was redesignated Third Battalion, Twenty-Ninth Marines, Sixth Marine Division, In the Field, authority 6th Marine Division Special Order#149-44, dated 24 November, 1944. Signed/M. S. Hansen, 1st Lt., USMCR, Battalion Adjutant.

Cpl Bennett, sailed to Guadalcanal aboard the USS C. G. Morton on August 1, 1944 and was a member of I/3/29/6, and assigned to the 1st Rifle Platoon.

Cpl Bennett was Killed In Action on 17 May 1945 and died of a gunshot wound to the head during the battle for Crescent Hill (also known as Halfmoon Hill). His remains were interred June 10, 1945, Row 25, Grave 620, Plot B, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1.

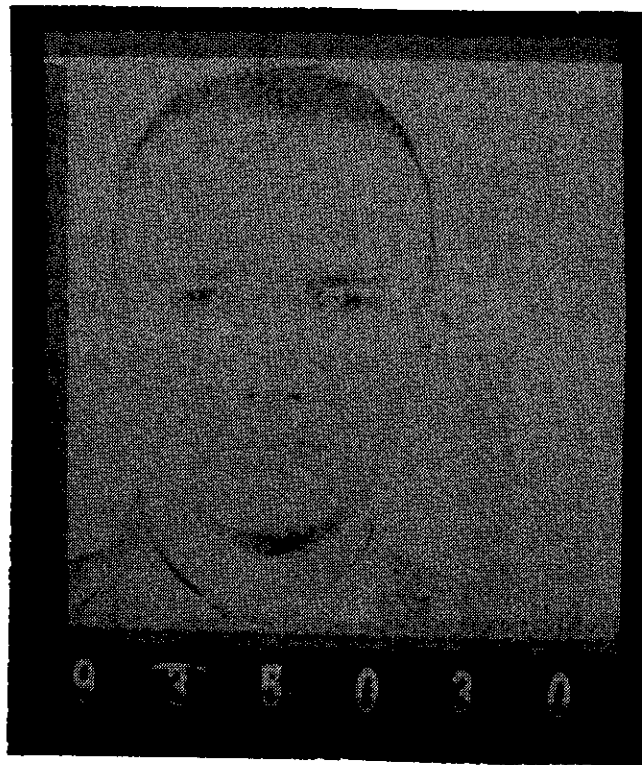
His remains were returned to Philadelphia, Pa for final interment in 1948 but his final site is unknown.



PFC Vernon Marsellous Haynes, 846452
Private First Class Haynes, was born 8 November 1924,

at Mashpee, Mass., the son of Mrs. Daisy Haynes, 191 Wareham Street, Middleboro, Massachusetts. He enlisted in the Marine Corp Reserve on April 6, 1943, at Boston, Mass. and was 18 years old. He joined the 2nd Recruit Bn., Parris Island, N.C. for Boot Camp Training on April 8, 1943. On June 24, 1943 he was transferred to the 2nd Guard Co., Marine Barracks, Navy Air Station, Quonset Pt., R.I.. PFC Haynes, joined the 43rd Replacement Draft on December 18, 1944 and embarked overseas on the USS Mormadove, on January 8, 1945. He was transferred to the 33rd Replacement Draft on February 21, 1945 and joined I/3/29/6 on April 19, 1945 on Okinawa.

PFC Haynes, was Killed In Action on May 17, 1945 and died of a gunshot wound to the head while engaged with the enemy on Crescent Hill. (Half Moon Hill) His remains were interred June 4, 1945, Row 22, Grave 549, Plot B, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1948 his remains were returned to the United States and interred at the Old Indian Cemetery, Mashpee, Mass.



PFC Elmer Patterson, 935030

Private First Class Patterson, born 12 December 1925, Blue Ridge, Ga., the son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Patterson, Route 2, Box 163, Blue Ridge, Georgia. He entered the Marine Corps, March 1, 1944, at Atlanta, Ga. at the age of 19 years.

He took his Boot Camp Training at Parris Island, S.C., in the 10th Recruit Bn., starting March 2, 1944. He joined Co."I", 3rd Bn., 29th Marines, FMF., and went to Guadalcanal, aboard the USS Gen. C.G. Morton on 1 August 1944. He was a member of the 3rd Rifle Platoon, I/3/29/6.

PFC Patterson, was Killed In Action, May 17, 1945. He died

of a gunshot wound to the head while our unit was attacking the northern slope of The Half Moon Hill, near the narrow railroad tracks seperating Sugar Loaf Hill from The Half Moon Hill. His remains were interred 7 June 1945, Row 23, Grave 562, Plot B, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1958 the remains of PFC Patterson, were returned to the United States and interred at Sugar Creek Cemetery, Blue Ridge, Georgia.

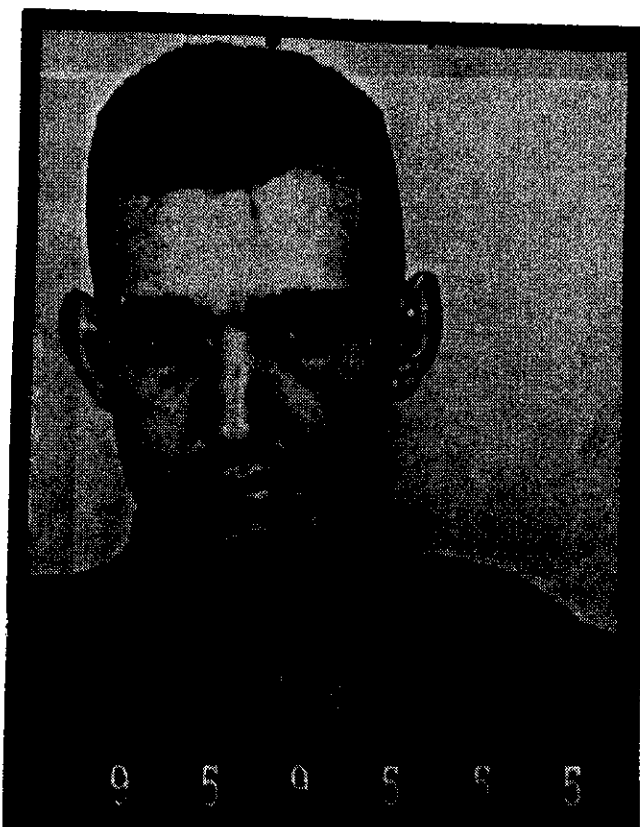


PFC James Vincent Sardo, 845784

Private First Class Sardo was born 1 December 1923, at Ansonia, Conn., and was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Sardo, 12 West Spring Street, Ansonia, Connecticut. He entered the Marine Corps, March 31, 1943 at Springfield, Mass., and took his Boot Camp, with the 2nd Recruit Bn., Parris Island, starting on April 8, 1943. He was 19 years of age.

He was transferred to the 2nd Guard Company, Marine Barracks Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Va., and was promoted to PFC on June 25, 1943. On November 1, 1943, he joined Pioneer Co., 22nd Marines FMF., and was "in the field" aboard the USS Boston on December 2, 1943. On January 3, 1945 he was assigned to Co "I", 3rd Bn., 29th Marines, FMF., on Guadalcanal. He was a member of the 1st Rifle Platoon, I/3/29/6

PFC Sardo, was Killed In Action by a gunshot wound to the head on May 17, 1945 while advancing up the north slope of The Half Moon Hill, near the railroad track between the above mentioned hill and Sugar Loaf Hill. His remains were interred, June 7, 1945, Row 23, Grave 557, Plot B, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1948, his remains were returned to the United States and interred at Mt. St. Peter's Cemetery, Derby, Connecticut.

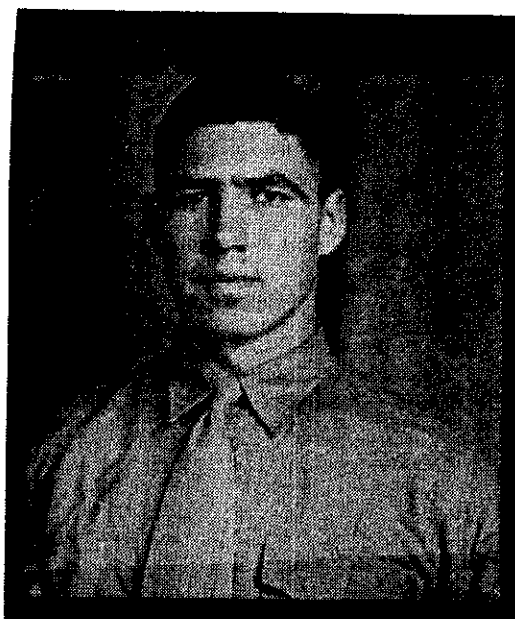


Pvt Rex Madison Scott, 959555

Private Scott, was born 5 October 1920, at Chetak, Wisconsin, he was married at the time he enlisted and his wife lived at 934 North Church Street, Rockford, Illinois.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve, on May 31, 1944 at Chicago, Ill., at the age of 23 years and took his Boot Training in the 12th Recruit Bn., San Diego, starting June 3, 1944. On November 1, 1944 he joined the 14th Replacement Draft, and sailed for Guadalcanal, aboard the USS Gen C.G. Morton, 10 November 1944. He joined Co."I", 3rd Bn., 29th Marines FMF., December 26, 1944 and was assigned to the Machine Gun Platoon, I/3/29/6.

Pvt Scott, was Killed In Action on May 17, 1945, he died of gunshot wounds to the throat and head while our Company was attacking The Half Moon Hill, north slope. He was interred May 24, 1945, Row 16, Grave 396, Plot B, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1948, his remains were returned to the United States and interred at Lake View Cemetery, Chetak, Wisconsin.



Cpl Gerard Joseph Tardiff, 484009

Corporal Tardiff, was born at Keegan, Maine, March 14, 1922, and was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Tardiff, RFD 2, Waterville, Maine.

He enlisted at Augusta, Maine, November 14, 1942, in the Marine Corps Reserve, at the age of 20 years. On November 16, 1942, he was assigned to the 3rd Recruit Bn., Parris Island, to take his Boot Training, and joined the Parris Island, Rifle Range Detachment, January 19, 1943. Cpl Tardiff, was promoted to the rank of Corporal, September 2, 1943, and joined the Training Command, Camp Pendleton, Calif., FMF., September 19, 1944. On November 14, 1944 he joined the 26th Replacement Draft and embarked for the south pacific aboard the USS Sea Bass, on December 27, 1944. He joined I/3/29/6, on April 19, 1945, at Okinawa.

Cpl Tardiff, was Killed In Action, May 17, 1945, of "gunshot wounds multiple", during an attack of the north slope of The Half Moon Hill, about 200 yards east of Sugar Loaf Hill. His remains were interred June 7, 1945, Row 23, Grave 565, Plot B. 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1948, the remains of Cpl Tardiff, were returned to the United States and interred at St. Francis Cemetery, Waterville, Maine.

		Marines Wounded		
5/17/45	Aust	Kenneth	Pfc	886671
5/17/45	Avelin	Walter	Pvt	563865
5/17/45	Hipp	Roy	Pvt	957262
5/17/45	Johnson	Johnie	Sgt	265725
5/17/45	Keller	Clyde	Pfc	847510
5/17/45	Lewis	Robert	Pfc	311075
5/17/45	McDowell	Nosh	Pvt	993357
5/17/45	Nappi	Michael	Pvt	953336
5/17/45	Nelson	Paul	Pvt	986643
5/17/45	Northcote	Charles	Pvt	985174

5/17/45	Parker	Charles	Pvt	990729
5/17/45	Rapp	William	Cpl	508934
5/17/45	Richard	Russell	Pfc	900627
5/17/45	Ross	Richard	Pvt	556544
5/17/45	Rutzler	William	Pfc	517360
5/17/45	Slade	Donald	Pfc	949398
5/17/45	Snyder	Randall	Pvt	922613
5/17/45	Stahler	William	Cpl	410979
5/17/45	Sullivan	Edward	Cpl	437090
5/17/45	Timanus	Edwin	Cpl	816137
5/17/45	Vasiliou	William	Pfc	563617

Company Replacements from the 46th Replacement Draft

5/17/45	Driscoll	Raymond	Pfc	803332
5/17/45	Hiatt	George	Pvt	986695
5/17/45	Kelley	Wilfrid	Pfc	911431
5/17/45	Norman	James	Pvt	993744
5/17/45	Novotny	Joseph	Pvt	968218
5/17/45	Obermann	Edward	Pvt	977041
5/17/45	Patton	Perry	Pfc	982913
5/17/45	Pederson	Clarence	Pvt	996713
5/17/45	Pegg	Virgil	Pvt	986985
5/17/45	Permenter	Vernon	Pvt	991565
5/17/45	Perry	Rufus	Pvt	1000590
5/17/45	Peterson	Wilson	Pfc	950869
5/17/45	Pfotenhauer	Paul	Pvt	985399
5/17/45	Phillips	Robert	Pvt	855498
5/17/45	Platt	Harry	Pvt	991192
5/17/45	Plucinski	Eugene	Pvt	1000585
5/17/45	Sekula	Frank	Pvt	973800
5/17/45	Smith	Robert	Pvt	993797
5/17/45	Smith	Marvin	Pvt	994369
5/17/45	Smith	Francis	Pvt	996202
5/17/45	Smith	Grant	Pvt	985378
5/17/45	Snipes	Benjamin	Pvt	544804
5/17/45	Soderholm	Leo	Pvt	994293
5/17/45	Southerland	Needham	Pvt	984456
5/17/45	Sowden	Harry	Pvt	968312
5/17/45	Sowers	Charles	Pvt	992986
5/17/45	Spies	Phillip	Pvt	563961
5/17/45	Spradlin	Jessie	Pvt	992646
5/17/45	Sprout	Lyman	Pvt	569266
5/17/45	Stabi	Joseph	Pvt	570751
5/17/45	Stine	Cedric	Pvt	950509
5/17/45	Stingel	Clarence	Pvt	985385
5/17/45	Stone	Elton	Pvt	992208
5/17/45	Storts	Albert	Pvt	986989
5/17/45	Strange	James	Pvt	544737
5/17/45	Summerford	Major Jr	Pvt	544805
5/17/45	Sykes	Floyd	Pvt	1004505
5/17/45	Tallon	Joseph	Pvt	253170
5/17/45	Townsend	John	Pvt	984449
5/17/45	Tuma	Howard	Pvt	569451
5/17/45	Turnep	Charles Jr	Pvt	968354

5/17/45	Van Hooser	Karl	Pvt	559791
5/17/45	Van Rycheghem	Roger	Pvt	565881
5/17/45	Vandev eer	Warren	Pvt	1002032
5/17/45	Yeakle	Frank	Pfc	401054

Crescent Hill was a rough time for everybody. I do remember we were dug in and getting a lot of fire one day and an amtrack got knocked out to our right, just then we saw a guy trotting out in the open to our front kind of leisurly like and we yelled get out of there you dumb S.O.B. and when he got to our line we noticed he was on of the unit priests.---Donald E Briscoe

My life's ambition was to be one of three things: first I wanted to be a Royal Mounted Policeman, but you have to be a citizen of Canada. second, The French Foreign Legion, cause I saw that movie, Beau Gest, but do you know, you have to join that for 12 years?, so that was out. Third, I wanted to go to the south pacific and kill some of those Japs that raped our nurses on Corregidor. I enlisted in 1944.---John Townsend

I was born in Chicago, Illinois, but my early years were spent in British Columbia, until age 12, and then we moved back to Chicago where my Dad was a Minister. I joined the Marine Corps during August of 1944 and went to Parris Island, for my Boot Training. I spent a short time at Camp Lejeune and was then transferred to Camp Pendleton, this would have been about January of 1945. I was 19 years old when on Okinawa---Paul Pfothenauer

When we were assigned to the Company, Lt Pottenger, was our platoon leader and I also recall a Lt by the name of Camarata. and it seems the three of us joined the Company about the same time. [Lts Pottenger and Camarata, joined on May 16, 1945, Paul Pfothenauer, joined on May 17th.] Camarata, was assigned to the 2nd Platoon and Pottenger, was assigned to the 1st Platoon.[Lt John Stone was Plt Ldr of the 1st Rifle Platoon until May 14, 1945, when Capt Philip Mylod was wounded. At that time Lt John Stone took over Command of "I" Company, until the Island was secured.]---Paul Pfothenauer

My name is James Ernie Strange but through out my growing up years and during my time in the Marine Corps, I was called Ernie.

I was born in Charlestown, South Carolina, and I enlisted from there into the Corps and went to Parris Island, for Boot Training. In fact, I still have my bus ticket and I refer to it as my ticket to hell! I enlisted on September 12, 1944, Platoon number 515, from Parris Island we were sent to tent camp, Camp Lejeune, I think it was called Camp Gieger. If I remember correctly, we were there during November and December of 1944, and it was cold, cold, cold. On December 23rd or 24th, we made an amphibious landing on "Anzio" Beach and it was extremely cold in addition, the landing craft grounded itself about 50 or 75 yards from shore and we had to wade in from there. In some spots the water was over our heads and we tried to sidestep those deep holes. Some succeeded and some of us didn't but when we arrived

on shore all of us were half frozen and the 20 mile an hour wind we had that day didn't help any. In addition, one of our superiors passed down the order, "No Fires!", cause they may give away our position to the enemy. I was 17 years old when I joined the Corps and was assigned to "I" Company, 29th Marines when I was part of the 46th Replacement Draft.

After the Battle we went back to Guam, then to Tsingtao, China, and I remained there until August of 1946, at that time I returned to Camp Lejeune, via the West Coast and was discharged August 26, 1946. After returning to Charlestown and not knowing what I wanted to do I saw an add in the local newspaper for an amateur crew for a cruise a guy was organizing. I responded, since by that time I was really bored and we sailed through out the Caribbean, (four of us and a dog) sailed our schooner through the Canal to the west coast of Mexico. In all we were gone about 6 months and it was very interesting. After returning, I started school at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, when the Korean War started and since I was still in the Marine Corps Reserve with the rank of Sgt. I knew if I was called back in, I'd be doing some more "tramping and stomping in those Korean hills", and I didn't want to do that anymore. I applied and was accepted to Navy flight school and recieved my wings and tranferred to the Marine Corps. I got to Korea just about the time the war ended and after about one year based on the aircraft carrier Saipan, I left the service and flew for Pan American Airlines until the with the advent of jets, I was furloughed and was employed by the FAA until 1982.---James E Strange, Jr.

I know the name of Navotny, but I can't remember any specifics. Vernon Permenter, was in the same platoon with us. [1st platoon] He was a tall slim guy from Pasagoola, Mississippi. ---Ernie Strange, Jr.

Our group joined "I" Company on the night of May 17, 1945, our trucks moved toward the front lines with their lights out and unloaded us a distance back from the actual fighting. Summerford and I dug in on the slope of a hill and all of a sudden, the artillery started pounding us, it was raining and we were miserable. During that period Sgt Kozlowski, was our platoon Sgt..[he joined "I" Company on May 1, 1945] I was running on our way to the front and a Jap bullet hit mighty close to me so I fell to the gound but it was a very open area and Kozlowski yelled at me,"run, run", which I did.---Ernie Strange, Jr.

Let me give you something on Pfc Elmer Patterson, who was killed. Him and I were in the same foxhole on Sugar Loaf, [Crescent] he was laying down in the foxhole, and gave me his grenades and I went part way up the hill and threw both my grenades and his over the top of the hill. Shortly after the bullets began hitting around me and running back to our foxhole I was hit in the arm by a sniper's bullet. [Both Ken Aust and Elmer Patterson were hit the same day, ie. May 17. Patterson was killed]---Ken Aust

When I was wounded, the bullet went through the bone in my arm, and you know when you take a knife and spring it on a table, it goes "woonng"? thats the way it sounded. So I told Patterson, "I'm hit, I'm going back down", well, on the way down I ran into John Hermanies, and I said, "Herm, I've been hit and I'm going back", but Herm sat me down and took off both of our packs and put them under my arm. He also gave me a couple canteens of water. I told him, "Herm, if I ever run into you in the States I'll buy you all you can drink". Did I make good on my promise? Yes I did, but that's another story.---Ken Aust

Some of the Corpsman I remember are Pauk, Raynor and Demuth and nothing specific comes to mind except Demuth was killed.---Ken Aust

I remember one instance around Crescent Hill, we were holding the line cause we weren't making any advances, and Lt Stone, who was acting as Co Commander at the time, he sent word back to me to bring the aircraft panels up [these panels were used to show the aircraft the location of friendly troops. The panels would be placed on a spot at the very front of our front lines so the pilot of the aircraft would know that any troops in front of the panels were enemy.] and place them. That was another one of my jobs. I recall when we were bombed and strafed by our own planes but I can't remember where or why it happened.---Hubert Welch

During the morning on day 17: We were working our way towards Sugar Loaf Hill and either a part of, or all of Company "I" had to pass through a wide open field while under a terrific barrage of gun fire. The impact noise of the bullets sounded like they were exploding raight at my ears. We rushed to the end of the field to a depressed cut of about two feet, that was an unused road. This gave us good cover and a chance to get our breath again, and a short respite.

During this stop-over, (it is amazing how one simple incident sticks in a persons mind amidst all the bullets flying and after so many years). One of our replacements was cleaning something on his rifle, sitting on the rim of this cut, while still plenty of shooting was going on. Suddenly, he exclaims, "Hey!, did you see that?" pointing to his arm. "The bullet went right through my sleeve!" Like a dummy, he still had half of his body above the bank, holding on to his sleeve and showing where the bullet went through his dunarees at the biceps level. Then realizing what could have happened, he suddenly ducked for cover. Lucky for him, it only went through the garment.

We continued our move towards Sugar Loaf through depressions and a railroad cut in the area. Third platoon would be committed for the assault, along with the First or Second. Which? I don't remember.

Sometime before noon the first plan was to spearhead the assault by using tanks and the rest of the force to follow. There were three tanks there spaced out for the charge. My assignment was with a tank to use the telephone beneath it to communicate information regading target, (Enemy positions). I am ever so

thankful this plan never materialized. Before we got under way the plan changed and my assignment was canceled. The word now was for the assault force to charge the hill and the tanks to support it from the rear.

Everything was held up while more of our artillery worked the hill and our planes saturated the top with napalm. When it was ignited it looked like an exploding volcano, with high rolling flames and thick black smoke billowing up from it. We were certain nothing could survive through all of this.

In the early afternoon when the artillery and planes ceased their operation, the word was, "GO!" Everyone made a running dash for the hill, a hundred yards or more ahead. Glancing to my left it appeared like our entire Battalion was stretched out making the charge.

Company "I" was at the right end and the third platoon at the Company's right flank. Our squad was at the extreme right end. I only remember Frank Lilly, our squad leader, and Donald Slade, there. Over a hundred new replacements had been shifted in by now. Acquaintanceship was too short for names to register well enough so I could remember.

We scrambled up hill, over half way to the top, along the right side, avoiding the ridge, till we reached an overhang which was either blown away by our shelling or natural erosion and was too steep to go higher without exposing ourselves on top.

By now, the Jap firepower had increased dramatically. The tanks in the back, all three of them were knocked out by Jap artillery--one after the other. Looking to my left at the steepest part of the slope at the center of the hill, I saw our Marines tumbling down like cartwheels from the intense firepower of the Japs, from above and elsewhere as well. The hill in the back of the ridge from where we were, we learned later was called Horseshoe Hill. It was from this our end was getting the most enemy fire. It was also about the only place we could direct ours since we couldn't see above us. We were truly grateful and lucky for the overhang being there. At one time when I was digging a hole for better footing and protection and the enemy fire found us, I must have had four guys pile up on top of me for cover. Later, one of our machine gun sections set up near our group. That was a great relief to us.

I have no recollection of what happened to the rest of the Marines who attempted to climb the hillside after the tumbling and falling which I observed. We were preoccupied on our end. I have no picture in my memory of the dead or wounded being removed, or if planes or artillery action was used later. I do remember staying there till dusk with our group, including the machine gunners. We were very exhausted by now as we were the very last from our unit to go back. One of the fellows with the machine gun was debating whether to take a chance carrying it back to where we started and be a target or to bury it in the hole I dug. No one volunteered to carry it, so he took the bolt out and covered up the rest of it and we took off for our original jump off point.

The records show that Ken Aust and Donald Slade were wounded this day from Third Platoon, but I have no memory of it. Our

Platoon had considerable losses earlier in the week so it was not at full force, to the best of my recollection.---Frank Kukuchka

Those flares!, they were from heaven!---Joe Bledsoe

"Little Chief" Haynes, as we called him was killed on the 16th or 17th of May and loved to box.---Donald Honis

Vernon Haynes was hit in the chest by a machine gun bullet--
- or two.---Donald Honis

Sardo---hell, a guy that I can't even remember meeting for the first time, a non-discript type of Italian (I think) with thin black hair and dark eyes that kept darting from here to there, never focusing on anything or anyone for more than a fraction of a second, never talking about his "girl" or family, just going on about the situation we were in and the futility of it all. He never mentioned life's goals, where he went to school whether he was involved in athletics or anything like that. He was the type of person you would regard as a non-entity, but yet he was a solid person, someone I could depend on to fill in for my weaknesses, someone who would perform those hazardous jobs without even telling you he was going to do them, he was dependable, brave, and my foxhole buddy, he was "a diamond in the rough". I didn't even know his first name until I was out of the Marine Corps for 2 years. I think that Sardo was the type of person our country was founded by, short on talk and long on action.---Kenneth Long

The enemy fire from artillery, mortar and small arms was murderous that day, as I Company, 29th found itself about 400 yards north of the Half Moon Hill. The hill was to be our objective for the day. In early afternoon our unit moved out toward our objective, dodging from one crater to another amid the exploding shells and automatic weapons fire, seeing but not stopping for the many Marines who had either been killed or wounded, our minds were set to advance to the crest of the Half Moon Hill. Every breath reminded me of the war we were part of with the heavy air saturated with the strong odors of rotting flesh, gun powder and the damp, musty smell of the soil I have experienced only on Okinawa. To our right, about 30 yards were the bodies of about 7 Marines that must have been caught in the fire of a nambu, as they were laying in a column spaced about five or six yards apart as though they all had decided to take a short nap along side of the narrow gauge railroad that crossed that area. For the first time, my body started to weaken as we went from one shell hole to the next getting always closer to the summit of the Half Moon. I am sure that fear was partly responsible for this unnatural feeling but lack of sleep and no food contributed. (I had rations but never had the desire to eat for several days) In appropriate thoughts kept crossing my mind, two of which I remember,

1. I have never seen any birds on Okinawa
2. I wonder who will clean up this mess when the battle

is over.

We were now on Half Moon Hill, dead Japanese soldiers were strewn throughout the area killed mostly by artillery and mortar fire. We started to move toward the summit which was about 60 or 70 yards ahead, and it was in the afternoon when we made what was to be our final attack to reach the top. The line of Marines from I Company took off toward the crest, but we were stopped about 30 yards short and I think there were as many grenades thrown as shots fired from both sides of the hill. It was then that someone yelled to me (a Corpsman) "Sardo is dead". He had been shot by small arms fire during that final charge. After hearing those three words that the Corpsman said to me, a feeling of complete loneliness clouded my mind just as though I was the only person left in the entire world. Alone in a shell hole, watching the parade of Japanese bayonets silhouetted against the sky on the reverse slope of the hill, the fatigue, the putrid odors of decaying bodies and gun powder, the deafening sounds of artillery, mortar and rifle fire, plus the feeling of being the only one on that damned hill, saturated my mind with so many unnatural situations that my mind short-circuited and I bolted off the hill back to the Company CP to demand that more troops be sent up. I can't remember who I talked with but I do remember that no replacements were available and he must have recognized my mental state and told me that I was needed back on the front and pointed me in that direction. It was late afternoon when I returned and the guys were returning to the position we had jumped off from that morning, so we had a net gain of zero yards for the day. It was an unusual thing though, the fear and confusion that possessed me two hours before had disappeared and never did return, to that extent anyway. It was almost like getting a "second wind" or making that first tackle in a football game.---Kenneth Long

One day I recall our own planes strafed us but I can't remember the date. It was the same day a company runner came up from Battalion and I think he was from "H" Company and he wanted to give Lt Stone, who was then our CO, a message from Battalion HQ. Lt Stone was a short distance away and was on the radio trying to get some mortar ammo at the time so the guy waited. He was standing in an upright position and I mentioned to him that he'd better get down because we had a couple Jap snipers in the area. The runner didn't pay any attention though and was shot in the throat, I tried to help him but there was no way I could stop the bleeding and he bled to death. Lt Stone, never did get the message; from the runner anyway.---Charles Miller

I had talked earlier about a hill Cunningham and I referred to as Hand Grenade Hill and this next event took place about that time. We took the hill when it was dark and so we spent the night near the top of it in a mortar or artillery hole. I think [Ivan] Zahler and I were together and sitting so each of us were leaning against the opposite side of the hole with our backs, kind of feet to feet we were. A Jap came crawling over the edge and I got

him with my knife and it was just like jabbing a pillow. I suppose the Jap hadn't gotten the word the hill was in our hands. It was shortly after this that a replacement we had received got out of his hole for some reason and stepped on an anti tank mine which blew off his legs and he was all black. Zahler and I went over to him and got a Corpsman and it was Johnny Pauk, Johnny asked us to stay with him and he went to get a stretcher, when he returned, Zahler and I carried him out and got him as far as the railroad tracks when we met some guys from the 1st Marine Division. I kept brushing the flies away from his wounds and the guy asked me if they would notify his parents cause he didn't want them to. I told him that they do not notify the parents. The wounded man responded the reason he didn't want his folks to know was because his brother was killed on Tarawa and he didn't think his folks could stand the news. I again said, don't worry about that because they keep all this stuff secret. Well, when the 1st Division got to where we were standing the wounded Marine asked the same question of a Marine from the 1st and was told, "Oh yes I know they do because---.---Charles Miller

of our last reserves, the 4th Marines.

Captain Mabie called his platoon leaders up to the OP and told them exactly what he proposed to do: the 1st platoon under Lieutenant F.X. Smith was to flank the hill moving down the valley and up the western nose peeling off fire teams as it went to keep a continuous line from base to top. When Lieutenant Smith had reached halfway to the top, the 2nd platoon under PlSgt Ellison was to assault directly up the reverse slope with two squads in the attack in order to hold the left part of the hill. The 3rd platoon was to remain in reserve across the valley, ready with machine guns and rifles for protective fire. After Captain Mabie had briefed his platoon leaders they in turn called up their squad leaders and pointed out to them exactly where they were to go. The squad leaders returned to their fire teams, got them in position, and explained what they were going to do.

While all this was going on, the battalion FO, Lieutenant Snyder, was using the artillery. He pulled the shells back until they were firing a bare 300 yards in front of the forward slope of Sugar Loaf. Meanwhile the 81-mm's were dropping their shells just over the crest. After a thunderous barrage, Mabie lifted the fires. He had made arrangements with Captain Morell of Able Company, 6th Tank Battalion, to send three tanks down the railroad tracks and behind the hill, two tanks to protect the one tank ahead. The tanks waddled through the cut just in time to see the Japanese swarming out of their caves on the high terrace to repel an expected attack, and he killed scores of them very literally with the first blast of his gun.

The tanks fired rapidly and then retired, the rear tanks shooting down two satchel teams as they dashed out of caves. As the tanks came back they came upon a reeling figure that waved down to them from the gray torn earth at the foot of the hill. It was Lieutenant Green who had managed to crawl down from the edge of the hill to the railroad tracks and now feebly hailed them. His escape was something of a miracle.

As soon as the tanks came back, Captain Mabie opened up with a rocket barrage on the hill itself from the maximum range of 1200 yards. The trucks with their rocket racks had fired before from the corridor to the south Queen Ridge, escaping usually from retaliatory artillery fire only by the narrowest of margins. The trucks came in over a saddle where they could be plainly seen. As soon as the first test rockets went up, the heavy shells began to fall. The twelve trucks bore a somewhat frantic resemblance to fire trucks as they dashed up, whirled about, and they started as fast as they could for the nearest defilade. At the end of the rocket barrage, the artillery opened again, the signal for assault. The company's 60-mm's dropped their shells squarely on top of the hill till the troops started up. The attack took about 20 minutes. The two platoons reached the summit at about the same time and plunged forward, throwing grenades and emptying rifles and carbines. The tanks came out through the railroad cut in time to see the figures of men against the sky.

At about 0950, Lieutenant Smith called Mabie on his 536 and told him to send up the PX supplies; the hill was ours. The men were under steady fire as they dug in, but artillery had not been

turned on the hill itself. The 3rd platoon and Company Headquarters carried up supplies, aided by Easy Company. By noon all the wounded had been evacuated, and the men were firmly emplaced. The line ran across the military crest of the hill and down to the forward slope on either end, where a fire team dug in to prevent any envelopment, or an approach from Horseshoe Ridge below Sugar Loaf.

Late in the afternoon Captain Fowler took Fox Company/29 down past the western nose of Sugar Loaf and spread them out along the edge of the Horseshoe Ridge. There was fire coming from the valley below them, but they could dig into their positions along the crest. Captain Fowler knew there was one bad spot: the defile at the very western end of the ridge where a road led down to Naha and a bridge across the Asato. This road could be covered from the ridge on which Love Company/22 was emplaced, but Fowler could not get in touch with them or see anyone on the forward slope. He curled his right flank back along the road and mounted machine guns, but they could deliver only plunging fire into the defile. Directly in front of Sugar Loaf Hill the platoon under Lieutenant George S. Thompson began to receive fire from a machine gun directly behind, emplaced in a cave at the foot of the hill. He got in touch with Captain Mabie, and Mabie sent down a demolition team and a flame-thrower, while one tank was persuaded to come back and fire in the caves. Pvt. Lore, who carried the flame-thrower, charged the cave and silenced the machine gun. As he turned to walk away, three Japs came running out of the cave behind him, one with flaming clothes. The Fox Company men called to him in warning and he whirled and squeezed the trigger. Only raw napalm poured out, but there was enough flame on the clothes to ignite it, and in the dusk the three Japanese burst into a red roar of flame, while the Fox Company men cheered. They had suffered nearly 20 casualties from that gun.

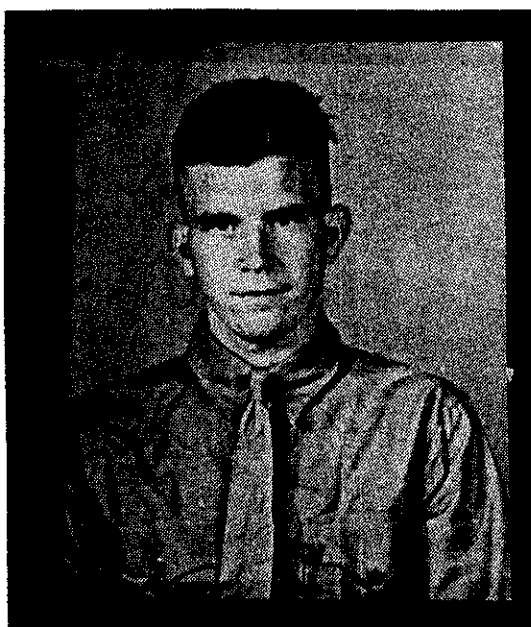
That night the 60-mm's of the three companies threw out flares every two minutes, and the whole line of reserves was alerted. We had only a precarious hold on the Japanese stronghold, and everyone expected that every attempt could be made to throw us back. This time we had cleared the forward slope of Sugar Loaf and had thrown Fox Company out before it as a guard. If the attempt to take Sugar Loaf back were made, it would have to be a counterattack in force coming up from the Asato Valley and up the narrow roads that led down into the suburbs of Naha.

At 2300 from the dark below came sounds of preparation: there was much yelling and jabbering and a steady barrage of mortar shells. At 0230 the full force of the attack hit the lines. Fox Company men had plenty of grenades and they kept the slopes in front of them clear, but finally groups of Japanese managed to get up the road, through the defile despite our plunging fire, and up onto the high banks of the cut itself where they set up a machine gun that could enfilade our lines. Our own machine guns knocked out the gun twice, but other guns were manned in the same place, and the steady stream of bullets began to be intolerable; there was no shelter from them. The platoon

nearest to the gun began to pull back as a unit; then men began to run toward the shelter of Sugar Loaf. The platoon leader of the next platoon gave withdrawal orders and the company got back into the valley behind Sugar Loaf. We lost the ridge, but were still holding Sugar loaf. After the men had with drawn from the ridge, the Japanese had tried to send small parties up to the base of Sugar Loaf to the caves there, but the fire teams piled up 33 of them; some probably got through.---Phillips Carlton

Marines Killed in Action

5/18/45	Schrock	James	Pvt	559482
5/18/45	Myers	Robert	Pvt	968178
5/18/45	Schumacher	Edwin	Pvt	989064
5/18/45	Shaughnessy	Edwin	Pfc	951594
5/18/45	Hood	Warren	Pvt	968332
5/18/45	Carson	George	Cpl	285897



Cpl George Donald Carson, 285897

Corporal Carson, was born 4 December 1921 at Boston, Mass., son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Carson, 302 Langley Road, Newton Centre, Massachusetts. He enlisted at the age of 19 at Boston, Mass. and arrived June 23, 1940 at Parris Island, S.C. for Boot Training. After Boot Camp he was transferred to Norfolk Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Va. for about one month and then in November 1940, he was sent to submarine base, Coco Solo, C.Z. aboard the ship "Sapelo". On August 19, 1941 he was promoted to Private First Class. Cpl Carson, was transferred to the 1st Guard Company, Balboa, C.Z in December of 1942 and then to the Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Va. during June of 1943. He joined I/3/29th Marines/FMF on June 1, 1944 and because his enlistment (4 years) was about to expire he re-enlisted for two more years on June 28,

1944. Although Cpl Carson's records do not show it, it is believed he sailed to Guadalcanal on board the USS C.G. Morton on August 1, 1944. He was assigned to the 1st Rifle Platoon of "I" Company and was Killed In Action by a gunshot wound to the head on May 19, 1944 on Crescent Hill. (ie. Halfmoon Hill) No record is made of his interment. Note: Crescent Hill was not secured for about another 7 days or the latter part of May and some of the bodies were severely decomposed, in fact, some of the records show interment of some of the remains was not made until June 10, 1945.



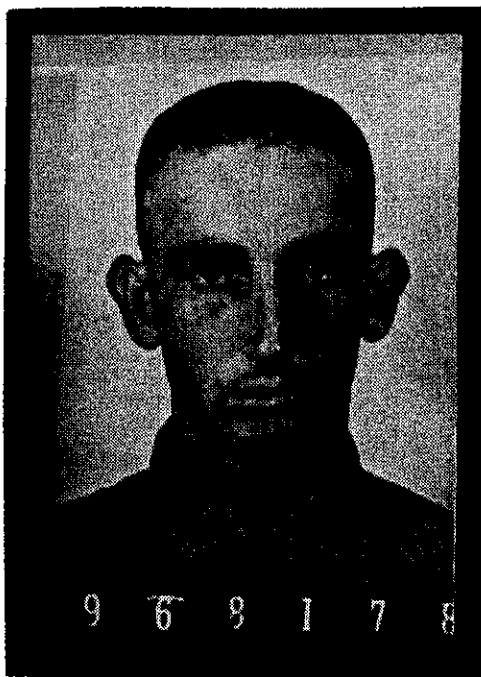
Pvt Warren Wesleyon Hood, Sr., 968332

Private Hood, was born 24 April 1922 at Shawnee, Okla. and enlisted in the Marine Corp on 23 August 1944, at Philadelphia, Pa., at the age of 22 years. He was married at the time of his enlistment and his wife lived at R.F.D 2, Hummelstown, Pennsylvania.

on August 25, 1944 he joined the 6th Recruit Bn., Farris Island, S.C. for Boot Camp and upon completion was assigned to the 5th Training Bn., Camp Lejeune, N.C on November 8, 1944. He joined the 43rd Replacement Draft, December 26, 1944 and embarked on the USS Mormacdove for the South Pacific on January 8, 1944. He was transferred to the 26th Replacement Draft on February 21, 1945 and joined I/3/29/6 at Okinawa, on April 28, 1945.

Pvt Hood, was Wounded In Action during the battle for The Half Moon Hill, (a gunshot wound to the leg) on May 17, 1945 and died as a result of this wound on May 18, 1945.

His remains were interred on May 18, 1945, Row 8, Grave 177, Plot B, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1948, his remains were returned to the United States and interred at Fort Gibson National Cemetery, Fort Gibson, Oklahoma.



Pvt Robert Edward Myers, 968178

Private Edward Myers was born 6 December, 1924 at Mercersburg, Pa.. His grandmother, Mary E. Sharar, was next of kin and lived at Route #2, Mercersburg, Pennsylvania. Pvt Myers enlisted in the Marine Corps, 5 July 1944 at Philadelphia, Pa., and joined the 3rd Recruit Bn., Parris Island, S.C. for his Boot Training on July 8, 1944, when he was 20 years old.

He joined the 29th Replacement Draft, Camp Lejeune, N.C., November 6, 1944 and traveled to the Russell Islands aboard the USS Gen. Ernst, December 14, 1944. He joined the 26th Replacement Draft on February 2, 1945 and joined I/3/29/6, April 19, 1945, on Okinawa.

Pvt Myers, was Killed In Action, 18 May 1945 due to a direct hit by a Japanese mortar shell, while engaged in the battle for The Half Moon Hill, just east of the narrow railroad tracks that were between The Half Moon Hill and Sugar Loaf Hill. His remains were interred June 3, 1945, Row 22, Grave 537, Plot B, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1.

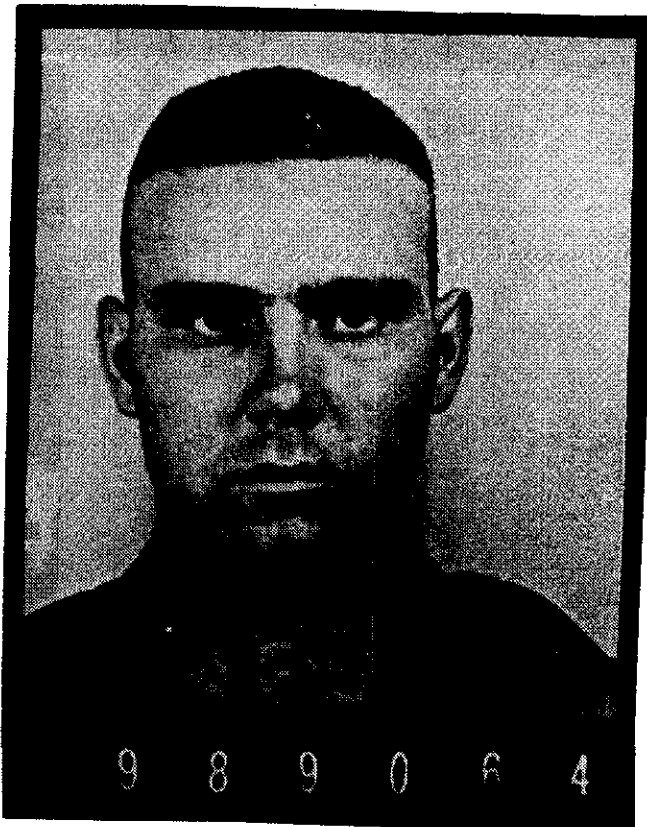


Pvt James "K" Schrock, 559482

Private Schrock, was born 23 May 1926, at Goshen, Indiana, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest M. Schrock, 607 North New Second St., Goshen, Indiana. He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve, March 23, 1944, at Indianapolis, Ind., and was 17 years old.

After taking his Boot Training, beginning on April 30, 1944, at the 10th Recruit Bn., San Diego, he was transferred to the 76th Replacement Bn., FMF., on June 28, 1944. He sailed to Guadalcanal, on November 10, 1944, aboard the USS Gen. C.G. Morton as part of the 14th Replacement Draft. On December 16, 1944 he joined Co."I", 3rd Bn., 29th Marines, FMF., and was assigned to the Machine Gun Platoon, I/3/29/6.

Pvt Schrock, was Killed In Action, on May 18, 1945, of gunshot wounds to the back, during the battle for Half Moon and Sugar Loaf Hills. His remains were interred June 4, 1945, Row 22, Grave 528, Plot A, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1948 Pvt Schrock's remains were returned to the United States and interred at a cemetery at Goshen, Indiana.



Pvt Edwin Anthony Schumacher, 989064

Private Schumacher, was born 27 February 1924 at Hays, Kans., and was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Schumacher, 335 West Eleventh Street, Hays, Kansas.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve, 1 June 1944, at Kansas City, Mo., at the age of 20 years and took his Boot Training with the 12th Recruit Bn., San Diego starting on June 4, 1944. On August 17, 1944, he was transferred to the 1st Training Bn., Oceanside, Calif., and joined the 14th Replacement Draft, November 1, 1944. He left for Guadalcanal, aboard the USS Gen. C.G. Morton and was assigned to Co."I", 3rd Bn., 29th Marines, FMF., December 26, 1944. He was a member of the Machine Gun Platoon, 1/3/29/6.

Pvt Schumacher, was Killed In Action, he died of a gunshot wound to the throat on May 18, 1945, while "I" Company was attacking The Half Moon Hill, east of Sugar Loaf Hill. His remains were interred, June 6, 1945, Row 22, Grave 545, Plot A, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1948, his remains were returned to the United States, and interred at St. Joseph's Cemetery, Hays, Kansas.



PFC Edwin Philip Shaughnessy, 951594

Private First Class Shaughnessy, was born 3 December 1925 at Camden, N.J. and was the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Shaughnessy, 1502 South 52nd Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve, March 24, 1944 at Philadelphia, Pa., at the age of 18 years. He joined the 2nd Recruit Bn., Parris Island, for Boot Training on March 25, 1944 and was assigned to Co "I", 3rd Bn., 29th Marines, FMF., at Camp Lejeune, June 1, 1944. He embarked aboard the USS Gen C.G. Morton for Guadalcanal on August 1, 1944 and was assigned to the Machine Gun Platoon, I/3/29/6. He was promoted to Private First Class on February 8, 1945.

PFC Shaughnessy, was Killed In Action, May 18, 1945, he died of gunshot wounds to the head as our Company was attacking the north slope of The Half Moon Hill. His remains were interred on May 24, 1945, Row 13, Grave 303, Plot B, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1948 his remains were returned to the United States and interred at Richmond National Cemetery, Richmond, Virginia.

I can't remember the number of times we went up on Half Moon Hill and got kicked back off of it. I can't remember how we secured that hill but it seems we did.---Ambrose A Smith

While we were up on Crescent Hill I can remember some of our 60mm mortar rounds landing short and it killed two or three of my squad, and wounded several more;. I remember too that we had a couple of reporters from Time Magazine, Newsweek, Life, or one of those magazines that were with us on the front, I guess they were getting material for a book or something, anyway, they started asking a lot of questions about the time these mortar shells

started hitting and some of the guys got wounded so I put these reporters on stretcher detail and I haven't seen them since. I didn't even get my picture taken.---Ambrose A Smith

We didn't go to Guadalcanal at all, we went directly to Guam and arrived there on April 1, 1945, the same day you guys landed on Okinawa. We were at Guam, about three weeks and then shipped out to Okinawa.---Paul Pfothenauer

Paul Pfothenauer, of course I knew him very well and I was best man at his wedding.---Ernie Strange, Jr.

On the morning of the 18th, four of us were patrolling along the railroad tracks, in the vicinity of our bivouac area, what ran through cuts of small humps of hills with short, open areas in between them. We had gone some distance and after passing one of the open spaces and as we were approaching the abrupt hump of the next hill, a Jap bolted out of a side hole in the bank along the tracks and threw a hand grenade at us. This startled us because there were many such cavities along the banks, so this one caught us unaware. We couldn't react fast enough to shoot because the grenade was in our midst already. I don't know how the other fellows avoided it but all I could do at this split second moment was to jump backwards and lay on the low bank which was along side and also behind me letting my legs dangle, hoping to save the rest of my body from shrapnel. It exploded! I only felt concussion and the dirt it kicked up. It still amazes me that no one was injured. Thank God for their crappy, smooth casing grenades. They didn't fragment like ours. When we got back on our feet we got only a glimpse of him going back in the hole, where he disappeared. We threw a hand grenade in the hole but felt it was useless since we knew the tight turns in their tunnel construction. I still have an image in my mind of this short bearded, mustached Jap, coming at us with the grenade.

Later that day, the 18th, just before dusk, Company "I" moved along the low area at the right base of Sugar Loaf Hill through a wooded section. I remember the trees being rather thin with smooth bark and bare of limbs to above head height and fifteen to twenty five feet tall. We passed through this to the reverse side of the slope, just opposite and over the hump of the slope we were on the day before. Fortunately, it was dark by now, because we were in full view of the Horseshoe. Only the eerie lights of the flares which were shot up regularly gave us light enough to dig our foxholes and we dug them extra deep on this night. The Japs knew we were there but didn't fire at us, which would have given away their positions, but they did send in a number of mortar rounds.

For our night watches we were provided with a few weapons with the night scope on them. [I remember we called them "snooper scopes" too]My first experience with this. Objects looked green and not very detailed. Probably the earliest technology of this, used by the Marine Corps in warfare.---Frank Kukuchka

I don't think a person really thought about killing them [Japs] as we all knew it was either them or you.---Joe Bledsoe

Shaughnessy was killed by a nambu on the 18 of May, just before our outfit was relieved. He was also a member of the Machine Gun Platoon.---Donald Honis

Edwin Shaughnessy, Joe Stelmack told me that on the way off of Half Moon, when we were relieved [by the 4th Marines] a nambu got him. The bullet hit him in the back of the neck.---Donald Honis

The attack began and both to the right and left troops of the Regiment were moving forward against heavy enemy fire of small arms and mortars, the scene was a near reenactment of yesterdays attack with one exception; there were more friendly troops visible. I Company managed gain a position almost to the base of Half Moon but about 100 yards short of yesterdays advance because of the heavy fire from our front and flanks. I could make out Sardo's body on the hillside to our front. I believe this was the night of an intense artillery barrage including the 15th Marines, as well as the Navy. At the beginning one could hear the shells passing over head with the familiar whine that they make, then the whine turned to a "zip" sound and soon several rounds hit in the Company area. (I am not sure whether this incident took place on the 17th or 18th of May). It was demoralizing and I wondered how something like this could take place. Later it was learned that the mortars and other targets were on the reverse slope of Half Moon, only 100 yards to our front and lobbing the shells in with that degree of precision was difficult. The sleepless night passed with the artillery continuing most of that time and dawn finally came.---Kenneth Long

It was quite common over there to get jobs in the unit that called for a rank one or two grades higher than the Marine had who finally filled the vacancy. At times there was even more of a difference, as was the case of J.V. Brown. As J.V. was a Corporal and yet took over the 3rd Platoon that called for a Lt.---Charles Miller

May 19

19 May 1945: At 0300 enemy troops gathered in 7572 OBOE and TARE, launched a counterattack against the exposed right flank of Fox Company in KING-2 with such strength that it could not be repulsed. Fox Company was forced to withdraw to the reverse slope of GEORGE HILL with the remainder of its company. The nature of the counterattacks received by Fox Company on KING HILL were peculiar in that the enemy employed White Phosphorous Mortar Shells to great advantage. Fox Company also received fire from isolated enemy caves on the south slope of SUGAR LOAF HILL during its tenure of KING HILL. Apparently they had infiltrated through this draw on Fox Company's right flank and reoccupied positions on SUGAR LOAF HILL. Commencing shortly after day-break relief was effected from right to left in the 29th Marines zone by the 4th Marines. The relief was effected smoothly despite the fire fight in which we were engaged on the south slope of GEORGE HILL and the heavy artillery fires being laid in the center and left sectors of the regimental zone. Relief was completely effected by the 4th Marines at 1520. At 1530 the 29th Marines occupied the beach defenses in the following positions: Second Battalion on coast along MACHINATO AIRFIELD; First Battalion extended along coast north of MACHINATO AIRFIELD to seawall in 7878 KING, LOVE, MIKE and NAN; Third Battalion occupied coast from inlet in 7978 MIKE to 81799 HOW. The regimental command post was established at 7878 VICTOR.

During the period the regiment was in the lines excellent support was rendered by 2d Battalion, 15th Marines, 5th Provisional Rocket Detachment and 91st Chemical Mortar Company, (Separate) (USA) and Tank Group from 6th Tank Battalion used under difficult conditions with excellent results. Naval gunfire and air support were used continually with good results particularly for counterbattery fires in the, in the cases of Naval gunfire for night illumination. One of the few occasions when this was able to use the M-7 Tank Destroyers was during this period of action. They were used to fire against anti-tank guns and artillery emplaced on the western slopes of the SHURI HILL MASS. Despite the fact that the M-7s were under heavy fires, by careful use and selection of cover and firing positions, their fire proved very effective. Landing Vehicles, Tracked rendered indispensable aid in supplying front line troops and in the evacuation of casualties.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
5/19/45	Tp Fr:	Cp at 8079 V5--Troops in position. (Action: m)

The previous night the 4th Marines had been alerted, and now they began to move up the valley to relieve the 29th, 3/4 and 2/4 in the assault and 1/4 in reserve. By now the Japanese had begun to use their artillery all up and down the two hills themselves. They had nothing to lose. The relief was going to take all day in the confusion of smoke that they had to pour down and the smoke that the Japanese in turn threw in. The 4th had many casualties even before they settled into their lines. It would be two days

more before we would reach the Asato and could call this region ours.

For the men who had been pushed into this fierce cockpit, the last eight days would always seem an eternity; battalions melted away, companies had vanished, regiments themselves when they assembled after the crises took up pitifully small bivouac areas. This time had seen one regimental commander relieved, three battalion commanders wounded or killed, 11 out of 18 company commanders in the 22nd and 29th killed or wounded. There was hardly a single original lieutenant who had marched out with the companies. Before the 4th Marines had driven to the Asato the Division was to lose nearly a regiment of men.---Phillips Carlton

During the seven days from 12 May through 19 May 1945, "I" Company/29 had 27 men killed and 101 wounded. These figures include the Navy Corpsmen who were attached to our unit.---Kenneth Long

Marines Wounded

5/19/45	Anderson	Joseph	Pfc	337980
5/19/45	Payne	York	Pvt	993739
5/19/45	Stockwell	Harry	Pfc	835691
5/19/45	Thibeault	Charles	Pfc	310072
5/19/45	Utley	Cecil	Cpl	376861

After we were relieved by the 4th Marines and we went back to that airfield north of Naha, we spent some time at the same place we were at when we came back from up north. I had a buddy who enlisted with me from the 11th Marines who was around there and we spent a lot of time together, those guys had rigged up some showers and had razors and stuff, boy when I was there I was really "up town". They sure did treat me like I was a king.---Ambrose A Smith

Howard Tuma, yeah, I saw him again after I got out of the service and I was working in Chicago, he was a big guy.---Ernie Strange, Jr.

When relieved, [by the 4th Marines on 19 May] we went back towards that airfield north of Naha, about three or four of us set up in kind of a culvert used to drain the water off of the rice paddies. Water was flowing underneath us but we had used some boards to bridge the small amount of water that was flowing and were very comfortable, it was almost good enough to call home. One day a Japanese plane came zooming over our heads from the interior of the Island heading for the ships anchored off shore but the ships had spotted him right off and as the plane got closer to the ships, the antiaircraft guns intensified and before the Kamikaze reached his target he seemed to evaporate in a red ball of flame.---Ernie Strange, Jr.

Several days after our rest at the airfield north of Naha and shortly before Summerford was wounded a chaplain came to the front lines and conducted a church service for us which I

attended, it was near a small village. During the service a Jap artillery shell came whistling into the perimeter of our group and didn't explode but threw up considerable mud and water. Had it exploded I'm sure it would have caused heavy casualties.---Ernie Strange, Jr.

Another time a Marine by the name of Keller and I were in a foxhole. It must have been near Crescent Hill and our unit didn't move out for three days, when we finally did, we noticed a 5 inch Jap artillery shell that hadn't exploded only a few feet from the front of the foxhole.---Ken Aust

After we were relieved by the 4th Marines on Crescent Hill, what was left of the Company, about 30 or 40, were marched back to the area north of Naha for a week rest.---Hubert Welch

Early on the morning of the 19th, my fox hole buddy, Cicil Utley, awoke with a terrible headache and was complaining about the war's miseries and even the unfairness of it in regard to the men, that one had to be wounded to get the simplest reward medal, the Purple Heart. He asked me to bring him an aspirin from the Corpsman, which I did, to alleviate his headache. Later, about mid morning, the 4th Marines came in to relieve us and in the process of exchange of fox holes, the Japs counterattacked. When I learned later that Utley was hit in the neck and shoulder, I was almost elated to hear the news, when our corpsman, John Pauk, said it was a "happy wound" and that at last, Utley earned his Purple Heart and would get a rest from all that misery. Ye, deep down, I felt sad he was wounded and would miss him. I was twenty six and he was forty five years old. I looked up to him as an old salt or a fatherly figure. This amuses me now when I think that forty five was old and look back to see how awfully young forty five was, now that I'm seventy five. Whether Utley was a career man in the Corps, I don't recall. He already had a son in the Marines at that time as well. "I" Company was allowed to rest for over a week in the vicinity of Machinato airfield. When we got there I found my original BAR man, Ivan G. Zahler, all cleaned up and shaven, waiting for us. How this fellow did it always intrigued me, yet I knew he was clever and had a good knack of persuasion, and a lot of luck as well

During this respite, gave us a chance to clean up and shave, and to read and write letters. We also went out on patrols in small groups to search out holes and caves and possible infiltrators. Souvenirs were also big by-products of our mission. Bib items like Jam rifles, Samurai swords, Flags and the like could be bartered, sold at a good price or sent home, so we took advantage of that. At one location we found a hospital supply dump which was bombed or destroyed by artillery and it had all sorts of medical supplies. I remember seeing the bandages scattered around and tooth brushes by the gross (wooden handled ones), and all sorts of other medical items. The cave was blown out from a low hillside which could have even been an underground hospital. I took particular interest in one item there, a small centrifuge, but figured it was too big an item to send back to

the States, even if I was allowed to. I found some packaged dry salmon which I tasted very cautiously. It tasted so good I ate the whole thing. The most delicious morsel I had in months. Later, I found a brand new (1/2 inch) electric drill and it was still in a box with excelsior packing protruding from one side where a board had come loose. I spotted part of it's shiny handle. I sent this home, lying to the censoring Lieutenant, the contents of my package was an old, beat up drill, because he mentioned any new items would be confiscated. I had very good use of this for over 30 years.

By this time, I had also sent back two Jap rifles from the front lines to our Company Headquarters to keep until I had a rest period so I could send them home. When I went to claim them, no one had any knowledge of them. Somewhere, over some mantle piece or in a gun cabinet, are two of my hard earned trophies. Come-on Guys! After 49 years, own up to it! I'll forgive you! Who done it?---Frank Kukuchka

When we were relieved by the 4th Regiment [on Crescent Hill] we were one sorry group of guys and we were totally worn out. The worst part about the march back to the rest area was thinking about our buddies we left back up there.---Joe Bledsoe

Everyone has trouble remembering some of the names cause we never had a real chance to talk to all the guys, we talked to the guys next to us but that was all and some of those we didn't have too much of a chance to visit because they got wounded or killed right away.---Joe Bledsoe

Yeah, I remember the snake deal but I haven't thought of it for a long time, but I thought the snake was crawling for someones foxhole when one of the Marines shot him, and after the snake was killed, a Marine Lt held him up by the tail and it was longer than the Lt was tall, he was over 6 feet. I sure do remember that. Later on I put my pack down on two small snakes but those are the only two times I saw any.---Joe Bledsoe

During the same time we were given scopes for our rifles so we could see at night and as I remember, everything had a green color to it and after you looked through it for an hour or so every tree you saw seemed to be moving. They were handy when we stood watch at night though and this was the first and last time I saw them. [I think they were called snooper scopes]---Joe Bledsoe

At some point, we took a shower under a small waterfall in a stream nearby.---Albert Perkins

Jimmy Jenkins, I can't remember the unit he was with but I met him as we were going back for a rest and he was going up to the front.---Woodrow Hoffman

I didn't smoke and I heated a can of "C" rations with cigarettes and I think it took an entire carton. I did start

smoking in the hospital. I remember the rations contain many different brands, Chelsea, Fleetwood, and then the more popular ones Lucky Strike, Camel, Chesterfield. I recall we found a pack of Chelsea cigarettes on the body of a Jap and remarked that he deserved to die for smoking that brand.---Donald Honis

Yes, I remember the little stream with the water fall, the water was ice cold, so cold in fact, when you stepped into it you had to take a leak.---Donald Honis

Morning arrived and the 29th Marines were relieved by the 4th Regiment and what a welcome sight it was to see those guys. I recall the Marine who crawled up to my foxhole said, "piss-call" and he tumbled in. He was sure a welcome sight but I wasted no time introducing myself or telling him of my feeling, I got the hell out of there. His comment though was the first bit of humor I heard in about 2 weeks. It has come to my mind many times over the years whether or not he made it through that ordeal...I sure hope he did. (later I found out he was from either K or L Company, 3rd Battalion of the 4th Marines)

As I Company regrouped for the hike back to Machinato Airfield, just north of Naha, for what was to be a 9 day rest, the events of the last 7 days came to mind and seeing the other guys with sunken, red eyes, I realized that I had not been alone on that Hill. Everyone had the appearance of being in a daze with dirty and unorganized personal equipment, no conversation and definitely no smart remarks; we were the remnants of a unit that had gone into a battle and gave it our best but I believe most were thinking about those who had given it their all. As I remember this was the condition and state of our Company as we formed the two staggered columns on the dirt road, with our rifles at sling arms and headed toward the rest area.

One incident occurred on that march that I would like to relate and it happened about half way to our rest area. Walking with my head down in the stupor that I feel all of us were in, my rifle butt hit something to my front with a force that made the cleaning tools in the butt vibrate, I slowly raised my eyes and saw a persons leg, the rifle had struck his knee and I am sure the blow had enough force to cause pain. Raising my eyes further I was looking into the eyes of General Shepherd. He didn't show any signs of discomfort but it seemed to me he did have a look of compassion in his eyes. Not a word was spoken and I moved around the front of the jeep and continued to walk. It was the only time I had ever seen the man.---Kenneth Long

I can recall a Marine named Charles Thibeault and he was a member of the Machine Gun Platoon.---Charles Miller

May 19

19 May 1945: At 0300 enemy troops gathered in 7572 OBOE and TARE, launched a counterattack against the exposed right flank of Fox Company in KING-2 with such strength that it could not be repulsed. Fox Company was forced to withdraw to the reverse slope of GEORGE HILL with the remainder of its company. The nature of the counterattacks received by Fox Company on KING HILL were peculiar in that the enemy employed White Phosphorous Mortar Shells to great advantage. Fox Company also received fire from isolated enemy caves on the south slope of SUGAR LOAF HILL during its tenure of KING HILL. Apparently they had infiltrated through this draw on Fox Company's right flank and reoccupied positions on SUGAR LOAF HILL. Commencing shortly after day-break relief was effected from right to left in the 29th Marines zone by the 4th Marines. The relief was effected smoothly despite the fire fight in which we were engaged on the south slope of GEORGE HILL and the heavy artillery fires being laid in the center and left sectors of the regimental zone. Relief was completely effected by the 4th Marines at 1520. At 1530 the 29th Marines occupied the beach defenses in the following positions: Second Battalion on coast along MACHINATO AIRFIELD; First Battalion extended along coast north of MACHINATO AIRFIELD to seawall in 7878 KING, LOVE, MIKE and NAN; Third Battalion occupied coast from inlet in 7978 MIKE to 81799 HOW. The regimental command post was established at 7878 VICTOR.

During the period the regiment was in the lines excellent support was rendered by 2d Battalion, 15th Marines, 5th Provisional Rocket Detachment and 91st Chemical Mortar Company, (Separate) (USA) and Tank Group from 6th Tank Battalion used under difficult conditions with excellent results. Naval gunfire and air support were used continually with good results particularly for counterbattery fires in the, in the cases of Naval gunfire for night illumination. One of the few occasions when this was able to use the M-7 Tank Destroyers was during this period of action. They were used to fire against anti-tank guns and artillery emplaced on the western slopes of the SHURI HILL MASS. Despite the fact that the M-7s were under heavy fires, by careful use and selection of cover and firing positions, their fire proved very effective. Landing Vehicles, Tracked rendered indispensable aid in supplying front line troops and in the evacuation of casualties.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
5/19/45	Tp Fr:	Cp at 8079 V5--Troops in position. (Action: m)

The previous night the 4th Marines had been alerted, and now they began to move up the valley to relieve the 29th, 3/4 and 2/4 in the assault and 1/4 in reserve. By now the Japanese had begun to use their artillery all up and down the two hills themselves. They had nothing to lose. The relief was going to take all day in the confusion of smoke that they had to pour down and the smoke that the Japanese in turn threw in. The 4th had many casualties even before they settled into their lines. It would be two days

more before we would reach the Asato and could call this region ours.

For the men who had been pushed into this fierce cockpit, the last eight days would always seem and eternity; battalions melted away, companies had vanished, regiments themselves when they assembled after the crises took up pitifully small bivouac areas. This time had seen one regimental commander relieved, three battalion commanders wounded or killed, 11 out of 18 company commanders in the 22nd and 29th killed or wounded. There was hardly a single original lieutenant who had marched out with the companies. Before the 4th Marines had driven to the Asato the Division was to lose nearly a regiment of men.---Phillips Carlton

During the seven days from 12 May through 19 May 1945, "I" Company/29 had 27 men killed and 101 wounded. These figures include the Navy Corpsmen who were attached to our unit.---Kenneth Long

		Marines Wounded		
5/19/45	Anderson	Joseph	Pfc	337980
5/19/45	Payne	York	Fvt	993739
5/19/45	Stockwell	Harry	Pfc	835691
5/19/45	Thibeault	Charles	Pfc	310072
5/19/45	Utley	Cecil	Cpl	376861

After we were relieved by the 4th Marines and we went back to that airfield north of Naha, we spent some time at the same place we were at when we came back from up north. I had a buddy who enlisted with me from the 11th Marines who was around there and we spent a lot of time together, those guys had rigged up some showers and had razors and stuff, boy when I was there I was really "up town". They sure did treat me like I was a king.---Ambrose A Smith

Howard Tuma, yeah, I saw him again after I got out of the service and I was working in Chigago, he was a big guy.---Ernie Strange, Jr.

When relieved, [by the 4th Marines on 19 May] we went back towards that airfield north of Naha, about three or four of us set up in kind of a culvert used to drain the water off of the rice paddies. Water was flowing underneath us but we had used some boards to bridge the small amount of water that was flowing and were very comfortable, it was almost good enough to call home. One day a Japanese plane came zooming over our heads from the interior of the Island heading for the ships anchored off shore but the ships had spotted him right off and as the plane got closer to the ships, the antiaircraft guns intensified and before the Kamikaze reached his target he seemed to evaporate in a red ball of flame.---Ernie Strange, Jr.

Several days after our rest at the airfield north of Naha and shortly before Summerford was wounded a chaplain came to the front lines and conducted a church service for us which I

attended, it was near a small village. During the service a Jap artillery shell came whistling into the perimeter of our group and didn't explode but threw up considerable mud and water. Had it exploded I'm sure it would have caused heavy casualties.---Ernie Strange, Jr.

Another time a Marine by the name of Keller and I were in a foxhole. It must have been near Crescent Hill and our unit didn't move out for three days, when we finally did, we noticed a 5 inch Jap artillery shell that hadn't exploded only a few feet from the front of the foxhole.---Ken Aust

After we were relieved by the 4th Marines on Crescent Hill, what was left of the Company, about 30 or 40, were marched back to the area north of Naha for a week rest.---Hubert Welch

Early on the morning of the 19th, my fox hole buddy, Cicil Utley, awoke with a terrible headache and was complaining about the war's miseries and even the unfairness of it in regard to the men, that one had to be wounded to get the simplest reward medal, the Purple Heart. He asked me to bring him an aspirin from the Corpsman, which I did, to alleviate his headache. Later, about mid morning, the 4th Marines came in to relieve us and in the process of exchange of fox holes, the Japs counterattacked. When I learned later that Utley was hit in the neck and shoulder, I was almost elated to hear the news, when our corpsman, John Pauk, said it was a "happy wound" and that at last, Utley earned his Purple Heart and would get a rest from all that misery. Ye, deep down, I felt sad he was wounded and would miss him. I was twenty six and he was forty five years old. I looked up to him as an old salt or a fatherly figure. This amuses me now when I think that forty five was old and look back to see how awfully young forty five was, now that I'm seventy five. Whether Utley was a career man in the Corps, I don't recall. He already had a son in the Marines at that time as well. "I" Company was allowed to rest for over a week in the vicinity of Machinato airfield. When we got there I found my original BAR man, Ivan G. Zahler, all cleaned up and shaven, waiting for us. How this fellow did it always intrigued me, yet I knew he was clever and had a good knack of persuasion, and a lot of luck as well

During this respite, gave us a chance to clean up and shave, and to read and write letters. We also went out on patrols in small groups to search out holes and caves and possible infiltrators. Souvenirs were also big by-products of our mission. Bib items like Jam rifles, Samurai swords, Flags and the like could be bartered, sold at a good price or sent home, so we took advantage of that. At one location we found a hospital supply dump which was bombed or destroyed by artillery and it had all sorts of medical supplies. I remember seeing the bandages scattered around and tooth brushes by the gross (wooden handled ones), and all sorts of other medical items. The cave was blown out from a low hillside which could have even been an underground hospital. I took particular interest in one item there, a small centrifuge, but figured it was too big an item to send back to

the States, even if I was allowed to. I found some packaged dry salmon which I tasted very cautiously. It tasted so good I ate the whole thing. The most delicious morsel I had in months. Later, I found a brand new (1/2 inch) electric drill and it was still in a box with excelsior packing protruding from one side where a board had come loose. I spotted part of it's shiny handle. I sent this home, lying to the censoring Lieutenant, the contents of my package was an old, beat up drill, because he mentioned any new items would be confiscated. I had very good use of this for over 30 years.

By this time, I had also sent back two Jap rifles from the front lines to our Company Headquarters to keep until I had a rest period so I could send them home. When I went to claim them, no one had any knowledge of them. Somewhere, over some mantle piece or in a gun cabinet, are two of my hard earned trophies. Come-on Guys! After 49 years, own up to it! I'll forgive you! Who done it?---Frank Kukuchka

When we were relieved by the 4th Regiment [on Crescent Hill] we were one sorry group of guys and we were totally worn out. The worst part about the march back to the rest area was thinking about our buddies we left back up there.---Joe Bledsoe

Everyone has trouble remembering some of the names cause we never had a real chance to talk to all the guys, we talked to the guys next to us but that was all and some of those we didn't have too much of a chance to visit because they got wounded or killed right away.---Joe Bledsoe

Yeah, I remember the snake deal but I haven't thought of it for a long time, but I thought the snake was crawling for someones foxhole when one of the Marines shot him, and after the snake was killed, a Marine Lt held him up by the tail and it was longer than the Lt was tall, he was over 6 feet. I sure do remember that. Later on I put my pack down on two small snakes but those are the only two times I saw any.---Joe Bledsoe

During the same time we were given scopes for our rifles so we could see at night and as I remember, everything had a green color to it and after you looked through it for an hour or so every tree you saw seemed to be moving. They were handy when we stood watch at night though and this was the first and last time I saw them. [I think they were called snooper scopes]---Joe Bledsoe

At some point, we took a shower under a small waterfall in a stream nearby.---Albert Perkins

Jimmy Jenkins, I can't remember the unit he was with but I met him as we were going back for a rest and he was going up to the front.---Woodrow Hoffman

I didn't smoke and I heated a can of "C" rations with cigarettes and I think it took an entire carton. I did start

smoking in the hospital. I remember the rations contain many different brands, Chelsea, Fleetwood, and then the more popular ones Lucky Strike, Camel, Chesterfield. I recall we found a pack of Chelsea cigarettes on the body of a Jap and remarked that he deserved to die for smoking that brand.---Donald Honis

Yes, I remember the little stream with the water fall, the water was ice cold, so cold in fact, when you stepped into it you had to take a leak.---Donald Honis

Morning arrived and the 29th Marines were relieved by the 4th Regiment and what a welcome sight it was to see those guys. I recall the Marine who crawled up to my foxhole said, "piss-call" and he tumbled in. He was sure a welcome sight but I wasted no time introducing myself or telling him of my feeling, I got the hell out of there. His comment though was the first bit of humor I heard in about 2 weeks. It has come to my mind many times over the years whether or not he made it through that ordeal...I sure hope he did. (later I found out he was from either K or L Company, 3rd Battalion of the 4th Marines)

As I Company regrouped for the hike back to Machinato Airfield, just north of Naha, for what was to be a 9 day rest, the events of the last 7 days came to mind and seeing the other guys with sunken, red eyes, I realized that I had not been alone on that Hill. Everyone had the appearance of being in a daze with dirty and unorganized personal equipment, no conversation and definitely no smart remarks; we were the remnants of a unit that had gone into a battle and gave it our best but I believe most were thinking about those who had given it their all. As I remember this was the condition and state of our Company as we formed the two staggered columns on the dirt road, with our rifles at sling arms and headed toward the rest area.

One incident occurred on that march that I would like to relate and it happened about half way to our rest area. Walking with my head down in the stupor that I feel all of us were in, my rifle butt hit something to my front with a force that made the cleaning tools in the butt vibrate, I slowly raised my eyes and saw a persons leg, the rifle had struck his knee and I am sure the blow had enough force to cause pain. Raising my eyes further I was looking into the eyes of General Shepherd. He didn't show any signs of discomfort but it seemed to me he did have a look of compassion in his eyes. Not a word was spoken and I moved around the front of the jeep and continued to walk. It was the only time I had ever seen the man.---Kenneth Long

I can recall a Marine named Charles Thibeault and he was a member of the Machine Gun Platoon.---Charles Miller

May 20

20-27 May 1945: During this period the 29th Marines were engaged in reorganization and rehabilitation of troops with the assigned mission of beach defense in the positions occupied on 19 May. During this period the 29th Marines was to be prepared to resume the attack in either assault zone of action on order. Heavy rains fell throughout period making movement of troops and supply extremely difficult. Lieutenant Colonel S. S. Yeaten USMC, assumed command of the First Battalion vice Major R. P. Neuffer, USMC, on 27 May, 1945.

The person who I was to share the foxhole with was another survivor of the Half Moon Hill battle and wasn't a replacement and I can't remember his name. One of the first things we did when arriving at the spot was to dig in and make preparations to the area for the night. Although the Machinato Airfield area had been secured there was always the threat of infiltration and at that time there was the possibility of a Japanese counter attack along the China Sea coast. We planned our defense well, even to include the spots we would place our trip flares along the bottom of the drainage ditch so as to be able to detect any infiltration along this ditch during darkness. As I recall we didn't arm the flares until just prior to turning in at night and this was done by stringing a wire or cord across the spot we wanted to protect and attaching the other end to the pin of the flare that had been loosened to a point that the least tension applied would set it off. All the Marines around that area would be aware of where these flares were located to prevent them from being set off accidentally. The pins would then be replaced into the flares early the following morning. No one left their foxholes at night, not even here.

Although I can't recall the exact sequence of events during the time that we spent there I do remember we all craved sleep, and the first night was a real treat to be able to sleep for 2 hours without interruption. (we still had 2 hour foxhole watches) The sleep we experienced though wasn't the deep sleep that we were used to in our own bed at home but rather a sleep where one's mind drifted off just below consciousness always ready to spring back to reality and tackle the situation at hand with a clear mind. The uncommon sounds were the ones that woke a person, such as that popping sound made by a grenade or trip flare when the pin was removed, or the sound of metal on metal, the sounds of distant artillery or mortars didn't seem to have this effect.

---Kenneth Long

May 21

Another event was mailcall, with all the guys rushing to the spot where it was announced in order to be in the first ring of men that surrounded the one who was going to distribute it. A name was called and that person either went forward to pick it up or it was given to him in the form of a lob-pass from the distributor, no matter how it was presented to him he was happy to get it and immediately left the group to a more secluded spot to read it. Anticipation grew until the next name was barked out and so it went until it was all parceled out, the guys that didn't receive any would put on a good appearance but you could tell they were disappointed as they made their way back to their areas. Sometimes, even though they tried to prevent it, a name would be called out who hadn't made it through the Half Moon affair and the caller would have to be reminded that, "he didn't make it". The most popular Marines after mail call were those that received packages as they usually contained cookies or candy and no matter how crushed or soiled the contents were these were shared with his "buddies" and he always had a lot of them at that time. For hours after the mail call, pictures that were received were still being passed from one Marine to another but, these were usually photographs of the wife and kids and each viewer would comment on how pretty his wife was or how much the kids looked like him. Pictures of girlfriends were another matter and the owner of these photos were a bit more selective as to whom they showed, as the sex starved group that was there was liable to make any number of lustful remarks and he wasn't about to have his girl the center of this type of entertainment.---Kenneth Long



--The residue of war.

May 23

Company Replacements

5/23/45	Dolci	Quinto	Pfc	360878
5/23/45	Kempker	Raymond	Pvt	897092
5/23/45	Pruett	Alvin	FM/Cpl	434476

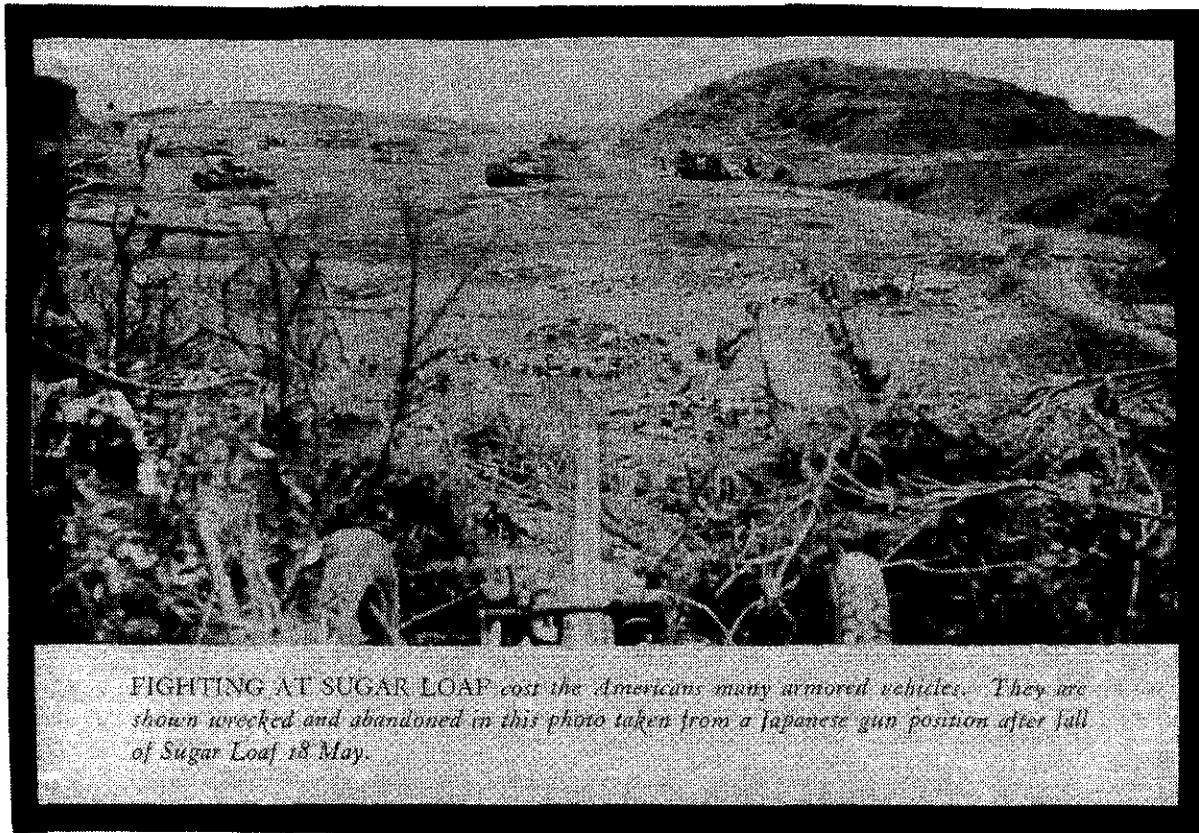
Sometimes in the morning, I would go for a short walk on the road that ran next to our perimeter and one morning I saw a footprint of a Jap soldier in the dirt about 40 yards from our foxhole. As far as I knew no one had seen him and it was evident he was Japanese by the shape of his shoe print. I had seen them on dead Japs and they were like tennis shoes but the toe was made in two sections as though the big toe and the toe next to it fit in one section and the remaining three were placed in the other. I have often wondered why they were designed that way. I alerted the group and we were especially watchful after that.---Kenneth Long



CRESCENT HILL held out until 21 May. Troops of the 4th Marines, 6th Division, crossing open ground to Crescent were under constant observation and fire from Japanese positions on Shuri Heights to the east.

May 22

One day on my way back from eating, they had set up a kitchen unit in a spot about 100 yards from our perimeter, I passed over a little knoll and there in front of me about eight feet was the biggest snake that I have ever seen. It was coiled and it's head was in the air about 3 feet, the mouth was open and it's body was the size of my forearm and needless to say I was stunned. My rifle was back at the foxhole, luckily another Marine was coming and seeing the situation came over and shot it. We had remembered the briefings we had prior to the invasion on the snakes and other things so we reported the incident and someone from Division took it away to have it checked. I kept my eyes open for snakes for the remainder of the battle but never saw any. I learned later it was a Habu or Okinawan Cobra.



FIGHTING AT SUGAR LOAF cost the Americans many armored vehicles. They are shown wrecked and abandoned in this photo taken from a Japanese gun position after fall of Sugar Loaf 18 May.

May 24



*This is a scene of completely desolated Sugar
Loaf Hill, near Shuri, one month after the
battle.*

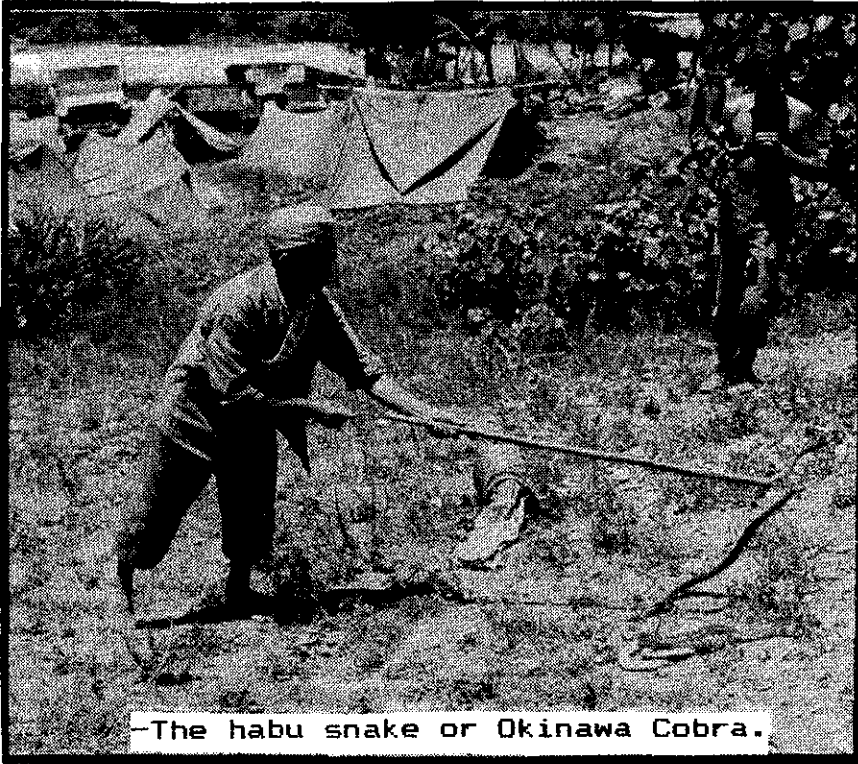


May 25

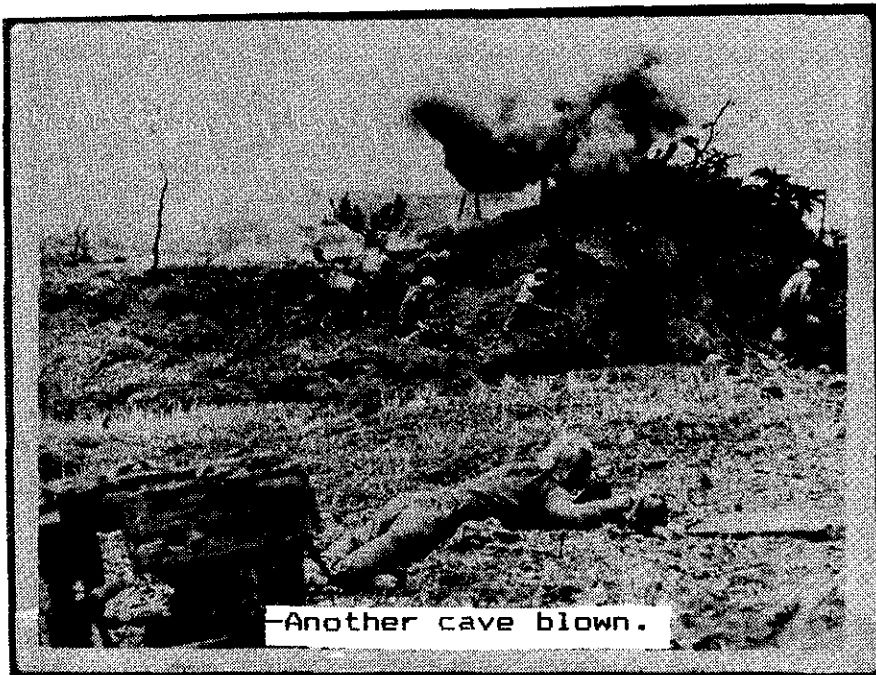


SUGAR LOAF AND HORSESHOE HILLS, photographed after the battle had moved on into Machishi and almost to Naha. Between Sugar Loaf and the hillock in foreground, where Marine attack centered, 10 knocked-out American armored vehicles can be seen.

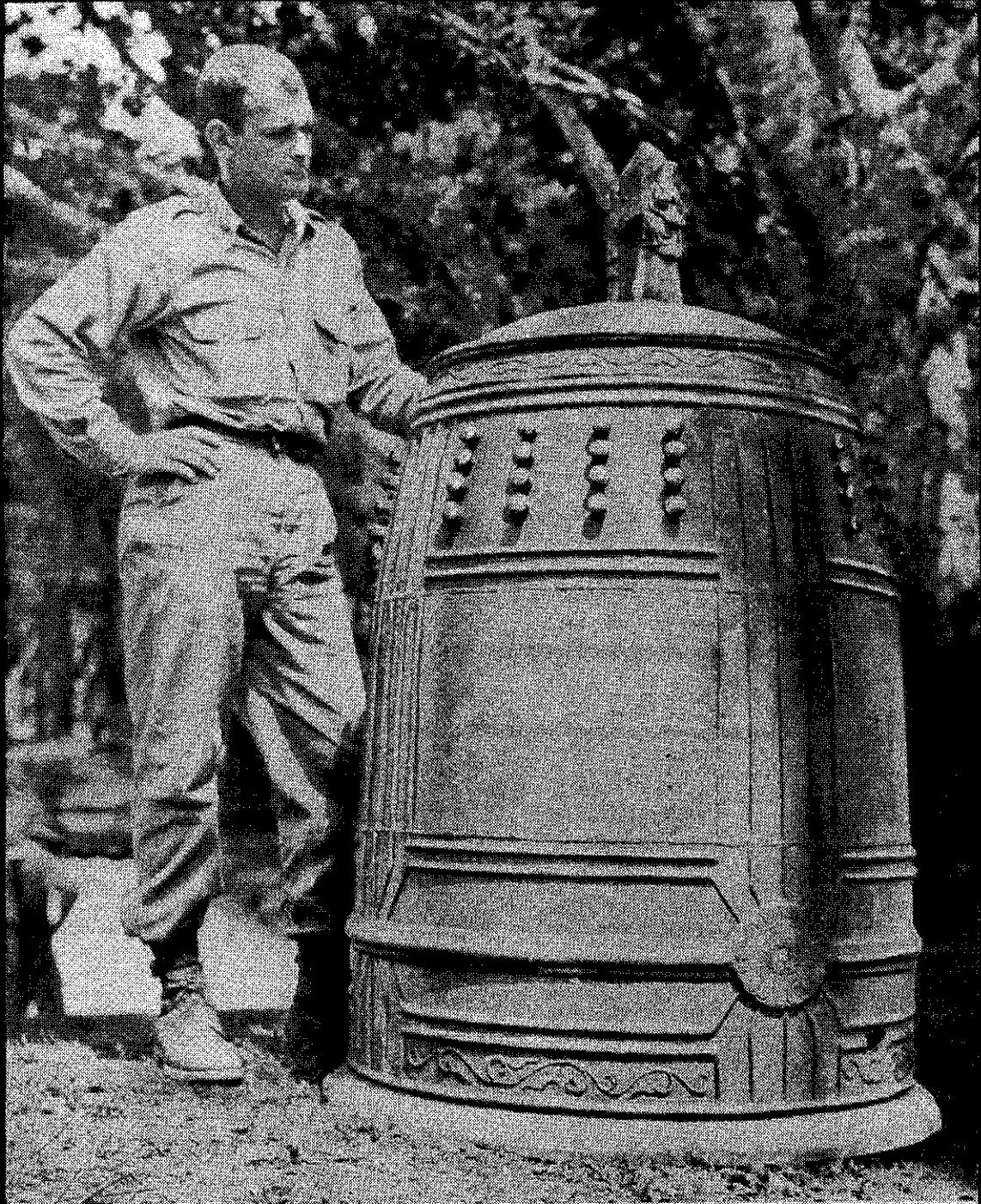
May 26



-The habu snake or Okinawa Cobra.



-Another cave blown.



SHURICASTLE BELL, with an American officer standing by. Bell is a companion to one brought to U. S. Naval Academy by Commodore Perry.

May 27

Company Replacements

5/27/45	Litrell	Anthony	Cpl	845432
5/27/45	Trignano	Otto	FM 1st	924114

Rumors were flying again that the 29th was going north to take over from the Army's 27th Division, but it didn't work out that way and we were destined to head south and relieve the 4th Marines, who along with the 22nd Marines had just taken Naha.

Since my experience with a BAR, when I got the Jap behind the concrete slab in the tomb, during the battle of the Half Moon, I considered changing my weapon from an M-1 to a BAR. In our area were piles of equipment such as canteens, rifles, helmets, knives, blankets, etc. no doubt supplied from the previous battle by the casualties there. I selected a BAR that didn't have the bi-pod but did have a handle in the middle of the front stock so that the weapon could be used like a sub-machine gun with the use of the sling over the right shoulder, this then along with a red handled knife that replaced my K-Bar was what I removed from the stacks of items.

We formed the two columns and began our southward march on May 27th passing through the east side of the city of Naha which had already had been captured. The sounds and familiar smells of war were again encountered as we approached the front and the bodies of the enemy were stewn about in various stages of decay. The main section of Naha could be seen in the distance to our right and the city was totally distroyed with only a few larger concrete structures still standing but badly dammaged. Shortly before reaching Naha we had passed through a group of Sea-Bees that were working on the bridge over the Asa-Kawa River and my new foxhole buddy traded his M-1 for a carbine from one of the guys. I thought it was a dumb thing to do but it was his decision, he commented that the M-1 was to heavy and nothing more was said about the matter. After crossing the river we passed near the old sugar mill that was a landmark we passed during our previous march to Half Moom Hill, and I think it was at this time I heard the two conflicting stories of how the two tall chimneys by the sugar mill had been destroyed. (with the Jap observers in them) The first was that a Marine put a satchel charge in each one of the fire doors and watched as the Japs were blown skyward like a cannon ball. The second was, when it was learned the Japanese were using it for directing their artillery and mortar fire, the 15th Artillery took care of it in a hurry. Although the first sounds more dramatic, I tend to favor the second.(the second story was also confirmed to me by Jeff Feiler, 47 years later who was with the 15th Marines).

We dug in for the night near a village north and east of Naha, called Machishi, waiting for morning when we would advance to the front and relieve the 4th Regiment. I can't think of any unusual event that took place that night and presume that we spent our time checking our equipment to be certain we had everthing and our rifles were ready. When night came my foxhole

mate had a special treat in that I had picked up a thin mat the the civilians used to sleep on. It was ideal because it was light and rolled into a small bundle so it was easy to carry on my half pack and since it was only about 5 feet long and 2 feet wide it would just fit into the foxhole. Night came and we reverted to our regular procedure of 2 hours of watch and 2 hours of sleep. In the morning both of us had been bothered throughout the night with the bites of some kind of insect and it wasn't until Double A Smith (our squad leader I think) said, "hell you've got lice, check the seams in your pants". We did and under the seams inside our pants legs they were lined up shoulder to shoulder. We didn't have time to kill them all since we were about ready to move out so we threw all of our clothes away (along with the mat) and put on fresh ones. It took us several days to get rid of those creatures and maybe they drowned from all the water in our foxhole we were to have during the next couple of weeks.---

Kenneth Long

Written below is a vivid account by a member of th 60-mm Mortar Platoon, K Company, 5th Marines, and gives his impressions of the area (Crescent Hill) when his unit arrived. The author's name is E.B. Sledge, and was taken from his book, WITH THE OLD BREED-At Peleliu and Okinawa.

Taken From: With The Old Breed
At Peleliu And Okinawa
E. B. Sledge
1981
Presidio

Race Across the Island

On 2 April (D + 2) the 1st Marine Division continued its attack across the island. We moved out with our planes overhead but without artillery fire, because no organized body of Japanese had been located ahead of us. Everyone was asking the same question: "Where the hell are the Nips?" Some scattered small groups were encountered and put up a fight, but the main Japanese army had vanished.

During the morning I saw a couple of dead enemy soldiers who apparently had been acting as observers in a large leafless tree when some of the prelanding bombardment killed them. One still hung over a limb. His intestines were strung out among the branches like garland decorations on a Christmas tree. The other man lay beneath the tree. He had lost a leg which rested on the other side of the tree with the leggings and trouser leg still wrapped neatly around it. In addition to their ghoulis condition, I noted that both soldiers wore high-top leather hobnail shoes. That was the first time I had seen that type of Japanese footwear. All the enemy I had seen on Peleliu had worn the rubber-soled canvas split-toed "tabi".

We encountered some Okinawans---mostly old men, women, and children. The Japanese had conscripted all the young men as laborers and a few as troops, so we saw few of them. We sent the

civilians to the rear where they were put into internment camps so they couldn't aid the enemy.

These people were the first civilians I had seen in a combat area. They were pathetic. The most pitiful things about the Okinawan civilians were that they were totally bewildered by the shock of our invasion, and they were scared to death of us. Countless times they passed us on the way to the rear with fear, dismay, and confusion on their faces.

The children were nearly all cute and bright-faced. They had round faces and dark eyes. The little boys usually had close-cropped hair, and the little girls had their shiny jet-black locks bobbed in the Japanese children's style of the period. The children won our hearts. Nearly all of us gave them all the candy and rations we could spare. They were quicker to lose their fear of us than the older people, and we had some good laughs with them. One of the funnier episodes I witnessed involved two Okinawan women and their small children. We had been ordered to halt and "take ten" (a ten-minute rest) before resuming our rapid advance across the island. My squad stopped near a typical Okinawan well constructed of stone and forming a basin about two feet deep and about four feet by six feet on the sides. Water bubbled out of a rocky hillside. We watched two women and their children getting a drink. They seemed a bit nervous and afraid of us, of course. But life had its demands with children about, so one woman sat on a rock, nonchalantly opened her kimono top, and began breast-feeding her small baby.

While the baby nursed, and we watched, the second child (about four years old) played with his mother's sandals. The little fellow quickly tired of this and kept pestering his mother for attention. The second woman had her hands full with a small child of her own, so she wasn't any help. The mother spoke sharply to her bored child, but he started climbing all over the baby and interfering with the nursing. As we looked on with keen interest, the exasperated mother removed her breast from the mouth of the nursing baby and pointed it at the face of the fractious brother. She squeezed her breast just as you would milk a cow and squirted a jet of milk into the child's face. The startled boy began bawling at the top of his lungs while rubbing the milk out of his eyes.

We all roared with laughter, rolling around on the deck and holding our sides. The women looked up, not realizing why we were laughing, but began to grin because the tension was broken. The little recipient of the milk in the eyes stopped crying and started grinning too.

"Get your gear on; we're moving out," came the word down the column. As we shouldered our weapons and ammo and moved out amid continued laughter, the story traveled along to the amusement of all. We passed the two smiling mothers and the grinning toddler, his cute face still wet with his mother's milk.

---About mid-April the 11th Marines, the 1st Marine Division's artillery regiment, had moved south to add the weight of its firepower to the army's offensive. On 19 April the 27th Infantry Division launched a disastrous tank-infantry attack against Kakazu Ridge. Thirty army tanks became separated from

their infantry support. The Japanese knocked out twenty-two of them in the ensuing fight. The 1st Marine Division's tank battalion offered the closest replacements for the tanks lost by the army.

Lt. Gen. Simon B. Buckner, Tenth Army commander, ordered Maj. Gen. Roy S. Geiger, III Amphibious Corps commander, to send the 1st Tank Battalion south to join the 27th Infantry Division. Geiger objected to the piecemeal employment of his Marines, so Buckner changed his orders and sent the entire 1st Marine Division south to relieve the 27th Infantry Division on the extreme right of the line just north of Machinato Airfield.

The first of May dawned cloudy and chilly. A few of us mortarmen built a small fire next to a niche in the side of the ridge to warm ourselves. The dismal weather and our impending move south made us gloomy. We stood around the fire eating our last chow before heading south. The fire crackled cheerily, and the coffee smelled good. I was nervous and hated to leave our little valley. We tossed our last ration cartons and wrappers into the fire---

INTO THE ABYSS

We boarded trucks and headed south over dusty roads. In this central portion of Okinawa we first passed many bivouacs of service troops and vast ammunition and supply dumps, all covered with camouflage netting. Next we came to several artillery positions. From the piles of empty brass shell cases, we knew they had fired a lot. And from the numerous shell craters gouged into the fields of grass, we could tell that the Japanese had thrown in plenty of counterbattery fire.

At some unmarked spot, we stopped and got off the trucks. I was filled with dread. We took up a single file on the right side of a narrow coral road and began walking south. Ahead we could hear the crash and thunder of enemy mortar and artillery shells, the rattle of machine guns, and the popping of rifles. Our own artillery shells whistled southbound.

"Keep your five-pace interval," came an order.

We did not talk. Each man was alone with his thoughts.

Shortly a column of men approached us on the other side of the road. They were the army infantry from 106th Regiment, 27th Infantry Division that we were relieving. Their tragic expressions revealed where they had been. They were dead beat, dirty and grisly, hollow-eyed and tight-faced. I hadn't seen such faces since Peleliu.

As they filed past us, one tall, lanky fellow caught my eye and said in a weary voice, "It's hell up there, Marine."

Nervous about what was ahead and a bit irritated that he might think I was a boot, I said with some impatience, "yeah, I know. I was at Peleliu."

He looked at me blankly and moved on---

The Japanese counterattack of 3-4 May was a major effort aimed at confusing the American battle plan by isolating and destroying the 1st Marine Division. The Japanese made a night amphibious landing of several hundred men on the east coast

behind the 7th Infantry Division. Coordinated with that landing was another on the west coast behind the 1st Marine Division. The Japanese plan called for the two elements to move inland, join up, and create confusion to the rear while the main counterattack hit the American center.

The Japanese 24th Infantry Division concentrated its frontal attack on the boundary between the American army's 7th and 77th Infantry divisions. The enemy planned to send a separate brigade through the gap in the American lines created by the 24th Division's attack, swing it to the left behind the 1st Marine Division, and hit the Marines as the Japanese 62d Infantry Division attacked the 1st Marine Division's front.

If the plan succeeded, the enemy would isolate and destroy the 1st Marine Division. It failed when the two American army divisions stopped the frontal assault, except for a few minor penetrations, with more than 6,000 Japanese dead counted. At the same time, the 1st Marines (on the right of the 1st Marine Division) discovered the enemy landing on the west coast. They killed over 300 enemy in the water and on the beach.

[At 0330, 10 May, the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the Twenty-second Marines crossed the Asa River and the 1st Marine Division's zone of action was shifted to the left (east) so that its right flank was just west of Sugar Loaf and Half Moon Hills. The Sixth Marine Division was assigned the zone of action from the right flank of the 1st Marine Division to the west coast of Okinawa, which included the city of Naha.]

In the path of the 1st Marine Division, from north to south, lay Awacha, Dakeshi Ridge, Dakeshi Village, Wana Ridge, Wana Village, and Wana Draw. South of the latter lay the defenses and the heights of Shuri itself. All these ridges and villages were defended heavily by well-prepared, mutually supporting fortifications built into a skillful system of defense-in-depth. Similarly powerful defensive positions faced the 6th Marine Division on the right and the army infantry divisions on the left. The Japanese ferociously defended every yard of ground and conserved their strength to inflict maximum losses on the American forces. The tactics turned Okinawa into a bloodbath.

---After bitter fighting, the Awacha defenses and then those around Dakeshi fell to our division. Yet, between us and Shuri, there remained another system of heavy Japanese defenses: Wana. The costly battle against them would become known as the battle for Wana Draw.

While the 1st Marine Division was fighting the costly, heartbreaking battle against the Wana positions, the 6th Marine Division (on the right and slightly forward) had been fighting a terrible battle for Sugar Loaf Hill. Sugar Loaf and the surrounding pieces of prominent terrain---The Horse Shoe and Half Moon---were located on the main ridge running from Naha to Shuri. Like Wana, they were key Japanese defensive positions in the complex that guarded the Shuri Heights.

During the morning of 23 May, the boundary between the 1st Marine Division and the 6th Marine Division shifted to the right (West) so the latter could rearrange its lines. The 3d Battalion, 5th Marines went into line on the right to take over the extended

front.

I remember the move vividly, because we entered the worst area I ever saw on a battlefield. And we stayed there more than a week. I shudder at the memory of it.

[E.B. Sledge is now entering the area on the right (west) slope of Half Moon Hill which was so costly for "I" Company, 29th Marines several days before. When relieved by the 4th Marines, on 19 May many of our dead comrades were left near the summit because of the heavy artillery, mortar and small arms fire coming from the Shuri Hill mass as well as Sugar Loaf and Horse Shoe Hills and some were not buried until 10 June. Sledge as well as other members of K Company, 1st Marines might have very well been using foxholes I Company, 29th Marines dug a week before.]

The weather turned cloudy on 21 May, and the rains began. By midnight the drizzle became a deluge. It was the beginning of a ten-day period of torrential rains. The weather was chilly and mud, mud, mud was everywhere. We slipped and slid along the trails with every step we took.

We shouldered our weapons and gear and the column telescoped its way circuitously through muddy draws, slipping and sliding along the slopes of barren hills to avoid observation and consequent shelling by the enemy. It rained off and on. The mud got worse the farther we went. As we approached our destination, the Japanese dead, scattered about in most areas---became more numerous. When we had dug in near enemy dead and conditions permitted, we always shoveled soil over them in a vain effort to cut down the stench and to control the swarming flies. But the desperate fighting for ten days against and around Sugar Loaf Hill and the continued, prolonged Japanese artillery and mortar fire had made it impossible for the Marine units there to bury the enemy dead.

We soon saw that it also had been impossible to remove many Marine dead. They lay where they had fallen---an uncommon sight even to the veterans in our ranks. It was a strong Marine tradition to move our dead, sometimes even at considerable risk, to an area where they could be covered with a poncho and later collected by the graves registration people. But efforts to remove many Marines killed in the area we entered had been in vain, even after Sugar Loaf Hill had been captured following days of terrible fighting.

The rains had begun 21 May, almost as soon as Sugar Loaf Hill had been secured by men of the 6th Marine Division. Because of the deep mud, the able-bodied could scarcely rescue and evacuate their wounded and bring up vital ammo and rations. Regrettably, the dead had to wait. It couldn't have been otherwise.

We slogged along through a muddy draw around the base of a knoll. On our left we saw six Marine corpses. They were lying face down against a gentle muddy slope where they apparently had hugged the deck to escape Japanese shells. They were "bunched up"---in a row, side by side, scarcely a foot apart. They were so close together that they probably had all been killed by the same shell. Their browning faces lay against the mud in an even row. One could imagine the words of fear or reassurance that had been

passed among them as they lay under the terror of the shelling. Each clutched a rusting rifle, and every sign indicated that those tragic figures were new replacements, fresh to the shock of combat.

The first man's left hand was extended forward, palm down. His fingers clutched the mud in a death grip. A beautiful, shiny gold watch was held in place around the decaying wrist by an elaborate gold metal stretch band. (Most of the men I knew---and myself---wore plain, simple luminous-dial, waterproof, shockproof wristwatches with a plain green cloth wristband) How strange, I thought, for a Marine to wear a flashy, conspicuous watch while on the front lines, stranger still that some Japanese hadn't slipped out during a dark night and taken it.

As we filed past the dead Marines, each of my buddies turned his head and gazed at the horrible spectacle with an expression that revealed how much the scene inwardly sickened us all.

---The sight of dead Japanese didn't bother us in the least, but the sight of Marine dead brought forth regret, never indifference.

HALF MOON HILL

While the artillery swished and whined overhead in both directions, we moved to our new positions in the westernmost extension of Wana Draw. By twos and threes, the Company K men forming the front line eased onto a barren, muddy, shell-torn ridge named Half Moon Hill and into the foxholes of the company we were relieving. [Sledge's unit relieved a unit of the 4th Marines as the 29th Marines were relieved by the 4th Marines on the morning of the 19 May.] Our mortar section went into place behind a low rise of ground below the ridge and about a hundred yards back of the front lines. The terrain between us and Half Moon was nearly flat. The little elevation behind which we emplaced our guns was so low that when we stood up beside the gun pit, we could see clearly up to the company's forward lines on the ridge.

Readily visible beyond that, to the left front, were the still higher smoke-shrouded Shuri Heights, the heart of the Japanese defensive system. That ominous and formidable terrain feature was constantly under bombardment of varying intensity from our artillery, heavy mortars, and gunfire support ships. No matter, though. It didn't seem to deter the enemy observers from directing their artillery and heavy mortars in shelling our whole area frequently, every day and every night.

We faced south on Half Moon. A narrow-gauge railroad track lay a short distance to our right and ran south through a flat are between Half Moon and a ridge to our right known as the Horse Shoe. Beyond that it swung westward toward Naha. An officer told us that the ridge to our right (west) and slightly to our rear across the railroad was Sugar Loaf Hill.

Company K was on the right flank of 3/5 and moved up onto the western part of the base of Half Moon. The Japanese still occupied caves in both of the southward-pointing tips of the crescent. The right-flank foxhole of our company was dug on the crest at the western edge of the end of the base of Half Moon.

Below it to the right the ridge dropped away to low flat ground.

Our Company CP was situated in the sunken railroad bed to the right of our mortar section's position. A nice tarpaulin was stretched over the CP from one side of the railroad embankment to the other. This kept the post snug and dry while torrents of chilly rain kept shivering riflemen, machine gunners, and mortarmen soaked, cold, and miserable day and night in open foxholes. The rain greeted us as we moved into our assigned area.

The almost continuous downpour that started on 21 May turned Wana Draw into a sea of mud and water that resembled a lake. Tanks bogged down and even amtracs could not negotiate the morass. Living conditions on the front lines were pitiful. Supply and evacuation problems were severe. Food water, and ammunition were scarce. Foxholes had to be bailed out constantly. The men's clothing, shoes, feet, and bodies remained constantly wet. Sleep was nearly impossible. The mental and physical strain took a mounting toll on the Marines.

Making an almost impossible situation worse were the deteriorating bodies of Marines and Japanese that lay just outside the foxholes where they had fallen during the five days of ferocious fighting that preceded Company K's arrival on Half Moon. Each day's fighting saw the number of corpses increase. Flies multiplied, and amoebic dysentery broke out. The men of Company K, together with the rest of the 1st Marine Division, would live and fight in that hell for ten days.

We dispersed our guns and dug gun pits as best we could in the mud. Snafu [a fellow Marine] and I took compass readings and set aiming stakes based on the readings from our observer. As soon as we fired a couple of rounds of HE to register my gun, it was obvious we had a bad problem with the base plate of our mortar being driven farther into the soft soil with the recoil of each shell. We reasoned the rain would soon stop, however, or if it didn't, a couple of pieces of ammo box under the base plate would hold it firm. What a mistake!

After digging in the gun, registering in on the aiming stakes, and preparing ammo for future use, I had my first opportunity to look around our position. It was the most ghastly corner of hell I had ever witnessed. As far as I could see, an area that previously had been a low grassy valley with a picturesque stream meandering through it was a muddy, repulsive open sore on the land. The place was choked with the putrefaction of death, decay, and destruction. In a shallow defilade to our right, between my gun pit and the railroad, lay about twenty dead Marines, each on a stretcher and covered to his ankles with a poncho--a commonplace, albeit tragic, scene to every veteran. Those bodies had been placed there to await transport to the rear for burial. At least those dead were covered from the torrents of the rain that had made them miserable in life and from the swarms of flies that sought to hasten their decay. But as I looked about, I saw that other Marine dead couldn't be tended properly. The whole area was pocked with shell craters and churned up by explosions. Every crater was half full of water, and many of them held a Marine corpse. The bodies lay pathetically just as they had been killed, half submerged in muck and water, rusting

weapons still in hand. Swarms of big flies hovered about them.

'Why ain't them poor guys been covered with ponchos?' mumbled my foxhole buddy as he glanced grimly about with a distraught expression on his grizzled face. His answer came the moment he spoke. Japanese 75mm shells came whining and whistling into the area. We cowered in our hole as they crashed and thundered around us. The enemy gunners on commanding Shuri Heights were registering their artillery and mortars on our positions. We realized quickly that anytime any of us moved out of our holes, the shelling began immediately. We had a terrible time getting our wounded evacuated through the shell fire and mud without the---stretcher-bearers getting hit. Thus it was perfectly clear why the Marine dead were left where they had fallen.

Everywhere lay Japanese corpses killed in the heavy fighting. Infantry equipment of every type, U.S. and Japanese, was scattered about. Helmets, rifles, BARs, pack, cartridge belts, canteens, shoes, ammo boxes, shell cases, machine-gun ammo belts, all were strewn around us up to and all over Half Moon.

The mud was knee deep in some places, probably deeper in others if one dared venture there. For several feet around every corpse, maggots crawled about in the muck and then were washed away by the runoff of the rain. There wasn't a tree or bush left. All was open country. Shells had torn up the turf so completely that ground cover was nonexistent. The rain poured down on us as evening approached. The scene was nothing but mud; shell fire; flooded craters with their silent, pathetic, rotting occupants; knocked-out tanks and amtracs; and discarded equipment---utter desolation.

The stench of death was overpowering. The only way I could bear the monstrous horror of it all was to look upward away from the earthly reality surrounding us, watch the leaden gray clouds go scudding over, and repeat over and over to myself that the situation was unreal---just a nightmare---that I would soon awake and find myself somewhere else. But the ever-present smell of death saturated my nostrils. It was there with every breath I took.

I existed from moment to moment, sometimes thinking death would have been preferable. We were in the depths of the abyss, the ultimate horror of war. During the fighting around the Umurbrogol Pocket on Peleliu, I had been depressed by the wastage of human lives. But in the mud and driving rain before Shuri, we were surrounded by maggots and decay. Men struggled and fought and bled in an environment so degrading I believed we had been flung into hell's own cesspool---

At daybreak the morning after we took over the line on Half Moon, George Sarrett and I went up onto the ridge to our observation post. Half Moon was shaped like a crescent, with the arms pointing southward. Our battalion line stretched along the crest of the ridge as it formed the base of the crescent. The arms extended outward beyond our front lines, and Japanese occupied caves in the reverse slopes of those arms, particularly the one on the left (east). They made our line a hot spot.

To our front, the ridge sloped down sharply from the crest

then more gently all the way to a big road embankment approximately three hundred yards out and running parallel to our lines. A large culvert opened toward us through the embankment. The area to our front was well drained and as bare as the back of one's hand. It wasn't heavily cratered. Two shallow ditches about fifty yards apart ran across the area between the southern tips of the Half Moon. These ditches were closer to the road embankment than to our lines. The sloping area leading to the culvert resembled an amphitheater bordered by the base of the crescent (where we were) to the north, the arms of the crescent extending southward, and the high road embankment running east and west at the southern end. Our visibility within the amphitheater was perfect (except for the reverse slopes of the arms of the crescent).

Marines of 2/4 had warned us as they departed that the Japanese came out of the caves in the reverse slopes of the crescent's arms at night and generally raised hell. To combat that, our ships kept star shells aloft, and our 60mm mortars kept flares burning in the wet sky above the ridge all night every night we were there.

As the dawn light grew brighter, we could see the lay of the land through the drizzle and thin fog. So we registered the mortar section's three guns with an aiming stake on one of each of three important terrain features. We had one gun register in on the reverse slope of the left-hand extension of the Half Moon. A second mortar we registered on the reverse slope of the road embankment. We registered the third gun to cover the area around the mouth of the culvert.

No sooner had we registered the guns than we got a reaction. Big 90mm Japanese mortar shells began crashing along the crest of the ridge. They came so thick and so fast we knew an entire enemy mortar section was firing on us, not an isolated gun. They were zeroed in on the ridge and traversed along the crest from my left to the far right end of the company's line. It was an awful pounding. Each big shell fluttered and swished down and went off with a flash and an ear-splitting crash. Shrapnel growled through the air, and several men were wounded badly. Each shell threw stinking mud around when it exploded. The wounded were moved down behind the ridge with great difficulty because of the slippery, muddy slopes. A Corpsman gave them aid, and they were carried to the rear---shocked, torn, and bleeding.

An uneasy quiet then settled along the line. Suddenly, someone yelled, "There goes one." A single Japanese soldier dashed out of the blackness of the culvert. He carried his bayoneted rifle and wore a full pack. He ran into the open, turned, and headed for shelter behind the tip of the southern end of the crescent arm on our left front. It looked as though he had about a thirty-yard dash to make. Several of our riflemen and BARmen opened up, and the soldier was bowled over by their bullets before he reached the shelter of the ridge. Our men cheered and yelled when he went down.

As the day wore on, more Japanese ran out of the culvert in ones and twos and dashed for the shelter of the same ridge extension. It was obvious they wanted to concentrate on the

reverse slope there from where they could launch counterattacks, raids, and infiltration attempts on our front line. Obviously, it was to our best interest to stop them as quickly as possible. Any enemy soldier who made it in behind that slope might become one's unwelcome foxhole companion some night.

When the Japanese ran out of the culvert, our men fired on them and nearly always knocked them down. The riflemen, BARmen, and machine gunners looked on it as fine target practice, because we received no return small-arms fire, and the Japanese mortars were quiet.---

As daylight waned, I looked out to our front through the drizzling rain falling through the still, foul air.---Everything out there was motionless, only death and desolation among the enemy bodies.

[The heavy rains continued.] If a Marine slipped and slid down the back slope of the muddy ridge, he was apt to reach the bottom vomiting. I saw more than one man lose his footing and slip and slide all the way to the bottom only to stand up horror-stricken as he watched in disbelief while fat maggots tumbled out of his muddy dungaree pockets, cartridge belt, legging lacings and the like. Then he and a buddy would shake or scrape them away with a piece of ammo box or a knife blade.

We didn't talk about such things. They were too horrible and obscene even for hardened veterans. The conditions taxed the toughest I knew almost to the point of screaming. Nor do authors normally write about such vileness; unless they have seen it with their own eyes, it is too preposterous to think that men could actually live and fight for days and nights on end under such terrible conditions and not be driven insane. But I saw much of it there on Okinawa and to me the war was insanity.

BREAKTHROUGH

Because of the surroundings, our casualties during the stalemate on Half Moon were some of the most pathetic I ever had seen. Certainly a beautiful landscape didn't make a wound less painful or a death less tragic. But our situation before Shuri was the most awful place conceivable for a man to be hurt or to die.

Most of the wounds resulted from enemy shell fragments, but it seemed to me we had more than the usual number of cases of blast concussion from exploding shells. That was understandable because of the frequent heavy shellings we were subjected to. All the casualties were muddy and soaking wet like the rest of us. That seemed to accentuate the bloody battle dressings on their wounds and their dull expressions of shock and pain which made the horror and hopelessness of it all more vivid as we struggled through the chilly driving rain and deep mud to evacuate them.

Some of the concussion cases could walk and were helped and led (some seemed to have no sure sense of direction) to the rear like men walking in their sleep. Some wore wild-eyed expressions of shock and fear. Others whom I knew well, though could barely recognize, wore expressions of idiots or simpletons knocked too witless to be afraid anymore. The blast of a shell had literally jolted them into a different state of awareness from the rest of

us. Some of those who didn't return probably never recovered but were doomed to remain in mental limbo and spend their futures in a veteran's hospital as "living dead."

The combat fatigue cases were distressing. They ranged in their reactions from a state of dull detachment seemingly unaware of their surroundings, to quiet sobbing, or all the way to wild screaming and shouting. Stress was the essential factor we had to cope with in combat, under small-arms fire, and in warding off infiltrators and raiders during sleepless, rainy nights for prolonged periods; but being shelled so frequently during the prolonged Shuri stalemate seemed to increase the strain beyond that which many otherwise stable and hardened Marines could endure without mental or physical collapse. From my experience, of all the hardships and hazards the troops had to suffer, prolonged shell fire was more apt to break a man psychologically than anything else.

---Most of us had serious trouble with our feet. An infantryman with sore feet was in miserable shape under the best of living conditions. During a period of about fourteen or fifteen days, as near as I can calculate the time (from 21 May to 5 June), My feet and those of my buddies were soaking wet, and our boondockers were caked with sticky mud. Being up on the line and frequently shelled prevented a man from taking off his boondockers to put on a pair of dry socks. And even if he had dry socks, there was no way to clean and dry the leather boondockers. Most of us removed our mud-caked canvas leggings and tucked our trouser cuffs into our sock tops, but it didn't help our feet much. Consequently most men's feet were in bad condition.

My feet were sore, and it hurt to walk or run. The insides of my boondockers gave me the sensation of being slimy when I wiggled my toes to try to warm my feet with increased circulation. The repulsive sensation of slippery, slimy feet grew worse each day. My sore feet slid back and forth inside my soaked boondockers when I walked or ran. Fortunately they never became infected, a miracle in itself.

Sore feet caused by prolonged exposure to mud and water was called immersion foot, I learned later. In World War I they called the same condition trench foot. To me it was an unforgettable sensation of extreme personal filth and painful discomfort. It was the kind of experience that would make a man sincerely grateful for the rest of his life for clean, dry socks. As simple a condition as dry socks seemed a luxury.

The almost constant rain also caused the skin on my fingers to develop a strange shrunken and wrinkled appearance. My nails softened. Sores developed on the knuckles and backs of both hands. These grew a little larger each day and hurt whenever I moved my fingers I was always knocking the scabs off against ammo boxes and the like. Similar sores had tormented combat troops in the South Pacific campaigns and were called jungle rot or jungle sores.

Some of the younger replacements who came to us then had trouble adjusting, and not just to the shelling. That was enough to shake up the strongest veteran, but they were utterly dismayed

by our horrible surroundings. Numerous Marine replacements for combat units on Okinawa never had their names added to their units' muster rolls, because they got hit before notice of their transfer from their replacement draft to the combat unit ever reached Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps. So they were listed on the casualty rolls as members of various replacement drafts.

It was also common throughout the campaign for replacements to get hit before we even knew their names. They came up confused, frightened, and hopeful, got wounded or killed, and went right back to the rear on the route by which they had come, shocked, bleeding, or stiff. They were forlorn figures coming up to the meat grinder and going right back out of it like homeless waifs, unknown and faceless to us, like unread books on a shelf. They never "belonged" to the company or made any friends before they got hit.

---Among the craters off the ridge to the west was a scattering of Marine corpses. Just beyond the right edge of the end foxhole, the ridge fell away steeply to the flat, muddy ground. [This area was a small valley in which the narrow gauged railroad was located. Beyond this valley was Sugar Loaf and Horse Shoe Hills.] Next to the base of the ridge, almost directly below me, was a partially flooded crater about three feet in diameter and probably three feet deep. In this crater was the body of a Marine whose grisly visage has remained disturbingly clear in my memory. If I close my eyes, he is as vivid as though I had seen him only yesterday.

The pathetic figure sat with his back toward the enemy and leaned against the south edge of the crater. His head was cocked, and his helmet rested against the side of the crater so that his face, or what remained of it looked straight up at me. His knees were flexed and spread apart. Across his thighs, still clutched in his skeletal hands, was his rusting BAR. Canvas leggings were laced neatly along the sides of his calves and over his boondockers. His ankles were covered with muddy water, but the toes of his boondockers were visible above the surface. His dungarees, helmet, cover, and 782 gear appeared new. They were neither mud-spattered nor faded.

I was confident that he had been a new replacement. Every aspect of that big man looked much like a Marine "taking ten" on maneuvers before the order to move out again. He apparently had been killed early in the attacks against the Half Moon, before the rains began. Beneath his helmet brim I could see the visor of a green cotton fatigue cap. Under that cap were the most ghastly skeletal remains I had ever seen---and I had already seen too many. During the day I sometimes watched big rain drops splashing into the crater around that corpse and remembered how as a child I had been fascinated by rain drops splashing around a large green frog as he sat in a ditch near home. My grandmother had told me that elves made little splashes like that, and they were called water babies. So I sat in my foxhole and watched the water babies splashing around the green-dungaree-clad corpse. What an unlikely combination. The war had turned the water babies into little ghouls that danced around the dead instead of little

elves dancing around a peaceful bullfrog. A man had little to occupy his mind at Shuri---just sit in muddy misery and fear, tremble through the shellings, and let his imagination go where it would.---

---Two Marines from the other mortar squad were dug in to the left of my gun pit. One morning at the first pale light of dawn I heard a commotion in their foxhole. I could hear a poncho being flung aside as someone began thrashing around. There were grunts and swearing. I strained my eyes through the steaming rain and brought the Tommy gun up to my shoulder. From all indications, one or more Japanese had slipped up on the weary occupants of the foxhole, and they were locked in a life and death struggle. But I could do nothing but wait and alert other men around us.

The commotion grew louder, and I could barely make out two dark figures struggling in the foxhole. I was utterly helpless to aid a buddy in distress, because I couldn't identify who was Marine and who was Japanese. None of us dared leave his own foxhole and approach the two. The enemy soldier must have already knifed one of the Marines and was grappling with the other, I thought.

The dark figures rose up. Standing toe to toe, they leaned into each other and exchanged blows with their fists. Everyone's eyes were fixed on the struggling figures but could see little in the semidarkness and pouring rain. The mumblings and swearing became louder and understandable, and we heard, "you dumb jerk; gimme that range card. It's mine." (A five by seven-inch range card came in each canister of 60mm mortar ammunition. It contained printed columns of numbers denoting range, sight setting, and number of powder increments to be attached to each mortar shell for a given range. Thus the cards were as common as ammo canisters.) I recognized the voice of a man who had come into Company K before Okinawa.

"No it's not; it's mine. You betta gimme it. I don't take no crap from nobody." The latter was the familiar voice of Santos, a Peleliu veteran. We all started in surprise.

"Hey, you guys, what the hell's goin on over there?" growled an NCO.

The two struggling figures recognized his voice and immediately stopped hitting each other.

"You two eightballs," the NCO said as he went over to them. "It woulda served ya right if we had a shot you both. We figured a Nip had got in your foxhole."

Each of the two battlers protested that the other was the cause of all the trouble. The light was good by then, and some of us went over to their foxhole to investigate.

"What's all the row about?" I asked.

"This, by God; nothin' but this!" snarled the NCO as he glared at the two sheepish occupants of the foxhole and handed me a range card.

I was puzzled why two Marines would squabble over a range card. But when I looked at the card, I saw it was special and unique. Impressed on it in lipstick was the ruby red imprint of a

woman's lips. The men had found the unique card in a canister while breaking out ammo for the guns the previous afternoon and had argued all night about who would keep it. Toward dawn they came to blows over it.---We all got a good laugh out of the episode. I often wondered what that woman back in that ammunition factory in the States would have thought about the results of her efforts to add a little morale booster for us in a canister of mortar ammo.

---On a quiet day or two before the 5th Marines moved out for the big push against Shuri, several Marines from the graves registration section came into our area to collect the dead. Those dead already on stretchers presented no problem, but the corpses rotting in shell craters and in the mud were another matter.

We sat on our helmets and gloomily watched the graves registration people trying to do their macabre duty. They each were equipped with large rubber gloves and a long pole with a stiff flap attached the end (like some huge spatula). They would lay a poncho next to a corpse, then place the poles under the body, and roll it over onto the poncho. It sometimes took several tries, and we winced when a corpse fell apart. The limbs or head had to be shoved onto the poncho like bits of garbage. We felt sympathy for the graves registration men. With the corpses being moved, the stench of rotting flesh became worse (if possible) than ever before.

Dawn broke clearly without rain on 28 May, and we prepared to attack later in the morning. About 1015 we attacked southward against long-range mortar and machine-gun fire. We were elated that the opposition was so light and that the sun was shining. We actually advanced several hundred yards that day, quite an accomplishment in that sector.

Moving through the mud was still difficult, but we were all glad to get out of the stinking, half-flooded garbage pit around Half Moon. That night we learned that we would continue the attack the next day by moving directly against the Shuri Ridge.

About midmorning on 29 May, 3/5 attacked the Shuri with Company L in the lead and Companies K and I following closely. Earlier in the morning Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines had attacked eastward into the rains of Shuri Castle and had raised the Confederate flag. When we learned that the flag of the Confederacy had been hoisted over the very heart and soul of Japanese resistance, all of us Southerners cheered loudly. The yankees among us grumbled, and the Westerners didn't know what to do. Later we learned that the Stars and Stripes that had flown over Guadalcanal were raised over Shuri Castle, a fitting tribute to the men of the 1st Marine Division who had the honor of being the first into the Japanese citadel.

In the latter days of May while the Japanese held on to the center of their line around Shuri, the U.S. Army divisions to the east and the 6th Marine Division to the west (around Naha)

finally made progress to the south. Their combined movements threatened to envelop the main Japanese defense forces in the center. Thus the enemy had to withdraw. By dawn on 30 May, most of the Japanese Thirty-Second Army had departed the Shuri line, leaving only rear guards to cover their retreat.

In the sixty-one days of fighting on Okinawa after D day, an estimated 62,548 Japanese soldiers had lost their lives and 465 had been captured. American dead numbered 5,309; 23,909 had been wounded; and 346 were missing in action. It wasn't over yet.

---E.B. Sledge K/3/5/1



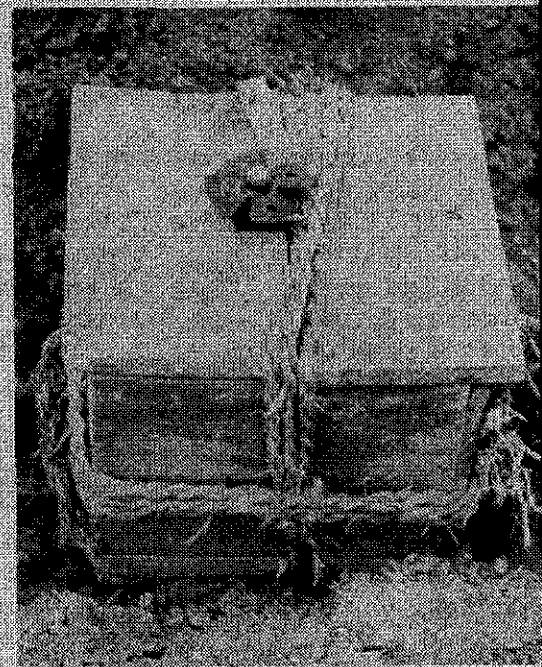
50-mm. Grenade Discharger



Hand Grenade



320-mm. (Spigot) Mortar Shell



Satchel Charge

SECTION 4

Naha and the Kokuba Estuary

The Sixth Division

by Captain James R. Stockman, USMCR
Historical Division, Marine Corps Headquarters

Now the Sixth Marine Division prepared to drive on south across the Asato River to the Kokuba Estuary, and seize Naha. On the morning of 19 May the Fourth Marines, fresh from a two weeks rest, moved up to relieve the weary and depleted Twenty-ninth Marines. The Twenty-second Marines still occupied the western half of the division's front, but were in no condition to continue the attack.

After a night of heavy and accurate enemy artillery and mortar fire, the Fourth Marines struck at the upper reaches of the Asato River, part of Horseshoe Ridge was occupied after bitter fighting and some gains were made in an effort to seize the forward slopes of the Half Moon position. Heavy casualties were incurred from artillery and machine gun fire that came from the Shuri Hill mass to the left and left rear of the assault battalion. Following an intense 90-mm. mortar barrage, the enemy, at 2130, began a counterattack to regain Sugar Loaf.

The counterattack centered on the 3rd Battalion. This attack continued until midnight, under continuous naval illumination, and despite artillery fires laid down by six of our battalions. Finally, it was necessary to commit part of the regimental reserve before the attack was completely stopped. The enemy suffered nearly 300 killed while the Fourth had one man killed and 19 wounded.

Next day, 21 May, the Fourth Marines edged down into the interior of the Horseshoe, but further gains were impossible due to extremely heavy resistance. For this reason, Gen. Shepherd shifted the weight of his attack to the right, thus enabling the front lines to advance slowly to the north back of the Asato. After considerable reconnaissance south of the river, the Fourth Marines moved two battalions across the stream during the afternoon of 23 May, and again struck determined opposition. Attempts to bridge the Asato were unsuccessful at first, and the two battalions had to be supplied by hand-carry. The evacuation of casualties was extremely difficult. The past three days had brought torrential rains and the division zone of action became so muddy that most vehicles were inoperative. On 25 May, the Fourth Marines resumed the attack and seized most of the north-south ridge line west of Machishi. That night the 3rd Battalion fought off an enemy counter attack.

While the Fourth Marines were entering the eastern outskirts of Naha, the Division Reconnaissance Company crossed the Asato near its mouth and penetrated the urban portion of Naha west of the canal that divides that city. Only light enemy resistance was encountered in this sector. Next day, in the face of heavy rains which continued a week in all, living conditions for front-line troops became well-nigh impossible.

On 26 May, it appeared that the enemy might be withdrawing

from Shuri. To determine the extent of the withdrawal, vigorous patrolling was initiated. Part of the 2nd Battalion, Twenty-second Marines, crossed the Asato and passed through the Reconnaissance Company to push further into Naha.

On 28 May, the Twenty-ninth Marines, commenced the relief of the Fourth Marines while the Twenty-second Marines completed the capture of urban Naha prior to noon. Again Gen. Shepherd reoriented his attack. He planned now for the Twenty-second Marines to cross the north-south canal and, in conjunction with the Twenty-ninth Marines, to drive southeast along the high ground toward Shichina, in a course parallel to the Kokuba Estuary. With the Twenty-ninth Marines holding on its left, the Twenty-second Marines crossed the canal prior to dawn on 29 May and launched an attack toward Shichina. Despite the fact that the enemy had withdrawn his main forces, small, well entrenched rear guard elements delayed the advance. It wasn't until 1 June, and after hard fighting, that the Shichina area fell and the two regiments reached the north fork of the Kokuba River. During this period, which lasted from 10 May, to 1 June, the Twenty-second Marines had driven all the way from the Asa River to the Kokuba, in spite of tremendous casualties. For this action, they received the Presidential Unit Citation.



-East Naha.

or taking aim I fired and just at that instant, I understood the situation. Marines who had been there before us had wired the Jap in an upright position and had even wired his rifle across his chest. The shots I had heard were the guys in front of me doing the same thing I did and although I didn't count them, I imagine the dead Jap had quite a few holes in him. As I left the building to keep pace with the Marine who was in the lead and the guy behind me took his position to where I was, I heard a shot behind me, and I smiled. [Author's Note: According to the history, members of The 6th Reconnaissance Company, the 22nd Marine Regiment or the 4th Marine Regiment, could have been responsible for that bit of war time humor.]---John Townsend

We arrived at Okinawa, during the first part of May, 1945, it was during the time the heavy rains began to fall and we were assigned to some area behind the front lines for a week or 10 days. There were several of the guys in the unit I remember, Rufus Perry, Ernie [James] Strange, Major Summerford. Others I remember were Perry Patton, as I remember seeing him again when I got back to the States and he lived somewhere in Montana. I recall Vern Fermenter, he was from Alabama, and a real nice, laxed back kind of guy (we called him Bama) and he talked with the accent common to most of the Marines from down south. On Christmas eve when we were at Camp Lejeune, he offered me a drink of "white lightning", which I accepted and I was sick for a week afterwards. Rufus Perry, I remember him very well and because of the alphabetical sequence of our names we were together throughout our time in the Marine Corps. We couldn't stand each other when we first met but became good friends later on. Francis Smith and I were pretty good buddies and he might have been in 1st Platoon, he came from Baltimore and we saw his brother, who was with the 3rd Marine Division, on Guam, before we left.---Paul Pfothenauer

Robert Phillips, (Tiny) I think we called him Tiny, cause he was a great big guy and was a good boxer, as we had matches on the ship going overseas. I heard he couldn't become a professional boxer because his hands were too fragile and the bones broke real easy.---Ernie Strange, Jr.

Major Summerford, and I were fox hole partners the first night we got to the front line and dug in on a slope when artillery rounds started to drop in the area. During that time the rain seemed continuous and usually when we dug our foxhole we'd dig a small sump hole on one end so we could bail it out, but the water came in so fast we couldn't keep up with it and we said "to hell with it", and sat waist deep in mud and water. Major Summerford, got shot in both legs about the time the cave blew up that I discribed earlier. [Summerford, was wounded on May 29, 1945] He was a big, tall guy from Florence, South Carolina.--Ernie Strange, Jr.

[This ariticle was written by Pvt Ken Wells, 6/3/29/6, 1993, in OKINAWA-1945] Our Company was action as a back-up for other

companies and this day we marched through the city of Haha and were in position to see the massive assault that had been laid on Okinawa and on the Japanese. I remember that day very well, as the wounded were brought back through our lines and we could hear the sound of war ahead of us. This is when the apprehension and fright seems to swell up within a body. On this occasion, two of us were sent back to pick up grenades and ammunition for our squad. I remember as I was carrying a box of grenades on my shoulder and my weapon in my hand, we were in an area where there was a stone fence on one side, and while walking on this path we saw approaching us was what we thought was an Okinawan all dressed up in the most elaborate clothes. The man approaching us was wearing a full oriental outfit of clothing such as an official would wear. A large top hat and a Komonia, all dressed in black, Very official. Both I and the other Marine could not believe our eyes when we saw this individual walking towards us and this Okinawan or Jap never looked right or left or did he look us in the face. We were so astounded that neither of us tried to stop him, after he passed us, we immediately hid behind this stone wall, thinking he might throw a grenade at us. Nothing happened and by the time we came to our senses, he disappeared. We were never told at that time by our officers that the Japanese would disguise themselves as Okinawans...

Yeah, I remember going through the streets of Naha.

A guy [Ken Wells, 6/3/29/6] wrote a little story in Okinawa-1945, Volume I, seeing this old Okinawan gentleman dressed up in a tuxedo, his company was in front of ours at the time. The old gentleman got through the front lines OK and was coming straight for me and I couldn't figure what was going on as Ken Wells said, he had a black coat, top hat, and striped trousers. It surprised all of us and some of our guys were hollering and pointing but I had already seen him and since he had made it through the front lines, I was going to let him pass through us but one of the guys in our unit shot him. I think he was an Okinawan official.---
Hubert Welch

In our movement towards Naha it was wet and dreary. I can't recall any major landmarks except some villages or maybe a few houses here and there. I don't believe we stayed in any of them. In this advance we encountered mostly mortar and artillery exchanges, also sniper fire. No big assaults on positions as we had done in the past. If there were fire fights, I don't recall them.

Here in most places we didn't have to dig fox holes because the mortar and artillery craters gave us ready made ones. One incident I remember clearly was when two replacements were pushed down in a hole under my shelter half and someone shouted down, "here's a couple of men for you Kukuchka!" I don't know if they set up their shelter half beside me. I do know they were crouched down, close by. These two young fellows immediately took out their little Bibles and began to read them. I had great respect for the Bible and read it myself, as often as I could, but this sot of amused me. I told them not to depend on the Lord

alone and they would have to help themselves as well by taking cover at every opportunity and not exposing themselves unnecessarily. But after a few days they were all over the place taking chances like all the rest of us. Their names were John Townsend and Harry Sowden.

Later, when we were in the reserve mode and scouting out places and looking for souvenirs again, these two men and I went in to a cave to inspect it. There was a deep sink hole about eight or ten feet deep and even greater in width before the opening entered the hillside. A mound of soil to one side allowed one to climb down. I don't even recall what we used for a light. The place had railroad tracks inside and timbered out, like the coal mines we had in West Virginia. This must have been Jap Navy related because of the uniform epaulets I found there. I also found some leather satchels, a rubber pistol holster, a pair of canvas shoes with the separate big toe and some aluminum mess gear. When we were leaving to go back out, I was the last to leave and almost met my demise there. I was unaware and acrid choking smoke came in from the other end and surrounded me and I was blinded, unable to see my way out. The weight in my lungs was so heavy and choking that I panicked and began screaming to the other fellows. They also saw the smoke cloud coming towards them and shouted to me, "This way! This way!" and I managed to get out following their voices. We reached the exit OK only to find a ring of Marines up above, around this sink hole, all pointing their rifles at us. They, or others, had thrown a smoke grenade in a hole on the other side of the hill, then hearing all this commotion in the cave thought we were Japs.---Frank Kukuchka

They used to have a shell, it was a big thing and it seems it was as long as a man is tall, and the thing that launched it was on railroad tracks. [Screaming Meemie or Freight Train Charlie] If I remember right, the thing had a delay to it. It would hit the ground and then in a few seconds it would go off. I remember telling the guys that I didn't have to worry about it because if it hit by me, in a couple of seconds I would be over the next hill. It sure was an awful sounding thing when it was coming through the air, but I don't think it did much damage to us.---Joe Bledsoe

The terrain here was vastly different from that experienced on and around Half Moon and Sugar Loaf. Although there were a few relatively small hills, in front of these was a vast stretch of level ground of about 500 yards extending to our objective. Fighting was more open and here it was more the sniper fire that one had to concern himself with whereas combat along the Sugar Loaf line was within hand grenade distance of the enemy at distances of 20-30 yards at times and although I never used my bayonet or knife as a weapon I'm sure that some of the guys had to. The rain we were having at that time and throughout the remainder of the time we were on the Island prevented the use of vehicles to a large extent and so tank support was limited.

---Kenneth Long

May 29

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msqs, Orders, etc.</u>
5/29/45	0855	Tp To: 3/29 will assume responsibility for the left flank and maintain contact w/5th Mar. (Action: 3/29, G-3)
	1125	Tp Fr: 3/29 in contact w/3/5 at 7671 L4. (Action: n, G-3)
	1245	Tp Fr: 3/29 in physical contact with 3/5 at 7671 Q2. (Action: G-3)
	1600	Pushed line to 7671 V5--Heading for B1--Still receiving MG and Mort fire. (Action: G-3, m, s,)
	1730	Tp Fr: 3/29 has high ground in 7670 A&B. (Action: G-3)

Marines Wounded

5/29/45	Briscoe	Donald	PhM2c	882-37-10
5/29/45	Smith	Carleton	Pfc	853151
5/29/45	Sowers	Charles	Pvt	992986
5/29/45	Summerford	Major Jr	Pvt	544805
5/29/45	Tremelay	Roland	Pvt	932484

Company Replacements from the 63rd Replacement Draft

5/29/45	Andrzejewski	George	Pfc	353759
5/29/45	Austin	Byron	Pfc	260262
5/29/45	Ehrler	Walter	Pfc	971406
5/29/45	Gangwere	Paul	Pvt	935399
5/29/45	Hammitt	Charles	Pfc	941669
5/29/45	Hart	Harry	Pfc	976211
5/29/45	Hudoba	Joseph	Cpl	526430
5/29/45	Leary	Warren	Pfc	926086
5/29/45	Masek	Charles	Pfc	329367
5/29/45	McCormack	Carl	Pvt	850079
5/29/45	Merrigan	Donald	Pvt	337403
5/29/45	Michel	Richard	Pfc	319864
5/29/45	Miller	Ralph	Pfc	918530
5/29/45	Moncrief	William	Pvt	561820
5/29/45	Porter	Charles	Pfc	496491
5/29/45	Price	Paul	Pvt	822951
5/29/45	Van Miert	John	Pfc	948526
5/29/45	Wilson	Boyd	Cpl	310482
5/29/45	Wilson	Donald	Asst/Ck	813771
5/29/45	Zdon	Stanley	Pfc	904388

I was wounded on the 29th of May, I was hit by 4 slugs from a nambu that got me in the legs and hand. I can remember when we were on Half Moon Hill and Bennett got hit some guys were taking him back on a stretcher and all of them were wiped out so I promised myself if I ever got hit they would never get me on one of those things. So when I got hit I walked and crawled the best I could and the company runner by the name of DuBoise checked me out and gave me morphine and that did it for me. I never did join the Company again.---Donald E Briscoe

We got to the top of a ridge of hills and on top of one hill was a small village. I believe I was with Floyd Sykes,---or was it Snipes?, at the time and we came upon a woman who must have just given birth and was then killed by our artillery or mortars. Both the mother and newborn child were dead.

We continued the attack and one of the guys from our group pulled out his 45 and held it to an old lady's head and said, "I'm going to kill you, no I won't, yes I will." He never did pull the trigger and I can't remember how the whole thing got started in the first place, just entertainment I guess.

It was about the last of May and we were approaching the hills that overlooked the river valley, [Kokuba River coming from Naha] someone threw a grenade into a cave opening. Well, apparently the Japs had explosives stored in there because the explosion which followed blew the entire top off the hill. Boulders and dirt were flying everywhere and it was remarkable no one was hurt. I recall too Francis Smith was part of the group on the hill when the top blew off. We continued on and flushed several Japs, but they escaped. We went on and it wasn't too long after the explosion "I" Company was transported to the Oroku Peninsula in landing craft of some kind and took part in the battle for Oroku Peninsula.---Paul Pfotenhauer

Frank Sekula, he was from Michigan somewhere. I do know he wasn't in our Platoon.---Ernie Strange, Jr.

I think the name of the Corpman who treated Summerford was Red Phillips. [or could it have been Mahan?]--Ernie Strange, Jr.

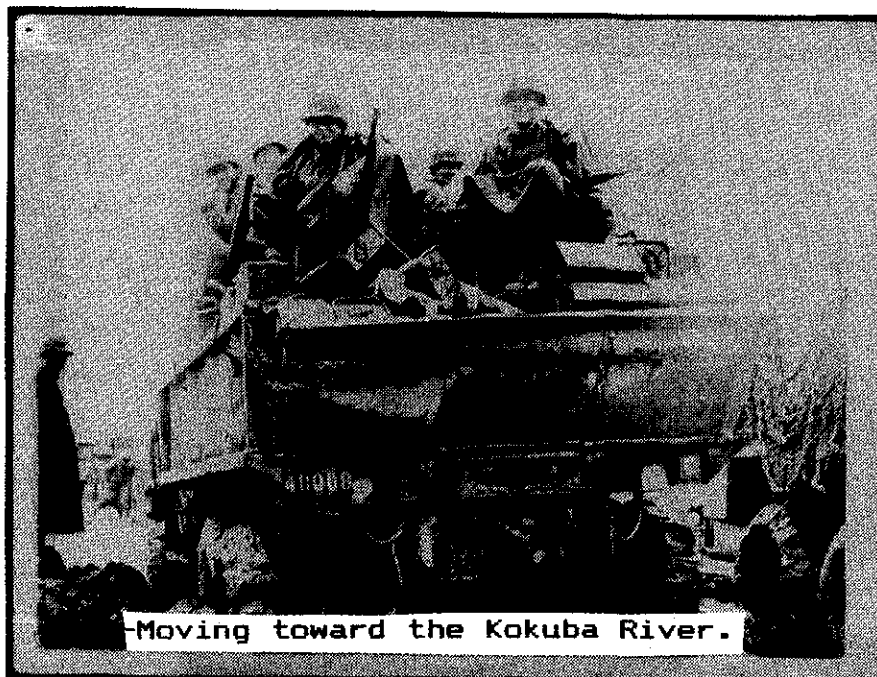
Approaching the outskirts of Naha we began to find heavy Jap fortification which had been destroyed and vacated. Some of the big gun emplacements were pointing in the opposite direction from where we were advancing. They probably had a different idea from where we would come in.

Some of our other forces [22 Marines] were working the cliffs just across the river from Naha. Company "I" was put aboard trucks and transported through what was Naha. A total devastation! Completely burned out, with only some parts of some masonry walls standing and some chimney parts, plus all the ash and rubble of all the rest.---Frank Kukuchka

Has the name Hammett come up at all? He was an older guy who was about 25 years old at the time and we used to call him "Pop". [Pfc Charles N. Hammett, 941699, joined "I" Co., on May 29, 1945, as the Company was moving toward the Kokuba Estuary, East of Naha. He along with 14 other Marines joined "I" Co as part of the 63rd Replacement draft after the battle for Crescent Hill. (Sugar Loaf) Hammett was not killed or wounded, however 6 of the 15 who joined the Company, from his replacement draft that day were wounded on Oroku Peninsula later in June. This information was obtained from "I" Company muster rolls.]---Donald Honis

Charles Hammett, was possibly as "Gung Ho" a guy as you could

meet. He didn't talk a lot, in fact one would label him as quiet but he was as brave a guy as I ever knew. I can't recall which platoon he was in but he really went out to get those Nips---Nips and souvenirs. He was from Tennessee, and I used to call him "Pappy". He was always complaining about something but they didn't make them any braver than Hammett. I can't remember how many nips he got, but I remember when we took Flat-top Hill, on June 9th, he peeked over the crest saw several Nips below and cut them all down with his BAR. He would search every dead Jap he'd see and it didn't make any difference how long they had been dead. He'd cut their pockets open with a knife no matter what shape they were in. He was fearless and a good Marine.---Donald Honis



-Moving toward the Kokuba River.



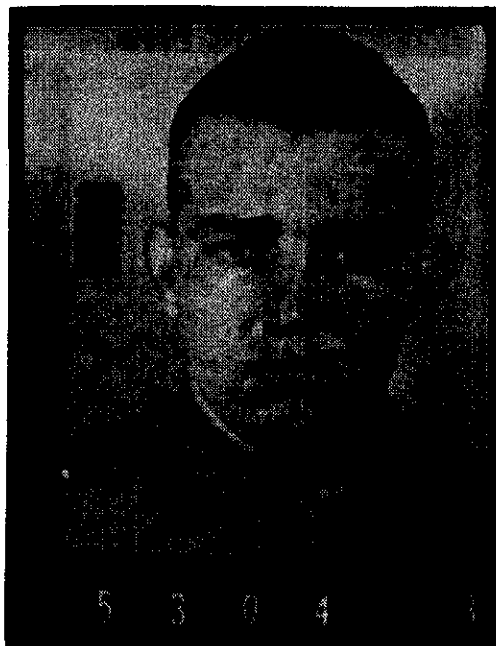
--15th Marines; Keep the powder dry.

May 30

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
5/30/45	1055	Tp Fr: "I" Co killed estimated 50 Nips during night.
	1750	Tp Fr: "H" Co moved out along with 5th Mar at 1720--1 Plat at 7671 W2,3,4--Other Plat jumped off to fill gap along V.
	1800	Tp Fr: 150 RDs 75mm at 7571 Q3--40 counted dead, 60 Est. (Action: G-2)
	1700	Tp Fr: 2 Mortars & MG emplacement knocked out.

Marines Killed in Action

5/30/45	Bryson	Maurice Pfc	530433



PFC Maurice Ensley Bryson, 530433

Private First Class Bryson was born on the 22nd of May 1926 at Sylva, N.C. and was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thaddeus C. Bryson, Jr., Box 795, Sylva, North Carolina. He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve on 29 February 1944 at Raleigh, N.C.. He was 18 years old. On March 18, 1944 he joined the 11th Recruit Battalion at Parris Island for Boot Training. On June 1, 1944 he was assigned to I/3/29/FMF proceeded to Guadalcanal aboard the USS Gen C.G. Morton. PFC Bryson, was promoted to PFC on August 13, 1944 and was assigned to I/3/29/6, 1st Rifle Platoon.

PFC Bryson, was Killed In Action by a gunshot wound to his chest during the fighting east of Naha as "I" Co approached the Kokuba River.

His remains were interred on May 31, 1945; Row 19, Grave 472, Plot A, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1.

During 1948, his remains were returned to Sylva, N.C.
(Scotts Creek Cemetery)

		Marines Wounded		
5/30/45	Kempker	Raymond	Pvt	897092
5/30/45	Van Rycheghem	Roger	Pvt	565881

Toward the tail end of the time we were fighting around Naha, I remember we blew up some anti tank stakes or something like that, I got too close to one of them when the explosion went off and it perforated one of my ear drums.---Ambrose A Smith

Clarence Stingle, I believe at one time he was a member of our squad or fireteam and we used to call him Casey.---Ernie Strange, Jr.

I do remember 4 or 5 Japs trying to sneak by in front of us one morning but I can't remember exactly what took place.---Joe Bledsoe

Finally we advanced a short distance to the top of a small hill and dug in on a plateau that was only about 5 feet above the floor of the valley beyond which was the high ground just north of the Kokuba River. To our right and front at a distance of 70 yards was a higher hill that was occupied by either G or H Company and we settled in for the night. That night there were the usual sounds of artillery, grenades and rifle fire but I can't recall any specific event that took place. The following morning however just as we had opened our rations and had them sitting on the ledge of the foxhole, we noticed the Marines over on the hill to our right were trying to get our attention, the odd thing was they didn't yell anything and just used hand motions and one of the guys from an adjacent foxhole figured out they wanted us to look over the slight embankment in front of us. Cautiously the four of us approached the edge of the embankment, which was only about 10 feet from our foxholes, with rifles at the ready and just before we got to the edge, a grenade went off directly below us. We looked over the lip and saw five Japs, in a column, crawling to our right. As we fired, those that were still living could be identified by the slight twitch of the body when the bullet struck them, the one in front must have pulled the pin on the satchel charge he was carrying because about that time there was a muffled explosion and his body went into the air about ten feet scattering body debris over the entire area. Cheering and applause was now heard from the Marines on the hill to our right. We returned to our foxholes and brushing aside body fragments of the Jap with the satchel charge we continued to eat our breakfast.---Kenneth Long

It was raining hard on the morning of May 30th, in fact it had rained most of the night and the ground was a like an enormous swamp. I had slept extremely well that night being warm and comfortable in my poncho and when Pete, (Pete Barnes, is a fictitious name I am giving to my foxhole mate, and he was the

May 31

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
5/31/45	0900	Tp Fr: 1 Plat 3/29 in 7670 A4 in contact w/1/29. (Action: Div)
	1120	Tp Fr: 3/29 lines 7670 D3-C5-W3-B2&5-G2--- tied w/ 1/29.
	1645	Tp Fr: 3/29 lines 7770 A4, F4, G3, N1, K4. (Action: G-3, n)
	1845	Tp Fr: 3/29 left 7770 A1, 7670 E5---I Co Rt 7670 E5 to I5 (H Co)---G Co in 7671 N and Perimeter around hill 7670 B. (Action: Div,m)
	2115	Tp Fr: Enemy casualties---31 KIA (counted)--- 40 KIA (Est)---2 LMG destroyed---1 Knee mortar destroyed. (Action: Div)

Marines Killed in Action

5/31/45	Hinkley	Warren	Pfc	853055
5/31/45	Hubbard	James	Pvt	920799



PFC Warren Talbot Hinkley, 853055

Private First Class Hinkley, was born 13 May 1921, at Kingfield, Me., the son of Mr. and Mrs. Loresten L. Hinkley, Star Route, Dixfield, Maine. He enlisted in the Marine Corp Reserve, May 6, 1943, at Augusta, Me., when he was 21 years old and joined the 9th Recruit Bn. at Parris Island, N.C. for Boot Camp on 22 May 1943.

On July 27, 1943, he joined the 2nd Guard Co., Marine Barracks, Naval Air Station, Quanset Point, R.I. and transferred to the 1st Guard Co. at the same location on November 19, 1943.

PFC Hinkley, was assigned to the 43rd Replacement Draft, Camp Lejeune, N.C., December 8, 1944 and embarked for the South Pacific aboard the USS Mormacdove, January 8, 1945. He was transferred to the 33rd Replacement Draft on February 21, 1945 and was assigned to I/3/29/6 on April 19, 1945 at Okinawa.

PFC Hinkley, was Killed In Action by a gunshot wound to the chest on May 31, 1945 while our unit was advancing on the high ground east of Naha, overlooking the North Fork of the Kokuba River, near the town of Shichina.

The remains of PFC Hinkley, were interred on June 1, 1945, Row 20, Grave 484, Plot A, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1948, his remains were returned to the United States and interred in a cemetery at Carthage, Maine.



Pvt James Harold Hubbard, 920799

Private Hubbard, was born 2 September 1925, at Sparrows Point, Md. and was the son of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Hubbard, Box 8, Fort Howard, Baltimore 19, Maryland.

He enlisted 8 March 1944 at Baltimore, Md. and was 18 years of age. On March 9, 1944, he joined the 9th Recruit Bn., at Parris Island, S.C., for Boot Camp.

Pvt Hubbard, joined Co."I", 3rd Bn., 29th Marines, FMF., at Camp Lejeune, N.C. on June 1, 1944. On August 1, 1944 he embarked on the USS Gen C.G. Morton for Guadalcanal. He was a member of the 2nd Rifle Platoon, of I/3/29/6

On May 31, 1945 Pvt Hubbard was Killed In Action due to a gunshot wound to the chest while our Company battled for the high ground east of Naha, overlooking the Kokuba River, near the village of Shichina. His remains were interred June 4, 1945, Row 2, Grave 529, Plot A, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1948, his remains were returned to the United States and interred

at Baltimore National Cemetery, Baltimore, Maryland.

Marines Wounded				
5/31/45	Gay	William	Pfc	914418
5/31/45	McCormick	James Jr	2nd Lt	041936
5/31/45	Newman	Melvin	Cpl	408184
5/31/45	Novotny	Joseph	Pvt	968218
5/31/45	Spies	Phillip	Pvt	563961
5/31/45	Sprout	Lyman	Pvt	569266

In some of the books I have read about Okinawa, the authors refer to the "dark nights", but as I recall we were usually lit by flares. As one flare burned down another would pop and the canister opened and you had about 5 seconds to freeze before it ignited. After the chute carrying it opened, the green light flowed out everywhere casting those dancing shadows, giving the impression to an active imagination that the enemy infiltrators were all around us waiting to move in. The light was very eerie but extremely welcome. The flares I have just described are those fired by our mortars or artillery, not the trip flares that killed Sykes. The trip flares were similar but smaller and usually placed around the perimeter of the foxholes at night. Thin wire or string was strung from the pin intending any infiltrator would set off the flare and alert our foxholes.---
John Townsend

Jessie Spradlin, was from Tennessee, from way back in the mountains and he was a real hill billy. A very nice guy.---Ernie Strange

Warren Hinkley, was killed on the 31st of May---he was hit in the chest by a rifle bullet.---Donald Honis

Warren Hinkley, when "I" Company went back to the front line he was hit by a bullet to the chest on May 31.---Donald Honis

As mentioned before the intense fear, confusion and irrationality that I felt on Half Moon Hill had passed and now I (many others too) was more methodical and unemotional about it all. We were still facing the same situations we faced then but the way our mind handled these situations was different in that hate, fear and compassion were no longer part of our make-up and I believe we were rapidly becoming animals.

Around this time we started to receive "10 in 1" rations and they were certainly a welcome change from the monotonous "K" or "C" rations. I am not "knocking" the K and C rations, in fact I think the person who came up with the idea for them, as well as the manufacturers of them should receive a commendation as they were designed with the busy Marine in mind. I never came across a can that was spoiled or for that matter seldom did I find one with a broken biscuit which is a feather in the hat of the packaging engineer, I always carried 2 packages of K rations in my pack. Opening a K ration was similar to opening a package of Cracker Jacks in that you never knew what was inside. As I

remember the wax covered box contained an olive drab can of meat or cheese along with another can of biscuits (hard), a stick or two of chewing gum, and a package of four cigarettes which could be one of many different brands. I remember there were the more popular brands such as Camels, Chesterfield, Lucky Strike, Phillip Morris as well as many other less known brands like Fleetwood, Chelsea and many more I can't remember. In addition there was always some toilet paper. If there was one improvement that should have been made to the K rations it was that the toilet paper should have been waterproofed. Although this shortcoming was not life threatening, wet toilet paper did cause some irritating situations. C rations were much the same as the K rations except there were two cans for each ration, one of the cans contained the main meal (hash, noodles and meatball etc), and the other contained the dry items similar to those contained in the K ration. The C ration did provide more of a selection. The real break-through came with the "10 in 1" ration which was designed to feed 10 men for one day and since our rations were supplied based on the full strength of a unit (in this case a squad) we always had plenty because the rifle company squad was never at full strength. This ration was a real treat because there was so much variety and it gave the guys the opportunity to heat some of the contents. We were only supplied this ration when there was a lull in the action. By this time in the campaign, most of the guys had some knowledge of demolition and explosives as we were using blocks of TNT and Composition C2 to seal caves. It wasn't long though and we learned that these explosives served us well to heat our food, especially Composition C2. This was a putty-like material that one could shape into any design and place under the can to be heated; light it and presto!, hot food. It was especially handy during the wet weather we were having during May and June.---Kenneth Long

The 15th Marine artillery was still active as the battle for Naha was going on. I had seen some of those great souvenirs some of the guys had and I was determined to get some of my own so I could show my grand children and watch their eyes get big as I related the story to them. We were in an area of some caves and although one in particular had been blown about a week prior, the entrance wasn't completely sealed. Since it was a short distance from from where our gun was set up I decided to go on this hunt by myself, in fact, I don't think I could have talked the others into going anyway. I squeezed through the opening and what should appear before me but a pendulum clock hanging on the side of the cave just ticking away and after tucking it under my arm I hurried back to to our area to show the guys the treasure I had found. After relating the story, a Corporal looked at the clock and then at me and said, "Bill, your damn lucky". To which I replied, "What do you mean lucky? The cave had been blown and not a Jap was in sight." The guy looked at me with a smirk on his face. "Bill, who in hell do you think was winding that clock?" You know, I had never thought of that.---Bill Duffy, 15th Marines

"2" & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
6/1/45	0700	Tp Fr: We're firing in 7770 L, if troops are there they are in our entire zone. (Action: m, Div)
	0900	Tp Fr: Report negative activity last night--- Co's moving out on left.
	1050	Tp Fr: Left Co 3/29 7670 I5-J2, 7770 A4--- Rt Co 2/29 at 7670 N5, S4. (Action: G-3, m)
	1130	Tp Fr: Left Co 3/29 in 7770 B4, G5, G4--- 2/29 is moving toward ridge in 7770 P2,U--- Now in 7670 O5, T1, Y1.
	1300	Tp Fr: 3/29 Lines; H Co 7770 G3 to L3-I Co 7770 G4 to Q2---5th Mar are 200 to 250 yds in our zone in 7770 B, G and are withdrawing to their own zone---In contact with 2/29---I Co knocked out 1-20mm gun, 1 Knee mortar, killed no Nips and had no casualties.(Action: D-2,m)
	1410	Tp Fr: 3/29 in 7770 T, S, X.
	1430	Tp Fr: Request mine removal personnel to clear Tare Hill of Mine and Booby traps--- Notified S-4 to send mine removal personnel.
	1730	Tp Fr: En Cas: 2-20mm, 1-13.7mm MG, 2 Knee mortars---Many caves w/Ammo, etc. in 7769 H,I,J---55 KIA (counted), 100 KIA (est). (Action: D-2)
	1730	Tp Fr: Lines 3/29, 7870 P5,U1-7770 Y4 to Q2-1, C2---2/29, 7769 C1-B5-F5---Contact on both flanks. (Action: D-3, 22nd)
	1810	Tp Fr: Wpns abandoned on ridge in 7770 G--- 2-20mm in firing position with Ammo---1 Hotchkiss M9---Several rifles---Also an excellent GP was found in Teepee which had observation on <u>Naha</u> , Sugar Loaf and Crescent. (Action: G-2&3)

Marines Wounded				
6/1/45	Fawl	Michael	Cpl	248012
6/1/45	Permenter	Vernon	Pvt	991565
6/1/45	Plucinski	Eugene	Pvt	1000585

At one time we were going to follow a tank they sent up for us and as we started out it went over a mine and blew off one of the tracks. This same tank took out a Jap antitank gun in a cave we had spotted and I pointed out to the tank crew where the cave was by firing tracer bullets into the cave and then talking to the guy in the tank by the telephone they had in the rear. He sure took care of that gun though.---Ambrose A Smith

My foxhole buddy and myself were just settling down for the night and it was my watch first. I was straining my eyes to the front, when I heard rustling in some undergrowth to our rear. Needless to say, I was scared, as I was supposed to be watching

the front and yet knowing we could be attacked from the rear at any time made my hair stand on end. In fact, I was the most scared here of any incident on Okinawa, so frightened was I that I made a pact with the Lord, and I said, "Lord, if You get me through this, the next time I go to church and a preacher asks for a testimonial I will stand and give him the best testimonial I can deliver." Nothing happened during my watch and I alerted by buddy to be alert to the rear and explained the situation. I thought I would have trouble getting some rest but pure exhaustion took over and the next thing I remembered was being shaken by my buddy saying it was my watch again. Since the sounds to the rear of us were still on my mind, I asked him whether he heard or saw any thing. "Yeah", he said, "just after I took over from you there was a rustle where you said you heard it and I was just about to wake you when a big sow and three little pigs came out of the brush and ambled down the road. Time passed and after the war I was prepared to make good my promise to the Lord, but times had changed and preachers didn't ask for testimonials any more---and I wasn't about to offer. One day though a revival came to town and it was an old time preacher that handled the service and he asked for testimonials,---Well I looked up and I looked down but in the end I got up and gave the best testimonial I could muster, I had kept my promise to Him.

A while after the battle for Oroku Peninsula, I was talking to a Marine that had been a butcher over there and he asked me, "heck, did you know they had pigs on Okinawa?" "Yes", I replied, "I'm on a first name basis with them."---John Townsend

Francis L Smith, (We called him Roy) and I were good friends and in the same fire team, he also went to China with us. He was wounded, I believe we were on the Oroku Peninsula, [The incident might have occurred during the battle for the area east of Naha] and in the process of making an assault and was carrying a BAR, someone threw a hand grenade in a small cave entrance and when it went off it blew the top off of a small hill and we realized it must have been full of Jap explosives and rocks and chunks of dirt were falling everywhere. We had just charged across an open field of about 200 yards or more and we were all very thirsty. Someone went back to a small stream with our canteens and filled them with this foul water, we placed a few halogen tablets in each canteen and although we were suppose to wait ten or fifteen minutes before we drank the water, it seems to me we started to drink before the tablets settled to the bottom.[Ken Long, went back to the stream to get the water. While I was there I threw a couple grenades in to see if I could kill a couple of fish--no luck.]---Ernie Strange, Jr.

The morning of June 1st, found I Company, on very level terrain about 400 yards short of the high ground overlooking the Kokuba River to the south. This high ground, with the villages of Shichina, and Kokuba to our front was the main objective. With the ground being as level as it was we could see to the 1st Marine Division zone on our left into the 22nd Marine zone to our right and straight ahead was 400 yards of flat table land that we

would have to cross to reach the objective. There was a stone wall that was about 4 feet high that extended north and south and it was quite long, it was behind this wall that plans were made for what was to be our final attack. The Company CP was also set up behind this wall and so this might have been the only instance the entire Company was on the front at the same time. We were getting quite a bit of small arms fire from the high ground in front of us but for those that had to move around it was a sticky situation and we did have a couple of guys killed and several wounded. At about this time I got into a conversation with a Corpsman that was attached to our Company. (I thought his name was Mayhan and Ernie Strange thinks his name was Red Phillips) He was a great guy with kind of red hair and a ruddy complexion. He was quite a big fellow being about 6 feet and husky. He showed me a picture of his girl that he was carrying and called her "his Blackhead". About that time I peered over the stone wall and saw 2 Japs on the hill about 400 yards away and I picked up my BAR and fired a couple shots using "Kentucky windage" and one of the Japs dropped. A voice behind me said, "who fired that shot?", I turned and saw one of our company officers, and said, "I did." He responded, "Oh", and thats all he said. To this day I don't know whether he was chewing me out for shooting or complimenting me on my marksmanship.

We finally moved out and charged across the field in the direction of the hill to our front and what a sight it was with the troops of an entire Regiment abreast yelling and whooping with rifles in the air and grenades, canteens and bandoleers swinging from the belt and chest. It appeared as though we were having close order drill in combat with each Marine "guiding right" and we reached the hill after that 400 yard dash with a straight line of troops. As I recall there wasn't much Japanese fire and assume they left their positions early since they no doubt heard and saw us coming. (I should mention that I am discribing the events as they happened in the zone of my squad and events might have been a great deal different in other zones)
---Kenneth Long

When we reached the hill, which had a steep incline of about 50 feet, a cave was directly to my front and I had to go somewhat to my right to climb the bank. As I reached the top of the embankment, two Japanese soldiers ran from a bunker towards a clump of bushes behind them. Since they were only 15 yards from me I knew that I couldn't miss as I had my BAR pointed in that direction before seeing them. I had the sling over my right shoulder and squeezed the trigger and heard a sickening sound of a misfire. Off scampered those two Japs, perhaps never realizing how fortunate they were that I hadn't cleaned my weapon properly after the last rain. I learned from that experience that the use of "lubriplate" only does not do the job.--Kenneth Long

"2" & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
6/2/45	0855	Tp Fr: 7769 F3, Tombs full of 75 & 20mm Ammo ---7769 B5, 2 caves [containing] picric acid & 75mm Ammo.
	1800	Tp Fr: In addition to previous reports, 3/29 found 2 large guns (probably "6") but covered with debris at 7770 R4. (Action: D-2)
	1645	Tp Fr: Enemy information: 1-70mm Cannon, 1-40 mm, 1-81mm Mortar tube, 1-31 cal Louis gun, 62 Arasaki rifles, 2-nambus, 1-47mm (destroyed), 15 cases of 90mm Ammo, 7770 W4-- -Tomb of demolition packs 7870 V1, 6 cases 47mm Ammo in cave, 30 cases of 77 Arty Ammo and demolition packs, 7870 Q3---Barracks to house---"I" Co: many caves in vicinity, Quartermaster supplies and 6 trucks.

If I wouldn't have been so shy I would have gotten the purple heart. We were approaching a metal building and it blew me down, then there was a secondary explosion and I was hit in the rear end. Do you think I was going to report a slight wound in the rear end? How would that look for a young, brave Marine to report something like that? I noticed a Jap sword laying on the ground beside me and picked it up but before I did I remember Cpl Kukushka saying, "Don't pick it up it may be booby trapped", but I wanted it so damn bad, I picked it up anyway.---John Townsend

That night,(June 1 ?) we dug in on top of the high ridge overlooking the north fork of the Kokuba River. Although there wasn't any serious fighting that night there was a lot going on and after dark all along the company front one could hear the shrill cry of the Japs shouting, "bonzai Maines die!" fire control was well maintained that night and I cannot recall hearing one rifle shot, only the pins popping and the explosions of the grenades that we threw into the wooded area below us. One could hear other explosions through the night as the Japanese were blowing bridges that crossed the Kokuba River below us.

The following morning the 29th Marines moved out leaving the defense of the area to the 1st Marine Division to our left and the 22nd Regiment to our right. We thought the unit was going back for a rest but instead we were heading for the Oroku Peninsula. (Fred McGowan, F/2/22 told me that every time he saw a Marine from the 4th Regiment, he would yell, "where ya goin? to relieve the 29th again?")

"2" & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
6/3/45	1610	Tp To: CP at 7572 IS.

Leo Soderholm, was a farmer-like Norwegian or Swede from Minnesota or North Dakota, but I don't recall anything specific.-
--Ernie Strange, Jr.



SECTION 5

Oroku Peninsula

The Sixth Division

by Captain James R. Stockman, USMCR
Historical Division, Marine Corps Headquarters

In the evening of 1 June, General Roy S. Geiger, Commanding General, III Amphibious Corps, asked Gen. Shepherd to study the practicability of a shore-to-shore landing on Oroku Peninsula. Plans were laid immediately for an amphibious reconnaissance of the peninsula. The Division Reconnaissance Company crossed the estuary and completed a reconnaissance of the northern part of the peninsula. Here they found the sector occupied by a light enemy force.

Gen. Shepherd ordered the Fourth Marines to make a dawn landing on the peninsula, 4 June. As the initial beachhead widened, the Twenty-ninth Marines were to land and take up positions on the Fourth's left flank. The Twenty-second Marines were to seal off the peninsula while protecting the right flank of the First Marine Division, which had crossed the Kokuba and was driving south toward Itoman. When the south coast was reached, the Twenty-second Marines would have a line facing northwest to prevent the enemy from escaping to join other forces down south. This regiment, by exerting limited pressure from the east, would be the anvil against which the blows of the Fourth and Twenty-ninth Marines would strike.

The logistical planning for this amphibious operation was as important as the tactical. Heavy rains had ruined road nets and complicated the entire supply and evacuation problem. As the attack progressed inland, supplementary means of supply became necessary. Therefore, it was decided to take Ono Yama island, which lies halfway between the mainland and the peninsula, and erect two Bailey Bridges for supplies and casualties. This plan was begun successfully on 4 June.

After an intense preliminary bombardment, the Fourth Marines landed two battalions on Oroku at 0551 the same day. The enemy apparently thought that Oroku would be assaulted from the east and prepared to defend the peninsula accordingly. Early enemy resistance was light and the Marines moved rapidly inland. Tactical surprise was achieved. This surprise could not be capitalized upon fully, however, because of mud, mines and fire. As a result, the enemy was able to redeploy his forces and weapons to fiercely resist the advances of the Fourth and Twenty-ninth Marines.

Fighting raged on Oroku from the day of the landing until the final enemy position was overrun on 13 June. During this time the Twenty-ninth Marines seized the long ridge that parallels the estuary and attacked down corridors and cross-compartments to its south. In the extremely broken terrain that characterized northeastern Oroku, the enemy resisted from caves and fortified positions. Action was slow and costly.

The first real break did not come until 12 June, when converging forces of the Fourth and 29th Marines convinced the

Nips that he was doomed and his efforts futile. During the afternoon some groups came out waving white flags, and surrendered. Others pressed grenades to their stomachs and committed suicide. Still others held their positions and died offering no resistance, but refusing to surrender. Next day 861 Japanese were killed and 73 taken prisoner.

Now the division turned for the capture of little Senaga Shima Island, which lay a short distance off the southern coast of Oroku and had been fired from all during the operation on the peninsula. After heavy bombardment the Division Reconnaissance Company, with a company of the Twenty-ninth Marines attached, landed and quickly seized the island. Only two of the enemy were found and killed; the remainder escaped to the mainland.

In a sense, Oroku was a separate and complete battle in itself, although it was at the same time a part of the over-all operations of the III Amphibious Corps and Tenth Army. Its reduction had been slow and laborious, its cost high. During the ten days of fighting, nearly 5000 Japanese were killed and almost 100 captured. The Sixth Marine Division lost 1608 Marines killed or wounded and 30 tanks in the action. For its excellent work on Oroku Peninsula, the Fourth Marines, and its attached units, received the Presidential Unit Citation covering the period from 2 June to 14 June, 1945.



"2" & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
6/4/45	1255	Tp To: Move to embarkation Pt.
	1315	Tp To: Immediately upon arrival south shore Kokuba Gawa [river] pass through right elements 2/29 and seize O----K---Assist 2/29 on your left---Boundry between 7270 N5, S2, T3, Y2; 7370 V3; 7369A2, G2, H3.

We landed on the west end of the Oroku Peninsula, either by boats or amphibious tractor, and it was during one heck of a storm and the waves were darn high. I can understand why you [Kenneth J Long] can't remember too much about that because it seemed as though everyone except me was damn sea sick and were down on their backs the whole trip over. They got well fast though once we got to shore.---Ambrose A Smith

We boarded landing craft again and made a beach landing, across the estuary from Naha, on the Oroku part of the Island, a peninsula We encountered no opposition until we moved some distance Northward and were approaching the hill in the vicinity of the cliffs, where the Japs were concentrated, and our movement was slowed down considerably because of heavy fighting. Here, we also encountered a new Jap psychological weapon, the Screaming Meemie. A rocket of some sort which made an awful howl passing through the air and it gave you a feeling of something gigantic coming at you.---Frank Kukchka



*Lt. Gen. Mitsuru Ushijima,
Commander of 32nd Army*

*Lt. Gen. Isamu Cho, chief
of staff, 32nd Army.*

*Rear Admiral. Minoru Ota,
Commander of the Naval Base
Force.*

-Our enemy.

"2" & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
6/5/45	0800	Tp Fr: 9 KIA's during night, 7 Nips, 2 women, 1 of whom was carrying hand grenade.
	0555	Tp To: Regt OP in 7270 C5---Notify Co's as S-2 men were fired on.
	0955	Tp Fr: Believe mortars at 7269 Y, 7369 U, and rockets in area, 7368 A,B,F,G.
	1045	Tp Fr: 1 20mm, good working order in cave at 7271 V5.
	1145	Tp Fr: Lines 7270 Y2-3, 7269 E1, D4, I4. (Action: G-2)
	1345	Tp Fr: Lines, 7369 A5-3, 7269 J2, "H" Co--- Laying Arty and Mortar preparatory to coordinated Atk with 2/29. (Action: m, G-3, 4th Mar)
	1525	Tp Fr: At 7269 O2, 1-20mm & 4 nambu's.
	1725	Tr Fr: 28 Nips KIA counted (includes 10 reported this AM) 30 estimated KIA, 2 HMG, 3 LMG, 2 Knee mortars---3-5" Arty Approx 7270 S4---Lines 7269 I1, D5--7270 Y3--7370 T2, O4.
	1400	H Co received counter Atk Approx Platoon strength at 7269 I---Killed 12 (counted) in hand grenade battle---Nips withdrew to caves on reverse slope---Sounds indicate suicide by grenades. (Action: G-2)

I remember Joe Bledsoe, and although I can't remember much about him, he was a quiet guy, maybe he chewed tobacco. He was from Kentucky or around there somewhere. [Joe was actually from South Carolina.] Another fellow who was in our squad was Longerbeam, [Granville, from West Virginia] and he was with the unit longer than I was, the same was true of Bledsoe and Budday. A man with our unit was "Frenchy" Francoeur, and as I recall he took over our platoon as Sergeant toward the end, but I can't be sure on that. [According to the information I have, Cpl Francoeur, was part of the original "I" Company that landed on April 1, 1945, he made it through the entire battle without being killed, wounded or transferred; quite a fete! He was assigned to the 1st Rifle Platoon.]---Ernie Strange, Jr.

During December, of 1944, we left Camp Pendelton and sailed to Banika, Russell Islands aboard the "Gen. O.H. Ernst", (I know this because Fred McGowan, Fox Company, 22nd Marines told me) on the way over the "heads" were a popular place, with sea-sickness, upset stomachs and all and it seemed like there was always a line waiting to get in. The toilets consisted of about 12 seats set above a trough through which water was constantly flowing. There were no partitions and everyone sat elbow to elbow along the entire length of the trough reading comic books or something equally as entertaining. One morning a line had formed waiting to get in and you could tell that some of the guys were in real pain

but the usual comments, " Hey, give someone else a chance," or "shit or get off the pot," just didn't do any good and some of the guys were starting to panic. One innovative Marine in front of me walked to the intake end of the trough, wadded up a big ball of toilet paper, put a match to it and placed it into the trough so it floated past all those bare butts with each one jumping to his feet when the torch passed beneath him. This is all it took and soon there were a lot of empty seats available.

During the time we were on the front lines, we tried to take care of those urgent calls before dark so we could make it through the night without having to expose ourself to fire, ie. both enemy and friendly. There were times however this could not be done and it was then a little ingenuity paid off. Pissing was no problem and when laying in the foxhole, I would roll over on my left side, take out my "gun" and point it over the edge with the proper elevation to clear the dirt around the perimeter of the hole. As I remember the stream would take about the same trajectory as a knee mortar and fall a short distance from the foxhole only to flow back in a few minutes later because of all the rain we were having. A crap was something else however and luckily only once did I find it was absolutely necessary to perform this fete at night, in my foxhole. I removed my helmet from the liner and used the helmet as a bedpan, dumping the mess outside the hole. Since there always seemed to be water or at least mud around I scoured my helmet interior with it. As I recall, the real problem was no dry toilet paper so mud had to suffice for that operation too. In my case there was humor connected to these instances but I have heard of several close calls attributed to performing this vital operation and it wouldn't surprise me to learn of casualties.---Kenneth Long

Although I can't remember the time and place that the following event took place, I'm sure some of the guys from I Company will and can set me straight on it. Our unit was receiving heavy fire and called for an air strike and as the planes arrived overhead it gave one a feeling of confidence and assurance until the planes started to strafe and use their rockets on us, their own troops. I heard later the units on both flanks were to move cloth banners that marked the front line and this was never done and so it appeared to the pilots we were Japanese troops.---Kenneth Long

"2" & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
6/6/45	0805	Tp Fr: 3/29 off at 0730. (Action: G-3)
	0855	Tp Fr: Last night G Co KIA 10 Nips, H Co KIA-1---H Co found a 40mm and much Ammo etc in cave at 7270 T4 but could not blow because of quantity. (Action: G-3, G-2)
	1045	Tp Fr: H Co moving slowly, 1-20mm, MG fire, and Knee mortar, some duds---G Co held up by heavy fire.
	1100	Tp Fr: Left [flank] S of 7369 A, Right has taken hill in 7269 D. (Action: 4th Mar, G-3)
	1315	Tp Fr: Right flank Co 7269 N2, J5, E4. (Action: 4th Mar, Div)
	1800	Tp Fr: New CP at 7270 J. (Action: m)
	1810	Tp Fr: Lines 7269 I4, J5, E4, E1-2---7270 X4, Y3 ---Under fire 7269 N. (Action: 4th Mar, G-3)
	1900	Tp Fr: KIA 35 counted, 50 estimated--- Equipment, 2-20mm-2LMG-1 40mm.

Marines (Corpsman) Wounded

6/6/45	Fauk	John	FHM3c	873-10-73
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We were in a rest area and I can't remember where, but I hadn't seen my seabag since I left Guam, and none of us had clean clothes. Well, someone from our unit was assigned to pass out clothes after the guys finished their showers and of course there were no measurements taken and the Marine would grab the clothes, hold it up and say, "this looks like your size", and I learned at that time, some Marines could not even come close on their estimations. It was common to see men who's uniform could hold another good sized Marine and others that appeared they were wearing knickers. After one of these showers, which were usually in a river or small stream somewhere, we were lucky enough to get a ride back to our bivouac in a 2 1/2 ton or 5 ton truck. A Jap artillery observer must have spotted us because the shells started to drop nearby and since the truck stopped we tried to get the attention of the driver to drop the tailgate but the driver had already gone for cover leaving the rest of us in the back end of that damn truck, but it didn't take us long to figure out how that tailgate worked.---John Townsend

Robert Smith, was from Hickory, North Carolina, and I think this experience happened on Guam before we went to Okinawa as part of the 46th Replacement Draft. As you know we lived in tents and most of them had wooden floors and most of the guys would build a small wooden table around the center pole for writing letters etc.. One day Robert Smith, and Rufus Perry got into a big argument over who owned that table as both of them laid claim to it. The argument got more heated until Robert Smith reached his breaking point, he grabbed a hammer and hit Rufus over the head with it and although it didn't hurt Rufus seriously, Smith's action did end the argument. I have thought of this incident over

the years and have come to the conclusion; it is a classic example of the entertainment we created over there when we got bored.---Ernie Strange, Jr.

After being wounded on Crescent Hill, I got back to the unit just as we were mopping up, on Oroku Peninsula. We took some prisoners and then we were told not to take any more cause we didn't have any room for them.---Granville Longerbeam

I remember when we were on Oroku Peninsula, a guy shot himself in the hand so he wouldn't have to continue on the front lines. We had some of that, I mean guys wounding themselves or hurting themselves in other ways so they could go back to a rest area somewhere but I don't think it happened a lot.---Frank Kukuchka

Several times when we were firing our mortars, the round would stick in the tube which would necessitate removing the tube from the baseplate, one man would tip the tube to allow the shell to fall out of the end, the second man would very carefully grasp the round before the safety pin fell out and then throw it to some noninhabited area to the rear. It was kind of a scary procedure.---Albert Perkins

...We would use our utility knife to cut open our cans of C rations, now, I used the same knife last December to field dress a deer out in the woods here in Ohio. A utility knife, that it truly was. These knives carried a trade mark "KABAR", had a 7 inch blade and were a total of 12 inches long...---Harold Walters, F/2/22/6

"2' & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

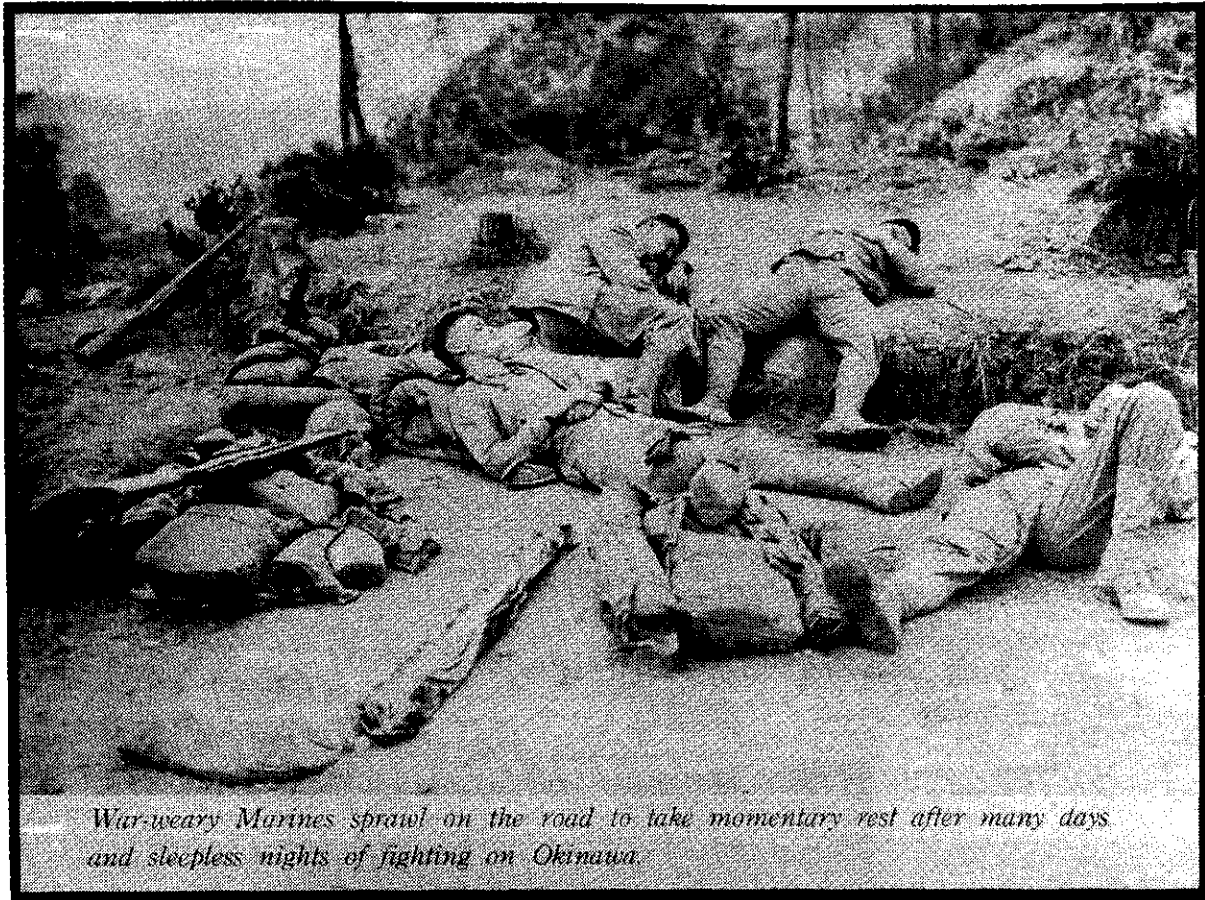
<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
6/7/45	0240	Tp Fr: 1/4 on right flank is firing 81mm mortars too close to our lines, G Co wants it moved a little to right. (Action: 4th Mar)
	2010	Tp Fr: Fr lines, 7269 I4 between J1&J5 to E4--7369 A3,A5 between A2&A4.
	1400	Tp Fr: Ammo still burning and exploding--- 20 Est dead in cave behind How Co---2-30.3 cal Lewis guns, 3 Rhambu [nambu ??] LMG's.
	1840	Tp Fr: Enemy casualties; 50 KIA counted, 75 est---3 Lewis .303, 3LMG's, 1 Knee mortar.

I was in a fire team with a fellow and his name was Joe Fadden, and he was wounded in the arm as I recall on Oroku Peninsula. I guess the Leather Neck Magazine, was writing a story and asked us to "mock" an attack after Fadden was wounded so they could get some pictures and we not very politely, told him "to blow it out his nose!", "if you want that picture so bad you go attack them." Needless to say the pictures never got taken. Joe was an older man, as he was about 25 years old so he qualified as a "father figure", and he was married and had a couple kids. I had just turned 18 at the time so anyone more than two years older than I was, I considered old. He was a real nice guy and when he was wounded, I was there as well as Francis L Smith.--- Ernie Strange, Jr.

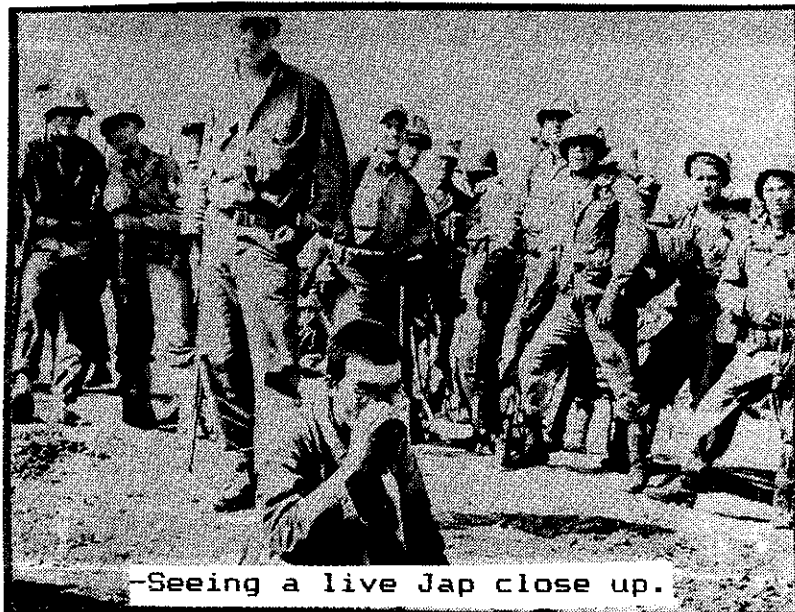
You [Ken Long] and I were together during the tank episode we were just talking about, in fact we were sitting within spitting distance from one another when the new replacement we were talking to near or under the tank was shot in the head by the sniper and was killed. I recall he was a professional baseball player from the east coast and it seems to me his name was Millan, McMillan or something like that. Like you said, he was only with the unit a matter of a half hour or so before he was killed. It was shortly after he was killed that the Japanese soldier who was camouflaged in the woodpile near the tank was spotted and killed. Apparently he was waiting for the opportunity to rush and distroy the tank with a satchel charge. When the Jap raised up after being shot he was the most horrible sight I have ever seen with dried blood and stuff sticking to his body. He was only about 30 feet away from us. [The name of the young Marine who was killed, although he wasn't listed as being killed with "I" Company, could have very well been named Millan or McMillan because during the research I have done it was learned if the transfer papers didn't have time to be sent to Marine Headquarters, the man was listed as part of the Replacement Draft he came over with. One source of information; Okinawa: Victory In The Pacific, by Major Chas. S. Nichols, Jr., and Henry I. Shaw, Jr., list 955 casualties coming from all Replacement Drafts.--- Ernie Strange, Jr.

There were a lot of civilians killed when they tried to move

through our lines at night as the Japs wouldn't let them come out of the caves during the day and surrender. Since we didn't know whether they were friend or foe, we shot at anything we saw.---
Hubert Welch



War-weary Marines sprawl on the road to take momentary rest after many days and sleepless nights of fighting on Okinawa.



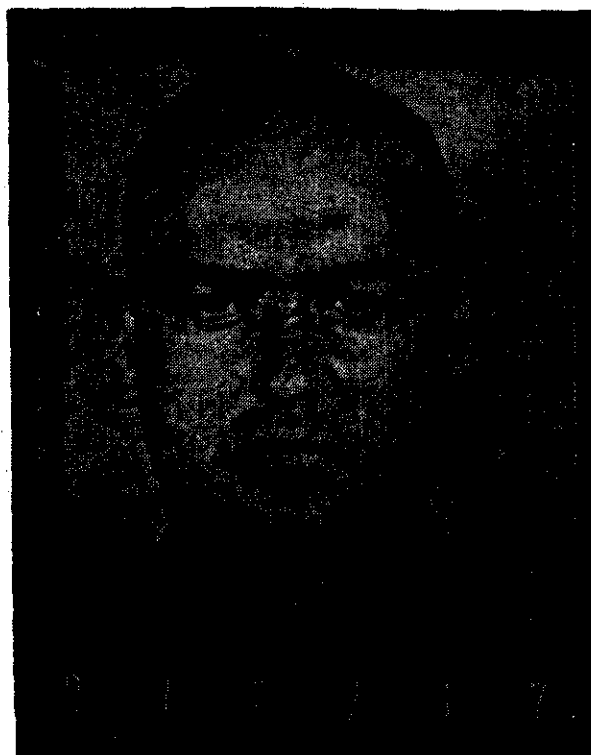
-Seeing a live Jap close up.

"2" & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
6/8/45	0805	Tp Fr: 3/29 off at 0800. (Action: G-3)
	0915	Tp Fr: 1 Plat B/3 7369 02, heavy 20mm & LMG's from left front---How Co on 7369 A, pinned down from L. (Action: G-3)
	0900	Tp Fr: 2-40mm, 1-50mm mortar knocked out;(not included 07 Total)
	1130	Tp Fr: Telephones of I Co, 7369 F5,F1,A4--- H Co sealing caves in 7369 A1, under fire--- G Co on 0 hill but pinned down by fire 7369 K&P. (Action: m)
	1430	Tp Fr: I Co knocked out 1-20mm and 1Knee mortar---G Co receiving fire from 7369 P&L.
	1500	Tp Fr: 7269 01&3, 05, 02, J5, E4,--- "G" Co. south slope of E'asy---Can't get off "A" hill.
	1645	Tp Fr: Lines 7269 03, 05, 02, J5, road in E4---7369 A5, A4. (Action: m)
	1840	Tp Fr: KIA 91 counted, 150 estimated sealed in caves---Destroyed; 2-40mm, 4-20mm, 1-50mm mortar, 3 knee mortars, 8 LMG's, 45 rifles, 2 shotguns.

Marines Killed in Action

6/8/45	French	William	Cpl	912757
6/8/45	Dolci	Quinto	Pfc	360878



Cpl William James French, 912757

Corporal French, was born on 8 November 1915, at Fall River Mass. He was married and his wife lived at 12 Lee Street, Salem, Massachusetts. He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve on 15 October 1943, at Boston, Mass. at the age of 27 years and was placed in the 5th Recruit Bn, Parris Island, S.C. on October 30, 1943. On January 4, 1944 he was promoted to PFC and later that month was assigned to the Military Police Co, Parris Island, S.C.. He was promoted to Corporal on January 1, 1945 and was transferred to the 57th Replacement Draft, at Oceanside, Calif. on March 27, 1945. Corporal French, embarked for Okinawa, aboard the USS Fergus and was assigned to I/3/29/6 on May 28, 1945.

Cpl French, was Killed In Action on June 8, 1945, from a gunshot wound to the chest, while his unit was advancing on hills designated as 57 and 62 and located just south and west of the village of Oroku, on the Oroku, Peninsula. The remains of Cpl French, were interred on 9 June 1945, Row 25, Grave 604, Plot A, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1.

The final interment of Cpl French was made during 1948, when his remains were interred at Arlington National Cemetery, Ft. Myer, Virginia.



PFC Quinto Dolci, 360878

Private First Class Dolci, was born 9 September 1921, at Greenville, Tenn., the son of Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Dolci, Route #2, Box 10, Lake Village, Ark.. He was 20 years of age when he enlisted at Little Rock, Ark.. On March 7, 1942 he joined the 4th Recruit Bn, at San Diego, Calif. for Boot training. On June 15, 1942, he boarded the USS Arthur Middleton and was assigned to the Machine Gun Group, 3rd Defense Bn, FMF, Camp Catlin, Oahu. He was

assigned to 3" Antiaircraft Group, 6th Defense Bn, FMF. PFC Dolci was promoted to PFC during July of 1942. After some service time at the Navy Yard at Pearl Harbor and Camp Elliot, Calif., he joined Hq Co, 3rd Bn, 29th Marines, FMF, on May 1, 1944 at Camp Lejeune, N.C. and embarked aboard the USS C.G. Morton for Guadalcanal, on August 1, 1944.

PFC Dolci, joined I/3/29/6 on May 23, 1945. He was Killed In Action due to a gunshot wound to the abdomen on June 8, 1945, as our Company was located a few hundred yards south and west of the town of Oroku, on the Oroku Peninsula, which is near the hills designated as 57 and 62. PFC Dolci's remains were interred 9 June 1945, Row 24, Grave 598, Plot A, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1948 his remains were returned to the United States and interred at a cemetery at Lake Village, Ark.

		Marines Wounded		
6/8/45	Hudoba	Joseph	Cpl	526430
6/8/45	Lee	William	Pl/Sgt	452077
6/8/45	Merrigan	Donald	Pvt	337403
6/8/45	Miller	Ralph	Pfc	918530
6/8/45	Norman	Eugene	Pvt	570727
6/8/45	Norman	James	Pvt	993744
6/8/45	Pfotenhauer	Paul	Pvt	985399
6/8/45	Taylor	Harold	G/Sgt	245350
6/8/45	Van Hooser	Karl	Pvt	559791
6/8/45	Watts	Robert	Pvt	555166

Although I can't remember the place or date, our unit was passing a thicket of small trees and some of us went around them on one side and some on the other and we flushed a Jap and he ran into a depression about eight feet deep and had steep sides. Our instructions were not to fire our rifles as we would give away our position, but apparently in the excitement we all forgot those instructions and every weapon we had opened up on that Jap. He was darting from one side of the depression to the other attempting to dodge those bullets. The sides were too steep for him to get out and he'd get about half way up and then slide down again. Finally his luck ran out and his body crumpled. I can't remember if we had any expert riflemen in the unit but I don't think we did that day. After he was killed, every Marine in the group surrounding the Jap, put his finger in his mouth and made an imaginary mark in the air for the "kill" he had just made. When Hq Platoon made the survey for the day on the number of Japanese killed, that one Jap was counted between 10 and 15 times, once for every Marine that was in our unit at the time.---
John Townsend

During the time we were on Oroku Peninsula, and about the time I was wounded, I was in a foxhole with Dolci, [Quinto] and was assigned to carry a flame thrower. I was called over to pick it up and took over the job without any training. When I returned to my foxhole, Dolci, had been hit with a 20mm and was dead, in fact he was hit more that once and his body was cut up pretty bad. I joined the Company as a rifleman in the 1st Platoon and I

met Sykes, who was from Ohio, I really liked him. [Sykes was killed on June 10th]---Paul Pfotenhauer

I was wounded on June 8, I was carrying a flamethrower. Our squad was going up a small hill and there was a cave with a small stone wall in front of the entrance and I gave the cave a few squirts of napalm before lighting it off. The cave must have made a sharp turn a short ways in because when I put the flame to it, the flame entered and bounced out again enveloping me and I got second degree burns to my face.---Paul Pfotenhauer

We went to the Oroku Peninsula by Amtracks and it was about this time we started to be shelled by the screamin meemes. We ran into cave after cave around there and it was here, Sgt Bill Lee was hit by machine gun fire and was wounded.

I went into one of those caves, it was a hospital cave and dead Japs were everywhere. There were separate rooms and a lot of medical instuments. I saw one live Jap in there too but he ran one way and I ran the other, I guess neither one of us knew at that time who belonged to that cave.---Hubert Welch

We were in a crater when this Marine stood up and started telling us about this was to be his last campaign and he would be going home. Then he was hit in the stomach by a Jap shell and it hit him in the canteen. There were about six or seven of us in the crater at the time.---Joe Bledsoe

I remember a Marine in our unit by the name of Dolci [Quinto] he was a cook and they took him out of there and put him on the front lines. [Dolci was killed in action on Oroku Peninsula, June 8, 1945] he told me he didn't have any front line experience. I remember when he was killed by a machine gun.---Woodrow Hoffman

On June 8th, still wearing my bandages I rejoined "I" Co., 29th Marines on Oroku Peninsula. Prior to re-joining though I went through Division and got a haircut, clean clothes, an M-1 and other items of issue. They had a mess hall there in which I spent the night of the June 6, it was located so during the day one could see the big guns---I think 150mm, being fired in the battle zone of the 1st Division. On June 7th, I got on a truck with about 10 other guys and we headed south towards Naha, during the trip south we met quite a few trucks heading north with both dead and wounded men.---Donald Honis

I proceeded to the 3rd Battalion of the 29th Marines who I learned were inland on the front lines on Oroku Peninsula. I spent the night at Battalion Hq and on the morning of the 8th, re-joined "I" Co.. It turned out to be a rather unhappy homecoming as we had 3 killed and 11 wounded that day, Cpl Franch was one of those killed and they were all covered with their poncho. Lt Kelly, is our Platoon Leader now, [machine gun] I got assigned to Joe Stelmark's squad and he was our squad leader, Joe Sheer was our section leader. Sousa, was in the squad, as well as Marvin Long, and Jones. The Company is really chewed up by now

and we don't have a heck of a lot of men in it. My guess would be about 100 men total if that.---Donald Honis

On the 9th, we attack and took Flattop Hill, and on our way up we came upon a village to our right that was all burned out, as we dashed up the road we noticed a spider trap off of the road and a Jap was in it, maybe waiting for an officer, but he was spotted and taken care of. [this day June 9th, was the same day Double "A" Smith, who was squad leader of the 1st squad, 3rd Rifle Platoon was shot in the arm by a Jap in a spider trap. Might be the same one. Double "A" got the Jap though.] We set our gun up so we were firing across an open field or valley towards another hill being assaulted by our Battalion's "G" Co. In the area to our right front there was a cave opening that was covered with some corrugated material, it actually formed a canopy over the entrance. We were firing into it and all at once the Japs started pouring out of it. So here they were just streaming out of there trying to make a run for it. In addition to our guns, a tank was located next to us and it was firing at the same cave and the next day as we were walking by the spot, I counted 23 dead Nips. On the evening of the 9th Marvin Long, who was a gunner, wanted to set up his gun in position and spruce it up with a little camouflage and Joe Stelmack and I are in the next hole when we heard one rifle shot and that was the one that got Marvin Long. We dragged him into our hole and noticed the bullet took off part of one finger and also hit him in the shoulder area, not in the lung but in the shoulder area. At that time a Corpsman came over and tried to get a needle in his arm to give him some plasma, as he was going into shock but he died. [The Corpsman might have been Orville Saylor, who was assigned to the Machine Gun Platoon and was the only Corpsman assigned to "I" Co who was not killed or wounded. It's ironic that he made it through without being killed or wounded and yet was attached to the platoon in "I"Co that received the most fatalities.]. [The last sentence was incorrect, as the Corpsman who tried to give Long some plasma was a red headed replacement Corpsman named Ernest H. Mayhan, Jr. and along with Corpsman Saylor, they were the only two left in "I" Co.. All this was to change however as on the next day, June 10, 1945 Ernest Mayhan would be killed by a sniper's bullet to the neck.]

Zoltanski, was also killed on June 9th. We had one of our tanks off to our right and there was a squad following the tank of which Zoltanski was a member, a sniper's bullet hit him in the head, in fact right through the eye and he was killed instantly and another Marine right next to him was named Wojciechowski, who said, "I saw him get hit and fall, when I went over to him the blood was gushing from his head". During this time too Jones, who was our gunner was adjusting the gun and the latch unhooked, the muzzle dropped down and his finger hit the trigger. Half a dozen rounds went off hitting the side of the tank that Zoltanski, was walking behind when he was killed. No sooner had the first round hit the tank and the 76mm swung around and was pointing right at us---we were doing everything we could do to wave the tank crew off.---Donald Honis

One day as we were preparing to move forward to another small hill, we were given the support of two tanks, one of which set off a land mine and the noise was such an insignificant "pop" that it was hard to understand how the tank could have been damaged but one of the tracks was broken and so we were down to one to assist us in the advance we were about to make. It was surprising to me at the time just how much enemy fire a tank draws, as this was my first experience with tank support. The remaining tank was positioned so as to be able to use it's gun at the high ground about 800 yards to our front as we were attracting quite a bit of small arms fire from there. We had got several replacements in the morning and I recieved one who was to be my foxhole mate and we were both sitting under the tank so as not to be exposed to the intense small arms fire we were receiving. I can't remember the exact content of the conversation but I do remember he was a professional baseball player and that he came from the eastern part of the United States. I am sure that I knew his name too but it has been forgotten. We were both sitting so that our backs were against the right track of the tank when I heard that characteristic "crack" made by the bullet of a Japanese rifle that was mighty close and upon turning I noticed the bullet had struck the Marine in the right temple and he was dead. I remember too that Double A. Smith gave me a bit of a father to son talk on the need to get the services of a Corpsman as soon as possible because there was the possibility that the man might still be alive. Double A, was a fine squad leader and being in his mid to late 20's he was one of the older guys there. He was to be wounded about this time and although I never heard the circumstances surrounding it I assume it was sniper fire. I have never been in contact with Double A, since.

On the rear of the tank was a telephone so that the crew could talk to the troops on the outside and vise versa, one whistled into the speaker of the phone to get the attention of the crew member. A short time after the incident described above, I was standing directly behind the tank as we hadn't moved out yet, and the gunner swung the turret to his right and started to fire his machine gun into a small area of brush about 30 yards off the road. In this spot was a pile of short lengths of wood resembling a pile of cordwood and the tank gunner was firing into it and it wasn't until he had fired for about five seconds I noticed the camouflaged Jap that had been laying on that wood pile with a satchel charge waiting for the opportunity to destroy the tank. It was ammazing to me with the restricted vision of the tank crew they had noticed the Jap because our squad had been there for over an hour and not seen him. I'll bet that crew didn't have to many complimentary remarks to make about our squad when they returned to their HQ that night.--Kenneth Long

I looked down to the field from which I had just come and saw Paul Pfothenauer, a flame thrower operator getting ready to clear the cave that was directly to my front when I approached the hill. The flame that came from the nozzle made sort of a hissing

noise as it entered the cave entrance and as soon as he directed the first blast into it, a flame equally as large came bouncing out enveloping Paul. As I started down the hill to see how bad he was hurt there was an explosion that sounded more like a "thud" than a "boom" and it blew a 30 foot portion of the hill-top off sending Paul, rolling down the slight incline that he was standing on. His face was burned quite badly but since the Corpsman was right there he was treated and evacuated immediately. I think the Corpsman that treated Paul was the same red-headed guy I referred to earlier. The smell of the explosion had a strong odor of picric acid, the explosive used by the Japanese in their sachel charges and apparently there was a lot of it stored in that cave. Paul was a very likeable Marine, always smiling and cheerful and I remember well a couple conversations I had with him. His Dad was a minister and Paul told of how he and some of his friends used to go to the basement of their house and sample the communion wine his Dad had stored there.---Kenneth Long

[Benton] Graves, I remember him, he was a section leader in the Machine Gun Platoon and a heck of a good Marine. Later in the battle he became or I should say took over the job of Gy/Sgt for the Platoon even though he was only a corporal. He was the best machine gunner I have ever seen.---Charles Miller



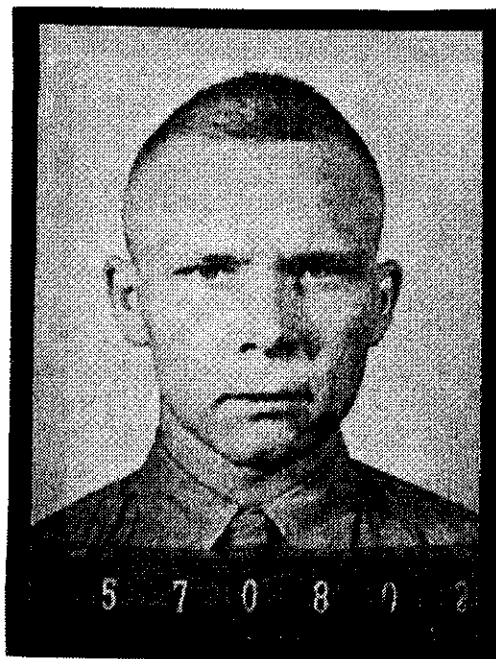
A Marine is pinned down by Japanese rifle fire.

"2" & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
6/9/45	0800	Tp Fr: 3/29 jumped off at 0745.
	0845	Tp Fr: 3/29 on Reverse slope 7369 G & K, getting heavy fire from 7369 U&V. (Action: m, 4th Mar, D-3)
	1045	Tp Fr: Lines 7369 G1, F5, F2, E5, K1---G Co in process of moving on "P" Hill---6 Nips KIA at 7369 M3. (Action: M)
	1250	Tp Fr: Front lines; 7369 P5, K5, K2, G2---G Co captured 1-20mm & 1 HMG---Fire from V2, also sniper fire from rear.
	1215	Tp Fr: On hill 7369 P. (Action: G-3, 4th Mar)

Marines Killed in Action

6/9/45	Zoltanski	Eugene	Pvt	570802
6/9/45	Long	Marvin	Pfc	519098



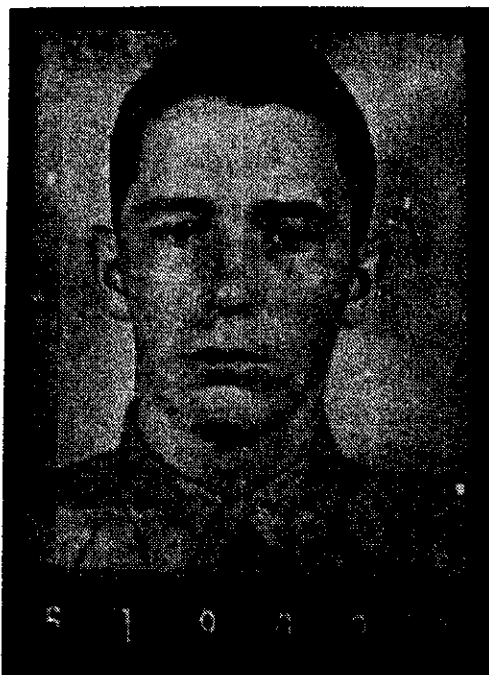
Pvt Eugene Paul Zoltanski, 570802

Private Zoltanski, was born July 27, 1926, at Toledo, Ohio, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Zoltanski, 246 East Hudson Street, Toledo, Ohio.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve, at Cleveland, Ohio, on July 15, 1944, and was 17 years old. He did not go on active duty until October 19, 1944, and reported to the 1st Recruit Bn., Parris Island, on 21 October 1944. He joined the 57th Replacement Draft, March 27, 1945, and left the United States, for the south pacific aboard the USS Fergus, April 19, 1945. Pvt Zoltanski, joined I/3/29/6, at Okinawa, May 28, 1945.

Pvt Zoltanski, Died Of Wounds he received June 9, 1945, (He died on the same day he was wounded, ie. June 9, 1945) he

received multiple H.E. fragment wounds while "I" Company, was attacking the Japanese in the area of Hill 53, south of the village of Oroku on the Oroku Peninsula.



PFC Marvin Ashby Long, 519098

Private First Class Long was born at Harrisonburg, Va., on 15 January 1926 and his mother, Mrs. Ethel L. Deal, lived at 709 8th Street, N.E., Washington, D.C.. He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve on January 11, 1944 at Washington, D.C. and received his Boot Training with the 7th Recruit Bn., Parris Island, S.C., starting on March 17, 1944. He was 17 years old when he enlisted.

PFC Long, Joined Co."I", 3rd Bn, 29th Marines, FMF., at Camp Lejeune, N.C., on June 1, 1944 and embarked on the USS Gen C.G. Morton, on August 1, 1944 for Guadalcanal and was promoted to PFC on August 13, 1944. He was a member of the Machine Gun Platoon, I/3/29/6.

PFC Long was Killed In Action by a gunshot wound to the chest and hand, south and west of the town of Oroku, on the Oroku Peninsula, June 9, 1945. His remains were interred 11 June 1945, Row 26, Grave 629, Plot B, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1948, his remains were returned to the United States and interred at Arlington National Cemetery, Fort Myer, Arlington, Virginia.

		Marines Wounded	
6/9/45	Smith	Ambrose Cpl	444065
6/9/45	Sports	Rupert Pfc	544609

I got wounded on Oroku Peninsula, it was June 9, 1945 at 8 in the morning. Lt Pottenger our platoon leader and myself were

following the tank I mentioned above before the mine blew the track off, after a short way I saw two Japs running along a stone wall a short distance to the left of us, I fired two shots at them but couldn't tell whether or not I hit them. Just then someone from my squad said "Hey, there's a Jap in that hole there", and I said, bull shit but since the guy [authors note: the guy might have been Joe Fadden] insisted he saw one I told him I had one grenade left and I'd go over and toss it in the hole which I was about to do. I had the pin pulled and walked over to toss it in when I saw this slant eyed son of a gun looking right up at me. His rifle was pointing right at my belt buckle, I turned to get out of his sights just as he shot and he hit me in the right arm and I can't remember the grenade ever going off.---Ambrose A Smith

On about June 9, two other Marines (I can't remember who) and myself came upon a huge cave and entered it. I recall the many flies and the stench coming from the bodies of numerous Japanese soldiers that had decomposed and were stacked like pieces of wood along the inside of the entrance on both sides of the entrance. We only went in about 30 feet, and on a table was a set of what appeared to be surgical instruments, nearby was another table that was covered with stacks of one thousand yen paper currency and I'm not exaggerating when I say there were several thousand of these. On a third table was a set of 8 by 10 inch black and white photographs of what appeared to be a picture history of the bombing of Pearl Harbor and there were 75 or 100 of these pictures in sequence, starting with shots of aircraft carriers and crew leaving some port and ending with shots of the actual bombing of Pearl Harbor with all of the ships below. None of us took any of the money and I have never regretted that since this could have been the time it was booby trapped.---Kenneth Long

A man with the title of "Corpsman" was regarded with great affection by all the Marines in the unit to which that man was assigned.---James S White, 6/3/29/6 [wounded on 9 June, Oroku Peninsula]

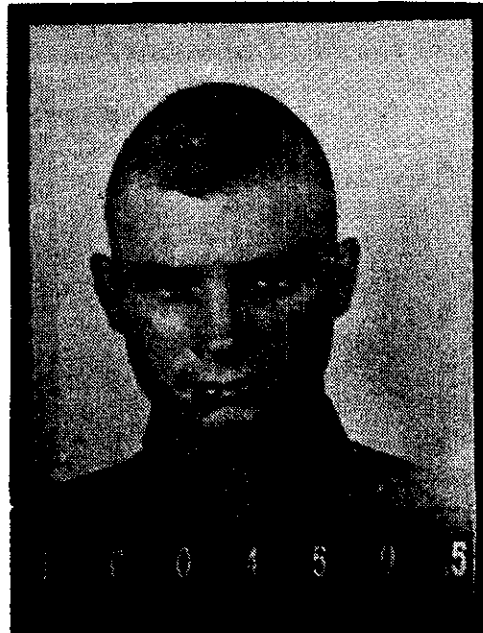
"2" & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msqs, Orders, etc.</u>
6/10/45	0955	Tp Fr: 3/29/, 2/29, 2/4 off together at 0935.
	1015	Tp Fr: B/29 on Hill 53. (Action: G-3, m)
	1140	Tp Fr: Lines 7369 between K&L, P&Q, T, U-2, around hill 53 (LG) (Action: G-3, M)
	1445	Tp Fr: Hvy sniper and rifle fire on L. flank ---How Co cleaning out Able Hill---1-HMG, 1-1" Cannon captured.
	1550	Tp Fr: B Co 7368 B2-7369 V5---Fire from V1--- G Co P4, P5, P2---Gap K5, G5.
	1920	Tp Fr: How Co, 7270 S4---George Co, 7270 R1, R5.

Marines Killed in Action

6/10/45	Sykes	Floyd	Pvt	1004505
6/10/45	Mayhan	Ernest	HA1c	931-74-68

[No picture or information available on Corpsman Mayhan]



Pvt Floyd Elmer Sykes, 1004505

Private Sykes, was born on May 26, 1925, at Winnaboro, La. and was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse L. Sykes, 2063 Mullinnix Drive, Coronado, California.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps, August 31, 1944, at New Orleans, La., at the age of 19 years and joined the 2nd Recruit Bn., Parris Island for his Boot Training on September 2, 1944. On December 26, 1944 he was assigned to the 46th Replacement Draft, FMF., and embarked for the south pacific aboard the USS Arenac, March 11, 1945. He joined I/3/29/6, on Okinawa, May 17, 1945.

Pvt Sykes, was Killed in Action, June 10, 1945, by a gunshot wound to the back while attacking Japanese positions south west of the village of Oroku on the Oroku Peninsula. His remains were interred June 13, 1945, Row 29, Grave 702, Plot A, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1948, the remains of Pvt Sykes, were returned to the United States and interred at Winnsboro Cemetery, Winnsboro, Louisiana.

		Marines Wounded		
6/10/45	Austin	Byron	Pfc	260262
6/10/45	Cleary	Edward	Pfc	541404
6/10/45	Michel	Richard	Pfc	319864
6/10/45	Riley	Jack	Pvt	990804
6/10/45	Soderholm	Leo	Pvt	994293
6/10/45	Stabi	Joseph	Pvt	570751
6/10/45	Stine	Cedric	Pvt	950509

Sykes, [Pvt Floyd E. Sykes] was killed by stepping on a trip flare while we were on Oroku Peninsula. There was heavy fighting going on at the time and he stayed out there for three days. Of course we knew he was dead but it was horrible to watch his color turn from white to brown and watch his body swell like all the bodies did that were laying out that long.---John Townsend

Major Summerford, was wounded as he was taking a crap, just prior to our moving out to attack. The bullet went through both legs.---Paul Pfotenhauer

Marvin Smith, he was a boy from Kentucky, from Lexington, I think, and he was a real country boy with a great sense of humor. I really got to know him well over in Tsingtao, China.---Ernie Strange, Jr.

Cedric Stine, he got shot in the butt.---Ernie Strange, Jr.

Floyd Sykes, he's the fellow who got killed. He used to work in the oilfields in Texas. As I remember he was a flamethrower man or at least he carried some type of special equipment.---Ernie Strange, Jr.

About this time Lt Pottenger told you and I to go blast a cave that was to our front and he pointed it out to us. We did quite a bit of running and you got on one side and I got on the other and at that time we heard some jabbering inside, but we sealed the cave and got back to the unit OK.---Joe Bledsoe

June 10th. We were firing to the left towards a hill there and Clark, was firing one of the guns there was a metal on metal sound and we noticed the Nips had put a round through one of the ammunition boxes. Riley was in the Machine Gun Platoon and he was hit in the mouth by a bullet. It entered one cheek, knocked out a couple teeth and went out the other cheek. Riley, was from Houston. I recall at some time during the day a 37mm gun was brought up as well as a 50 caliber machine gun to help us out and

they received a lot of fire. "G" Co was on our right but as I remember we didn't make very much progress that day.---Donald



1--The last stages of the Oroka battle: Flushing hidden Japs from the mud flats along the banks of the Kokuba River. 2--A frightened Jap comes out of hiding. 3--Flamethrowers helped take care of those who wouldn't surrender. 4--The Japs were difficult to locate in the cane fields.

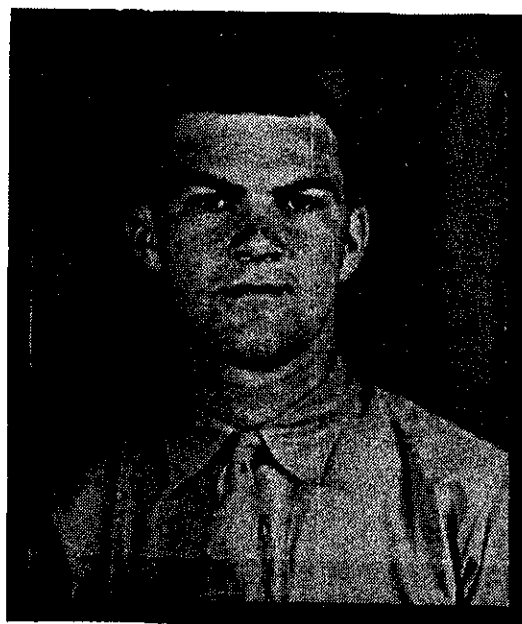
--All Marines pictured are from "I" Co.

"2" & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
6/11/45	1000	TP To: Relieve C/29 in 2/29 Zone w/strongest Co., that Co will be atchd to 2/29---C/29 reverts to 1/29 when relief is completed. (Action: 1/29, 2/29, 3/29)

Marines Killed in Action

6/11/45	Sheer	Joseph	Sgt	838172
6/11/45	Wilson	Donald	Asst/Ck	813771



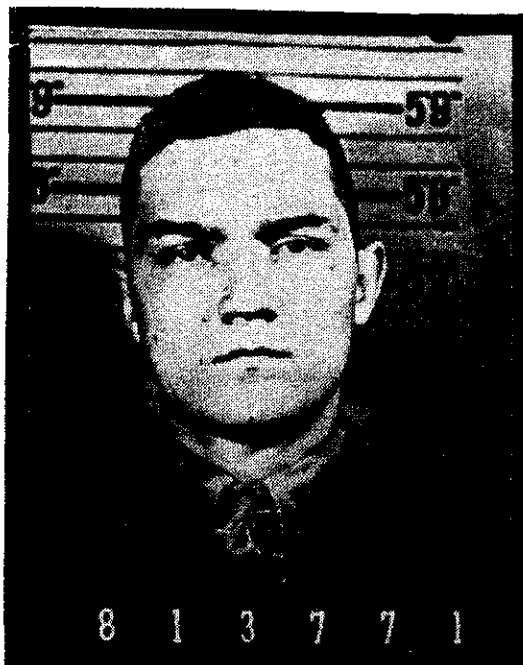
Sgt Joseph Metro Sheer, 838172

Sergeant Sheer, was born 5 February 1923 at Beaver Meadows, Pa., and was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Metro Sheer, 28 Second Street, Beaver Meadows, Pennsylvania.

On March 12, 1943, he enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve at Philadelphia, Pa., when he was 20 years old. He started his Boot Training as part of the 11th Recruit Bn., Parris Island, on March 20, 1943. He was promoted to PFC on May 21, 1943, Cpl on July 23, 1943 and Sgt on February 14, 1944 during the period he was assigned to the Hd & Hd Co.. On July 1, 1944, he joined Co."I", 3rd Bn., 29th Marines, FMF., and embarked for Guadalcanal aboard the USS Gen. C.G. Morton, on August 1, 1944. He was assigned to the Machine Gun Platoon, I/3/29/6.

Sgt Sheer, was Killed In Action, on June 11, 1945 he died of a gunshot wound to the head, during the last days of the fighting on the Oroku Peninsula, a short distance south of the village of Oroku, on the Kokuba River estuary. His remains were interred June 13, 1945, Row 29, Grave 712, Plot A, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1948, the remains of Sgt Sheer, were interred

at the National Cemetery, Hawaii.



ACK Donald Bruce Wilson, 813771

Assistant Cook Wilson, was born, 19 November 1924, at Lake Mills, Iowa, the son of Mrs. Dorothy Wilson, 600 Franklin, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

He entered the Marine Corps on January 26, 1943, at the age of 18 years at Minneapolis, Minn.. On January 29, 1943, he was assigned to the 8th Recruit Bn. San Diego, for Boot Training and joined the 5th Joint Assault Signal Company, Oceanside, Calif. on July 4, 1944. He joined the 63rd Replacement Draft, April 7, 1945 and embarked for the south pacific aboard the USS Adm. C.F. Hughes, joining I/3/29/6, at Okinawa, on May 29, 1945.

ACK Wilson, was Killed In Action, June 11, 1945, from a gunshot wound to the chest. Company "I", was attacking some high ground south of the village of Oroku, on the Oroku Peninsula. His remains were interred, June 13, 1945, Row 29, Grave 710, Plot A, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1948, the remains of ACK Wilson, were returned to the United States and interred at Fort Snelling National Cemetery, Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

Marines Wounded

6/11/45	Damarata	August	2nd Lt	040383
6/11/45	Fadden	Joseph	Pfc	951278
6/11/45	Leary	Warren	Pfc	926086
6/11/45	Litrell	Anthony	Cpl	845432
6/11/45	Mackin	Wayne	Pfc	944008
6/11/45	McCarty	Harold	Pfc	518171
6/11/45	Moore	John	Pvt	826464
6/11/45	Morley	Jesse	Pfc	878895
6/11/45	Olthoff	Dean	Pfc	480760

6/11/45	Smith	Robert	Pvt	993797
6/11/45	Southerland	Needham	Pvt	984456

Company Replacements from the 55th Replacement Draft

6/11/45	Hentz	William	Pvt	550623
6/11/45	McMullen	Francis	Cpl	844680
6/11/45	Oleska	John	Pvt	323376
6/11/45	Ryan	Thomas	2nd Lt	026110
6/11/45	Schroeder	Richard	Pvt	564224
6/11/45	Scott	Emmet	Pvt	992812
6/11/45	Serwatt	Donald	Pvt	950225
6/11/45	Sexton	Henry	Pvt	553304
6/11/45	Shirk	Eugene	Pvt	968498
6/11/45	Shoemaker	John	Pvt	993062
6/11/45	Shukis	Bruno	Pvt	985627
6/11/45	Siembida	John	Pvt	571061
6/11/45	Sigel	Harry	Pvt	564440
6/11/45	Silvius	David	Pvt	996234
6/11/45	Smith	Charles	Pvt	821374
6/11/45	Smith	John	Pvt	987480
6/11/45	Smith	George	Pvt	1002208
6/11/45	Snell	George	Pfc	553289
6/11/45	Snyder	Robert	Pvt	973861
6/11/45	Ware	Walter	Pvt	914342
6/11/45	Zuber	Steven Jr	Asst/Ck	469569

Elton Stone, he was from Wichita, Texas. we were in the same fireteam. One night on Oroku Peninsula, Stone and I were in our foxhole and before dark we had thrown empty "C" ration cans into a draw in front of us hoping we could hear any infiltrators approaching, I can't remember who was on watch but soon we had 3 Japs right on top of us. Both of us were swinging our fists and firing our rifles and its a wonder we didn't shoot one another. Come to find out, the three Japs turned out to be three Okinawans but it was quite an experience.---Ernie Strange, Jr.

June 11th. Someone mentioned, if we could get a gun down and around the bend and fire off to our left, which was blind to us now, we could do some good. It was really exposed and a tank should have gone over there. Joe Sheer, took the other squad which would have been Garland's squad of which one of the gunners was Potter and they took off. I can still see Joe Sheer disappearing around the front face of the hill and ten minutes later he was dead. While he was in the process of setting up the gun a Nip shot him in the head with one round The rest of the squad was pinned down in that location for the remainder of the day. A group of us eased down to a position on the hillside which was slightly above the squad and threw some white phosphorous grenades as far out as we could to give them a smoke screen prior to their returning to the unit. Even then, the tripod was shot off Potter's shoulder and one man got hit just above the ankle--- I can't recall his name.---Donald Honis

Joe Sheer is in Section M, Grave 620 in the Punch Bowl

Cemetery.---Donald Honis

During the battle for Oroku Peninsula, we were moving in a south-east direction. The 4th Marines were on our right flank and extended to the China Sea, the 29th Marines were on the left half of the island with the 2nd Battalion zone extending to the Kokuba Estuary to our left. The 3rd Battalion (29th) was located on the high ground in the center. It was during this period that Joe Bledsoe and I became the unofficial demolition team of our platoon and when there was a cave that needed blowing Joe and I would be selected primarily because we had had the most experience in the use of explosives and maybe because we were lucky enough to always come back from the assignments. One day Lt. Pottenger (our platoon leader) called Joe and I back to the CP and told us he had a job for us as we were getting automatic weapon fire from our right front. Lt Pottenger layed out his map of the area and pointed out the spot where the fire was coming from. I don't know about Joe but I couldn't understand the map, however since the cave was visible to us it didn't make any difference. Joe and I each took a sachel charge and I left my BAR and borrowed Pete's carbine and away we went, running and weaving that 150 yards, taking cover whenever the terrain permitted. We got to the entrance of the cave with Joe on one side and I on the other and pulled the pins simultaneously, swinging the charges before we released them so they would travel into the cave a ways, just as I let go of the sachel I heard jabbering and then the cry of a young child from inside the cave entrance. The muffled explosion that followed did the job. The cave was sealed.

We returned to the area that the platoon was located and I wondered how many more jobs there were to be done similar to this one. I think Joe was the squad leader during this time because Double A Smith had already been wounded. He had joined the Company in Guadalcanal and was the only man (I'm sure there were several others) that had not been killed or wounded from the original unit, that I knew. If there was a cave that needed "blowing", there is no man I would rather have as a partner than Joe T Bledsoe.---Kenneth Long

June 12

On the 12th of June, we advanced to the very top of Flattop Hill to fire on the high ground directly to our front and were greeted by 6 or 8 dead Nips when we got there who were killed during the process of our taking the hill. (I still have a canteen I took off one of them) We were firing from the top of it but the Japs were at a slightly higher elevation to our front and so were firing down on us. Later in the day we decided to take the gun back down to get a better angle of fire at some targets and after I threw out a white phosphorous grenade, Al Sousa, grabbed the gun and started heading for me as I was in a depression near him. One rifle round hit the ground, throwing up dirt behind Al, ricocheted and struck him in the back. He dropped the gun and said, "I'm hit". I had seen the bullet hit the ground but I didn't realize he was hit until he staggered past me and I saw the bullet hole in his dungaree jacket. A Couple guys caught Al, before he fell but I can still hear him, he was in a lot of pain saying, "my belly, my belly". To this day I can still hear Al---I think he died the next day. This was his second wound as he was hit while at the northern part of the Island. Al was from Monterey, and he often talked about his girlfriend who lived there.---Donald Honis

We were moving southeast along the high ground in the center of the peninsula with the 4th Marines on our right. The date was about June 12, and the Japanese were encircled by the three regiments of the 6th Division. As the circle became smaller it caused some overlapping of units on the front and so it was on this occasion when we found ourselves in the same shell crater as a couple of guys from the 4th Marines. We were on some high ground overlooking a valley but to our right and left were some higher hills 400 yards away and since there was no action we were just, "shooting the bull". One of the Marines from the 4th was telling us about his previous battles and he had been in a few since he had been in the south Pacific 33 months, he also told us about his wife and three kids, one of which he hadn't seen yet. He told us this was his last battle and then he was going home and as spoke to us he got a mesmerized look in his eyes and stood up. No one thought any thing of it as we weren't getting any fire and although the rest of us were laying in the crater it was more for comfort than for safety. We heard a metallic thud and the Marine went down and the canteen that he was carrying on his right front hip was almost blown in half. The entire front of his stomach had been blown away and some of his intestines were outside of his body. The Corpsman was there in a matter of minutes and had all of us urinate in our canteen cup so that he could use the urine to keep his exposed intestines moist. The Marine lived a couple of minutes. He was the first Marine that I can remember that carried his canteen on the front of his belt. Apparently the shot that killed him was from a Japanese Anti Aircraft gun that was mounted on one of the hills to our front.
---Kenneth Long



Prisoners of every description: 1—Hundreds of civilians and soldiers flushed from a tremendous underground cave, 2—Jap soldiers timidly approach our lines to surrender, 3—Two Okinawan conscripts and a Manchurian warrant officer, 4—An attempt to induce Japanese forces to surrender by using psychology and loudspeakers. These efforts met with varying degrees of success—occasionally proving extremely fruitful.

June 13

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
6/13/45	1100	Tp Fr: 8POW's taken---No change in the situation---Continuing to mop up.
	1145	Tp Fr: 3/29 Patrols in 7469 V and 7468 B. (Action: G-3, m)
	1130	Tp Fr: 31 Counted KIA, 80 estimated sealed in caves---No opposition---wrecked radio station at 7369 Q4.
	1325	Tp Fr: Patrols in 7469 W1, W5---2/29 in 7469 Q. (Action: G-3, M)
	1655	Tp Fr: KIA 192 counted, 145 sealed in caves ---2-20mm, 2 LMG, 1 Rocket Launcher, 1-8" Piece, 2 Knee mortars, 2-51cal MG---POW's 45. (Action: G-2)
	1830	Tp Fr: Change POW's to 46. (Action: G-2)
	1930	Tp To: 4 wardogs loaned by 4th Mar are assigned as of <u>16</u> 1630 until released or requested by the 4th Mar.
	2035	Tp Fr: Reported 19 Nips killed in area--- War Dogs aided greatly in mopping area--- Request for War dogs granted---Request for Eng for 17 June 45.
	1330	Tp Fr: G Co, 5 Nips KIA---I Co, 7 KIA attempting to infiltrate during night---all around with Demo and Grenades--- Patrol of I Co, killed 6 also armed with grenades and Demo.

Marine Killed in Action

6/13/45	Souza	Albert	Pvt	989782



Pvt Albert Souza, 989782
 Private Souza, was born 18 December 1922, at Oakland, Calif.

~ Notes ~

and was the son of Mr. and Mrs. M. T. Souza, Route 1, Box 376, Monterey, California.

He enlisted June 28, 1944, at San Francisco, Cal., in the Marine Corps Reserve, at the age of 21 years. He began his Boot Training, in the 3rd Recruit Bn., San Diego, on June 29, 1944, and joined the 7th Training Battalion, on September 23, 1944. On December 8, 1944, he joined the 26th Replacement Draft, and embarked for the south pacific aboard the USS Sea Bass, December 27, 1944. On February 6, 1945 he joined Co."I", 3rd. Bn., 29th Marines, FMF. (Guadalcanal) and was assigned to the 1st Rifle Platoon, I/3/29/6.

Pvt Souza, was Wounded In Action two times, his first wound occurred April 7, 1945, on the west coast road, when "I" Company moved to the front by passing through the 22nd Marines. His records do not show the type or severity of the wound. He was wounded a second time on June 10, 1945, by a gunshot wound in the abdomen, and he died of this wound on June 13, 1945. Pvt Souza's second wound was received as our unit was attacking a series of hills, south of the village of Oroku, on the Oroku Peninsula. His remains were interred 15 June 1945, Row 29, Grave 707, Plot B, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1948, his remains were returned to the United States and interred at Golden Gate National Cemetery, San Bruno, California.

The rifleman's prayer: Lord, please distribute the bullets like you do the money, let the officers get the most.---John Townsend

I can remember talking to one of the guys I joined the outfit with and it was near the end of the fighting, he said, "You know, I never fired my rifle yet." "Why not!," I said with a great deal of surprise. "Because I didn't want to kill anyone." "But why did you join the Marine Corps then?" I asked and he just shrugged his shoulders. Although his feelings were very noble, I wouldn't want him to be guarding my flank.---Paul Pfotenhauer

Grant Smith, he was from Chicago and I have a picture of him. He was in China with us but he wasn't in our squad on Okinawa and it seems that those are the only guys you got to know since they were in the nearest foxholes to you.---Ernie Strange, Jr.

On June 13, I Company was given the assignment to pass through the low ground next to the Kokuba Estuary and flush out any Japs that might be hiding in the tall reeds and grass. With the exception of the Regimental charge that I mentioned earlier, this is the only time I got a good view of the entire Company (or what was left of it) moving out as a unit. We spaced ourselves about 5 yards apart and moved across the lowlands. I recall we had a Japanese warrant officer acting as our interpreter and at one point we came upon a Jap in the grass, he must have been a Manchurian because he was tall and had a good build, he stood up and said something to the interpreter and we were informed that he wanted to be shot and he was by one of the guys. The

interpreter turned to the man who had shot him, smiled, bowed and said, "thank you". In another spot we came upon a Japanese officer and 3 ladies who were about to surrender when a rifle went off and the officer moved his hand toward the pistol he was wearing, this is all it took and the 8 marines surrounding the Japs, fired simultaneously killing all four. This day completed the battle for Oroku Peninsula.

June 14

6/14/45 Johnson Marine Wounded
Eugene P1/Sgt 266209

June 14th.. The next day we took the gun down to the position we were going to take it to when Al Sousa was hit and we evicted the Japs from the hill to our front. I thought about Al Sousa many times that day especially when I returned to the spot he was hit to retrieve the ammunition boxes up there.---Donald Honis

June 15

6/15/45 Phelps Marine Wounded
Leon Cpl 305103

We were mopping up on the Peninsula and I remember it just as you had it written in the book. We did take some prisoners, very few though. I can still see in my mind, the Japanese officer and the three or four women who stood up in the grass and the Officer made a move for his pistol and we shot all of them. I remember too when the young Japanese soldier turned to the Japanese interpreter and asked to be shot and when one of the guys did shoot him, the Japanese interpreter turned to the Marine, bowed and said "thank you". There were sure some crazy things that happened during the war.---Joe Bledsoe

June 16

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
6/16/45	1930	Tp To: 4 wardogs loaned by 4th Mar are assigned as of 16 1630 until released or requested by the 4th Mar.
	2035	Tp Fr: Reported 19 Nips killed in area--- War Dogs aided greatly in mopping area--- Request for dogs granted---Request for Eng for 17June45.

6/16/45 Guzewich Marines Wounded
Gerald Cpl 292696
7/?/45 Budday Edgar Pfc 511821

Company Replacements from the 62nd Replacements Draft

6/16/45	Johnson	Vernon	Pvt	921702
6/16/45	Jordan	Maurice	Pvt	956163
6/16/45	Justofin	Raymond	Pvt	953910
6/16/45	Key	Joseph	Pvt	957429
6/16/45	Kolodzi	Stanley	Pvt	971975
6/16/45	Kremer	Milton	Pfc	919250
6/16/45	Laubaugh	Harry	Pvt	966300
6/16/45	Mackay	Wilbert	Pvt	563610
6/16/45	Nelson	Lloyd	Pvt	1004859
6/16/45	Neumann	Robert	Pvt	997345
6/16/45	Newren	Karl	Pvt	548243
6/16/45	Nordeen	Richard	Pvt	999107
6/16/45	Novosad	Andrew	Pvt	548291
6/16/45	Nugent	Charles	Pvt	979087
6/16/45	O'Driscoll	Lynn	Pvt	566622
6/16/45	Pappaspyros	Peter	Pvt	912816
6/16/45	Runk	James	Pvt	939711
6/16/45	Salsano	Nicholas	Pvt	966473

June 17

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
6/17/45	1330	Tp Fr: G Co, 5 Nips KIA---I Co, 7 KIA attempting to infiltrate during night---All around with Demo and Grenades---Patrol of I Co, killed 6 also armed with grenades and Demo.

 Replacements for "I" Company

Kearney	Joseph	M	Pvt	453046
Kraklau	Edward	H	Asst/Ck	471982
Marciano	James	J	Fld/M	845150
Ferry	William	D	Pfc	935135

 At the end of the battle for Oroku Peninsula, we had the Japs surrounded in some tall swamp grass near the river that flowed through Naha, and we had captured a Jap who could talk English and we used him for an interpreter. He'd try and talk the Japs into surrendering because they were hidden and every once in a while one would stick his head up out of the grass and either commit suicide, surrender, or was shot. As I remember all of them either comitted suicide or were shot, our guys didn't pay much attention to surrender and shot everything they saw.---Hubert Welch

 The last day of our concentrated advance was in a broad valley which had a steep, cliff-like hillside on its left. As we advanced father our men concentrated closer and closer together. Once we were shoulder to shoulder and many had to drop back to second or third rank positions just to have elbow room. We were closing in on the last pocket of the Jap resistance here.

One thing still sticks in my memory making this advance, when someone threw a smoke grenade into a hole containing some debris and a Jap rushed out. He was vomiting from the mouth and nose at the same time. He only had trousers on. In a few moments while being escorted back to Headquarters, someone from our sidelines got his revenge---the Jap never made it back.---Frank Kukuchka

There was another time, I went in a cave one time, and I didn't go in very far. It looked like bunks alongside of the walls, I remember seeing the medical instruments and we thought at the time it must be a hospital cave or something, but I went out right after that. I can't remember the Japanese money or the pictures of the bombing of Pearl Harbor.---Joe Bledsoe

Then there was a guy named Stelmack, Joe Stelmack, we used to call him the dentist. His favorite trick was to pull gold teeth out of dead Nips. He was my squad leader in the Machine Gun Platoon. He was very possessive of any dead Nips in the area and always checked them for gold teeth. About June 14th, when we wiped out all of those Nips in the mud flats, [on Oroku] trucks brought up some Japs to bury their dead and we sat around laughing at them, a little sadistic I'm afraid; a couple of them gave us a weak smile and showed several gold teeth, at that point Joe [Stelmack] took his pliers out of his pocket and they never opened their mouth again.---Donald Honis

June 18
"2" & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
6/18	0700	Tp Fr: No enemy KIA---Some activity through night---were fired at from vicinity of 7369W.
	0925	Tp Fr: Cave at 7368 Q, Aviation Gas, Engines ---Guide from 3/29 CP to cave. (Action: G-2)

James Strange. (we called him by his middle name, Ernie) I always associate him with being a southern gentleman of the old school. He and I became close friends after his buddy, Major Summerford was wounded and we went to China together. He and I went souvenir hunting several times on Okinawa, one time, I think it was when we were on the Oroku Peninsula we threw a white phosphorous grenade into the opening of a cave. It went off and the white, pungent smoke drifted out of the small opening and inside of the cave we could hear someone coughing. Neither Ernie, nor myself had our head screwed on right that day because we crawled into the opening to see first hand what the situation was. There crouched near the back of the cave were three small Okinawan children, the oldest being about 8 years and the younger two about 4 and 6. At first they were wary of us but after finding out we weren't going to hurt them, they began to respond to our questions and gestures. All three were well disciplined and they didn't cry at all.

Another cave we entered, and I believe you [Kenneth J. Long]

were with us, must have been a hospital cave. As I recall we put some composition C-2 [an explosive that burned with a bright flame] on the end of a rifle, lit it and used it as a torch. It must have been a hospital cave and when we entered we were walking on and around a lot of bodies. One Jap jumped up in front of us and one of us shot him. On the table was a set of dental tools and I picked those up as a souvenir and still have them. I vaguely remember seeing quite a bit of Japanese money and also the pictures you mention but my mind is blurred regarding this. As an after thought, I believe we "blew" the cave and those inside might have suffocated.---Paul Pfotenhauer

This next episode took place during the time our company was mopping up Japanese stragglers in the high grass along the bank of the estuary across from Naha. You [Kenneth J Long] and I were returning to the platoon which was about 50 yards ahead of us for some reason. Maybe we took some prisoners back, I don't know. We were going across a sweet potato patch and I stumbled over this Jap who was hiding in the tall plants. I looked at him and said to myself, "hey, this guy's not dead." so I shot him in the head and kept on going. There was another Jap next to him that I didn't see, and remember, the whole platoon had just gone through this area. He came up with a grenade in his hand and you shot him.

It was about the same time when a guy near me flushed a Jap hiding in the tall grass, as the Jap jumped up the Marine was so startled, he started to run away until he remember who was the hunter and who was the hunted. That Marine sure had a surprised look on his face,---Paul Pfotenhauer

Our Platoon Leader was Lt Pottenger. Toward the end of the battle for Oroku, we had the Japs in a pocket in some tall grass across the river from Naha. Our unit formed a line and spaced about five yards apart we proceeded to comb the area. We ran across instances of Japs wanting to surrender only to be grabbed by their comrades who held them while a grenade was used to commit double suicide.---Ernie Strange, Jr.

Another situation occurred when a Jap who was stark naked, started to chase a Marine, the Marine, who had a lot of equipment couldn't turn around because the Jap would be right on top of him. We couldn't shoot for fear of hitting the Marine, I can't remember how it ended but I'm certain it was to our advantage. --Ernie Strange, Jr.

Since Paul Pfotenhauer didn't tell you much about himself, I would like to tell you what I know through our association over there. Paul and I were somewhere and I feel it was on Oroku, when we passed a cave entrance and we heard a baby crying from the inside. Paul said, "I'm going in and get him." Well, we told him not to do it because a Jap soldier could be in there as well, but no, Paul goes into that dark cave by himself and he comes out with a little baby in his arms. That was really something. I would have never thought of going in that cave without blowing it

first.---Ernie Strange, Jr.

During the same time period another fellow and I were in our foxhole adjacent to a rice paddy and we noticed coming toward us on a path was an old man with a cane being led by a young child who was holding the mans hand. The old man was blind and when they got to us, we gave the small boy some "K" ration candy, he looked at it and bowed to us but instead of eating it, the candy was given to the old man who felt and tasted it and after returning it to the youngster the man must have explained to his young friend it was candy because the boy ate some of it. This entire encounter didn't last more a a couple minutes, it was a pathetic yet a heart warming thing to see.---Ernie Strange, Jr.

One of our guys found a hole and he knew someone was down in there and got the interpreter and he talked the Jap into surrendering. When he came out he pointed back into the hole and it turned out, there was somebody else down there. I can't remember the Marines name but he was from Tennessee, went down in there and found a little girl. He took the little girl in his arms, and then while she was in his arms he felt something wiggling on his arms and we noticed there were all kinds of maggots crawling on him. The little girl had been wounded and the maggots got in there and were falling out onto his arm. When the guy took her to be treated the doctor told him if it hadn't been for the maggots she would have died because the maggots kept the wound clean.---Hubert Welch

"I" Company closed in towards a sugar cane field near the foot of a steep hillside. As we neared it the Japs there began their heavenly ritual, "Harakiri", by blowing themselves up with grenades and demolition packs. One could see body parts flying up in the air all over. I'm thankful they didn't think as I did had I been cornered. We saturated the cane field with our gun fire just in case someone lost his religion and started to think of us as good targets.

This was the last assault in the war for Company "I", except for the mop-up. That took a day or two or more. The actual number I am not certain of. I dreaded these last days the most while we were sweeping these open fields because I knew the main Jap force had been beaten but those sporadic pop shots by fanatic snipers or someone who didn't get the word, were getting to me. I figured, wouldn't it be my luck, of all the heavy stuff we came through not to be injured, and to have it happen now at the very last moment. There were still about twenty more days of our stay on Okinawa and all sorts of ill possibilities could occur, but thank goodness I made it. Throughout most of the war I bartered the cigarettes that came in my rations for sugar and instant coffee. It gave me considerable stimulus to keep going, but by now even that was fading. I was glad at last---the fighting there had come to an end.---Frank Kukuchka

It was getting close to the end of the fight for Oroku Peninsula and to our immediate front was a valley surrounded on

both sides by some hills and a lot of caves. Beyond the valley was the low land with the tall grass of the Kokuba Estuary. We did get into another fire fight with the Nips in which we killed about 20 of them in a trench line, and after it was over, it seems as most of us got demolition packs and blew all of the caves in the area in order to seal the openings. We then proceeded as a Company to the low ground adjacent to the Kokuba Estuary and forming a skirmish with the few members of the Company who were left, we spaced ourselves about 5 yards apart and slowly walked through the heavy swamp grass flushing out the remaining Nips who were hiding there. Few surrendered most were killed or killed themselves. We must have gotten several hundred Japs out of that area alone, (maybe more) not only soldiers but Japanese nurses too. At one point a Jap jumped out of his hiding place and Sgt Lilly who was near me raised his Thompson Sub and with one shot, stopped him.---Donald Honis

June, 19

"2" & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
6/19/45	1205	Rad Fr: CP at 7462 F3. (Action: m)
	2100	Tp To: Move 1 Co at first light into Postn where 2/29 Front Lines are now---Move remaining Bn 0700---Atk jumps off 0700.

We went to the southern end of the Island and helped secure that. A group of us stopped at an Army supply depot and got some hammocks, after the island was secured, we'd dig our foxhole and string the hammock over the top of it to keep the rain off. It had a mosquito net and everything in it. It was called a jungle hammock.---Hubert Welch

I can't remember if we went way down to the southern tip of the island or not, but we went somewhere and they gave us some hammocks. I don't know where we were.---Joe Bledsoe

No, I can't remember the baseball game you mention but if there was a baseball game around I suppose I was trying to play in it.---Joe Bledsoe

The next couple days we spent mopping up the caves around our area. Although I went in several, I didn't go in very far. During one adventure Nick, I can't remember his last name, and myself went in one, Nick went in farther than I did and met a Nip, all Nick had was a 45 but he told me both of them turned and ran the other way. We went into another cave which had all kinds of Japanese quartermaster supplies and I got a military jacket which I still have. The Japs used to pull their dead into caves in an attempt to hide from us the damage we were doing and one cave we went into had a room adjacent to the main tunnel containing about 40 dead Japs stacked like cord wood. I found some U.S. ammunition stamped "1941" in one of the caves. [since the Jap rifle was 31 caliber and our rifle was 30 caliber, the

Japs could fire our 30 caliber ammo, but we couldn't fire theirs.] It was probably captured in the Philippines.---Donald Honis



A few surrendered (note white flag). Still more chose to hide or to resist until the end, as was the case with the Jap soldier on the left.

SECTION 6

The Southern Tip

The Sixth Division

by Captain James R. Stockman, USMCR
Historical Division, Marine Corps Headquarters

-----on 17 June, Corps officials ordered the division to pass through the right elements of the First Marine Division on Merado Ridge, and to drive to the south, seizing Kuwanga Ridge, part of Ibaru Ridge and the Kiyama Gusuku hill mass. These terrain features were located in the southwestern part of southern Okinawa on Ara Saki Peninsula.

At 0300, 17 June, the Twenty-second Marines moved forward past Kunishi to the northern slope of Mezado Ridge, where the First Division was engaged in its 48th straight day of savage fighting. After an intense artillery, naval and air attack on Mezado Ridge, Hill 69 and the Kuwanga Ridge, the 1st and 3rd Battalions attacked at 0730 against increasing enemy resistance. By late afternoon the 3rd Battalion had captured the key high ground around Hill 29, overlooking Kuwanga Ridge. Next morning the 2nd Battalion passed through the 3rd and advanced rapidly to Kuwanga Ridge, most of which was seized by late afternoon. Since the 1800-yard Kuwanga Ridge was too long for the depleted 2nd Battalion to hold in its entirety, Gen. Shepherd moved a battalion of the Fourth Marines up on the left, leaving the Twenty-second to mop up the area recently captured.

With the 1st and 3rd Battalions abreast, the Fourth Marines assaulted and seized Ibaru Ridge before noon of 19 June. Then, after a hasty reorganization, the regiment attacked again, this time to capture the Kiyamu-Gusuku hill mass. They immediately ran into heavy resistance. Intense mortar fire from defiladed positions behind the Kiyamu-Gusuku ridge and increasingly heavy machine gun fire harassed the troops as they approached the northern slopes. Although a foothold was at last gained on the high plateau before dark, the key terrain was still in the enemy's hands. During the afternoon the little Island just to the seaward of Nagasuku was seized by a quickly assembled task force consisting of three LVT's, two 37-mm. platoons and a Marine War Dog Platoon. Twenty Japanese were killed and eight taken prisoner.

Since the Fourth Marines had committed all three of its battalions to the assault, it was decided to move two battalions of the Twenty-ninth up on the right flank of the Fourth, in order to continue the attack on 20 June.

At 0700, 20 June, the Sixth Marine Division launched an attack to seize the remaining 5000 square yards of ground, and destroy the enemy. On the left, and making the main effort, the Fourth Marines ran into heavy mortar and small arms fire as it fought in the approaches to Kiyamu-Gusuku Ridge, a precipitous hill marked with deep fissures and strewn with boulders. At the close of the day, and after bitter fighting, two companies of the 2nd Battalion, had succeeded in capturing the peak, which was known as Hill 80. But the rest of the enemy position remained to

be taken.

On the division's right, the Twenty-ninth Marines moved to the south coast against little opposition except for long-range fire from the Kiyamu-Gusuku area. Early in the day small enemy groups began to give themselves up, indicating that there were many who did not wish to continue the fight. An LCI, equipped with a loud-speaker, cruised just offshore along the southern coast and broadcast to the beleaguered Japanese, telling them how to surrender. As a result of these broadcasts, 715 Japanese surrendered.

Next morning, 21 June, the Fourth Marines decided that frontal and flanking attacks had failed, so they attacked from the rear. At 0800 the two flank battalions sent elements around to the south and then turned to strike the south slope of Kiyamu-Gusuku Ridge in a coordinated double envelopment. After two hours of hard fighting, the position was overrun and all organized resistance in the Sixth Division's zone of action had ended.

On 30 August 1945, the Fourth Marines (reinforced) went ashore in Tokyo Bay to occupy Yikosuka Naval Base. The rest of the division went to Tsingtao, China, and landed on 11 October 1945, to effect the surrender of 42,850 Japanese on Shantung Peninsula. On 25 October, the Twenty-second and Twenty-ninth Marines marched out to the race track at Tsingtao to witness surrender ceremonies. There the two regiments, along with the 6th Tank Battalion, and other troops, saw Gen. Shepherd, division commander, receive the sword of Major General Eiji Nagano, commanding officer of the Japanese Fifth Independent Mixed Brigade.

The Sixth Marine Division remained at Tsingtao, China as an occupation and repatriation force until deactivated on 1 April 1946. On that same day the Third Marine Brigade was formed from its elements.

Though its 18-month career, as such, was short, the Sixth Marine Division has left a rich heritage. Its fighting spirit of ceaseless and unrelenting attack has further enhanced the Marine Corps' great traditions. This spirit was perhaps best defined by an Army officer who served alongside Marines in several island operations and who praised the Sixth in these words;

We got along fine with every Marine division, and enjoyed working with them, but the Sixth was the most professional-outfit I ever saw. All they wanted to do was to attack."

---End---

"2" & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
6/20/45	1330	Msgr Fr: 3/29 killed 9 (including officer) and captured 6 POW's---Are sending POW's to us.
	1430	Tp Fr: POW reports Nips in caves at, 7360 W,X,Y and 7359 C,D,E.
	1650	Tp Fr: Tally for the day---1 Nip Officer KIA 28 Men KIA, 28 POW's. (Action: G-2)
	1730	Tp Fr: All units scattered except Nanago Buitai which is intact---CP in Konesu---Nips seen running to Island, 3/29 Rec'd fire from it.

June. 21

"2" & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
6/21/45	1645	Tp Fr: 28 KIA, 19 POW---Patrol sent to little island, KIA 7, captured 4. (Action: G-2)

I remember we went down south cause I remember they had to bring in the air compressors to dig the latrine. I can still hear those air hammers going bing, bing, bing.

There was so much coral there we couldn't dig foxholes and we had to build up mounds of coral to take cover in.---John Townsend

The battle was declared over but we still took no chances. We still carried our rifles and grenades when we left our bivouac area to patrol and souvenir hunt. I believe it was Ben Snipes and I who made a patrol in a small village. In passing a house we noticed a hole in the ground along the side of it. I threw a smoke grenade down and when it went off we got the scream of a child. We looked down immediately and could see a child, covered with heavy blankets covering him and two women sitting next to the child. They were shaken and looked frightened, but didn't appear to be injured. We began to escort them to our Headquarters. We had to pass through an opening in a masonry wall which was on one side of the village. The moment we got to the outside, the woman with the baby took off and beat it around the end of the wall. The other stayed with us, calmly, till we took her back. The fighting was over so we didn't make any attempt to stop the other woman. In some sense we were glad she did get away. The one who came with us was let go immediately afterwards also.---Frank Kukuchka

After a few days of mopping up on the Peninsula, we moved down south in stages, at one spot as we were marching down a nambu opened up on us from the right, actually it wasn't shooting at us but rather at a patrol to our right. After several bursts and several grenades were tossed everything quieted down. During this time "I" Company was down to about 80 men and so chewed up

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we weren't used except for mopping up. We (3rd Battalion) stopped short of the last high ridge on the southern tip of the Island.

During the time we spent on the southern tip we were out mopping up and came upon a cave entrance and I turned to Joe Stelmack and asked him to pass up his white phosphorous grenade, since he was the only one that had one. "Hell no, it's mine and I'll throw it", was his reply, and he did throw it but his aim wasn't to good and he misses his mark. When it went off though it had been close enough to get the attention of four Japs who were in the cave and they came out with their hands up. I jammed my carbine muzzle in the belly of the first one and told him to take his clothes off in Japanese, he didn't want to do it---it was almost as though he was too bashful. Now I looked him straight in the eye and jammed the muzzle of my carbine as deep into his belly as I could and just as hard as I could saying, "eemono nucee" (take off your clothes) and he did a strip-tease in nothing flat! He even took his jock off. No, I don't think we took many prisoners in "I" Company, I do remember seeing large groups of them coming from the south and it was hard to keep control of yourself remembering what they did to our troops in the Phillippines. The fighting was efficient, cruel and no one, Japanese or Marines asked for any favors.---Donald Honis

June, 22

"2' & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
6/22/45	0745	Tp Fr: KIA 21 Nips during nite---One group of 20 trying to infiltrate. (Action: G-2)

While we were bivouacked near this village, some officer came in to interview me regarding awards. The group I was with at Sugar Loaf Hill claimed I was deserving of an award because of my role there. I told the officer I did nothing heroic or unusual, but did just what I was called to do to help get the war over with and to get back home again. I told him I had no interest in any medal or award, and he left. I was too naive then to realize the significance of it. I learned much later it played an important part in landing jobs and also the prestige part of it.-
--Frank Kukuchka

June, 23

"2' & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
6/23/45	0745	Tp Fr: 20 KIA (10ff, 1Nurse) 7POW's---Also 24 KIA not previously reported---Last night action.
	1800	Tp Fr: Total for Night & Day 23 June: 68 KIA, 32 POW, 1LMG.

June, 24

"2' & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA



<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
6/24/45	??	Tp Fr: 19 KIA, 2 POW.
	1810	Tp Fr: 7 caves sealed.

June 24,--Sunday church services. Fresh steak for dinner. Pvt. Kearney shot at my fox hole, put one bullet through my shelter. (I do not recall this incident, whether it was accidental or what?)---Frank Kukucka

June, 25

"2' & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
6/25/45	1810	Tp Fr: 8 KIA, 1 POW.

6/25/45	Redanz	Company Replacement Frederick S/Sgt	299901
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June 25,-- Snipes and I went out, found two women and their children in a cave. I found a bag of Nip money. Eclipse of the moon tonight.---Frank Kukuchka

Company "I" moved closer to Naha, still on the Oroku side, in the area of the cliffs fairly high above the Naha River. I had a good view of the river and the big island in the middle of it, straight out off the cliff from where I set up my shelter half. I believe Snipes and I pitched together. I even made a pencil sketch of the island and have it to this date. I'll make a reproduction of it.

At this location a tent mess hall was set up. I remember this long assemblage with screening or netting on its sides very clearly, yet my memory has slipped on what we ate there, rations or hot food. My mind is blank on this one. It is strange that the two prime necessities of life, food and bowel movements, are the least remembered. I know what we ate, especially "C" rations; spam, cheese or scrambled eggs in a can, but where or how, I don't recall a single moment. The grapefruit juice, yes. Surely I enriched the soil of Okinawa from one end to the other because our toilet was the outside wherever we could go. Except for my spell of diarrhea, the other times are totally blank.---Frank Kukuchka

June, 26

"2' & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
6/26/45	1925	Tp Fr: 15 KIA instead of 11, no POW's---2/29 3 more KIA.

June 26,--All went out on a dawn patrol to the ocean. Found a canteen and a bayonet.---Frank Kukuchka

June, 27

"2' & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

Date Time Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.
6/27/45 0620 Tp Fr: 6 KIA today.

June 27,--Patrol again. Found Jap rifle, bayonet and canteen. Afterwards, went down to see Freddie Eich in the M.P.s. Good to see the boys I know. Had chow there. Nips laundered my suit of dungarees.---Frank Kukuchka

June, 28
"2" & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/4, OKINAWA

Date Time Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.
6/28/45 1730 Tp Fr: 14 KIA's, 2 POW's. (Action: D-2)

June 28,--Planes spraying area for insects. Dawn patrol. Found more souvenirs.---Frank Kukuchka

The hill on which we bivouacked ran inland from the river. It was wooded somewhat, along the ridge and towards the edge of the cliff. On the other side of the slope we were on down at the foot of it, was an inlet which looked like another tributary flowing out to the main river. Snipes and I decided to wash our laundry there. We took our dungarees, skivvies and socks down to the inlet. A crude wooden boat was tied up where we dipped the water into a five gallon, square can, with the top cut out that we were going to use to soak them in.

When I was home on the farm, weather permitting, my Monday morning ritual was making a fire, outside, under a big kettle for my mother to boil her laundry. This was common practice by many country people then. They turned out pretty clean I thought, so that's what we decided to do here. We put all the soap we had with the clothes. Lit a fire under the can with adequate wood to last for a while. Then we got in the boat and paddled out to the main Naha River, about fifty yards out, and down to the big island. Our plan was to go around it but we only got right up near it because it was farther than we had expected and turned back. Even though it was tiring, it was the most fun experience I had since landing on Okinawa. When we returned, the fire was out and all we saw on top in the can was a thick scum. We began to wonder what happened and shortly figured it out. This river and the small stream are not far from the outlet to the ocean and this was still salt water that backs up during the tidal changes. The soap and this hard water are not compatible as it is with rain or well water. I don't recall if we rinsed them or waited till we got back to camp. They looked a mess. We had no soap to do them over again, but at least they got sterilized.

I believe we stayed in this location until we shipped off the island of Okinawa. We still did our guard duty but I believe the patrols were eliminated. As for recreation, I remember vaguely some men throwing a ball around near the mess hall. It was a time to rest and to get caught up on our mail before our next move. At this point it was still a question mark.---Frank Kukuchka

When we were down on the southern tip of the Island, I made a remark to Tucker about how nice it would be to be able to take a shower. And he told me there was a little pond a short distance from where we were and I thought I'd go over for a swim. On arriving I saw four dead Japs in the water--- I turned to Tucker and said, "Thanks a lot".---Donald Honis

During the afternoon, shortly before we moved south again I was given the assignment to take an Okanawan girl north on the road, to a compound that was set up for civilians. After going about one hundred yards I glanced behind me and there was a Marine following us and then the second, third and fourth. We had only traveled 1/4 mile and a truck approached that contained other the civilians and a sargeant yelled, "hey Marine, put her in here". I did and the girl gave us a pretty smile and a wave as the truck drove off. Turning around to head back I noticed that the Marines had already disappeared and so I assumed it wasn't me they wanted to talk with.---Kenneth Long

Gold teeth--Apparently it was a sign of high status for the Japanese to have gold teeth and a few (I only saw one case) guys would remove them from the mouths of the dead Japs and have a collection of them. I thought then and still think the ones that did this were "asiatic" and not to responsible for their actions. One day, after the island was secured and before we shipped back to Guam another Marine and myself were walking along the outer wire of a compound that contained some Japanese soldiers that had been captured on the southern end of the island. They were saying something to us I couldn't understand but as most of them were prone to do they were bowing and had a big grin on their faces. One of them had a large gold front tooth and at this point the guy I was with reached into his pocket and retrieved a handful of gold teeth and held them out for the Jap to see. Although it is sickening to write about it now this gave us entertainment when watching the expressions on their faces change and how they pursed their lips so as to cover their teeth. Over the years I have thought of this many times and it has led me to the conclusion that now, sitting in the comfort of our home, it is impossible or at least unfair to pass judgement on the thoughts and actions that took place during that hellish period of our lives.---Kenneth Long

June, 29

"2" & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msqs, Orders, etc.</u>
6/29/45	1900	Tp Fr: 6 KIA, 18 sealed in caves---2/29, 7 KIA. (Action: G-2) -----

June 29,--Went to get 300 Nips out of a cave, "sunken hole cavern". Had POW to ask them out. Dr. said he had 17 men to treat. Said, "No come out. Food for five days T.S." We blasted in the cave. Another patrol after dinner. Found a Nip flag and an

officers brief case.---Frank Kukuchka

All during the war all of our immediate officers were a very friendly bunch. Besides being our leaders, they were counselors, messengers, chaplains and many other things and 'Shot the bull' and fraternized as regulars among the men. Some even played cards with the fellows in the fox holes when it was possible. They didn't wear their bars or insignia on their dungarees, for obvious reasons, so it wasn't discomfoting or or disrespectful to fraternize.

A renewed awakening, a stab to the heart or some may have considered it a kick in the ass, came I believe a few days prior to our visit to the cemetery. Captain John Stone, asked for the whole Company to meet at a certain location. We assembled there and were sitting on a hillside while he gave his gracious and glorious remarks to all of us for our fine work and effort of winning the "Big Battle". He also paid honorable and respectful homage to the dead who had given their last full measure of devotion for their country. Those are some of the words he used, and after finishing all those nice remarks, he paused for a moment, then said, "I want you all to pay attention and hear this. From this moment on all of you will have to call us "Gentlemen" again." The whole Company let out a loud groan, all at the same time, "Oooh! Nooo!". He snapped back quickly saying, "I'll have none of this". He had the respective Sergeants assemble their platoon, there, for the first time, and march them back to the bivouac area. After being buddy-like on the front lines all these months, this was sort of a bitter pill to swallow, but we were still in the Corps, and we knew we had to abide by the commanding rules...---Frank Kukuchka

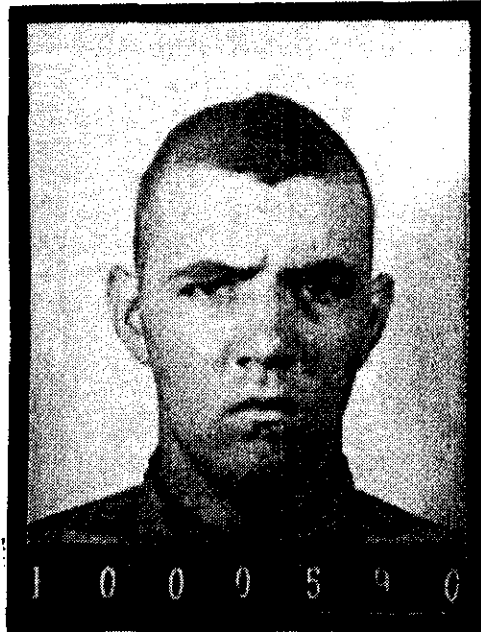
June 30

June 30,--Patrol right after breakfast. Got 3 Nips in a small cave. Found more trinkets in some bundles. Ruth sent me a package. All medical items. (First Aid Kit).---Frank Kukuchka

July 1

Marine Killed in Action

7/1/45 Perry Rufus Pvt 1000590



Pvt Rufus Sanford Perry, Jr., 1000590

Pvt Perry, was born 26 May 1926 at Sciotoville, Ohio, and was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Perry, Sr., 15128 Dolphin Avenue, Detroit 23, Michigan. He enlisted in the Marine Corps, 31 August 1944 at Detroit, Michigan at the age of 18 years. He joined the 2nd Recruit Bn., Parris Island, S.C. for Boot Training on September 2, 1944.

On December 26, 1944, he joined the 46th Replacement Draft at Camp Lejeune, N.C. and embarked for the south pacific aboard the USS Arenac, on March 11, 1945.

He joined I/3/29/6 on May 17, 1945 as a member of the 1st Rifle Platoon. On July 1, 1945 he was Wounded In Action, near the city of Naha, by accidentally setting off a magnesium trip flare, he died of burns and shock, from these wounds on July 2, 1945.

Pvt Perry's remains were interred 2 July 1945, Row 34, Grave 842, Plot A, 6th Marine Division Cemetery #1. During 1948, the remains of Pvt Perry, were returned to the United States and placed at White Chapel Memorial at Longlake Road in Bloomfield Hills, Detroit, Michigan.

July 1,-- Sunday. Had church out among the pines. All trees here are pines, short and scrubby with sparse limbs, little shade. Went on patrol in village near Itoman. Captured two prisoners.--Frank Kukuchka

After the battle on Okinawa, I kept the roster of "I" Company we had from Guadalcanal and I noted everone who was killed or wounded. I later sent a copy of this to several of the guys and I guess Ken Aust got a copy through one of them. You did a good job of getting the information together on the

replacements who joined the Company, cause some of those fellows were only with us a short while and were either killed or wounded.---Hubert Welch

We sure had good chow on that LST that took us back to Guam. Do you remember that Captain of the LST had a little old monkey? He had the monkey tied on his deck. I think we slept on stretchers in the body of the boat, it was a rough crossing.---Hubert Welch

When we got to back to Guam, my brother who was with the 3rd Division on Iwo Jima was there and it was sure good to see him. He told me he asked some other Marines how the 29th Marines was making out on Okinawa but didn't tell anyone he had a brother there and they told him, "not to good", "and they are pretty well shot up," so he didn't think I made it through the battle.---Hubert Welch

I have often thought about all of the Japs that blew themselves up during the last days of the battle for the Oroku Peninsula and wondered why they didn't try and take a few Marines along with them, but they just held the grenade next to themselves or in between themselves and a buddy and committed suicide that way.---Frank Kukuchka

Sometimes we got careless, things that we planned didn't always work out. We had been at the rest area for two or three days and the trip flare that we had set out in the bottom of the drainage ditch had been tripped once at night and although it could have been an animal I think it was a Japanese soldier or a civilian that made his exit via the ditch and wasn't seen. The flare had been replaced for the following night and the next night there was no activity. It was a practice to remove the cord and replace the flare pin every morning to prevent someone from accidentally tripping it. That morning resetting the pin and the removal of the cord was overlooked, as several of us were going to the little stream just north of where we were located, one of the guys tripped the flare and it lodged between his legs as it went off. One could see that the burn was severe but since we were in the company area we got a Corpsman right away and he gave the man treatment and then had him evacuated to a field hospital. The rest of the group proceeded to the stream to wash and when we returned it was learned that the burned Marine had died. Hearing that was a real shock because the man was alert and in good spirits when he left for the hospital. This incident and the one relating to the sailor shooting down our own plane makes one wonder how many instances such as these occurred. The name of the Marine was Rufus Perry, from the 1st Platoon.---Kenneth Long

I intentionally tried not to be good buddies with the guys because it seemed as though they were always getting killed or wounded.---Charles Miller

July 2

July 2,-- Company patrol along the beach. Three more Nips. Squared my souvenirs away in preparation to leave.---Frank Kukuchka

Throughout the battle for Okinawa, we would hear comments as; "Division doesn't want any prisoners today" or "Division wants one prisoner today" but I can't remember even one Jap soldier being taken prisoner by I Company. I find it difficult to believe that some were not taken at the end of the Oroku Peninsula drive but I can't remember any. Maybe we would have if the Japs would have given any indication that they were interested in surrendering but I didn't observe any that were. In addition it was was a lot more convenient and safe to handle it the way we did.---Kenneth Long

There was an event that took place that I cannot place as to where or when it occurred so I will describe it here in hopes someone else will remember the details. We were receiving heavy fire and our supplies and ammunition were running low, apparently the situation was recognized by the commanders and they called for an air drop. It was a welcome sight to see those multi-colored contains attached to small parachutes floating down to us.---Kenneth Long

About this time, a group of the guys organized a baseball game. We didn't have any equipment so we made something that resembled a ball by using socks and underwear and wrapping them as tight as we could into the shape of a ball. There was a small field adjacent to our units perimeter and it was here that we layed out the diamond. For 1st base we used the elbow of a Jap soldier who had been buried in a shallow grave and his elbow was above the ground. For third base we used the protruding knee of a Jap soldier.---Kenneth Long

The Japs were tough fighters as a rule but then I would have to add that some were tough and some weren't. We had a fellow by the name of Gay, [William] who, like the rest of us did all kinds of things to entertain himself. His pastime was to take out his knife and lightly pass the sharp side across the throat of Jap soldiers who had been captured and watch their reaction. One day there were two he walked up to and put on his performance. The first kept his insolent appearance and the second crapped all over himself, so I guess there were both kinds.---Charles Miller

Up until the time I was wounded, "I" Company didn't take any prisoners. We might have taken some later.---Harvey Brooks

July, 3

"2" & "3" SECTION JOURNAL---3/29/6, OKINAWA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incidents, Msgs, Orders, etc.</u>
7/3/45	0935	Rad Fr: 3/29 forward echelon has just started

moving out.

[END OF JOURNAL]

July 3.--Dawn patrol by the platoon of the crest with the cavern underneath. Later pulled stakes and moved up near Naha, hill 53. Put my shelter up on ledge of a high escarpment. Just below it is a branch of the estuary. [Kokuba River] To the left is the main estuary. General surroundings hilly. Screened in mess hall and head. Better chow too. Showers up but no water. We use walls even though they stink. Went down to the estuary to boil some clothes. Couldn't figure out why my soap wouldn't dissolve.--Salt water.

July 4.--Back at camp life again: Reveille at 6:30, formations for chow, etc. Got my first liberty. Crossed branches of estuary in three places. Went up through Naha to Yontan Airfield. First time I went all the way through Naha and for a change not walking. The city is only a pile of rubble. There were some modern structures about but all demolished. Caught rides with POWs, (Marine truck hauling POWs), Army and even a garbage wagon. Came in to Yontan Airfield on the same road I went out through it on April 3rd. The truck let us off. We, part of my squad, Townsend, Snipes, Sigel, Soderholm and Andrzejewski got out, walked along the planes. Looked into some of the bombers. Watched several take off.

We then proceeded to the cemetery for the dedication of the Sixth Marine Division Cemetery. Caught a ride to Green Beach and followed the same route as when we made the invasion. I saw my very first fox hole I made on Okinawa. The place all over has certainly taken a great face lifting.

Walked up the hill past the tombs directly to the cemetery. Shortly, the ceremony began. The whole Division was practically there.

First the band played. Then the flag raised to half mast. General Shepherd gave a short speech. Then prayers by the three chaplains. Marine firing squad firing three volleys, then Taps, and it was over. A five tribute to our fallen buddy heroes.

Afterwards, I went in the cemetery and saw the graves of many of our buddy Marines: Pvt. John A. O'Leary Jr., Sgt. Joseph M. Sheer, Gy Sgt. David D. Doerr, Sgt Orus Johnson, PmM3c Robert L. Demuth, Pfc Elmer Patterson, Pfc Edwin P. Shaughnessy, Cpl Jackson W. Bennett, Cpl William P. O'Malley and several others. Cpl Ralph C Shinn must be among the unknown for I saw his grave nowhere.

A very nice cemetery, closely spaced rows lined up straight, bordered off by the (roof) tiles from the native's huts and white washed. A sand walk at the feet of each section of rows, also tiled off. A walk up a few concrete steps to the entrance. There on two high poles is the name of the cemetery, also the Marine emblem. Just inside is a pulpit-like stand made of concrete. On it is a wood carved book, 'Bible' with the 23rd Psalm. The cemetery is enclosed by a single rope fence painted white.

The boys and I ate chow at the 7th. Field Depot here. Very good chow of spam. Two rides brought us right back almost to the

area. (our camp site) Felt so good to ride around on this fair, sunny and breezy day. Just like or almost like a Fourth back home. No fireworks overhead tho.

Went to a Movie, a world premiere, "Week-End at the Waldorf". A very fine show, with Ginger Rogers.

July 5.--Well here they come once more. Had rifle inspection by Co. Commander. Some clothes were issued: Shoes, dungarees, socks, and skivvies. Everone checked for gear. Was issued a roofed and netted hammock. (Hammock with netting).

July 6.-- Rifle and personnel inspection by Bn. Commander. Looked around inside one of the big caves just below this escarpment. Lot of medical supplies and dead Nips. Snipes, Soderholm and I went down to the water to fix up a Jap paddle boat. Worked on it till the tide came up. Set out to float but water streamed in anyway. Townsend came by after we crossed the stream. Patched it up a little more. This time one could bail out the water as fast as it came in while the other rowed. Lot of fun. Getting a genuine tan now since I've been able to take off my jacket. Had a deluxe sleep in my hammock last night. Felt odd to be above ground since I've been hiding below it for so long.

July 7.--Fresh doughnuts and hot pancakes for breakfast. Ah! Things are getting better, Patched up the boat more. Put a canvas over the whole bottom. Sigel and Snipes helped. Leaks very little now. Took it out by myself and had some struggle. Strong wind kept pushing me downstream. Finally changed to front end of boat and pulled myself in to shore again. Saw a movie here at the regimental area. Double feature: "It's In The Bag", and "Tall In The Saddle".

July 8.--Sunday. Got up just in time to make the Mass at 6:30. Checked my boat. Two men took it downstream last evening. Sowden and Andrzejewski brought it back. Made two oars of plywood and bamboo handles. Plywood from sunken Jap pilot boat. Several barges are also sunken there. Re-packed my sea bag to make more room inside. After evening chow, Snipes, Pappaspyros and I set out for a boat ride while Sowden and Salsano waited their turn. Well, they were disappointed and are a little peeved at me for we took the boat all the way down stream into the bay and down to the edge of Naha. Rowed past the small islands in the bay then back again. Most enjoyable boat ride I ever took. We got back at dusk. Too late for Sowden and Salsano to go out. Sowden is really peeved for he even made a sail to attach to the boat and couldn't try it out.

July 9.-- Made a sketch of scene from here, stone cliffs, taking in the bay, islands and Naha. Wrote up Lilly's recommendation for the silver star. Packed some radio pieces in my sea bag. Marine Corps photographer took pictures of Lt. Stone, Pl. Sgt Lilly, Cpl. J.V. Brown and myself.

July 10.--After 101 days on the island got word to pull stakes to leave the island. Don't know why but it's one place I'm glad to ge away from. Finished filling my sea bag with gear. Wrapped my hammock in my poncho to take along. Sure a comfortable thing to sleep on and no mosquitoes. Rained last night, first time in a month, but I didn't get wet. Policed the area in good shape and at 11 AM fell in muster line ready to shove off.

Marched all the way from the area through Oroku down to the beach. Some hike, without a stop. Got aboard an L.S.T.. Everyone just dropped down on the deck. Later we squared away. All N.C.Os. get bunks one deck down. I have my top one again. Took my first hot shower in over a year. Golly! Sure felt good! Movie aboard in the evening: "Old Acquaintance". Excellent steak chow aboard. I went through the line twice.---Frank Kukuchka

After the Battle when we were back on Guam, we had a ceremony when awards were given out and although I didn't get any awards, Brown, I think it was J.V.Brown, and I were selected to go back for Officers School, the war ended and we never got to go but at least we were selected and I look at that as kind of an honor.

Winston Churchill said, "There is no experience quite like being shot at and missed". [authors note: I heard one Marine after quoting the above make the following statement, "only one thing comes close and that's being shit at and hit".]---John Townsend

The first story we got relating to the dropping of the atomic bomb was that it was dropped on San Fransisco, real bad source of information. I was aboard a ship taking me back to Hawaii.---Martin Sucoff

Elton Stone, was a roughneck in the Texas, oilfields. He was and older guy, (about 24) and one fellow who you could really talk with. We were in China together after the war.---Paul Pfothenhauer

George Snell, and I became good buddies in China, but he joined the unit after me on Okinawa. [Snell joined on June 11, 1945 while "I" Company was on the Oroku Peninsula.---Paul Pfothenhauer

I remember one of our big delights, after the Island was secured, was to take a crap and then wait for a short time for all of the flies to settle on it, then wack it a good one with the flat side of the entrenching tool.---Paul Pfothenhauer

I remember Rufus Perry very well, after we had secured the Island in June, We were sleeping in foxholes near one another and one morning as he and several other guys were on their way to bathe, Rufus Perry stepped on a trip flare and it was incendiary, well, the flare stuck in his groin and burned him to the extent that he went into shock and died. The trip flare belonged to a company adjacent to us.---Ernie Strange, Jr.

Capt Stone, was made Company Commander and he was a good guy, I got to know him quite well.---Granville Longerbeam

I, as a corporal and a fire team leader in a rifle platoon, to this day, almost fifty years later, cannot understand the

providence of fate, to endure all those hellish challenges of battle and misery for 82 days without sustaining a single wound, is still puzzling to me and to many others as well.---Frank Kukuchka

This January, (94), Ken Aust sent me a short list of addresses of Marines from Company "I". John Townsend's name was one of them. I wasn't certain this was the person I was looking for because I met a John Townsend at the 1983 reunion, [6th Marine Division Association] but he claimed he was from the 22nd Marines. I received an answer quickly. He remembered me mostly for all the mail I received. Of that, he was correct. He also wrote, he last had contact with Harry Sowden many years ago and at that time he was in the Philadelphia area. I looked up his name in the phone book and found him living just twenty miles away. Both men discovered since 1945, one day apart since receiving John's letter. I hope to see them both this Fall.---Frank Kukuchka

On the 4th of July there was a Dedication-Memorial Service at the Sixth Marine Division Cemetery for all of our fallen Heros. I am quite certain we were transported there by trucks. The "Top Brass" was there to give their appropriate remarks and prayers. It was a huge turnout so all of the regiments must have been there. I don't recall any of the other formalities. I do remember waling freely amon the rows of crosses and checking the names. Greska and O'Leary are the ones I recall most clearly. It was like reading an obituary column. For the first time learning the names of Marines from our Company that had been killed, with the exception of the few we were near at that final moment. A sad day indeed!.---Frank Kukuchka

... and thus, ends my tour of Okinawa... at times apprehensive, at times frightening and even horrifying, but with luck, prayers and the Grace from the Man Above, and all the brave men around me, I survived it, from the beginning to the end, and even more remarkable, without a physical blemish... All I can say is--- I was one damn lucky Marine!---Frank Kukuchka

As far as I'm concerned, President Truman saved my life when he made the decision to drop the atomic bomb. I got this information from some of the occupation troops who went to Japan and they said if an invasion had taken place it would have been a slaughter house because of the fortifications there and there is no doubt in my mind it would have been.---Albert Perkins

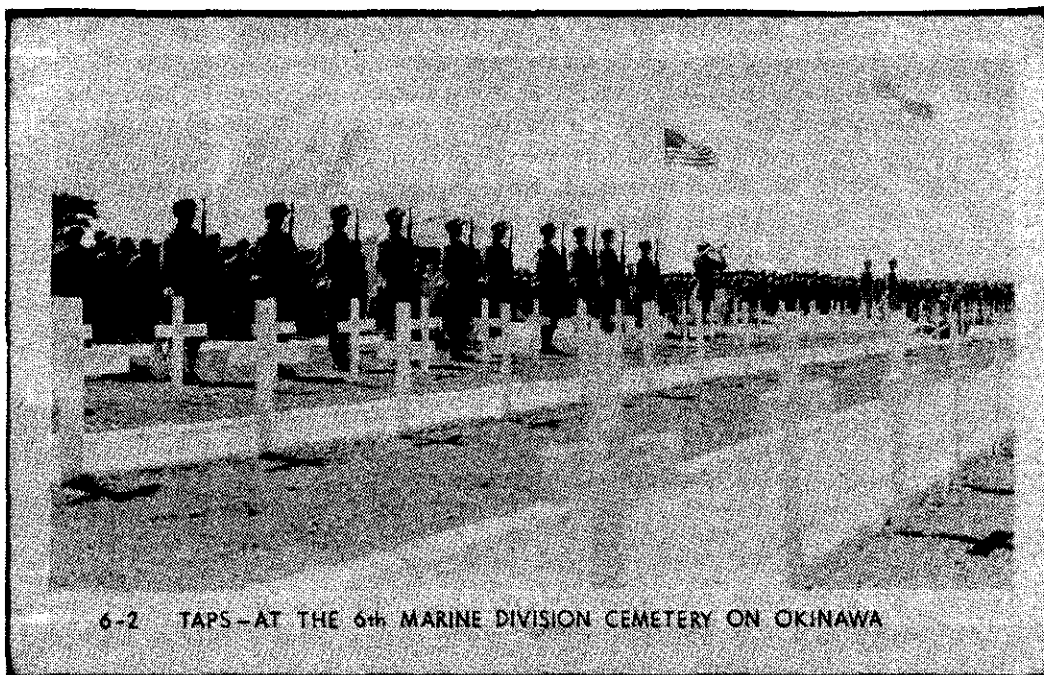
No, I didn't keep in touch with any of the guys when I got out of the service, I think the main reason was my taking a coaching job in Canada for 12 years and so I lost touch with them all. I then came back to the States and the last place I coached was Boston College.---Lawrence Sullivan

After I got out of the Marines, I tried to contact as many of the parents as I could of those guys who were killed. It was

very, very difficult, and one of the first I contacted was George Murphy's folks and although he was in the 2nd Battalion, and not the 3rd, he was the Captain of our football team and he and I were good friends through our college years. George was with the 2nd Battalion, 29th Marines and he was Killed In Action on Sugar Loaf Hill, in fact, William Manchester, in his book, Goodbye Darkness, has a short account of George. George had a daughter and he never saw her because she was born while he was on Guadalcanal, prior to the Okinawan Campaign. I contacted the parents of some of the guys from our unit who were killed too and I think after a couple of years although there was still a lot of grief connected to it they learned to accept the fact less emotionally although all of the visits were very solemn. As I recall, I just told them what great kids they were and related any specific events relating to them I could remember. It was difficult but also rewarding in a way. I can remember specifically talking to Tommy Lenahan's parents who were from Ashland, PA, and they were up there in years at that time, in the late 40's and although it was tear jerking, I felt they appreciated the fact that someone went out of their way to talk to them about their son.---Lawrence Sullivan

[Don Honis, talking about other Marines who took part in the battle]--It's a very small fraternity we are in and one doesn't have many people to talk to who have been there and know what you are talking about and can feel the way you feel. It is a fraternity that is very valuable.---Donald Honis

On the 21st of June the Island was declared as secured and ended the most unforgettable 3 months of my life. The unit, or what was left of it, boarded LST #229 on July 10, and sailed for Guam, on July 15. I am certain that many thoughts were of our many buddies that did not make the trip back with us.---Kenneth Long



CREDITS

Many thanks to all Marines who furnished material for this account both via phone conversations and written material.

Special gratitude to Ken Aust and those that assisted him, in getting together a complete set of pictures of the original "I" Company, while training on Guadalcanal.

Rounding up some of the records needed was difficult at times but James C. McGlasson, a retired Marine, Headquarters United States Marine Corps, and his staff came through in a timely manner with copies of the service records and pictures of the Marines from "I" Company, Killed In Action.

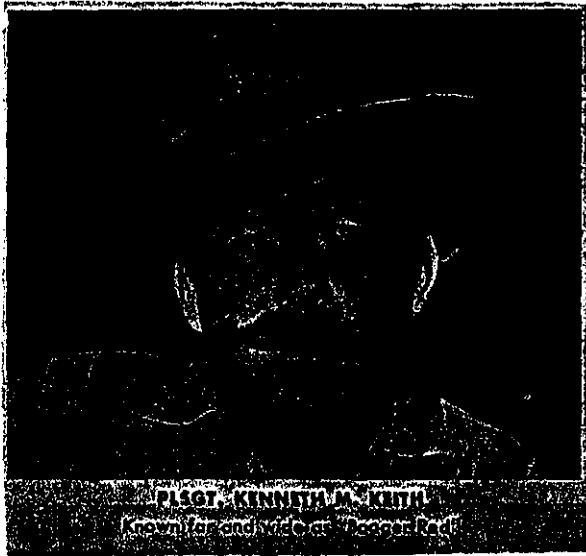
To James Hallas-Author, for sending me a lot of useful material covering the battle of Crescent (Half Moon) and Sugar Loaf Hill. Mr Hallas has written: The Devil's Anvil and is presently working on a book about the battle for Sugar Loaf Hill, which will be out during latter 1995 or early 1996.

The maps, pictures, tables and pictures contained and much of the written material were taken from books written by:
Okinawa: The Last Battle; Roy E Appleman and others
This Was The Battle of Okinawa; Masahide Ota
Okinawa-Victory in the Pacific; Major Chas. S. Nichols & others
History of the Sixth Marine Division; Bevan G. Cass
S-2 & S-3 Journal 3/29, 1 April-30 June, 1945; Marine Corps Historical Center
29th Marines Action Report, May, 1945; Marine Corps Historical Center
Tennozan; George Feifer

Ken Long

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PFC. KENNETH M. KEITH
Known far and wide as "Cooper Red"



DEAN R. PENLEY

SOUND OFF (cont.)

'03 RECORD

Sirs:
Several of us were discussing qualification scores for the Springfield model 1903, as well as the M1. We also got on the subject of high scores. One of the men declared that the highest score ever made, officially, with the '03 was 336 out of a possible 350 points. I was in the Marine Corps from 1928 to 1934. In 1928, while on the rifle range as a recruit, we were told that GySgt. Fisher had made a 349 at Quantico, Va. I seem to recall reading an article about the same thing in THE LEATHERNECK shortly after that. Can you please put us straight on this subject.

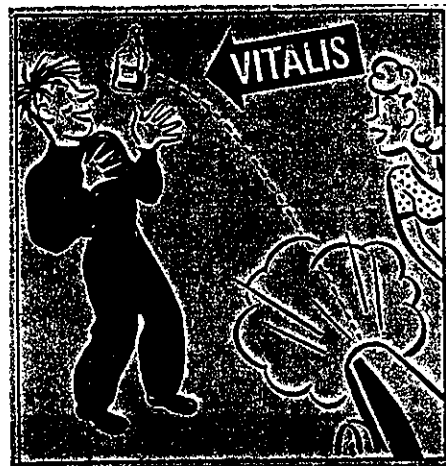
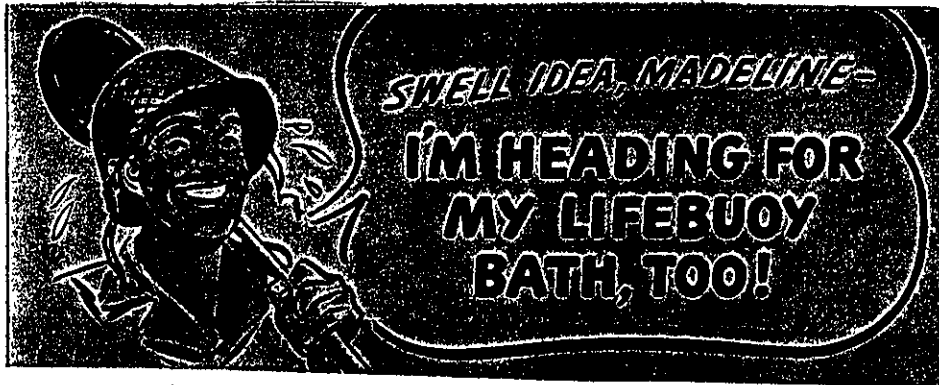
PFC. L. M. Winebrenner
Pacific

● On 18 June 1928, Sergeant Dean R. Penley, USMC, at Quantico, Va., scored 348 out of a possible 350, which, according to Headquarters Marine Corps, still stands as the world's record for the prescribed '03 rifle qualification course. — Eds.



The casualties listed above bring the grand total reported to next of kin since December 7, 1941, to 49,818, which breaks down by classification as follows:

Dead	14,284
Wounded	32,774
Missing	881
Prisoner of War	1,879
Total	49,818

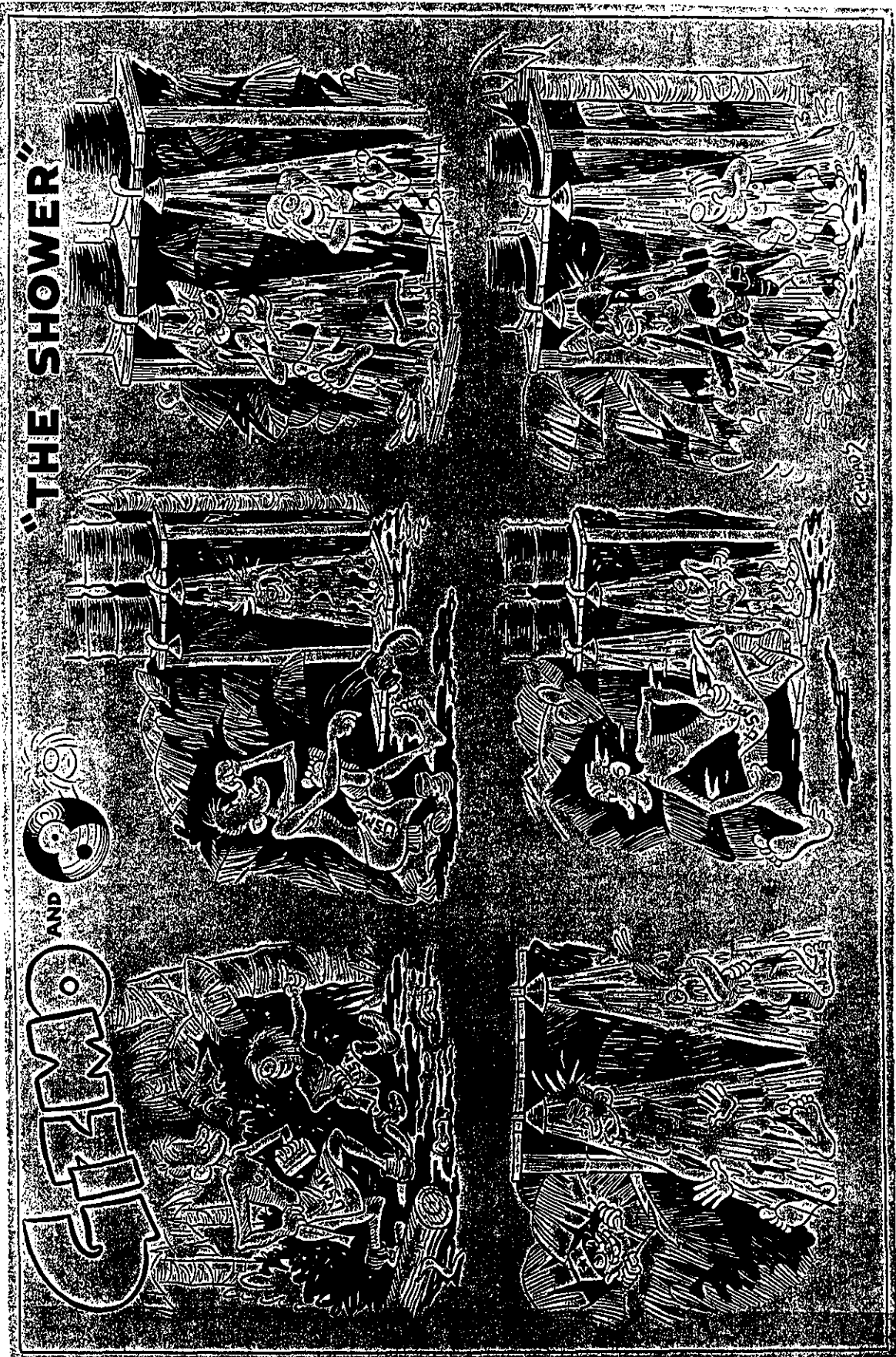


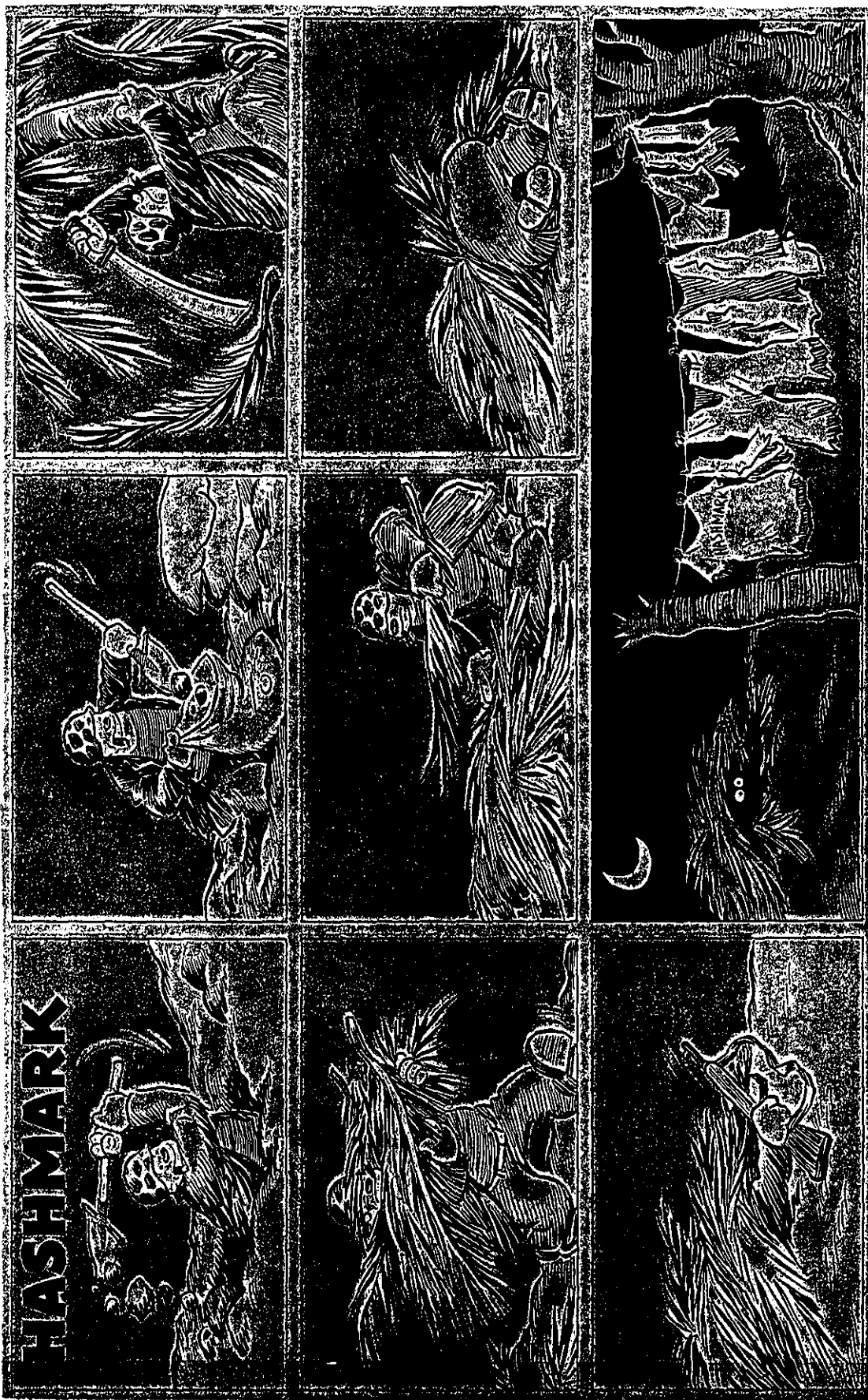
WE THE MARINES

Edited by PFC Bob Davis

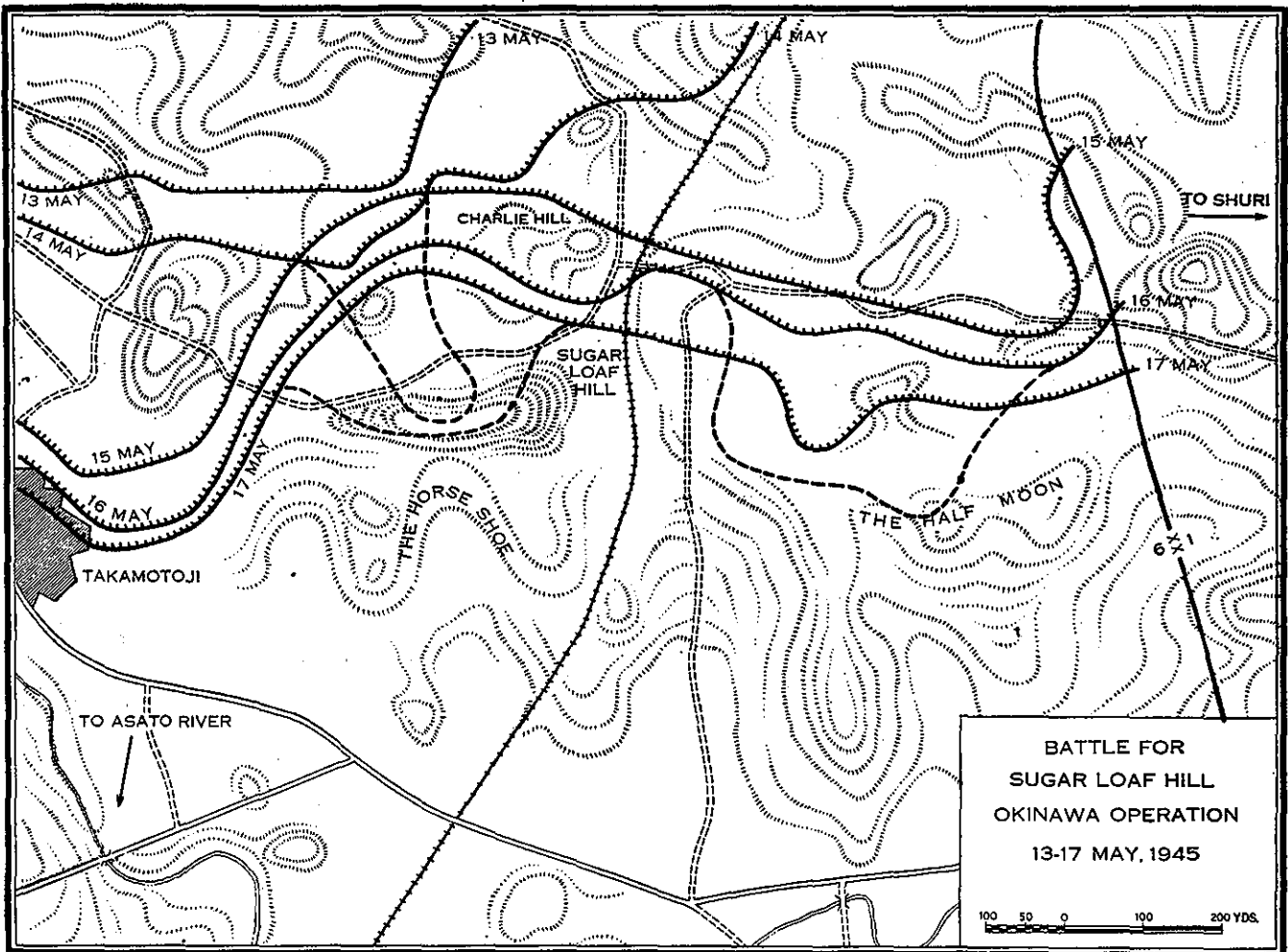


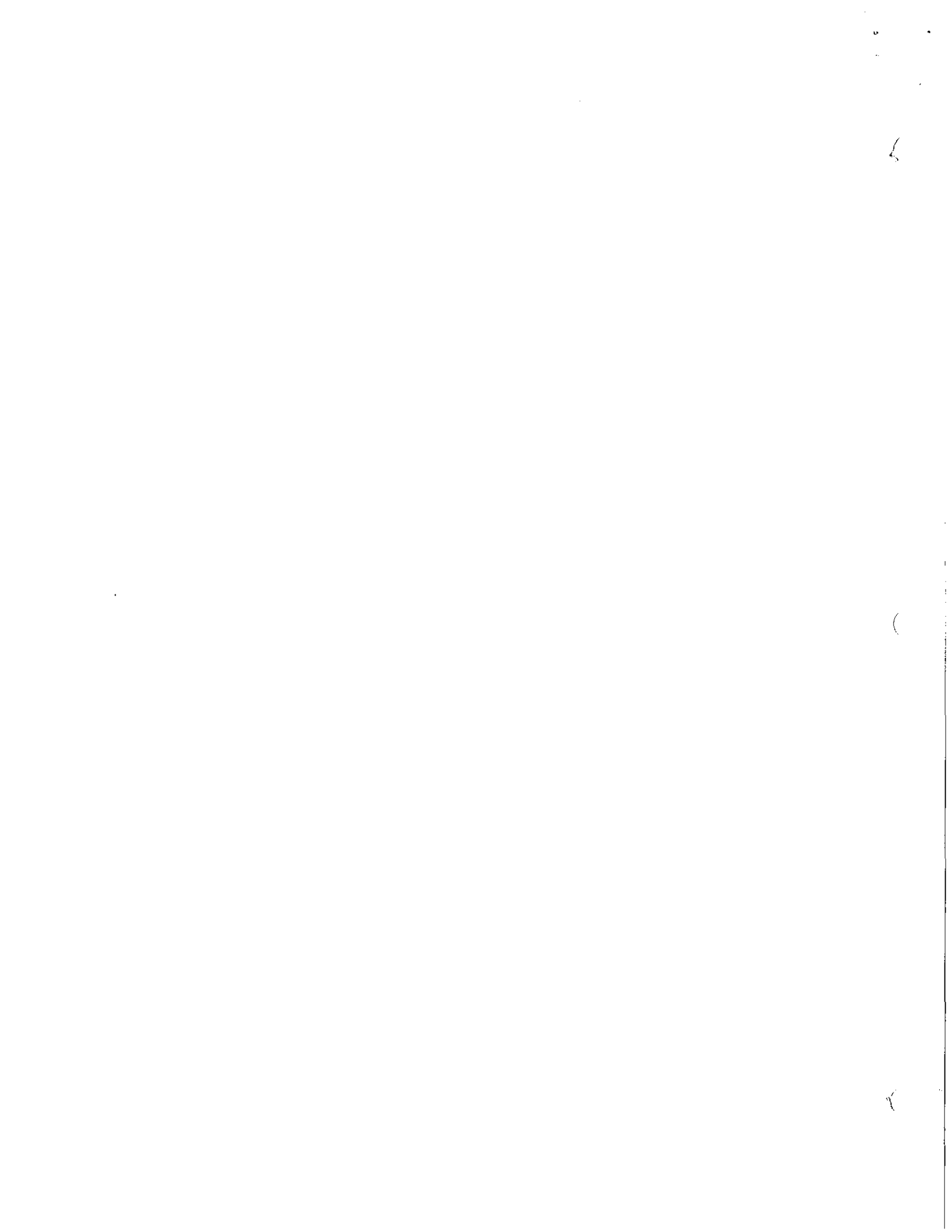
Merrily they roll along. Perched atop a speeding tank, these Marine infantrymen are rushing to the town of Guga on Okinawa for take-over before the get the same idea. The tank is really making knots so it could have been very long before the joint was fairly jumpin' with Marines

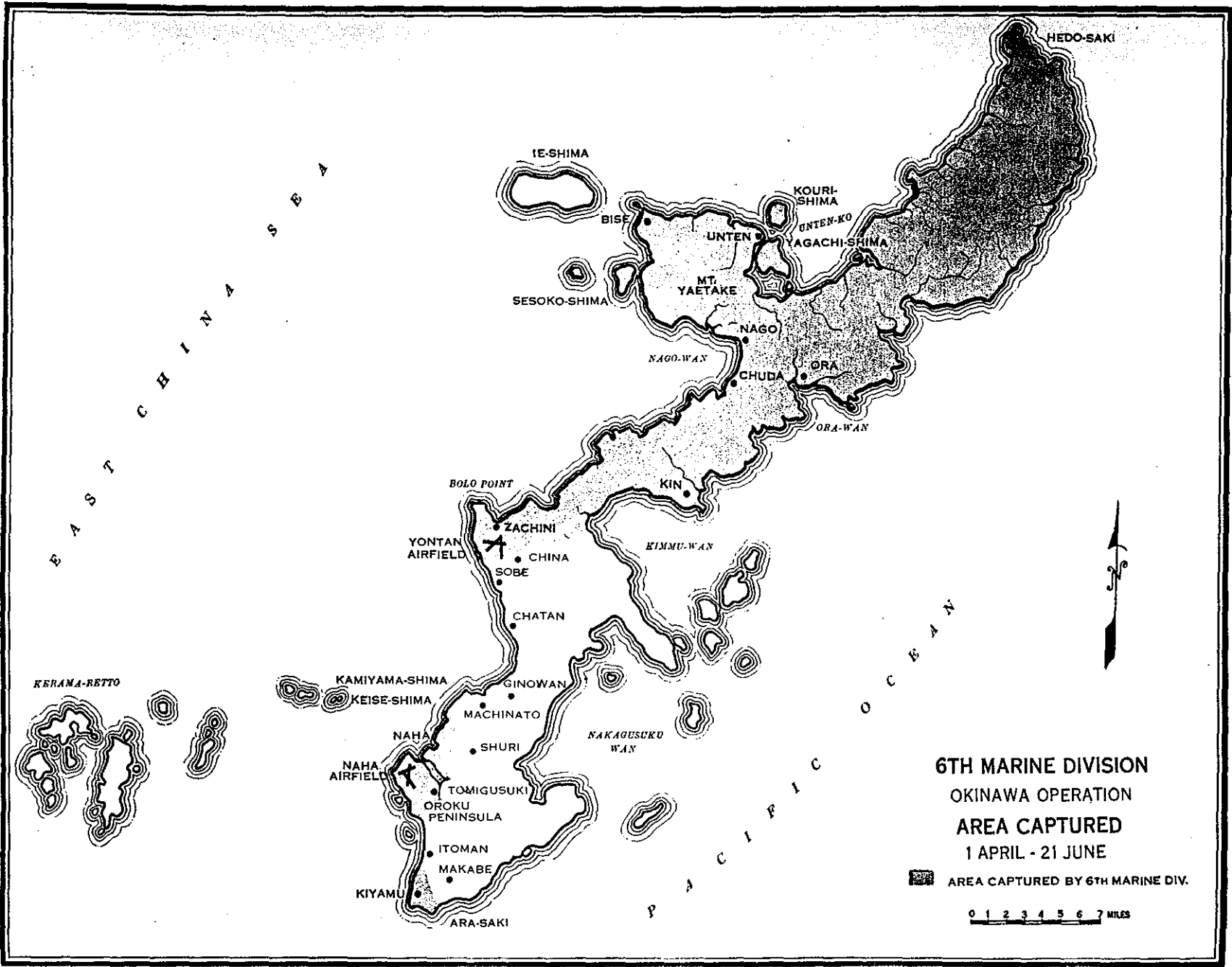




SUGAR LOAF HILL



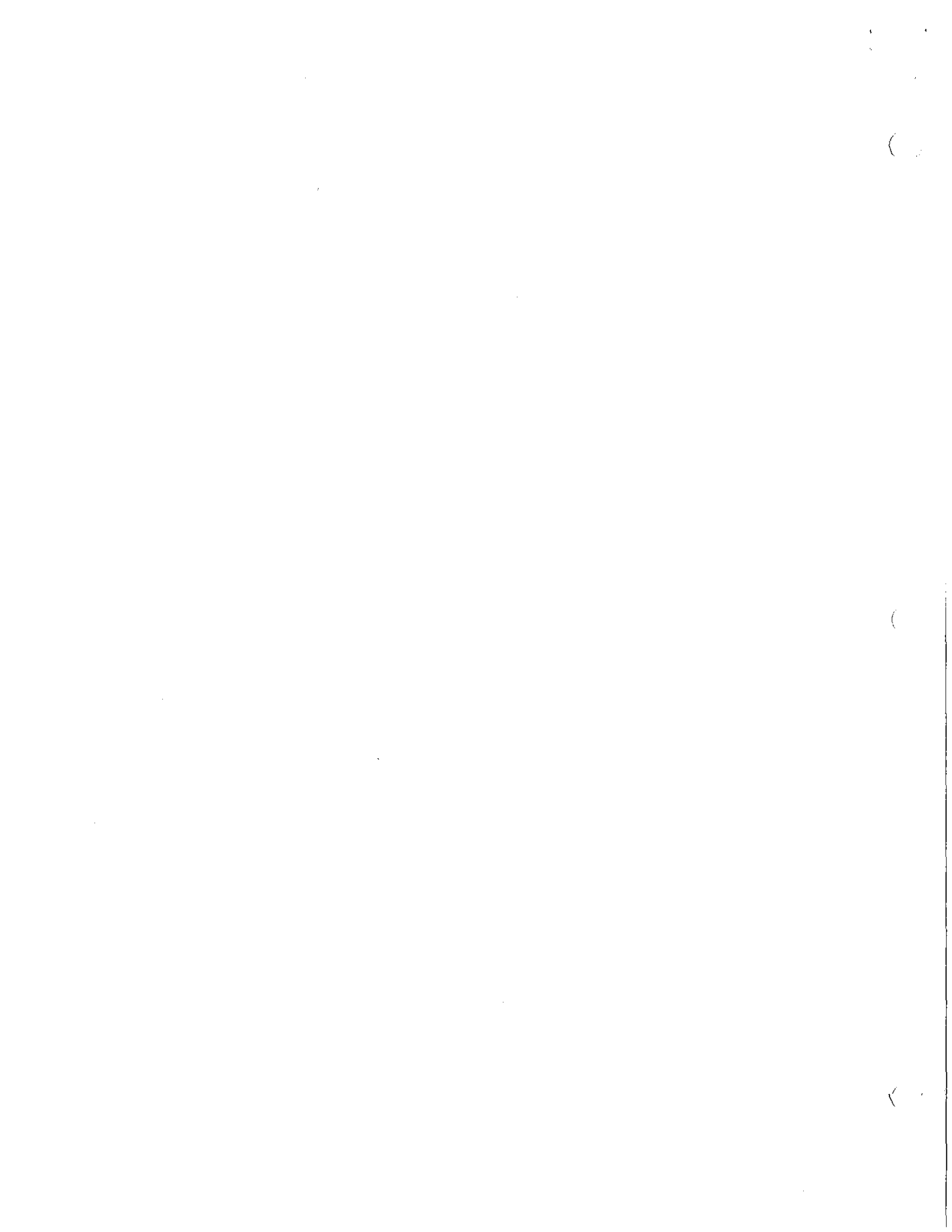




6TH MARINE DIVISION
OKINAWA OPERATION
AREA CAPTURED
1 APRIL - 21 JUNE

 AREA CAPTURED BY 6TH MARINE DIV.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 MILES



After returning to Guam, D2/29/6, and myself were selected from the 29th Regiment the V-12 program at Villanova. I think there were 6 of us shipped back to the States about the last of July, 1945. We were about midway back atomic bomb was dropped and since we had already papers that we would stay in the Corps for 3 years graduation, we were given the option of re-upping or immediately discontinued after if any of the other guys or not, but I was discharged from Camp Lejeune, NC, in 1945.

I enrolled in a small college in northern (Bemidji) that winter and planned on getting a degree and physical education until I learned that I would not have enough GI Bill time to cover me until graduation. Since the Corps wasn't taking married men at that time (I had Mickey, after being discharged) I decided to enlist in the Corps and went to OCS at Fort Riley, Kansas. After through OCS Mickey, my son and I spent about 2 years where I spent most of my time playing football and basketball a military team, 1st Infantry Division, and we returned States in 1949. After returning to college I started a course over loads and graduated in 1951.

From 1951-56 I taught and coached in a small town in Minnesota, named Bertha. In 1957 I started to work for Pillsbury Company in Minneapolis, in their Quality Control and did an a lot of traveling which was to continue through the rest of my working career. In 1961 I joined the Company, in Battle Creek, Michigan and remained there until retired about 9 years ago.

Mickey and I now live just east of a small town in western Michigan named Delta. Over the years we accumulated fine children and 6 grandchildren.

I joined the 6th Division Association one year ago, really enjoyed the contact with many former-Marines.

Mickey and I have experienced some "bumpy roads" years, just like all people I guess, but when one looks what we were faced with almost 50 years ago, ours has been of smooth sailing.---K.J.L.



Kenneth J. L
1944



FK

"I" COMPANY 29TH MARINES

Marines-Corpsmen, Assigned to I/3/29/6, 1 April-30 June, 1945

4/1/45	Allen	John	Pfc	477478
4/1/45	Anulewicz	Edmond	Cpl	505980
4/1/45	Aust	Kenneth	Pfc	886671
4/1/45	Avelin	Walter	Pvt	563865
4/1/45	Baker	Abner	Cpl	339017
4/1/45	Basile	Carmen	Pfc	951275
4/1/45	Beck	Alexander	Pfc	805214
4/1/45	Bellen	Harry	Pvt	826023
4/1/45	Bennett	Jackson	Cpl	513812
4/1/45	Berry	Alvin	Cpl	526164
4/1/45	Berry	Richard	1st Sgt	241535
4/1/45	Bertram	Harry	Pfc	550495
4/1/45	Bledsoe	Joe	Pfc	847520
4/1/45	Bobo	Chester	Pvt	947174
4/1/45	Bordlemay	James	Pfc	951330
4/1/45	Bouck	George	Cpl	353139
4/1/45	Breaux	George	Pfc	369800
4/1/45	Brienza	Joseph	Pfc	924141
4/1/45	Briscoe	Donald	PhM2c	882-37-10
4/1/45	Brooks	Harvey	1st Lt	016758
4/1/45	Brown	James	Cpl	545073
4/1/45	Brown	Arthur	Pfc	847542
4/1/45	Bryson	Maurice	Pfc	530433
4/1/45	Budday	Edgar	Pfc	511821
4/1/45	Burr	Harry	Pfc	495356
4/1/45	Butts	Richard	Pvt	556356
4/1/45	Cardosi	Leonard	Pfc	511790
4/1/45	Carson	George	Cpl	285897
4/1/45	Casey	Julian	Pfc	837325
4/1/45	Cherry	William	Pfc	519053
4/1/45	Christopher	John	Pfc	530406
4/1/45	Cipriano	Nicholas	Cpl	312735
4/1/45	Clark	David	Pfc	888822
4/1/45	Clayton	Carl	Sgt	359052
4/1/45	Cleary	Edward	Pfc	541404
4/1/45	Combs	Gilmer	Pvt	847280
4/1/45	Cook	Carl Jr	Cpl	493026
4/1/45	Cooper	Wade	Pfc	343762
4/1/45	Corriea	Donald	Pfc	556542
4/1/45	Cromling	William	Sgt	305503
4/1/45	Crouse	Robert	Pvt	500279
4/1/45	Cullem	Charles	Pvt	541363
4/1/45	Cunningham	William	Pfc	556784
4/1/45	Demuth	Robert	PhM3c	250-92-32
4/1/45	Doerr	David	G\Sgt	264610
4/1/45	Dubois	Joseph	Pfc	962611
4/1/45	Dubois	George	Pfc	826024
4/1/45	Duck	Orman	Pfc	547641
4/1/45	Elliott	Jack	Sgt	464017
4/1/45	Estes	Charles	Pvt	328853
4/1/45	Fadden	Joseph	Pfc	951278
4/1/45	Farrell	Malcolm	Pfc	953298

4/1/45	Finkbeiner	Edward	Pvt	966509
4/1/45	Fisher	Francis	Pfc	951327
4/1/45	Flournoy	Rufus	Pvt	821365
4/1/45	Fodero	Frank	Sgt	482384
4/1/45	Fowler	Murray	Pl/Sgt	256804
4/1/45	Francoeur	Raymond	Cpl	446255
4/1/45	Fulton	William	Pfc	554574
4/1/45	Furbush	Allen	Cpl	470356
4/1/45	Gallagher	Clayton	Pfc	944101
4/1/45	Gardner	George	Pfc	921781
4/1/45	Garland	Edgar	Pvt	484138
4/1/45	Gay	William	Pfc	914418
4/1/45	Genczy	Chester	Cpl	508107
4/1/45	Goosmann	John	Sgt	237484
4/1/45	Graves	Benton	Cpl	301159
4/1/45	Greska	Frank	Pfc	953308
4/1/45	Gunn	Chester	Pfc	932854
4/1/45	Hamilton	Russell	Pfc	456746
4/1/45	Hanslik	Harrison	Pfc	532556
4/1/45	Harlow	Carl	Asst/Ck	940730
4/1/45	Harrington	William	Cpl	505905
4/1/45	Hartman	Leo	Pfc	548374
4/1/45	Hayes	Willis	Pvt	976219
4/1/45	Head	Joseph	Pfc	865320
4/1/45	Heim	John	Pl/Sgt	285004
4/1/45	Heller	Ralph	Cpl	375118
4/1/45	Hermanies	John	Pfc	448229
4/1/45	Hipp	Roy	Pvt	957262
4/1/45	Hoehn	Edward	Pvt	949802
4/1/45	Hogan	Joseph	Pfc	951292
4/1/45	Holton	Robert	Pvt	558872
4/1/45	Homom	Leo	Pvt	962605
4/1/45	Hontz	Robert	1st Lt	026012
4/1/45	Hoover	James	Pvt	960390
4/1/45	Horton	Edwin	Pvt	953893
4/1/45	Hubbard	James	Pvt	920799
4/1/45	James	Jack	HA1c	939-55-94
4/1/45	Johnson	Eugene	Pl/Sgt	266209
4/1/45	Johnson	Orus	Sgt	396067
4/1/45	Johnson	Richard	Pfc	554028
4/1/45	Johnson	Jesse	Cpl	933847
4/1/45	Joiner	James	Cpl	415134
4/1/45	Jorgensen	Walter	Capt/CO	09588
4/1/45	Keaney	William	Pfc	285744
4/1/45	Kearney	Francis	Pvt	951499
4/1/45	Keaton	Jessie	Pvt	960180
4/1/45	Keller	Clyde	Pfc	847510
4/1/45	Kelly	Joseph	Pfc	530427
4/1/45	Kemp	William	Pfc	956230
4/1/45	Kempth	Walter	Fld/Ck	530150
4/1/45	Killian	Claude	Sgt	297875
4/1/45	Kiser	William	Asst/Ck	853579
4/1/45	Knight	James	Pfc	898970
4/1/45	Kukuchka	Frank	Cpl	320867

4/1/45	La Cobee	Francis	Pfc	417446
4/1/45	Lally	Francis	Pfc	550533
4/1/45	LaVoie	Henry	Pfc	556526
4/1/45	Leach	Gaylord	Cpl	953888
4/1/45	Lee	William	Pl/Sgt	452077
4/1/45	Lenahan	Thomas	Pfc	950770
4/1/45	Lennon	John	Pvt	953218
4/1/45	Lilly	Frank	Sgt	524413
4/1/45	Long	Marvin	Pfc	519098
4/1/45	Longerbeam	Granville	Pvt	947808
4/1/45	Luddecke	Robert	Pfc	943965
4/1/45	Mackin	Wayne	Pfc	944008
4/1/45	Magdich	Frank	Pfc	370451
4/1/45	Martin	Charles	Sgt	275558
4/1/45	Mast	"R"	Pfc	941018
4/1/45	Mc Kown	Charles	Pvt	554570
4/1/45	Mc Quilliam	Charles	Pl/Sgt	282888
4/1/45	McCool	Norman	Cpl	362244
4/1/45	McCormick	Arch	Pfc	921740
4/1/45	McCrea	William	Pvt	951591
4/1/45	McDevitt	John	HA1c	635-25-52
4/1/45	McKinney	William	Pvt	979961
4/1/45	McMahon	Myron	Pvt	956919
4/1/45	Menefee	James	Pfc	911500
4/1/45	Meshurle	Frederick	Pvt	547638
4/1/45	Miller	Paul	Pfc	942473
4/1/45	Miller	Charles	Pfc	514436
4/1/45	Miller	Moss Jr	Cpl	312965
4/1/45	Miller	Richard	Cpl	477319
4/1/45	Mohrman	Vernon	Pvt	948899
4/1/45	Mollica	Donald	Pfc	843928
4/1/45	Moneypenny	John	Pfc	368268
4/1/45	Moore	John	Pvt	826464
4/1/45	Mullett	Samuel	Pfc	910383
4/1/45	Muncy	John	Pfc	888815
4/1/45	Myers	James	Pfc	920825
4/1/45	Nappi	Michael	Pvt	953336
4/1/45	Newman	Melvin	Cpl	408184
4/1/45	Nichols	Harold	Cpl	292706
4/1/45	Niederer	Floyd	Cpl	803042
4/1/45	O'Dell	Arnold	Pfc	802409
4/1/45	O'Leary	John	Pvt	564843
4/1/45	O'Malley	William	Cpl	806688
4/1/45	Parker	Junior	FM/1st	871338
4/1/45	Parsons	Robert	Pvt	946957
4/1/45	Pates	Robert	Cpl	393317
4/1/45	Patruno	Pasquale	Pfc	949394
4/1/45	Patterson	Elmer	Pfc	935030
4/1/45	Pauk	John	PHM3c	873-10-73
4/1/45	Pears	Frederick	PHM3c	383-20-84
4/1/45	Peralta	Anthony	FM/1st	836425
4/1/45	Petuskey	William	Sgt	502292
4/1/45	Player	James	Pfc	409634
4/1/45	Pope	George	Pfc	949387

4/1/45	Potter	Howard	Pvt	552881
4/1/45	Poythress	Frank	Cpl	310613
4/1/45	Presock	Thomas	Pfc	551199
4/1/45	Presser	Martin	Sgt	270465
4/1/45	Propst	John	2nd Lt	039233
4/1/45	Rapp	William	Cpl	508934
4/1/45	Raynor	Everett	PhM3c	812-87-06
4/1/45	Rexroad	William	Pfc	914722
4/1/45	Richard	Russell	Pfc	900627
4/1/45	Richardson	Harold	Pvt	957035
4/1/45	Riggs	Lawrence	Cpl	403703
4/1/45	Riley	Jack	Pvt	990804
4/1/45	Rispoli	James	Pfc	844792
4/1/45	Ross	Richard	Pvt	556544
4/1/45	Rossi	John	Pfc	903361
4/1/45	Russell	Herndon	Pfc	865324
4/1/45	Ryan	Walter	Pfc	554011
4/1/45	Sampson	Robert	Pfc	800667
4/1/45	Santarpia	Frank	Pfc	844496
4/1/45	Sardo	James	Pfc	845784
4/1/45	Saylor	Orville	PhM2c	821-45-71
4/1/45	Saylor	James	Pfc	937254
4/1/45	Scarmozzino	Nicholas	Pfc	907152
4/1/45	Schaub	Oscar	Pvt	954848
4/1/45	Schinnerer	Don	Pfc	343071
4/1/45	Schneider	Walter	Cpl	390813
4/1/45	Schrock	James	Pvt	559482
4/1/45	Schumacher	Edwin	Pvt	989064
4/1/45	Scism	James	Pfc	815433
4/1/45	Scott	Rex	Pvt	959555
4/1/45	Segarra	Wilfred	Pfc	949392
4/1/45	Shakeshaft	Donald	Pfc	396274
4/1/45	Shaleen	Glondon	Pvt	975157
4/1/45	Shankle	Grover	Pvt	847467
4/1/45	Sharp	Hervey	Cpl	368545
4/1/45	Shaughnessy	Edwin	Pfc	951594
4/1/45	Sheer	Joseph	Sgt	838172
4/1/45	Shinn	Ralph	Cpl	394062
4/1/45	Shorts	Medford	Pvt	920945
4/1/45	Simmons	Lewis	Pfc	847529
4/1/45	Simmons	Harry	Pvt	956604
4/1/45	Simone	Dominick	Pfc	844977
4/1/45	Sims	Eugene	Pfc	946979
4/1/45	Siooss	Robert	Sgt	330091
4/1/45	Slade	Donald	Pfc	949398
4/1/45	Slezak	Frederick	MT/Sgt	296564
4/1/45	Smith	Darrall	Pfc	514616
4/1/45	Smith	Carleton	Pfc	853151
4/1/45	Smith	Ambrose	Cpl	444065
4/1/45	Snyder	Randall	Pvt	922613
4/1/45	Soltys	Stanley	Asst/Ck	802378
4/1/45	Souza	Albert	Pvt	989782
4/1/45	Spano	Stephen	Pfc	541448
4/1/45	Sparks	Lorenzo	Pfc	530409

4/1/45	Spisak	Frank	Pvt	528399
4/1/45	Spivey	Rufus	Pfc	955747
4/1/45	Stabinsky	Bernard	Pfc	854970
4/1/45	Stackhouse	Duff	Pfc	859210
4/1/45	Stahler	William	Cpl	410979
4/1/45	Steadly	Daniel	Pfc	957278
4/1/45	Steadly	Woodrow	Pfc	957271
4/1/45	Stelmack	Joseph	Cpl	872092
4/1/45	Stone	John	1st Lt	020217
4/1/45	Stone	William	Pfc	949144
4/1/45	Stowell	Robert	Pvt	962769
4/1/45	Stucker	Richard	Cpl	812746
4/1/45	Suba	Charles Jr	Asst/Ck	867888
4/1/45	Sucoff	Martin	Pfc	518386
4/1/45	Sullivan	Lawrence	1st Lt	022272
4/1/45	Sullivan	Wendell	Pfc	960539
4/1/45	Taylor	Harold	G/Sgt	245350
4/1/45	Taylor	Hubert	Cpl	310493
4/1/45	Teal	Tommie	Cpl	508978
4/1/45	Tellinghuisen	Gerald	Cpl	334062
4/1/45	Thibeault	Charles	Pfc	310072
4/1/45	Timanus	Edwin	Cpl	816137
4/1/45	Tincher	Glenn	Pfc	333650
4/1/45	Umstead	Archie	Cpl	895360
4/1/45	Vail	Maurice	Pfc	547364
4/1/45	Vellman	William	1st Lt	026155
4/1/45	Voelker	Paul	Pfc	551425
4/1/45	Walenski	William	Cpl	331992
4/1/45	Walsh	Raymond	Pvt	982612
4/1/45	Walter	Richard	Pfc	854978
4/1/45	Welch	Hubert	Cpl	813456
4/1/45	Wells	Paul	Pfc	943186
4/1/45	West	Paul	Pfc	907048
4/1/45	Wexler	Samuel	Pvt	971934
4/1/45	White	Eugene	Pfc	960173
4/1/45	Wicka	Marcel	Cpl	224633
4/1/45	Woodard	Richard	Pfc	526981
4/1/45	Zacame	Bernard	Pvt	565070
4/1/45	Zahler	Ivan	Pfc	495361
4/1/45	Zuk	John Jr	Pfc	470399
4/19/45	Anderson	Joseph	Pfc	337980
4/19/45	Best	Hydra	Pfc	470551
4/19/45	Blevins	Edward	Pfc	505702
4/19/45	Brew	William	Pfc	841835
4/19/45	Frese	Paul	Pvt	813047
4/19/45	Haynes	Vernon	Pfc	846452
4/19/45	Hinkley	Warren	Pfc	853055
4/19/45	Hutson	Jessie	Pvt	983557
4/19/45	Johnson	Johnie	Sgt	265725
4/19/45	Katavolos	Charles	Pvt	808289
4/19/45	Marz	John	Pfc	902286
4/19/45	McCarty	Harold	Pfc	518171
4/19/45	Morgan	Wesley	Pfc	527245
4/19/45	Morley	Jesse	Pfc	878895

4/19/45	Myers	Robert	Pvt	968178
4/19/45	Nagle	Glenn	Pvt	980908
4/19/45	Nangano	Walter	Pvt	972839
4/19/45	Nelson	Paul	Pvt	986643
4/19/45	Nelson	Norman	Pvt	985171
4/19/45	Newitt	James	Pvt	563718
4/19/45	Nichols	Hollis	Pvt	980909
4/19/45	Nokes	Ralph	Pvt	829249
4/19/45	Northcote	Charles	Pvt	985174
4/19/45	Olson	Norman	Pvt	981071?
4/19/45	Orange	Grayson	Pvt	978507
4/19/45	Parker	Charles	Pvt	990729
4/19/45	Payne	York	Pvt	993739
4/19/45	Peebles	James	Pvt	557502
4/19/45	Pennimpede	Phillip	Pvt	972425
4/19/45	Pepper	Ransford	Pvt	968213
4/19/45	Perez	Augustin	>Pvt	561971
4/19/45	Perkins	Albert	Pvt	950865
4/19/45	Phillips	Fulton	Pvt	980903
4/19/45	Polding	John	Pfc	845176
4/19/45	Porter	Harlan	Pfc	546641
4/19/45	Pryor	Billy	Pvt	993700
4/19/45	Puckett	Thomas	Pvt	568119
4/19/45	Richard	Philip	Pfc	470098
4/19/45	Rogers	Vernon	Pfc	871328
4/19/45	Rutzler	William	Pfc	517360
4/19/45	Shotwell	Samuel	Cpl	309148
4/19/45	Sullivan	Edward	Cpl	437090
4/19/45	Tardiff	Gerard	Cpl	484009
4/19/45	Terry	Floyd	Cpl	295893
4/19/45	Thornton	Clarke Jr	Cpl	543498
4/19/45	Utley	Cecil	Cpl	376861
4/19/45	Whitney	Arnold	Pfc	853335
4/19/45	Willoughby	Clarence	Sgt	281675
4/23/45	Mylod	Phillip	Capt/CO	013152
4/24/45	Turner	Alfred	Sgt	289323
4/27/45	Melcher	Thomas	2nd Lt	041974
4/28/45	Honis	Donald	Pvt	994282
4/28/45	Hood	Warren	Pvt	968332
4/28/45	Jones	Gerald	Pvt	987240
4/28/45	Litts	Bartley	Pvt	972758
4/28/45	Sports	Rupert	Pfc	544608
4/28/45	Stradley	Horace	FM 1st	828991
4/29/45	Taylor	Eston	Pvt	960569
4/29/45	Whatley	Earl	Pfc	891000
5/1/45	Carlson	Harold	Pvt	989453
5/1/45	Davidson	William	Pvt	829204
5/1/45	Diamond	Eugene	Cpl	361668
5/1/45	Guzewich	Gerald	Cpl	292696
5/1/45	Hoffman	Woodrow	Pvt	968005
5/1/45	Kelty	Robert	1st Lt	030385
5/1/45	Kozlowski	Raymond	Sgt	354988
5/1/45	Long	Kenneth	Pvt	553783
5/1/45	McDowell	Nosh	Pvt	993357

5/1/45	McMichael	John	Pfc	398459
5/1/45	Norman	Eugene	Pvt	570727
5/1/45	Peterson	Harold	Pvt	1002044
5/1/45	Phelps	Leon	Cpl	305103
5/1/45	Rigdon	James	Sgt	361760
5/1/45	Stutte	James	Pvt	512322
5/1/45	Tremelay	Roland	Pvt	932484
5/1/45	Tucker	Owen	Pvt	829408
5/1/45	Turner	Lester	Pvt	984249
5/1/45	White	William	Pvt	568627
5/1/45	Williams	Ralph	Pvt	982760
5/1/45	Williams	Willie	Pvt	965547
5/2/45	Winchester	Jean	Pvt	998401
5/16/45	Balchunas	Francis	Pvt	550666
5/16/45	Camarata	August	2nd Lt	040383
5/16/45	Kimick	Bernard	Pfc	356907
5/16/45	Lewis	Robert	Pfc	311075
5/16/45	Mattera	Vincent	Pfc	314422
5/16/45	Mayhan	Ernest	HA1c	931-74-68
5/16/45	McCormick	James Jr	2nd Lt	041936
5/16/45	McCreery	William	Pfc	914964
5/16/45	Pawl	Michael	Cpl	248012
5/16/45	Pottenger	William	2nd lt	040528
5/16/45	Stockwell	Harry	Pfc	835691
5/16/45	Vasiliou	William	Pfc	563617
5/17/45	Driscoll	Raymond	Pfc	803332
5/17/45	Hiatt	George	Pvt	986695
5/17/45	Kelley	Wilfrid	Pfc	911431
5/17/45	Norman	James	Pvt	993744
5/17/45	Novotny	Joseph	Pvt	968218
5/17/45	Obermann	Edward	Pvt	977041
5/17/45	Patton	Perry	Pfc	982913
5/17/45	Pederson	Clarence	Pvt	996713
5/17/45	Pegg	Virgil	Pvt	986985
5/17/45	Permenter	Vernon	Pvt	991565
5/17/45	Perry	Rufus	Pvt	1000590
5/17/45	Peterson	Wilson	Pfc	950869
5/17/45	Pfotenhauer	Paul	Pvt	985399
5/17/45	Phillips	Robert	Pvt	855498
5/17/45	Platt	Harry	Pvt	991192
5/17/45	Plucinski	Eugene	Pvt	1000585
5/17/45	Sekula	Frank	Pvt	973800
5/17/45	Smith	Robert	Pvt	993797
5/17/45	Smith	Marvin	Pvt	994369
5/17/45	Smith	Francis	Pvt	996202
5/17/45	Smith	Grant	Pvt	985378
5/17/45	Snipes	Benjamin	Pvt	544804
5/17/45	Soderholm	Leo	Pvt	994293
5/17/45	Southerland	Needham	Pvt	984456
5/17/45	Sowden	Harry	Pvt	968312
5/17/45	Sowers	Charles	Pvt	992986
5/17/45	Spies	Phillip	Pvt	563961
5/17/45	Spradlin	Jessie	Pvt	992646
5/17/45	Sprout	Lyman	Pvt	569266

5/17/45	Stabi	Joseph	Pvt	570751
5/17/45	Stine	Cedric	Pvt	950509
5/17/45	Stingel	Clarence	Pvt	985385
5/17/45	Stone	Elton	Pvt	992208
5/17/45	Storts	Albert	Pvt	986989
5/17/45	Strange	James	Pvt	544737
5/17/45	Summerford	Major Jr	Pvt	544805
5/17/45	Sykes	Floyd	Pvt	1004505
5/17/45	Tallon	Joseph	Pvt	253170
5/17/45	Townsend	John	Pvt	984449
5/17/45	Tuma	Howard	Pvt	569451
5/17/45	Turnep	Charles Jr	Pvt	968354
5/17/45	Van Hooser	Karl	Pvt	559791
5/17/45	Van Rycheghem	Roger	Pvt	565881
5/17/45	Vandever	Warren	Pvt	1002032
5/17/45	Yeakle	Frank	Pfc	401054
5/23/45	Dolci	Quinto	Pfc	360878
5/23/45	Kempker	Raymond	Pvt	897092
5/23/45	Pruett	Alvin	FM/Cpl	434476
5/27/45	Litrell	Anthony	Cpl	845432
5/27/45	Trignano	Otto	FM 1st	924114
5/28/45	French	William	Cpl	912757
5/28/45	Hathcock	Edward	Fld Ck	358807
5/28/45	Olthoff	Dean	Pfc	480760
5/28/45	Pranis	Robert	Pvt	549545
5/28/45	Vojciechowski	Earl	Pvt	568527
5/28/45	Watts	Robert	Pvt	555166
5/28/45	Wilson	Kenneth	Pvt	561102
5/28/45	Zoltanski	Eugene	Pvt	570802
5/29/45	Andrzejewski	George	Pfc	353759
5/29/45	Austin	Byron	Pfc	260262
5/29/45	Ehrler	Walter	Pfc	971406
5/29/45	Gangwere	Paul	Pvt	935399
5/29/45	Hammett	Charles	Pfc	941669
5/29/45	Hart	Harry	Pfc	976211
5/29/45	Hudoba	Joseph	Cpl	526430
5/29/45	Leary	Warren	Pfc	926086
5/29/45	Masek	Charles	Pfc	329367
5/29/45	McCormack	Carl	Pvt	850079
5/29/45	Merrigan	Donald	Pvt	337403
5/29/45	Michel	Richard	Pfc	319864
5/29/45	Miller	Ralph	Pfc	918530
5/29/45	Moncrief	William	Pvt	561820
5/29/45	Porter	Charles	Pfc	496491
5/29/45	Price	Paul	Pvt	822951
5/29/45	Van Miert	John	Pfc	948526
5/29/45	Wilson	Boyd	Cpl	310482
5/29/45	Wilson	Donald	Asst/Ck	813771
5/29/45	Zdon	Stanley	Pfc	904388
6/11/45	Hentz	William	Pvt	550623
6/11/45	McMullen	Francis	Cpl	844680
6/11/45	Oleska	John	Pvt	323376
6/11/45	Ryan	Thomas	2nd Lt	026110
6/11/45	Schroeder	Richard	Pvt	564224

6/11/45	Scott	Emmet	Pvt	992812
6/11/45	Serwatt	Donald	Pvt	950225
6/11/45	Sexton	Henry	Pvt	553304
6/11/45	Shirk	Eugene	Pvt	968498
6/11/45	Shoemaker	John	Pvt	993062
6/11/45	Shukis	Bruno	Pvt	985627
6/11/45	Siembida	John	Pvt	571061
6/11/45	Sigel	Harry	Pvt	564440
6/11/45	Silvius	David	Pvt	996234
6/11/45	Smith	Charles	Pvt	821374
6/11/45	Smith	John	Pvt	987480
6/11/45	Smith	George	Pvt	1002208
6/11/45	Snell	George	Pfc	553289
6/11/45	Snyder	Robert	Pvt	973861
6/11/45	Ware	Walter	Pvt	914342
6/11/45	Zuber	Steven Jr	Asst/Ck	469569
6/16/45	Johnson	Vernon	Pvt	921702
6/16/45	Jordon	Maurice	Pvt	956163
6/16/45	Justofin	Raymond	Pvt	953910
6/16/45	Key	Joseph	Pvt	957429
6/16/45	Kolodzi	Stanley	Pvt	971975
6/16/45	Kremer	Milton	Pfc	919250
6/16/45	Laubaugh	Harry	Pvt	966300
6/16/45	Mackay	Wilbert	Pvt	563610
6/16/45	Nelson	Lloyd	Pvt	1004859
6/16/45	Neumann	Robert	Pvt	997345
6/16/45	Newren	Karl	Pvt	548243
6/16/45	Nordeen	Richard	Pvt	999107
6/16/45	Novosad	Andrew	Pvt	548291
6/16/45	Nugent	Charles	Pvt	979087
6/16/45	O'Driscoll	Lynn	Pvt	566622
6/16/45	Pappaspyros	Peter	Pvt	912816
6/16/45	Runk	James	Pvt	939711
6/16/45	Salsano	Nicholas	Pvt	966473
6/17/45	Kearney	Joseph	Pvt	453046
6/17/45	Kreklau	Edward	Asst/Ck	471982
6/17/45	Marciano	James	Fld/M	845150
6/17/45	Ferry	William	Pfc	935135
6/25/45	Redanz	Frederick	S/Sgt	299901

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"I" Company Marines-Corpsmen, Killed in Action

3/1/45	Stabinsky	Bernard	Pfc	854970
4/10/45	Smith	Darrall	Pfc	514616
4/10/45	Joiner	James	Cpl	415134
4/12/45	Genczy	Chester	Cpl	508107
4/12/45	Clayton	Carl	Sgt	359052
4/12/45	Burr	Harry	Pfc	495356
4/12/45	Johnson	Orus	Sgt	396067
4/12/45	Mc Kown	Charles	Pvt	554570
4/12/45	Doerr	David	G\Sgt	264610
4/12/45	O'Malley	William	Cpl	806688
4/12/45	La Cobee	Francis	Pfc	417446
4/12/45	Greska	Frank	Pfc	953308
4/12/45	Spano	Stephen	Pfc	541448
4/13/45	Stackhouse	Duff	Pfc	859210
4/14/45	Demuth	Robert	PhM3c	250-92-32
4/14/45	James	Jack	HAic	939-55-94
4/16/45	Kemp	William	Pfc	956230
4/16/45	Zacame	Bernard	Pvt	565070
4/16/45	Propst	John	2nd Lt	039233
4/16/45	Walter	Richard	Pfc	854978
5/12/45	Moneypenny	John	Pfc	368268
5/12/45	Zuk	John Jr	Pfc	470399
5/14/45	Tellinghuisen	Gerald	Cpl	334062
5/14/45	Terry	Floyd	Cpl	295893
5/14/45	Lenahan	Thomas	Pfc	950770
5/14/45	Rossi	John	Pfc	903361
5/15/45	McDevitt	John	HAic	635-25-52
5/15/45	Richardson	Harold	Pvt	957035
5/15/45	Horton	Edwin	Pvt	953893
5/15/45	Whatley	Earl	Pfc	891000
5/16/45	Player	James	Pfc	409634
5/16/45	O'Leary	John	Pvt	564843
5/16/45	Shinn	Ralph	Cpl	394062
5/16/45	Winchester	Jean	Pvt	998401
5/17/45	Scott	Rex	Pvt	959555
5/17/45	Haynes	Vernon	Pfc	846452
5/17/45	Bennett	Jackson	Cpl	513812
5/17/45	Tardiff	Gerard	Cpl	484009
5/17/45	Sardo	James	Pfc	845784
5/17/45	Patterson	Elmer	Pfc	935030
5/18/45	Schrock	James	Pvt	559482
5/18/45	Myers	Robert	Pvt	968178
5/18/45	Schumacher	Edwin	Pvt	989064
5/18/45	Shaughnessy	Edwin	Pfc	951594
5/18/45	Hood	Warren	Pvt	968332
5/18/45	Carson	George	Cpl	285897
5/30/45	Bryson	Maurice	Pfc	530433
5/31/45	Hinkley	Warren	Pfc	853055
5/31/45	Hubbard	James	Pvt	920799
6/8/45	French	William	Cpl	912757
6/8/45	Dolci	Quinto	Pfc	360878

6/9/45	Zoltanski	Eugene	Pvt	570802
6/9/45	Long	Marvin	Pfc	519098
6/10/45	Sykes	Floyd	Pvt	1004505
6/10/45	Mayhan	Ernest	HA1c	931-74-68
6/11/45	Sheer	Joseph	Sgt	838172
6/11/45	Wilson	Donald	Asst/Ck	813771
6/13/45	Souza	Albert	Pvt	989782
7/1/45	Perry	Rufus	Pvt	1000590

"I" Company Marines-Corpsmen, Wounded in Action

4/7/45	Souza	Albert	Pvt	989782
4/9/45	Peralta	Anthony	FM/1st	836425
4/12/45	Baker	Abner	Cpl	339017
4/12/45	Bouck	George	Cpl	353139
4/12/45	Christopher	John	Pfc	530406
4/12/45	Corriea	Donald	Pfc	556542
4/12/45	Estes	Charles	Pvt	328853
4/12/45	Fodero	Frank	Sgt	482384
4/12/45	Furbush	Allen	Cpl	470356
4/12/45	Hoehn	Edward	Pvt	949802
4/12/45	Homom	Leo	Pvt	962605
4/12/45	Killian	Claude	Sgt	297875
4/12/45	Lally	Francis	Pfc	550533
4/12/45	Mc Quilliam	Charles	Pl/Sgt	282888
4/12/45	McCrea	William	Pvt	951591
4/12/45	McKinney	William	Pvt	979961
4/12/45	Menefee	James	Pfc	911500
4/12/45	Miller	Moss Jr	Cpl	312965
4/12/45	Mollica	Donald	Pfc	843928
4/12/45	Niederer	Floyd	Cpl	803042
4/12/45	Pates	Robert	Cpl	393317
4/12/45	Patruno	Pasquale	Pfc	949394
4/12/45	Pope	George	Pfc	949387
4/12/45	Ryan	Walter	Pfc	554011
4/12/45	Sampson	Robert	Pfc	800667
4/12/45	Scarmozzino	Nicholas	Pfc	907152
4/12/45	Schneider	Walter	Cpl	390813
4/12/45	Scism	James	Pfc	815433
4/12/45	Sharp	Hervey	Cpl	368545
4/12/45	Simmons	Harry	Pvt	956604
4/12/45	Sucoff	Martin	Pfc	518386
4/12/45	Sullivan	Wendell	Pfc	960539
4/12/45	Umstead	Archie	Cpl	895360
4/12/45	Welch	Hubert	Cpl	813456
4/12/45	White	Eugene	Pfc	960173
4/16/45	Brown	James	Cpl	545073
4/16/45	Cipriano	Nicholas	Cpl	312735
4/16/45	Hamilton	Russell	Pfc	456746
4/16/45	Keaton	Jessie	Pvt	960180
4/16/45	Knight	James	Pfc	898970
4/16/45	Luddecke	Robert	Pfc	943965
4/16/45	McMahon	Myron	Pvt	956919
4/17/45	Leach	Gaylord	Cpl	953888
4/20/45	Duck	Orman	Pfc	547641
4/20/45	Walsh	Raymond	Pvt	982612
5/12/45	Cook	Carl Jr	Cpl	493026
5/12/45	Johnson	Jesse	Cpl	933847
5/12/45	Nokes	Ralph	Pvt	829249
5/12/45	Willoughby	Clarence	Sgt	281675
5/13/45	LaVoie	Henry	Pfc	556526
5/13/45	Perez	Augustin	>Pvt	561971
5/13/45	Schaub	Oscar	Pvt	954848

5/13/45	Sioss	Robert	Sgt	330091
5/13/45	Sullivan	Lawrence	1st Lt	022272
5/13/45	Woodard	Richard	Pfc	526981
5/14/45	Cromling	William	Sgt	305503
5/14/45	Crouse	Robert	Pvt	500279
5/14/45	Hartman	Leo	Pfc	548374
5/14/45	Heller	Ralph	Cpl	375118
5/14/45	Kearney	Francis	Pvt	951499
5/14/45	Longerbeam	Granville	Pvt	947808
5/14/45	Miller	Paul	Pfc	942473
5/14/45	Mylod	Phillip	Capt/CO	013152
5/14/45	Nangano	Walter	Pvt	972839
5/14/45	Nelson	Norman	Pvt	985171
5/14/45	Nichols	Harold	Cpl	292706
5/14/45	O'Dell	Arnold	Pfc	802409
5/14/45	Pears	Frederick	PHM3c	383-20-84
5/14/45	Peebles	James	Pvt	557502
5/14/45	Raynor	Everett	PHM3c	812-87-06
5/14/45	Rogers	Vernon	Pfc	871328
5/14/45	Santarpia	Frank	Pfc	844496
5/14/45	Shotwell	Samuel	Cpl	309148
5/14/45	Simone	Dominick	Pfc	844977
5/14/45	Sparks	Lorenzo	Pfc	530409
5/14/45	Steadly	Woodrow	Pfc	957271
5/14/45	Stucker	Richard	Cpl	812746
5/14/45	Tellinghuisen	Gerald	Cpl	334062
5/14/45	Thornton	Clarke Jr	Cpl	543498
5/14/45	Voelker	Paul	Pfc	551425
5/14/45	Wicka	Marcel	Cpl	224633
5/15/45	Breaux	George	Pfc	369800
5/15/45	Brooks	Harvey	1st Lt	016758
5/15/45	Brown	Arthur	Pfc	847542
5/15/45	Cherry	William	Pfc	519053
5/15/45	Cullem	Charles	Pvt	541363
5/15/45	Melcher	Thomas	2nd Lt	041974
5/15/45	Miller	Charles	Pfc	514436
5/15/45	Mohrman	Vernon	Pvt	948899
5/15/45	Mullett	Samuel	Pfc	910383
5/15/45	Muncy	John	Pfc	888815
5/15/45	Nichols	Hollis	Pvt	980909
5/15/45	Polding	John	Pfc	845176
5/15/45	Shakeshaft	Donald	Pfc	396274
5/15/45	Shankle	Grover	Pvt	847467
5/15/45	Steadly	Daniel	Pfc	957278
5/16/45	Blevins	Edward	Pfc	505702
5/16/45	Brew	William	Pfc	841835
5/16/45	Cardosi	Leonard	Pfc	511790
5/16/45	Carlson	Harold	Pvt	989453
5/16/45	Casey	Julian	Pfc	837325
5/16/45	Cooper	Wade	Pfc	343762
5/16/45	Elliott	Jack	Sgt	464017
5/16/45	Farrell	Malcolm	Pfc	953298
5/16/45	Finkbeiner	Edward	Pvt	966509
5/16/45	Fulton	William	Pfc	554574

5/16/45	Gallagher	Clayton	Pfc	944101
5/16/45	Gunn	Chester	Pfc	932854
5/16/45	Heim	John	P1/Sgt	285004
5/16/45	Hogan	Joseph	Pfc	951292
5/16/45	Honis	Donald	Pvt	994282
5/16/45	Mast	"R"	Pfc	941018
5/16/45	McCool	Norman	Cpl	362244
5/16/45	Miller	Richard	Cpl	477319
5/16/45	Myers	James	Pfc	920825
5/16/45	Phillips	Fulton	Pvt	980903
5/16/45	Presser	Martin	Sgt	270465
5/16/45	Schinnerer	Don	Pfc	343071
5/16/45	Shorts	Medford	Pvt	920945
5/16/45	Vail	Maurice	Pfc	547364
5/17/45	Aust	Kenneth	Pfc	886671
5/17/45	Avelin	Walter	Pvt	563865
5/17/45	Hipp	Roy	Pvt	957262
5/17/45	Johnson	Johnie	Sgt	265725
5/17/45	Keller	Clyde	Pfc	847510
5/17/45	Lewis	Robert	Pfc	311075
5/17/45	McDowell	Nosh	Pvt	993357
5/17/45	Nappi	Michael	Pvt	953336
5/17/45	Nelson	Paul	Pvt	986643
5/17/45	Northcote	Charles	Pvt	985174
5/17/45	Parker	Charles	Pvt	990729
5/17/45	Rapp	William	Cpl	508934
5/17/45	Richard	Russell	Pfc	900627
5/17/45	Ross	Richard	Pvt	556544
5/17/45	Rutzler	William	Pfc	517360
5/17/45	Slade	Donald	Pfc	949398
5/17/45	Snyder	Randall	Pvt	922613
5/17/45	Stahler	William	Cpl	410979
5/17/45	Sullivan	Edward	Cpl	437090
5/17/45	Timanus	Edwin	Cpl	816137
5/17/45	Vasiliou	William	Pfc	563617
5/19/45	Anderson	Joseph	Pfc	337980
5/19/45	Payne	York	Pvt	993739
5/19/45	Stockwell	Harry	Pfc	835691
5/19/45	Thibeault	Charles	Pfc	310072
5/19/45	Utley	Cecil	Cpl	376861
5/28/45	Tuma	Howard	Pvt	569451
5/29/45	Briscoe	Donald	PHM2c	882-37-10
5/29/45	Smith	Carleton	Pfc	853151
5/29/45	Sowers	Charles	Pvt	992986
5/29/45	Summerford	Major Jr	Pvt	544805
5/29/45	Tremelay	Roland	Pvt	932484
5/30/45	Kempker	Raymond	Pvt	897092
5/30/45	Van Rycheghem	Roger	Pvt	565881
5/31/45	Gay	William	Pfc	914418
5/31/45	McCormick	James Jr	2nd Lt	041936
5/31/45	Newman	Melvin	Cpl	408184
5/31/45	Novotny	Joseph	Pvt	968218
5/31/45	Spies	Phillip	Pvt	563961
5/31/45	Sprout	Lyman	Pvt	569266

6/1/45	Pawl	Michael	Cpl	248012
6/1/45	Permenter	Vernon	Pvt	991565
6/1/45	Plucinski	Eugene	Pvt	1000585
6/6/45	Fauk	John	PhM3c	873-10-73
6/8/45	Hudoba	Joseph	Cpl	526430
6/8/45	Lee	William	P1/Sgt	452077
6/8/45	Merrigan	Donald	Pvt	337403
6/8/45	Miller	Ralph	Pfc	918530
6/8/45	Norman	Eugene	Pvt	570727
6/8/45	Norman	James	Pvt	993744
6/8/45	Pfotenhauer	Paul	Pvt	985399
6/8/45	Taylor	Harold	G/Sgt	245350
6/8/45	Van Hooser	Karl	Pvt	559791
6/8/45	Watts	Robert	Pvt	555166
6/9/45	Smith	Ambrose	Cpl	444065
6/9/45	Sports	Rupert	Pfc	544608
6/10/45	Austin	Byron	Pfc	260262
6/10/45	Cleary	Edward	Pfc	541404
6/10/45	Michel	Richard	Pfc	319864
6/10/45	Riley	Jack	Pvt	990804
6/10/45	Soderholm	Leo	Pvt	994293
6/10/45	Stabi	Joseph	Pvt	570751
6/10/45	Stine	Cedric	Pvt	950509
6/11/45	Camarata	August	2nd Lt	040383
6/11/45	Fadden	Joseph	Pfc	951278
6/11/45	Leary	Warren	Pfc	926086
6/11/45	Litrell	Anthony	Cpl	845432
6/11/45	Mackin	Wayne	Pfc	944008
6/11/45	McCarty	Harold	Pfc	518171
6/11/45	Moore	John	Pvt	826464
6/11/45	Morley	Jesse	Pfc	878895
6/11/45	Olthoff	Dean	Pfc	480760
6/11/45	Smith	Robert	Pvt	993797
6/11/45	Southerland	Needham	Pvt	984456
6/14/45	Johnson	Eugene	P1/Sgt	266209
6/15/45	Phelps	Leon	Cpl	305103
6/16/45	Guzewich	Gerald	Cpl	292696
?/?/45	Budday	Edgar	Pfc	511821

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"I" Company Marines Transferred from the Company

<u>Name</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Joined</u>	<u>Transferred</u>
Allen	John	Pfc	4/1/45	6/13/45
Anderson	Joseph	Pfc	4/19/45	5/19/45
Aust	Kenneth	Pfc	4/1/45	5/20/45
Austin	Byron	Pfc	5/29/45	6/18/45
Avelin	Walter	Pvt	4/1/45	5/20/45
Baker	Abner	Cpl	4/1/45	4/13/45
Basile	Carmen	Pfc	4/1/45	6/11/45
Bellen	Harry	Pvt	4/1/45	5/14/45
Berry	Alvin	Cpl	4/1/45	4/22/45
Best	Hydra	Pfc	4/19/45	5/20/45
Blevins	Edward	Pfc	4/19/45	6/11/45
Bordlemay	James	Pfc	4/1/45	5/18/45
Breaux	George	Pfc	4/1/45	5/17/45
Brew	William	Pfc	4/19/45	5/19/45
Brienza	Joseph	Pfc	4/1/45	5/16/45
Brooks	Harvey	1st Lt	4/1/45	5/25/45
Brown	Arthur	Pfc	4/1/45	5/15/45
Budday	Edgar	Pfc	4/1/45	5/20/45
Carlson	Harold	Pvt	5/1/45	5/28/45
Casey	Julian	Pfc	4/1/45	5/18/45
Cherry	William	Pfc	4/1/45	5/16/45
Christopher	John	Pfc	4/1/45	4/13/45
Cleary	Edward	Pfc	4/1/45	6/11/45
Cook	Carl Jr	Cpl	4/1/45	5/15/45
Cooper	Wade	Pfc	4/1/45	5/18/45
Cromling	William	Sgt	4/1/45	5/15/45
Crouse	Robert	Pvt	4/1/45	5/15/45
Dubois	George	Pfc	4/1/45	4/12/45
Duck	Orman	Pfc	4/1/45	4/22/45
Ehrler	Walter	Pfc	5/29/45	6/19/45
Elliott	Jack	Sgt	4/1/45	5/17/45
Estes	Charles	Pvt	4/1/45	4/18/45
Fadden	Joseph	Pfc	4/1/45	6/20/45
Finkbeiner	Edward	Pvt	4/1/45	5/18/45
Fisher	Francis	Pfc	4/1/45	5/4/45
Fodero	Frank	Sgt	4/1/45	4/15/45
Fulton	William	Pfc	4/1/45	5/24/45
Gardner	George	Pfc	4/1/45	6/11/45
Goosmann	John	Sgt	4/1/45	5/24/45
Gunn	Chester	Pfc	4/1/45	5/18/45
Hanslik	Harrison	Pfc	4/1/45	5/23/45
Hart	Harry	Pfc	5/29/45	6/10/45
Hartman	Leo	Pfc	4/1/45	5/14/45
Heim	John	Pl/Sgt	4/1/45	5/22/45
Heller	Ralph	Cpl	4/1/45	5/15/45
Hermanies	John	Pfc	4/1/45	5/24/45
Hoehn	Edward	Pvt	4/1/45	4/16/45
Hogan	Joseph	Pfc	4/1/45	5/18/45
Holton	Robert	Pvt	4/1/45	5/18/45
Homom	Leo	Pvt	4/1/45	4/18/45
Hontz	Robert	1st Lt	4/1/45	5/23/45

Hoover	James	Pvt	4/1/45	6/17/45
Hudoba	Joseph	Cpl	5/29/45	6/15/45
Johnson	Jesse	Cpl	4/1/45	5/13/45
Jorgensen	Walter	Capt/CO	4/1/45	4/24/45
Katavolos	Charles	Fvt	4/19/45	6/6/45
Keaney	William	Pfc	4/1/45	5/29/45
Kearney	Francis	Pvt	4/1/45	5/17/45
Kelley	Wilfrid	Pfc	5/17/45	6/1/45
Kelly	Joseph	Pfc	4/1/45	4/18/45
Killian	Claude	Sgt	4/1/45	4/18/45
Kimick	Bernard	Pfc	5/16/45	5/31/45
Knight	James	Pfc	4/1/45	4/17/45
Lally	Francis	Pfc	4/1/45	5/15/45
LaVoie	Henry	Pfc	4/1/45	5/15/45
Leary	Warren	Pfc	5/29/45	6/24/45
Lee	William	P1/Sgt	4/1/45	6/15/45
Lewis	Robert	Pfc	5/16/45	5/19/45
Litrell	Anthony	Cpl	5/27/45	6/12/45
Litts	Bartley	Pvt	4/28/45	5/4/45
Luddecke	Robert	Pfc	4/1/45	4/21/45
Marz	John	Pfc	4/19/45	5/31/45
Mattera	Vincent	Pfc	5/16/45	6/3/45
Mc Quilliam	Charles	P1/Sgt	4/1/45	4/18/45
McCarty	Harold	Pfc	4/19/45	6/19/45
McCormack	Carl	Fvt	5/29/45	6/15/45
McCrea	William	Pvt	4/1/45	4/13/45
McDowell	Nosh	Pvt	5/1/45	5/20/45
McMahon	Myron	Pvt	4/1/45	4/17/45
Melcher	Thomas	2nd Lt	4/27/45	5/16/45
Menefee	James	Pfc	4/1/45	5/21/45
Merrigan	Donald	Pvt	5/29/45	6/9/45
Michel	Richard	Pfc	5/29/45	6/11/45
Miller	Paul	Pfc	4/1/45	5/14/45
Miller	Richard	Cpl	4/1/45	5/29/45
Miller	Ralph	Pfc	5/29/45	6/8/45
Miller	Moss Jr	Cpl	4/1/45	4/13/45
Mohrman	Vernon	Pvt	4/1/45	5/17/45
Mollica	Donald	Pfc	4/1/45	4/16/45
Moore	John	Pvt	4/1/45	6/22/45
Morley	Jesse	Pfc	4/19/45	6/14/45
Mullett	Samuel	Pfc	4/1/45	5/22/45
Myers	James	Pfc	4/1/45	5/19/45
Nangano	Walter	Pvt	4/19/45	5/15/45
Nappi	Michael	Pvt	4/1/45	5/19/45
Nelson	Paul	Pvt	4/19/45	5/18/45
Nelson	Norman	Pvt	4/19/45	5/16/45
Newitt	James	Pvt	4/19/45	5/24/45
Nichols	Harold	Cpl	4/1/45	5/22/45
Nichols	Hollis	Pvt	4/19/45	5/21/45
Niederer	Floyd	Cpl	4/1/45	4/13/45
Nokes	Ralph	Pvt	4/19/45	5/16/45
Norman	James	Pvt	5/17/45	6/13/45
Norman	Eugene	Pvt	5/1/45	6/15/45
Northcote	Charles	Pvt	4/19/45	5/20/45

Novotny	Joseph	Pvt	5/17/45	6/15/45
Olthoff	Dean	Pfc	5/28/45	6/11/45
Fates	Robert	Cpl	4/1/45	4/13/45
Patruno	Pasquale	Pfc	4/1/45	4/13/45
Payne	York	Pvt	4/19/45	5/19/45
Pederson	Clarence	Pvt	5/17/45	6/7/45
Peebles	James	Pvt	4/19/45	5/14/45
Peralta	Anthony	FM/1st	4/1/45	4/10/45
Permenter	Vernon	Pvt	5/17/45	6/8/45
Perry	William	Pfc	6/17/45	6/18/45
Petuskey	William	Sgt	4/1/45	5/19/45
Phelps	Leon	Cpl	5/1/45	6/22/45
Phillips	Fulton	Pvt	4/19/45	5/19/45
Phillips	Robert	Pvt	5/17/45	6/1/45
Platt	Harry	Pvt	5/17/45	6/7/45
Plucinski	Eugene	Pvt	5/17/45	6/5/45
Pope	George	Pfc	4/1/45	4/13/45
Porter	Harlan	Pfc	4/19/45	6/7/45
Presser	Martin	Sgt	4/1/45	5/28/45
Richard	Philip	Pfc	4/19/45	6/17/45
Richard	Russell	Pfc	4/1/45	5/19/45
Riggs	Lawrence	Cpl	4/1/45	6/3/45
Riley	Jack	Pvt	4/1/45	6/11/45
Rogers	Vernon	Pfc	4/19/45	5/20/45
Ross	Richard	Pvt	4/1/45	5/29/45
Russell	Herndon	Pfc	4/1/45	6/10/45
Ryan	Walter	Pfc	4/1/45	4/18/45
Sampson	Robert	Pfc	4/1/45	4/18/45
Saylor	James	Pfc	4/1/45	4/13/45
Scarmozzino	Nicholas	Pfc	4/1/45	4/13/45
Schinnerer	Don	Pfc	4/1/45	5/19/45
Scism	James	Pfc	4/1/45	4/18/45
Shakeshaft	Donald	Pfc	4/1/45	5/21/45
Shankle	Grover	Pvt	4/1/45	5/17/45
Sharp	Hervey	Cpl	4/1/45	4/13/45
Shorts	Medford	Pvt	4/1/45	5/24/45
Shotwell	Samuel	Cpl	4/19/45	5/15/45
Simmons	Harry	Pvt	4/1/45	4/13/45
Simmons	Lewis	Pfc	4/1/45	6/5/45
Simone	Dominick	Pfc	4/1/45	5/18/45
Sims	Eugene	Pfc	4/1/45	6/1/45
Siooss	Robert	Sgt	4/1/45	5/17/45
Slade	Donald	Pfc	4/1/45	5/19/45
Slezak	Frederick	MT/Sgt	4/1/45	6/25/45
Smith	Ambrose	Cpl	4/1/45	6/9/45
Smith	Carleton	Pfc	4/1/45	6/11/45
Snyder	Randall	Pvt	4/1/45	5/18/45
Southerland	Needham	Pvt	5/17/45	6/21/45
Sowers	Charles	Pvt	5/17/45	5/30/45
Sparks	Lorenzo	Pfc	4/1/45	5/14/45
Spies	Phillip	Pvt	5/17/45	6/2/45
Spisak	Frank	Pvt	4/1/45	5/29/45
Sports	Rupert	Pfc	4/28/45	6/15/45
Sprout	Lyman	Pvt	5/17/45	6/1/45

Stabi	Joseph	Pvt	5/17/45	6/18/45
Steedly	Woodrow	Pfc	4/1/45	5/17/45
Steedly	Daniel	Pfc	4/1/45	5/31/45
Stine	Cedric	Pvt	5/17/45	6/13/45
Stockwell	Harry	Pfc	5/16/45	5/21/45
Stone	William	Pfc	4/1/45	5/15/45
Stucker	Richard	Cpl	4/1/45	5/24/45
Sucoff	Martin	Pfc	4/1/45	5/28/45
Sullivan	Lawrence	1st Lt	4/1/45	5/24/45
Sullivan	Edward	Cpl	4/19/45	5/20/45
Sullivan	Wendell	Pfc	4/1/45	4/18/45
Summerford	Major Jr	Pvt	5/17/45	5/30/45
Taylor	Harold	G/Sgt	4/1/45	6/15/45
Tellinghuisen	Gerald	Cpl	4/1/45	5/27/45
Thibeault	Charles	Pfc	4/1/45	5/20/45
Thornton	Clarke Jr	Cpl	4/19/45	5/14/45
Timanus	Edwin	Cpl	4/1/45	5/18/45
Tremelay	Roland	Pvt	5/1/45	5/30/45
Tuma	Howard	Pvt	5/17/45	5/30/45
Turner	Alfred	Sgt	4/24/45	5/2/45
Umstead	Archie	Cpl	4/1/45	4/13/45
Utlely	Cecil	Cpl	4/19/45	5/21/45
Vail	Maurice	Pfc	4/1/45	5/24/45
Van Hooser	Karl	Pvt	5/17/45	6/9/45
Vasiliou	William	Pfc	5/16/45	5/18/45
Voelker	Paul	Pfc	4/1/45	5/17/45
Walenski	William	Cpl	4/1/45	5/31/45
Walsh	Raymond	Pvt	4/1/45	4/22/45
Ware	Walter	Pvt	6/11/45	6/20/45
Watts	Robert	Pvt	5/28/45	6/9/45
Wexler	Samuel	Pvt	4/1/45	6/11/45
White	Eugene	Pfc	4/1/45	4/13/45
Whitney	Arnold	Pfc	4/19/45	5/19/45
Wicka	Marcel	Cpl	4/1/45	5/17/45
Willoughby	Clarence	Sgt	4/19/45	5/22/45
Woodard	Richard	Pfc	4/1/45	5/16/45
Yeakle	Frank	Pfc	5/17/45	6/2/45

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Medals/Awards Received by "I" Company Marines/Corpsmen

PH=Purple Heart

NC=Navy Cross

SS=Silver Star

BS=Bronze Star

LC=Letter of Commendation

Information was obtained from 6th Div. History-Bass:

and Company Muster Rolls

Anderson	Joseph	Pfc	337980	PH
Aust	Kenneth	Pfc	886671	PH
Austin	Byron	Pfc	260262	PH
Avelin	Walter	Pvt	563865	PH
Baker	Abner	Cpl	339017	PH
Beck	Alexander	Pfc	805214	BS
Bennett	Jackson	Cpl	513812	PH
Bledsoe	Joe	Pfc	847520	BS
Blevins	Edward	Pfc	505702	PH
Bouck	George	Cpl	353139	PH
Breaux	George	Pfc	369800	PH
Brew	William	Pfc	841835	PH
Brooks	Harvey	1st Lt	016758	BS, PH
Brown	Arthur	Pfc	847542	PH
Brown	James	Cpl	545073	NC, PH
Bryson	Maurice	Pfc	530433	PH
Burr	Harry	Pfc	495356	PH
Camarata	August	2nd Lt	040383	SS, PH
Cardosi	Leonard	Pfc	511790	PH
Carlson	Harold	Pvt	989453	PH
Carson	George	Cpl	285897	PH
Casey	Julian	Pfc	837325	PH
Cherry	William	Pfc	519053	PH
Christopher	John	Pfc	530406	PH
Cipriano	Nicholas	Cpl	312735	LC, PH
Clayton	Carl	Sgt	359052	PH
Cleary	Edward	Pfc	541404	PH
Cook	Carl Jr	Cpl	493026	PH
Cooper	Wade	Pfc	343762	PH
Corriea	Donald	Pfc	556542	PH
Cromling	William	Sgt	305503	PH
Crouse	Robert	Pvt	500279	PH
Cullem	Charles	Pvt	541363	PH
Cunningham	William	Pfc	556784	LC
Diamond	Eugene	Cpl	361668	LC
Doerr	David	G\Sgt	264610	NC, PH
Dolci	Quinto	Pfc	360878	PH
Duck	Orman	Pfc	547641	PH
Elliott	Jack	Sgt	464017	PH
Estes	Charles	Pvt	328853	PH
Fadden	Joseph	Pfc	951278	BS, PH(2)
Farrell	Malcolm	Pfc	953298	PH
Finkbeiner	Edward	Pvt	966509	PH
Fodero	Frank	Sgt	482384	PH
Francoeur	Raymond	Cpl	446255	BS
French	William	Cpl	912757	PH

Fulton	William	Pfc	554574	PH
Furbush	Allen	Cpl	470356	PH
Gallagher	Clayton	Pfc	944101	PH
Gay	William	Pfc	914418	PH(2)
Genczy	Chester	Cpl	508107	PH
Graves	Benton	Cpl	301159	SS
Greska	Frank	Pfc	953308	PH
Gunn	Chester	Pfc	932854	PH
Guzewich	Gerald	Cpl	292696	LC, PH
Hamilton	Russell	Pfc	456746	PH
Hartman	Leo	Pfc	548374	PH
Haynes	Vernon	Pfc	846452	PH
Heim	John	Pl/Sgt	285004	PH
Heller	Ralph	Cpl	375118	PH
Hinkley	Warren	Pfc	853055	PH
Hipp	Roy	Pvt	957262	PH
Hoehn	Edward	Pvt	949802	PH
Hogan	Joseph	Pfc	951292	PH
Holton	Robert	Pvt	558872	PH
Homom	Leo	Pvt	962605	PH
Honis	Donald	Pvt	994282	PH
Hood	Warren	Pvt	968332	PH
Horton	Edwin	Pvt	953893	PH
Hubbard	James	Pvt	920799	PH
Hudoba	Joseph	Cpl	526430	PH
Johnson	Jesse	Cpl	933847	PH
Johnson	Johnie	Sgt	265725	PH
Johnson	Eugene	Pl/Sgt	266209	PH
Johnson	Orus	Sgt	396067	PH
Joiner	James	Cpl	415134	BS, PH
Kearney	Francis	Pvt	951499	PH
Keaton	Jessie	Pvt	960180	PH
Keller	Clyde	Pfc	847510	PH
Kemp	William	Pfc	956230	PH
Kempker	Raymond	Pvt	897092	PH
Killian	Claude	Sgt	297875	PH
Knight	James	Pfc	898970	PH
La Cobee	Francis	Pfc	417446	PH
Lally	Francis	Pfc	550533	PH(2)
LaVoie	Henry	Pfc	556526	PH
Leach	Gaylord	Cpl	953888	PH
Leary	Warren	Pfc	926086	PH
Lee	William	Pl/Sgt	452077	PH
Lenahan	Thomas	Pfc	950770	PH
Lewis	Robert	Pfc	311075	PH
Lilly	Frank	Sgt	524413	SS
Litrell	Anthony	Cpl	845432	PH
Long	Marvin	Pfc	519098	PH
Long	Kenneth	Pvt	553783	BS
Longerbeam	Granville	Pvt	947808	PH
Luddecke	Robert	Pfc	943965	PH
Mackin	Wayne	Pfc	944008	PH
Mast	"R"	Pfc	941018	PH
Mc Kown	Charles	Pvt	554570	PH

Mc Quilliam	Charles	P1/Sgt	282888	PH
McCarty	Harold	Pfc	518171	PH
McCool	Norman	Cpl	362244	PH
McCormick	James Jr	2nd Lt	041936	PH
McCrea	William	Pvt	951591	PH
McDowell	Nosh	Pvt	993357	PH
McKinney	William	Pvt	979961	PH
McMahon	Myron	Pvt	956919	PH
Melcher	Thomas	2nd Lt	041974	PH
Menefee	James	Pfc	911500	PH
Merrigan	Donald	Pvt	337403	PH
Michel	Richard	Pfc	319864	PH
Miller	Ralph	Pfc	918530	PH
Miller	Moss Jr	Cpl	312965	PH
Miller	Charles	Pfc	514436	PH
Miller	Paul	Pfc	942473	PH
Miller	Richard	Cpl	477319	PH
Mohrman	Vernon	Pvt	948899	PH
Mollica	Donald	Pfc	843928	PH
Money penny	John	Pfc	368268	PH
Moore	John	Pvt	826464	PH
Morley	Jesse	Pfc	878895	PH
Mullett	Samuel	Pfc	910383	PH
Muncy	John	Pfc	888815	PH
Myers	James	Pfc	920825	PH
Myers	Robert	Pvt	968178	PH
Mylod	Phillip	Capt/CO	013152	SS, PH
Nangano	Walter	Pvt	972839	PH
Nappi	Michael	Pvt	953336	PH
Nelson	Norman	Pvt	985171	PH
Nelson	Paul	Pvt	986643	PH
Newman	Melvin	Cpl	408184	PH
Nichols	Hollis	Pvt	980909	PH
Nichols	Harold	Cpl	292706	PH
Niederer	Floyd	Cpl	803042	PH
Nokes	Ralph	Pvt	829249	PH
Norman	James	Pvt	993744	PH
Norman	Eugene	Pvt	570727	PH
Northcote	Charles	Pvt	985174	PH
Novotny	Joseph	Pvt	968218	PH
O'Dell	Arnold	Pfc	802409	PH
O'Leary	John	Pvt	564843	SS, PH
O'Malley	William	Cpl	806688	PH
Olthoff	Dean	Pfc	480760	PH
Parker	Charles	Pvt	990729	PH
Pates	Robert	Cpl	393317	PH
Patrino	Pasquale	Pfc	949394	PH
Fatterson	Elmer	Pfc	935030	PH
Fawl	Michael	Cpl	248012	PH
Fayne	York	Pvt	993739	PH
Peebles	James	Pvt	557502	PH
Peralta	Anthony	FM/1st	836425	PH
Perez	Augustin	>Pvt	561971	PH
Permenter	Vernon	Pvt	991565	PH

Perry	Rufus	Pvt	1000590	PH
Pfotenhauer	Paul	Pvt	985399	PH
Phelps	Leon	Cpl	305103	PH
Phillips	Fulton	Pvt	980903	PH
Player	James	Pfc	409634	PH
Plucinski	Eugene	Pvt	1000585	PH
Polding	John	Pfc	845176	PH
Pope	George	Pfc	949387	PH
Presser	Martin	Sgt	270465	PH
Propst	John	2nd Lt	039233	PH
Rapp	William	Cpl	508934	PH
Richard	Russell	Pfc	900627	PH
Richardson	Harold	Pvt	957035	NC, PH
Riley	Jack	Pvt	990804	PH
Rogers	Vernon	Pfc	871328	PH
Ross	Richard	Pvt	556544	PH
Rossi	John	Pfc	903361	PH
Rutzler	William	Pfc	517360	PH
Ryan	Walter	Pfc	554011	PH
Sampson	Robert	Pfc	800667	PH
Santarpia	Frank	Pfc	844496	PH
Sardo	James	Pfc	845784	PH
Scarmozzino	Nicholas	Pfc	907152	PH
Schaub	Oscar	Pvt	954848	PH(2)
Schinnerer	Don	Pfc	343071	PH
Schneider	Walter	Cpl	390813	PH
Schrock	James	Pvt	559482	PH
Schumacher	Edwin	Pvt	989064	PH
Scism	James	Pfc	815433	PH
Scott	Rex	Pvt	959555	PH
Shakeshaft	Donald	Pfc	396274	PH
Shankle	Grover	Pvt	847467	PH
Sharp	Hervey	Cpl	368545	PH
Shaughnessy	Edwin	Pfc	951594	PH
Sheer	Joseph	Sgt	838172	BS, PH
Shinn	Ralph	Cpl	394062	PH
Shorts	Medford	Pvt	920945	PH
Shotwell	Samuel	Cpl	309148	PH
Simmons	Harry	Pvt	956604	PH
Simone	Dominick	Pfc	844977	PH
Sioss	Robert	Sgt	330091	PH
Slade	Donald	Pfc	949398	PH
Smith	Carleton	Pfc	853151	PH
Smith	Darrall	Pfc	514616	PH
Smith	Robert	Pvt	993797	PH
Smith	Ambrose	Cpl	444065	PH
Snyder	Randall	Pvt	922613	PH
Soderholm	Leo	Pvt	994293	PH
Southerland	Needham	Pvt	984456	PH
Souza	Albert	Pvt	989782	PH(2)
Sowers	Charles	Pvt	992986	PH
Spano	Stephen	Pfc	541448	SS, PH
Sparks	Lorenzo	Pfc	530409	PH
Spies	Phillip	Pvt	563961	PH

Sports	Rupert	Pfc	544608	PH
Sprout	Lyman	Pvt	569266	PH
Stabi	Joseph	Pvt	570751	PH
Stabinsky	Bernard	Pfc	854970	PH
Stackhouse	Duff	Pfc	859210	PH
Stahler	William	Cpl	410979	PH
Steadly	Daniel	Pfc	957278	PH
Steadly	Woodrow	Pfc	957271	PH
Stine	Cedric	Pvt	950509	PH
Stockwell	Harry	Pfc	835691	PH
Stone	John	1st Lt	020217	SS,BS
Stucker	Richard	Cpl	812746	PH
Sucoff	Martin	Pfc	518386	PH(2)
Sullivan	Lawrence	1st Lt	022272	PH
Sullivan	Edward	Cpl	437090	PH
Sullivan	Wendell	Pfc	960539	PH
Summerford	Major Jr	Pvt	544805	PH
Sykes	Floyd	Pvt	1004505	PH
Tardiff	Gerard	Cpl	484009	PH
Taylor	Harold	G/Sgt	245350	PH
Tellinghuisen	Gerald	Cpl	334062	PH
Terry	Floyd	Cpl	295893	PH
Thibeault	Charles	Pfc	310072	PH
Thornton	Clarke Jr	Cpl	543498	PH
Timanus	Edwin	Cpl	816137	PH
Tremelay	Roland	Pvt	932484	PH
Tuma	Howard	Pvt	569451	PH
Umstead	Archie	Cpl	895360	PH
Utley	Cecil	Cpl	376861	PH
Vail	Maurice	Pfc	547364	PH
Van Hooser	Karl	Pvt	559791	PH
Van Rycheghem	Roger	Pvt	565881	PH
Vasiliou	William	Pfc	563617	PH
Vellman	William	1st Lt	026155	SS
Voelker	Paul	Pfc	551425	PH
Walsh	Raymond	Pvt	982612	PH
Walter	Richard	Pfc	854978	PH
Watts	Robert	Pvt	555166	PH
Whatley	Earl	Pfc	891000	PH
White	Eugene	Pfc	960173	PH
Wicka	Marcel	Cpl	224633	PH
Willoughby	Clarence	Sgt	281675	PH
Wilson	Donald	Asst/Ck	813771	PH
Winchester	Jean	Pvt	998401	PH
Woodard	Richard	Pfc	526981	PH
Zacame	Bernard	Pvt	565070	PH
Zoltanski	Eugene	Pvt	570802	PH
Zuk	John Jr	Pfc	470399	PH

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"I" Company-Type and Location of Wound
 Information obtained from Muster Rolls

<u>Date WIA</u>	<u>Serial#</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Location</u>
4/9/45	836425	GSW	rt leg
4/10/45	415134	GSW	head & shoulder
4/10/45	514616	GSW	head
4/12/45	264610	ShWd	multiple
4/12/45	282888	Shwd	Toe and ankle
4/12/45	297875	GSW	Diaphragm
4/12/45	312965	Shwd	Scrotum
4/12/45	328853	ShWd	rt cheek and arm
4/12/45	339017	ShWd	both shoulders
4/12/45	353139	shwd	rt arm and side
4/12/45	359052	ShWd	head
4/12/45	368545	GSW	multiple
4/12/45	390813	ShWd	lt thigh
4/12/45	393317	GSW	abdomen
4/12/45	396067	ShWd	multiple
4/12/45	417446	ShWd	neck
4/12/45	470356	GSW	rt leg
4/12/45	482384	ShWd	over eye
4/12/45	495356	ShWd	chest & thigh
4/12/45	508107	ShWd	head
4/12/45	518386	Fract ribs	lt side, conc ear
4/12/45	530406	GSW	rt thigh
4/12/45	541448	GSW	multiple
4/12/45	550533	ShWd, ShWd	lt thigh, fce, hnd, leg
4/12/45	554011	GSW	rt arm
4/12/45	554570	ShWd	multiple
4/12/45	556542	ShWd	rt arm
4/12/45	800667	GSW	lt shoulder
4/12/45	803042	ShWd	lt leg
4/12/45	806688	ShWd	abdomen
4/12/45	815433	GSW	throat
4/12/45	843928	ShWd	thumb
4/12/45	859210	ShWd	multiple
4/12/45	895360	GSW	rt foot
4/12/45	907152	GSW	lt thigh
4/12/45	911500	ShWd, ShWd	multiple, lt leg & hip
4/12/45	949387	ShWd	lt hand&foot & rt shldr
4/12/45	949394	ShWd	back
4/12/45	949802	ShWd	rt thigh
4/12/45	951591	ShWd	lt leg
4/12/45	953308	GSW	abdomen
4/12/45	956604	GSW	lt leg
4/12/45	960173	ShWd	multiple
4/12/45	960539	ShWd	rt arm & thigh
4/12/45	962605	GSW	lt thigh
4/12/45	979961	ShWd	rt leg
4/16/45	312735	GSW	lt arm, 2-leg, arm
4/16/45	456746	ShWd	multiple
4/16/45	545073	ShWd	head and lt shoulder
4/16/45	565070	ShWd	multiple
4/16/45	854978	ShWd	multiple

4/16/45	898970	ShWd	lt shoulder
4/16/45	943965	ShWd	rt leg
4/16/45	956230	ShWd	chest
4/16/45	956919	ShWd	multiple
4/16/45	960180	GSW	shoulder
4/17/45	953888	GSW	buttocks
4/20/45	547641	ShWd	rt side
4/20/45	982612	ShWd	lt arm
5/12/45	281675	ShWd	rt leg & back
5/12/45	368268	ShWd	multiple
5/12/45	470399	ShWd	multiple
5/12/45	493026	ShWd	neck
5/12/45	829249	ShWd	rt thigh
5/12/45	933847	ShWd	buttocks
5/13/45	022272	GSW	rt heel
5/13/45	330091	GSW	rt thigh
5/13/45	526981	ShWd	rt leg & buttock
5/13/45	556526	ShWd	back
5/13/45	561971	ShWd	lt hand
5/13/45	954848	ShWd, GSW	head, lt thigh
5/14/45	013152	ShWd	lt arm & leg
5/14/45	224633	ShWd	lt foot
5/14/45	292706	ShWd	multiple
5/14/45	295893	ShWd	head & shoulders
5/14/45	305503	ShWd	abdomen & leg
5/14/45	309148	ShWd	chest & lt arm
5/14/45	334062	GSW	abdomen
5/14/45	375118	GSW	rt hand
5/14/45	500279	GSW	rt arm
5/14/45	530409	ShWd	lt shoulder
5/14/45	543498	ShWd	rt temple
5/14/45	548374	ShWd	multiple
5/14/45	551425	ShWd	lt knee & foot
5/14/45	557502	GSW	rt & lt leg
5/14/45	802409	ShWd	rt leg & hand
5/14/45	812746	contusion	rt leg
5/14/45	844496	ShWd	lt arm
5/14/45	844977	ShWd	back
5/14/45	871328	concussion	head
5/14/45	903361	GSW	chest
5/14/45	942473	ShWd	lt leg & shoulder
5/14/45	947808	ShWd	rt thigh
5/14/45	950770	ShWd	multiple
5/14/45	951499	ShWd	multiple
5/14/45	957271	ShWd	lt leg
5/14/45	972839	ShWd	shoulder
5/14/45	985171	GSW	both legs
5/15/45	016758	GSW	lt face, hand & rt leg
5/15/45	041974	ShWd	lt hand
5/15/45	369800	GSW	face
5/15/45	396274	GSW	chest
5/15/45	514436	ShWd	back
5/15/45	519053	GSW	face
5/15/45	541363	ShWd	lt hand

5/15/45	845176	ShWd & contus	multiple
5/15/45	847467	GSW	rt leg
5/15/45	847542	GSW	lt hip
5/15/45	888815	contusion	lt knee
5/15/45	891000	ShWd	multiple
5/15/45	910383	GSW	rt arm
5/15/45	948899	GSW	back
5/15/45	953893	ShWd	multiple
5/15/45	957035	ShWd	multiple
5/15/45	957278	GSW	chest
5/15/45	980909	ShWd	multiple
5/16/45	270465	ShWd	head
5/16/45	285004	GSW	rt thigh
5/16/45	343071	ShWd	rt thigh
5/16/45	343762	GSW	lt leg
5/16/45	362244	GSW	neck
5/16/45	394062	GSW	abdomen
5/16/45	409634	GSW	head
5/16/45	464017	GSW	multiple
5/16/45	477319	GSW	abdomen
5/16/45	505702	GSW	head
5/16/45	511790	ShWd	rt thigh
5/16/45	547364	GSW	rt leg
5/16/45	554574	GSW	lt hand
5/16/45	564843	GSW	head
5/16/45	837325	GSW	rt leg
5/16/45	841835	GSW	head
5/16/45	920825	ShWd	back & neck
5/16/45	920945	ShWd	rt thigh
5/16/45	932854	GSW	lt hand
5/16/45	941018	ShWd	lt arm
5/16/45	944101	GSW	lt arm
5/16/45	951292	GSW	lt leg
5/16/45	953298	laceration	lt finger
5/16/45	966509	ShWd	rt leg
5/16/45	980903	GSW	lt leg
5/16/45	989453	GSW	lt leg
5/16/45	994282	GSW	lt leg
5/16/45	998401	GSW	head
5/17/45	265725	ShWd	lt arm
5/17/45	311075	ShWd	leg & arm
5/17/45	410979	ShWd	lt hand
5/17/45	437090	GSW	lt arm
5/17/45	484009	GSW	multiple
5/17/45	508934	ShWd	rt arm
5/17/45	513812	GSW	head
5/17/45	517360	GSW	lt foot
5/17/45	556544	GSW	chest & stomach
5/17/45	563617	GSW	lt arm
5/17/45	563865	GSW	rt arm
5/17/45	816137	ShWd	head & legs
5/17/45	845784	GSW	head
5/17/45	846452	GSW	head
5/17/45	847510	ShWd	head

5/17/45	886671	GSW	rt arm
5/17/45	900627	GSW	finger
5/17/45	922613	GSW	feet
5/17/45	935030	GSW	head
5/17/45	949398	ShWd	lt foot
5/17/45	953336	ShWd	rt thigh
5/17/45	957262	ShWd	leg
5/17/45	959555	GSW	throat & head
5/17/45	968332	GSW	rt leg
5/17/45	985174	ShWd	multiple
5/17/45	986643	GSW	lt knee
5/17/45	990729	ShWd	rt side of head
5/17/45	993357	GSW	rt leg
5/17/45	993739	ShWd	neck
5/18/45	285897	GSW	head
5/18/45	559482	GSW	back
5/18/45	878895	ShWd, GSW	rt hip, rt hip
5/18/45	951594	GSW	head
5/18/45	968178	H.E frag.	direct hit
5/18/45	989064	GSW	throat
5/19/45	310072	GSW	rt arm
5/19/45	337980	ShWd	lt hand
5/19/45	376861	GSW	throat
5/19/45	835691	GSW	lt shoulder
5/28/45	569451	GSW	head
5/29/45	544805	GSW	both legs
5/29/45	853151	ShWd	rt hand
5/29/45	932484	GSW	rt thumb
5/29/45	992986	GSW	rt thigh
5/30/45	530433	GSW	lt side of chest
5/30/45	565881	GSW	lt arm
5/30/45	897092	ShWd	back
5/31/45	041936	GSW	lt leg
5/31/45	408184	GSW&2deg.brns	unknown
5/31/45	563961	GSW	rt arm
5/31/45	569266	GSW	lt leg
5/31/45	853055	GSW	chest
5/31/45	914418	Burn, ShWd	unknown, back & legs
5/31/45	920799	GSW	chest
5/31/45	968218	ShWd	chest
6/1/45	1000585	ShWd	lt elbow
6/1/45	248012	ShWd	rt hand
6/1/45	991565	ShWd	concussion & ShWd
6/8/45	245350	GSW	lt leg
6/8/45	337403	GSW	rt shoulder & foot
6/8/45	360878	GSW	abdomen
6/8/45	452077	GSW	rt thigh
6/8/45	526430	GSW	head
6/8/45	555166	GSW	abdomen
6/8/45	559791	GSW	lt shoulder
6/8/45	570727	ShWd	multiple
6/8/45	912757	GSW	chest
6/8/45	918530	GSW	both legs
6/8/45	985399	2nd deg burns	face and neck

6/8/45	993744	GSW	rt arm & neck
6/9/45	444065	GSW	rt arm
6/9/45	519098	GSW	rt chest & lt hand
6/9/45	544608	ShWd	lt thigh & testes
6/9/45	570802	ShWd	multiple
6/10/45	1004505	GSW	back
6/10/45	260262	GSW	both legs
6/10/45	319864	GSW	chest & back
6/10/45	541404	GSW	lt leg
6/10/45	570751	GSW	rt hip
6/10/45	950509	GSW	rt buttock
6/10/45	990804	GSW	neck & jaw
6/10/45	994293	GSW	face
6/11/45	040383	unknown	unknown
6/11/45	480760	GSW	lt shoulder
6/11/45	518171	GSW	abdomen
6/11/45	813771	GSW	chest
6/11/45	826464	GSW	rt leg
6/11/45	838172	GSW	head
6/11/45	845432	GSW	rt leg
6/11/45	926086	GSW	lt hand
6/11/45	944008	GSW	chest
6/11/45	951278	GSW	lt arm
6/11/45	984456	GSW	hip
6/11/45	993797	GSW	lt arm
6/13/45	989782	unknown, GSW	unknown, abdomen
6/14/45	266209	ShWd	lt leg
6/15/45	305103	ShWd	rt leg
6/16/45	292696	ShWd	rt arm
7/1/45	1000590	burn,trip flare	abdomen & testes
	568627	unknown	unknown

^Z



COMMANDERS

I Co..... 1stLt Arthur E. Cofer (To 20A)
 Capt John Marston, Jr. (From 21A)

K Co..... Capt Joseph P. Dockery (WIA 10M)
 1stLt Reginald Fincke, Jr. (From 11M, KIA 15M)
 1stLt James D. Roe (From 16M)

L Co..... Capt John P. Lanigan (WIA 16M)
 Capt Frank H. Haigler, Jr. (From 16M)

Headquarters, 29th Marines

CO..... Col Victor F. Bleasdale (To 14A)
 Col William J. Whaling (From 15A)

ExO..... LtCol Orin K. Pressley

S-3..... LtCol Angus M. Fraser (To 14J)
 LtCol George W. Killen (From 14J)

H&S Co..... 1stLt Robert E. Stinson

WpnsCo..... Capt James G. Petrie

1st Battalion, 29th Marines

CO..... LtCol Jean W. Moreau (WIA 16M)
 Maj Robert P. Neuffer (18-25M)
 LtCol Samuel S. Yeaton (26M-14J)
 LtCol Leroy P. Hunt, Jr. (From 15J)

ExO..... Maj Robert J. Littin (To 21A)
 Maj James H. Brock (24A-26M)
 Maj Robert P. Neuffer (From 26M)

S-3..... Maj James H. Brock (To 23A)
 Capt Ernest P. Freeman, Jr. (24A-27M)
 Maj James H. Brock (From 28M)

HqCo..... Capt Ernest P. Freeman, Jr. (To 23A)
 1stLt Elliot L. Walzer (24A-15M)
 Capt Ernest P. Freeman, Jr. (From 1J)

A Co..... 1stLt Raymond J. Kautz (To 21A)
 Capt Jason B. Baker (24A-15J)
 1stLt Warren B. Watson (From 16J)

B Co..... Capt Lyle E. Specht (WIA 17M)
 1stLt Charles P. Gallagher (18-22M)
 1stLt Griffith E. Thomas (From 24M, WIA 28M)
 1stLt Robert H. Neef (From 1J)

C Co..... Capt Edwin H. Rodgers (WIA SA)

Capt George Heiden (From 10A, WIA 15M)
 Capt Jack F. Ramsey (From 16M, WIA 28M)
 1stLt Eugene T. Lawless (From 28M, WIA 15J*)

2d Battalion, 29th Marines

CO..... LtCol William G. Robb (WIA 19A*)

ExO..... Maj Thomas J. Cross

S-3..... Maj Robert P. Neuffer (To 16M)
 Capt Robert B. Fowler (From 16M, KIA 12J)
 Maj Wallace G. Fleissner (From 14J)

HqCo..... Capt Billie Musick (To 21A)
 Capt Martin J. Harrington (22A-22M)
 Capt Ralph D. Porch, II (23M-18J)

D Co..... Capt Howard L. Mabie (WIA 16A*)

E Co..... Capt Alan Meissner

F Co..... Capt Robert B. Fowler (WIA 15A*, To 15M)
 1stLt George S. Thompson (From 15M, WIA 8J)
 1stLt Robert J. Sherer (From 8J)

3d Battalion, 29th Marines

CO..... LtCol Erma A. Wright (To 14J)
 LtCol Angus N. Fraser (From 15J)

ExO..... Maj Crawford B. Lawton (WIA 9A)
 Maj Everett W. Whipple (9-21A)
 Capt Walter E. Jorgensen (From 24A, WIA 16M)
 Capt Thomas P. Tomasello (17-22M)
 Capt Walter E. Jorgensen (1-13J)
 Maj Anthony Walker (From 15J)

S-3..... Maj Everett W. Whipple (To 8A)
 Capt James R. Stockman (9A-6J)
 Capt Richard M. Haynes (6-13J)
 Maj Merlin Olsen (From 14J)

HqCo..... Capt James R. Stockman (To 8A)
 1stLt Leroy W. Noyes, Jr. (9A-13J)
 Capt Walter E. Jorgensen (From 14J)

G Co----- Capt Thomas J. Blanchet (To
17M)
1stLt John J. Keating (17-22M)
Capt William P. Tomasello
(From 23M, WIA 9J)
1stLt Robert M. Hontz (From
10J)
H Co----- Capt William P. Tomasello (To
16M)
Capt William A. Gamble (From
17M, WIA 5J*)
I Co----- Capt Walter E. Jorgensen (To
23A)
Capt Philip J. Mylod (From
24A, WIA 14M)
1stLt Harvey F. Brooks (From
14M, WIA 15M)
1stLt John P. Stone (From 15M)

Headquarters, 15th Marines

CO----- Col Robert B. Luckey
ExO----- LtCol James H. Brower
S-3----- Maj William H. Hirst
H&S Btry----- 1stLt Lawrence I. Miller

1st Battalion, 15th Marines

CO----- Maj Robert H. Armstrong
ExO----- Maj William T. Box
S-3----- 1stLt William N. Larson, Jr.
H&S Btry----- 1stLt Paul K. Lynde
A Btry----- 1stLt Benjamin S. Read (To
19A)
1stLt John J. O'Connor (From
20A)
B Btry----- 1stLt James H. Boyd
C Btry----- Capt Herbert T. Fitch

2d Battalion, 15th Marines

CO----- Maj Nat M. Pace
ExO----- Maj Edward O. Stephany (To
13A)
Maj William C. Roberts (From
14A)
S-3----- Maj Robert P. Yeomans
H&S Btry----- 2dLt Henry H. Lawler (Rear
Ech)
D Btry----- 1stLt Henry C. Schlosser
E Btry----- Capt McCuthen G. Atkinson
(WIA 13A)
1stLt Joseph A. Edwards (Actg
From 13A)
F Btry----- Capt John L. Noonan

3d Battalion, 15th Marines

CO----- LtCol Joe C. McHaney
ExO----- Maj Benedict V. Schneider, Jr.
S-3----- Maj Hugh C. Becker
H&S Btry----- Capt Edward C. O'Donnell
G Btry----- Capt Harris H. Barnes, Jr.
H Btry----- 1stLt Charles F. Petet, Jr.
I Btry----- Capt Louis D. Abney, Jr.

4th Battalion, 15th Marines

CO----- LtCol Bruce T. Hemphill
ExO----- Maj Francis F. Parry
S-3----- Capt Benjamin F. Spencer
H&S Btry----- Capt Robert D. Lackland
K Btry----- 1stLt Robert T. Patterson
L Btry----- Capt John "T" Haynes, Jr.
M Btry----- Maj Robert F. Irving

2D MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

CG----- MajGen Francis P. Mulcahy (To
10J)
MajGen Louis E. Woods (From
11J)
CofS----- Col Hayne D. Boyden
G-1----- Capt Robert E. Coddington
G-2----- Maj David B. Decker
G-3----- Col Perry O. Parmelee
G-4----- LtCol Charles T. Young, III
(WIA 20A)
Capt William L. Woodruff
(From 11J)
HqSq-2----- Capt Richard F. Hyland
VMO-3----- Capt Wallace J. Slappey, Jr.
VMO-6----- Capt. Donald R. Garrett
VMO-7----- Capt William A. Seward

Air Defense Command

CG----- BrigGen William J. Wallace
CofS----- Col Ford O. Rogers
G-3----- Col Boeker C. Batterton

Marine Aircraft Group 14 (1-22 June)

CO----- Col Edward A. Montgomery
ExO----- LtCol Curtis E. Smith, Jr.
S-3----- LtCol Robert H. Richard
HqSq-14----- Capt Robert M. Crooks
SMS-14----- Maj Francis H. Smythe (To 7J)
Maj Julius W. Ireland (From
8J)
VMF-212----- Maj John P. McMahon
VMF-222----- Maj Harold A. Harwood
VMF-223----- Maj Howard E. King

Marine Aircraft Group 22 (1-22 June)

CO----- Col Daniel W. Torrey, Jr.
ExO----- LtCol Elmer A. Wrenn
S-3----- Maj Thomas C. Colt, Jr.
HqSq-22----- Capt Linsay K. Dickey
SMS-22----- Maj Bruce Prosser
VMF-113----- Maj Hensley Williams
VMF-314----- Maj Robert C. Cameron
VMF-422----- Maj Elkin S. Dew
VMF(N)-533----- LtCol Marion M. Magruder
VMTB-131----- Maj Douglas H. Bangert

Marine Aircraft Group 31

CO----- Col John C. Munn
ExO----- LtCol Gordon E. Hendricks (To
20J)
LtCol Kirk Armistead (From
22J)

U.S. SHIPS LOST

United States Ships Lost-Okinawa, WW II

Taken from: Seaweeds Ships History

Destroyers

Bush (DD-529) Hit by 3 Kamikaze planes off Okinawa and sunk 6th April, 1945. Only 22r survivors sank at 1745 April 6, 1945.

Callaghan (DD-792) Sunk by Kamikaze attack off Okinawa, 28th July, 1945. Loss of crew , sank at 0235.

Colhoun (DD-801) Hit by 4 Kamikaze planes off Okinawa and sunk, 6th April, 1945. Loss of 32 of crew, wounded 28, couldn't tow, sank by Cassin young.

Drexler (DD-741) Hit by 2 Kamikaze planes off Okinawa and sunk, 28th May, 1945. Loss of 158 of crew and wounded 52. Sank in less than 1 Minute.

Halligan (DD-584) Sunk by mine off Okinawa, 26th March, 1945. Loss of 150 of crew, Hulk was washed on shore.

Little (DD-803) Hit by 4 Kamikaze planes off Okinawa and sunk, 3rd May, 1945. Sank at 0142.

Longshaw (DD-559) Ran aground off Haha, Okinawa, and destroyed by U.S. ships 18th May, 1945. Loss of 56 of crew, sank to keep from falling into Japanese hands.

Luce (DD-522) Hit by 2 Kamikaze planes off Okinawa and sunk, 3rd May, 1945. Loss of 126 of crew, sank approx. 0740.

Mannert L. Abele (DD-733) Sunk by Kamikaze and glider bomb attack off Okinawa, 12th April, 1945. Hit by a piloted rocket powered glider bomb at 1446, w/2600 lb. warhead. Only ship sank by the Baka Bomb.

Morrison (DD-560) Hit by 4 Kamikaze planes off Okinawa and sunk, 4th May, 1945. Loss of 152 crew members, in 1957 the hull was donated along with 26 other ships sank to the Ryukyus Islands.

Pringle (DD-477) Sunk by Kamikaze attack off Okinawa, 16th April, 1945. Only 258 survivors.

Twiggs (DD-591) Sunk by Kamikaze and aerial torpedo off Okinawa, 16th June, 1945. Loss of 192 crew members.

William D. Porter (DD-579) Sunk by Kamikaze attack off Okinawa, 10th June, 1945. Hit at 0815, sank at 1127. 60 fatal injuries.

Destroyer Escort

Oberrender (DE-344) Irreparably damaged by Kamikaze attack off Okinawa, 9th May, 1945.

United States Ships Lost at Okinawa-Continued

Submarines

Snook (SS-279) Missing in Okinawa area, April 1945. (possibly sunk by Japanese submarine) Loss of crew.

Trout (SS-238) Sunk by Japanese warships southeast of Okinawa, 29th February, 1944. Loss of crew.

Seaplane Tenders

Thornton (AVD-11) Damaged in collision with oiler Ashtabula off Okinawa and beached 5th April, 1945. Scrapped.

High Speed Transports

Barry (APD-29) Damaged by Kamikaze attack off Okinawa 25th May, and sunk as decoy, 21st June, 1945. 28 of the crew members were wounded.

Bates (APD-47) Hit by Kamikaze attack off Okinawa, 25th May, 1945. Loss of 21 men and sank at 1923 undertow and capsized and sank.

Dickerson (APD-21) Damaged by Japanese aircraft off Okinawa 2nd April, and scuttled, 4th April, 1945. Loss of 54 of their crew members.

High Speed Minesweepers

Emmons (DMS-22) Hit by 5 Kamikaze planes off Okinawa and sunk, 6th April, 1945. Loss of 60 Crew members, and 77 wounded.

Minesweepers

Skylark (AM-63) Sunk by mine off Okinawa, 28th March, 1945.

Swallow (AM-65) Sunk by Kamikaze off Okinawa, 22 April, 1945.

Unnamed Vessels

LST-447 Kamikaze, Okinawa, 6th April 1945

LSM(R) 90 Kamikaze, Okinawa, 4th May, 1945

LSM(R) 194 Kamikaze, Okinawa, 4th May, 1945

LSM(R) 195 Kamikaze, Okinawa, 3rd May, 1945

LSM 12 Foundered off Okinawa, 4th April, 1945

LSM 59 Kamikaze off Okinawa, 21st June, 1945

LSM 135 Kamikaze off Okinawa, 25 May, 1945

PC 1603 Kamikaze off Okinawa, 21st May 1945

PGM 17 Grounded off Okinawa, 4th May, 1945

PGM 18 Mine, off Okinawa, 7th April, 1945

YMS 103 Mine, off Okinawa, 8th April, 1945

End

BATTLE STATISTICS

Statistics of the Ryukyus Campaign

The following tables and charts are included to illustrate certain quantitative aspects of the Ryukyus campaign. Unfortunately, data are not available to permit a complete statistical summary of all phases of the campaign. Nevertheless, the data presented serve to indicate statistically the intensity of the fighting on Okinawa and the magnitude of the logistical effort necessary to support this operation.

The material shown in this appendix has been drawn from the most reliable sources. In instances where figures were available from more than one source, and were in conflict, all data were carefully weighed to ensure that the most reliable were used. Figures included in the text, however, were not always given in such sources, since refined summary data usually do not reflect the status of operations as of a given date or at the conclusion of a specific engagement. In such instances the only recourse was to periodic reports, prepared under the stress of battle and subject to revision as more details were learned. For this reason, sources cited in the text, while representing the best available for the data shown, will not always agree with those cited in appendix tables.

TABLE NO. 1

Strength of Army, Marine, and Naval Forces of Tenth Army in the Ryukyus Campaign, 30 April-30 June 1945^a

Command and Unit	30 April			31 May			30 June		
	Total	Off- cers ^b	Enlisted men	Total	Off- cers ^b	Enlisted men	Total	Off- cers ^b	Enlisted men
ARMY.....	102,250	6,379	95,871	167,971	10,991	156,980	190,301	13,810	176,491
7th Division.....	15,483	794	14,689	17,263	800	16,463	15,584	798	14,786
27th Division.....	13,488	722	12,766	12,404	679	11,725	11,624	652	10,972
77th Division.....	12,000	656	11,344	15,185	766	14,419	12,853	824	12,029
96th Division.....	13,146	798	12,348	14,220	706	13,514	13,140	751	12,389
Nondivisional Ground Force Units ^c	38,200	2,591	35,609	55,607	3,512	52,095	60,501	3,847	56,654
Service Forces.....	8,918	643	8,275	30,053	2,107	27,946	36,764	2,688	34,076
Other ^d	1,015	175	840	23,239	2,421	20,818	39,835	4,250	35,585
MARINE ^e	88,500	n. a.	n. a.	58,894	n. a.	n. a.	2,489	n. a.	n. a.
NAVY ^e	18,000	n. a.	n. a.	21,793	n. a.	n. a.	1,225	n. a.	n. a.

^a Figures represent assigned strength rather than actual effective strength. In accordance with WD Circular No. 280, 6 July 1944, hospital patients in the Ryukyus were carried on the rolls of their respective organizations during hospitalization or until completion of the prescribed period of 60 days of total hospitalization.

^b Includes warrant officers, flight officers, nurses, dieticians, and physical therapists.

^c Includes armored forces, artillery, service units, and headquarters troops that were not specifically assigned to infantry divisions.

^d Includes air-force-type units, overhead, replacements, and other miscellaneous units and personnel assigned to the Ryukyus operation and all theater-attached strength.

^e Figures shown represent total strength of Marine and Navy units attached to the Tenth Army for the Ryukyus campaign. The marked decline shown for June is the result of reassignment of the units involved rather than of large-scale evacuation of personnel.

n. a. Not available.

Source: U. S. War Department Monthly Strength Reports.

TABLE NO. 2

*Comparative American and Enemy Major Losses in the Ryukyus Campaign,
1 April-30 June 1945*

Nature of Loss	American	Enemy
PERSONNEL		
Killed, Total.....	12,281	^c 110,071
Army.....	^b 4,582	n. a.
Marine.....	^b 2,792	n. a.
Navy.....	4,907	n. a.
Captured.....	n. a.	^c 7,401
AIRCRAFT		
Planes Lost, Total.....	^d 763	^c 7,830
Combat.....	458	4,155
Operational.....	305	2,655
Destroyed on Ground.....	(^f)	1,020
SHIPS		
Sunk.....	^e 36	16
Damaged.....	^h 368	4

^a Data are from USAFWESPAC G-2 Periodic Report No. 15, 26 November-2 December 1945. The figure shown includes an unknown number of Okinawan conscripts and civilians. This, together with possible errors in counting the dead, accounts for the apparent discrepancy between total Japanese casualties and the total Japanese strength of 77,199 at the beginning of the campaign, as shown in Appendix B.

^b Data are from U. S. Tenth Army Action Report Ryukyus, 26 March to 30 June 1945, Vol. 1, Ch. 11, Sec. I, p. 12. Figure for Marine personnel killed includes data for Tactical Air Force.

^c Does not include 3,339 unarmed laborers and 15 combat civilians captured. Additional prisoners of war captured after the campaign raised the total to 16,346 by the end of November 1945.

^d Includes 98 from British carriers (26 combat and 72 operational).

^e Comprises 3,605 army planes and 4,225 navy planes, of which 850 and 1,050, respectively, were suicide planes.

^f Data are not available to indicate the total number of American planes destroyed on the ground. However, authenticated reports of at least 7 such losses are available (see p. 361).

^g Includes 26 sunk by suicide planes.

^h Includes 164 damaged by suicide planes.

n. a. Not available.

Source: United States Strategic Bombing Survey, *The Campaigns of the Pacific War*, Ch. XIV, Appendix 99, p. 331 except as otherwise indicated.

-375-

TABLE NO. 3
Casualties Sustained by Tenth Army, 1 April-30 June 1945^a

Unit	Total	Battle Casualties			Non-battle Casualties	
		Total	Killed ^b	Wounded ^c		Missing
ALL UNITS.....	65,631	39,420	7,374	31,807	239	26,211
XXIV Corps.....	34,736	22,182	4,412	17,689	81	12,554
7th Division.....	10,893	6,068	1,122	4,943	3	4,825
27th Division.....	5,224	3,255	711	2,520	24	1,969
77th Division.....	7,126	5,026	1,018	3,968	40	2,100
96th Division.....	10,247	7,430	1,506	5,912	12	2,817
Corps Troops.....	1,246	403	55	346	2	843
III Amphibious Corps.....	26,724	16,507	2,779	13,609	119	10,217
1st Division.....	13,002	7,901	1,115	6,745	41	5,101
2d Division ^d	95	94	7	26	61	1
6th Division.....	12,815	8,326	1,622	6,689	15	4,489
Corps Troops.....	812	186	35	149	2	626
Tactical Air Force.....	520	139	13	99	27	381
Army Garrison Forces ^e	2,636	383	110	261	12	2,253
Tenth Army troops ^f	1,015	209	60	149	806

^a Data are preliminary. Official casualty data will be released at a later date by the U. S. War Department and the U. S. Marine Corps. Figures shown include data for attached units.

^b Includes number that died from wounds.

^c Includes number injured in action.

^d Except for diversionary activities in the south on 1-2 April, the 2d Marine Division was not actively engaged in the campaign. However, on 16 June, the 8th Regimental Combat Team of the division was landed to provide reinforcement.

^e Comprises AGF 331 (Island Command, Okinawa) and AGF 245 (Ie Shima).

^f Includes data for Medical Service, distributed as follows: 1 killed, 17 wounded, and 254 nonbattle casualties.

Source: U. S. Tenth Army Action Report Ryukyus, 26 March to 30 June 1945, Vol. 1, Ch. 11, Sec. I, p. 12.

Personnel and Supplies Loaded for Assault and for First Echelon Garrison in the Ryukyus Campaign, by Point of Embarkation^a

Point of Embarkation	Number of Ships	Number of Troops	Supplies	
			Measurement Tons	Short Tons
TOTAL.....	458	193,852	824,567	312,795
Leyte.....	186	71,163	320,148	117,884
Guadalcanal-Espiritu-Russells.....	159	74,970	285,279	108,435
Saipan-Tinian-Guam.....	61	31,771	119,673	47,446
Oahu.....	39	12,837	69,423	26,762
San Francisco-Seattle ^b	13	3,111	30,044	12,268

^a Includes data for first echelon garrison force comprising 21 ships carrying 11,031 men and 77,717 measurement tons (26,160 short tons) of supplies.

^b Includes minor quantities loaded at Roi.

Source: Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Amphibious Operations—Capture of Okinawa (Ryukyus Operations), 27 March to 21 June 1945, Ch. VII, "Logistics," p. 7-24.

TABLE NO. 4

Troops and Supplies Loaded for the Initial Assault on the Ryukyus^a

Unit	Number of Assault Troops			Supplies					
	Total	Officers	Enlisted Men	Measurement Tons ^b			Short Tons		
				Total	Vehicles	Cargo	Total	Vehicles	Cargo
ALL UNITS.....	182,821	10,746	172,075	746,850	503,555	243,295	286,635	129,917	156,718
XXIV Corps.....	88,415	5,087	83,328	385,691	282,093	103,598	142,634	72,695	69,939
7th Division.....	21,929	1,150	20,779	95,789	70,382	25,407	34,856	18,272	16,584
27th Division.....	16,143	970	15,173	62,151	38,737	23,414	23,739	10,445	13,294
77th Division.....	20,981	1,170	19,811	99,999	76,698	23,301	34,936	18,271	16,665
96th Division.....	22,330	1,256	21,074	85,066	63,708	21,358	34,302	17,381	16,921
Corps Troops.....	7,032	541	6,491	42,686	32,568	10,118	14,801	8,326	6,475
III Amphibious Corps..	85,247	4,595	80,652	294,430	189,934	104,496	112,240	49,449	62,791
1st Division.....	26,274	1,401	24,873	80,765	48,585	32,180	31,463	14,226	17,237
2d Division.....	22,195	1,183	21,012	57,883	36,833	21,050	22,971	9,554	13,417
6th Division.....	24,356	1,294	23,062	78,748	52,267	26,481	28,031	12,564	15,467
Corps Troops.....	12,422	717	11,705	77,034	52,249	24,785	29,775	13,105	16,670
Tactical Air Force.....	3,172	390	2,782	23,879	11,578	12,301	9,849	2,296	7,553
Tenth Army Troops.....	5,417	628	4,789	21,806	13,091	8,715	9,533	4,157	5,376
Miscellaneous Units ^c	570	46	524	21,044	6,859	14,185	12,379	1,320	11,059

^a Does not include data for first echelon garrison force comprising 11,031 men and 77,717 measurement tons (26,160 short tons) of supplies. Figures shown include data for attached units, grouped according to the corps or division to which assigned.

^b Unit of volume used for measuring cargo, based on 40 cubic feet of shipping space per ton.

^c Includes units and supplies for Military Government, Naval Air Base, Air Defense Command, and naval resupply.

Source: Commander Task Force 51, Commander Amphibious Forces U. S. Pacific Fleet, Report on Okinawa Gunto Operation from 17 February to 17 May 1945, Pt. V, Sec. 1.

T-377-10.9

*Ammunition Expended by the U. S. Navy in the Ryukyus Campaign,
March-June 1945*

(Number of Rounds Fired)

Type	Total	Period		
		Prior to 1 April	1 April	2 April- 24 June
ALL TYPES.....	600,018	41,543	44,825	513,650
Star, 5-inch.....	66,653	500	1,500	64,653
HC, 5-inch ^a	^b 432,008	27,750	36,250	368,008
HC, 6-inch.....	46,020	4,200	3,000	38,820
HC, 8-inch.....	32,180	3,700	2,100	26,380
HC, 12-inch.....	2,700	575	175	1,950
HC, 14-inch.....	16,046	3,275	1,325	11,446
HC, 16-inch.....	4,411	^c 1,543	475	2,393

^a Includes AAC shells. Proximity-type fuzes were not used in shore bombardment. The HC (High Capacity) fragmentation shells detonated on impact.

^b Includes approximately 20,000 rounds of antiaircraft fire.

^c Includes 518 rounds fired by fast battleships.

Source: Tenth Army Action Report Ryukyus, 26 March to 30 June 1945, Vol. 1, Ch. 11, Sec. V, p. 19.

TABLE NO. 10

*Ammunition Expended by XXIV Corps, by Type of Weapon,
4 April-21 June 1945^a*

Weapon	Total		April		May		June	
	Number of Rounds	Short Tons	Number of Rounds	Short Tons	Number of Rounds	Short Tons	Number of Rounds	Short Tons
ALL TYPES.....		64,324		24,438		28,977		10,909
Howitzer, 8-in.....	19,008	2,224	6,077	684	9,154	1,031	3,777	509
Gun, 155-mm.....	79,888	5,891	32,156	2,362	34,387	2,529	13,345	1,000
Howitzer, 155-mm.....	278,946	16,702	114,770	7,292	113,636	6,907	50,540	2,503
Howitzer, 105-mm.....	792,371	28,152	284,695	10,427	377,436	12,799	130,240	4,926
Howitzer, 75-mm.....	179,977	2,429	68,081	919	91,126	1,230	20,770	280
Gun, 75-mm.....	104,893	1,521	33,013	479	43,808	635	28,072	407
Gun, 57-mm.....	21,997	231	7,118	74	5,682	58	9,197	99
Gun, 37-mm.....	87,193	204	39,362	93	25,066	58	22,765	53
Mortar, 81-mm.....	443,589	3,672	146,385	1,181	241,853	2,054	55,351	437
Mortar, 60-mm.....	521,301	1,626	98,117	307	311,722	974	111,462	345
Rocket Launcher, 2.36-in.....	20,359	62	10,263	31	7,956	24	2,140	7
Grenade, Hand.....	366,734	365	111,815	96	181,841	192	73,078	77
Grenade, Rifle.....	25,670	40	15,220	25	8,254	12	2,196	3
Submachine Gun, cal. .45 ^b	1,461,180	35	612,958	16	683,732	15	164,490	4
Carbine, cal. .30.....	2,009,597	34	926,778	16	773,824	13	308,995	5
Rifle, cal. .30.....	9,267,923	372	3,569,182	143	4,545,337	183	1,153,404	46
Machine Gun, cal. .30.....	16,285,499	627	6,091,400	234	5,745,989	221	4,448,110	172
Machine Gun, cal. .50.....	786,754	137	394,108	59	203,456	42	189,190	36

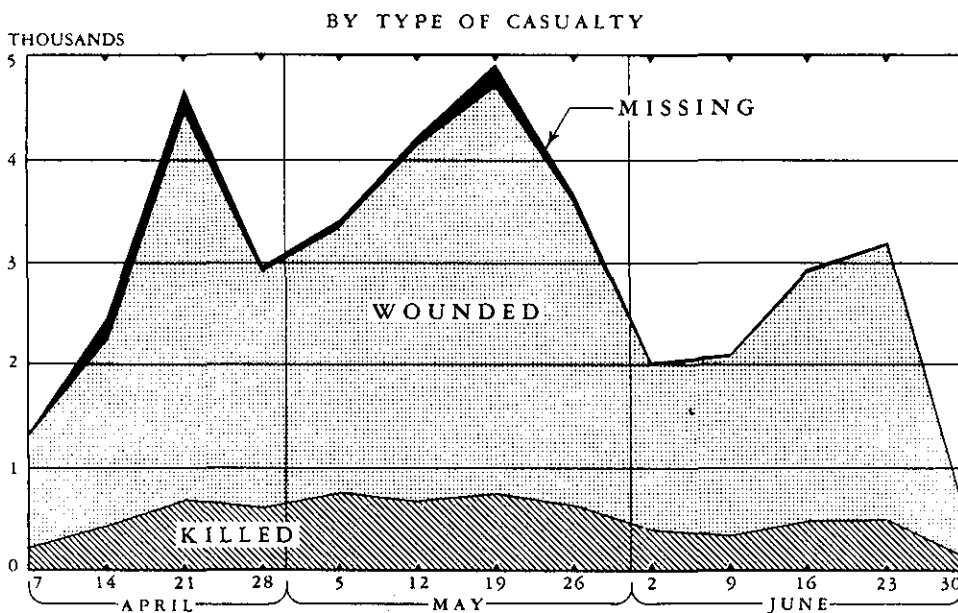
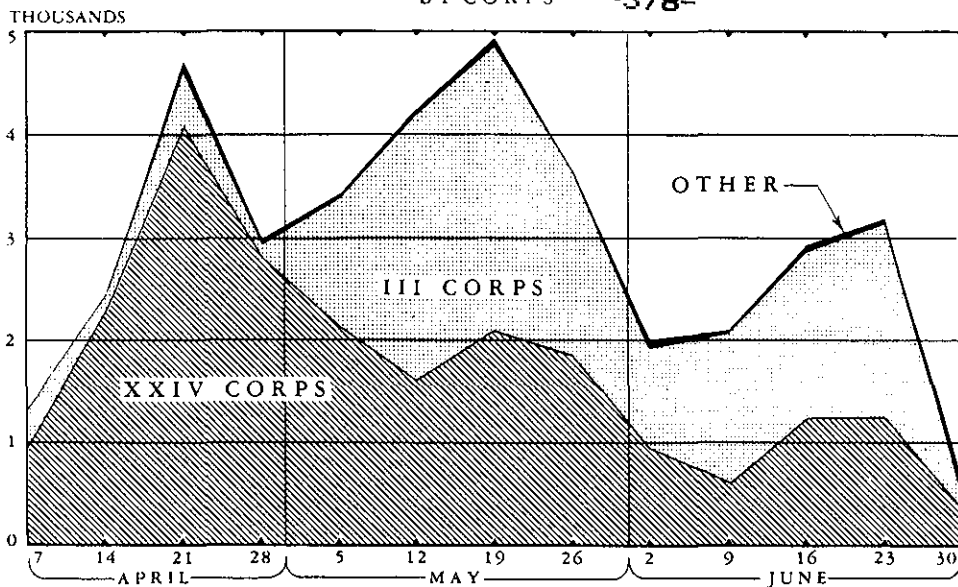
^a Data for 1-3 April are not available; expenditures after 21 June were negligible.

^b Includes relatively minor expenditures of cal. .45 ball ammunition for pistols and revolvers.

Source: Personal records of Col. G. F. Powell, Ordnance Officer, XXIV Corps, U. S. Tenth Army.

Tenth Army Weekly Battle Casualties, 1 April-30 June 1945

BY CORPS -378-



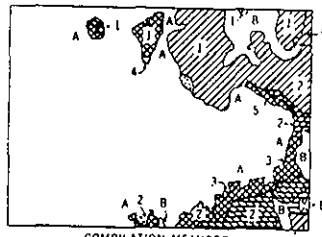
Source: U. S. Tenth Army, G-1 Periodic Reports.

MAPS OF OKINAWA

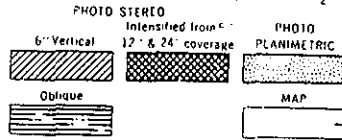
TO GIVE GRID AND TARGET-AREA REFERENCES ON THIS SHEET FIGURES, IGNORE the SMALLER figures printed around the margin of the map. These are for finding the full co-ordinates. USE ONLY THE LARGER FIGURES PRINTED IN THE MARGIN OR ON THE FACE OF THE MAP. Viz. 1000000

POINT Hama																												
FOR STANDARD MILITARY GRID REFERENCE																												
East	25	North	15																									
Take West edge of square in which point lies, and read the figure printed opposite this line on North or South margin or on the line itself on the face of the map.		Take South edge of square in which point lies, and read the figure printed opposite this line on East or West margin or on the line itself on the face of the map.																										
<i>Estimate tenths Eastwards</i>	9	<i>Estimate tenths Northwards</i>	9																									
East	259	North	159																									
STANDARD MILITARY GRID REFERENCE 259159 (To nearest 100 yards)																												
FOR TARGET-AREA DESIGNATOR																												
Number	2515	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>A</td><td>B</td><td>C</td><td>D</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>F</td><td>G</td><td>H</td><td>I</td><td>J</td></tr> <tr><td>K</td><td>L</td><td>M</td><td>N</td><td>O</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>Q</td><td>R</td><td>S</td><td>T</td></tr> <tr><td>U</td><td>V</td><td>W</td><td>X</td><td>Y</td></tr> </table>		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y
A	B			C	D	E																						
F	G	H	I	J																								
K	L	M	N	O																								
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U	V	W	X	Y																								
Take NUMBER of the 1000 yard square in which the point lies.																												
Letter	E																											
Take LETTER from diagram at right, so that letter indicates position of point within the 1000-yard square.																												
TARGET-AREA DESIGNATOR 2515 E (Locates within 200-yard square)																												
Nearest similar grid or target-area reference-100,000 yards (Approximately 57 miles)																												

COVERAGE DIAGRAM

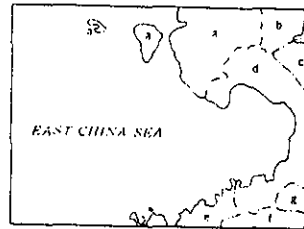


COMPILATION METHODS



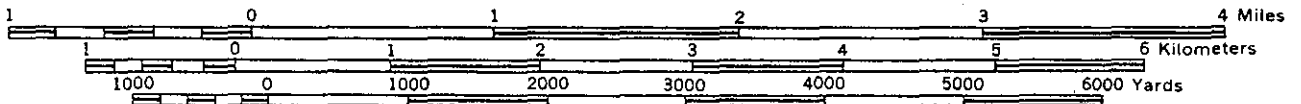
- A Hydrographic compilation (reliability fair)
- B Obscured by clouds.
- 1. Sotite I IPL/MR 7, Sept. 1944.
- 2. Sotite I IPL/MR 7, Sept. 1944.
- 3. Sotite CV 11/MS, Oct. 1944.
- 4. Sotite I IPL/MR 7, I IPL/MR 7, Sept. 1944.
- 5. Sotite I IPL/MR 7, I IPL/MR 7, Sept. 1944, CV 11/2585 IPI, Oct. 1944.

INDEX TO BOUNDARIES



- OKINAWA-KEN
- KUNIGAMI-GUN
- A MOTORU MACHI
- B NAKIJIN MURA
- C HANEJI MURA
- D NAGO MACHI
- E ONNA MURA
- F KIN-MURA
- G KUSHI MURA

Scale 1:50,000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 METERS



"As we passed sick bay, it was crowded with wounded, and somehow hushed in the evening light. I noticed a tattered marine standing quietly by a corpsman, staring stiffly at nothing. His mind had crumbled in battle, his jaw hung, and his eyes were like two black empty holes in his head. Down by the beach again, we walked silently as we passed the long line of dead marines under the tarpaulins."

LEGEND

Density of Construction in Urban Areas



- ⊙ Navy Lookout Tower
- ⊙ Factory
- ⊙ Bank
- ⊙ Powder Magazine
- ⊙ Water Wheel or Mill
- ⊙ Generating Plant
- Masonry Wall
- Fences
- Bamboo Fences
- Stone Wall
- Earthen Wall
- Hedge
- Cemetery
- Ditches
- Shrine Gate
- ⊙ Stone Lantern
- ⊙ Monument
- ⊙ Statue
- ⊙ Signpost
- ⊙ Stone Steps
- ⊙ Crane
- ⊙ Oil Well
- ⊙ Mileage Marker
- ⊙ Stumps
- ⊙ Isolated Trees
- ⊙ Chimney
- ⊙ Triangulation Point
- ⊙ Secondary Control Point
- ⊙ Bench Mark
- ⊙ Spot Elevation
- ⊙ Old Battlefield
- ⊙ Spring
- ⊙ Tomb
- ⊙ Castle Site
- ⊙ Volcano
- ⊙ Mineral Spring
- ⊙ Material Dump
- ⊙ Mine
- ⊙ Boundary Marker

- ⊙ Shrine
- ⊙ Temple
- ⊙ Grave
- ⊙ Pagoda
- ⊙ Church
- ⊙ Japanese Government Building
- ⊙ Foreign Government Building
- ⊙ Military Reservation
- ⊙ Naval Reservation
- ⊙ Division Headquarters
- ⊙ Brigade Headquarters
- ⊙ Fortress and Defense Headquarters
- ⊙ Battalion Headquarters and Garrison
- ⊙ Regimental Headquarters
- ⊙ Naval Station
- ⊙ Secondary Naval Station
- ⊙ Naval Camp
- ⊙ Army Camp
- ⊙ Shipyard
- ⊙ Prefectural Seat
- ⊙ Sub-prefectural, Island-office or Gun Seat
- ⊙ City Office
- ⊙ Town, Village or Ward Office
- ⊙ School
- ⊙ Hospital
- ⊙ Isolation Hospital
- ⊙ Gendarmerie Post
- ⊙ Police Station
- ⊙ Court of Appeals
- ⊙ Prison
- ⊙ Customs House
- ⊙ Tax Office
- ⊙ Forestry Office
- ⊙ Mining Office
- ⊙ Government Monopoly Bureau Office or Factory
- ⊙ Office of Maritime Affairs
- ⊙ Meteorological Station
- ⊙ Post Office (with Telegraph and Telephone service)
- ⊙ Post Office
- ⊙ Telegraph Office
- ⊙ Telephone Office

All above Sea Level

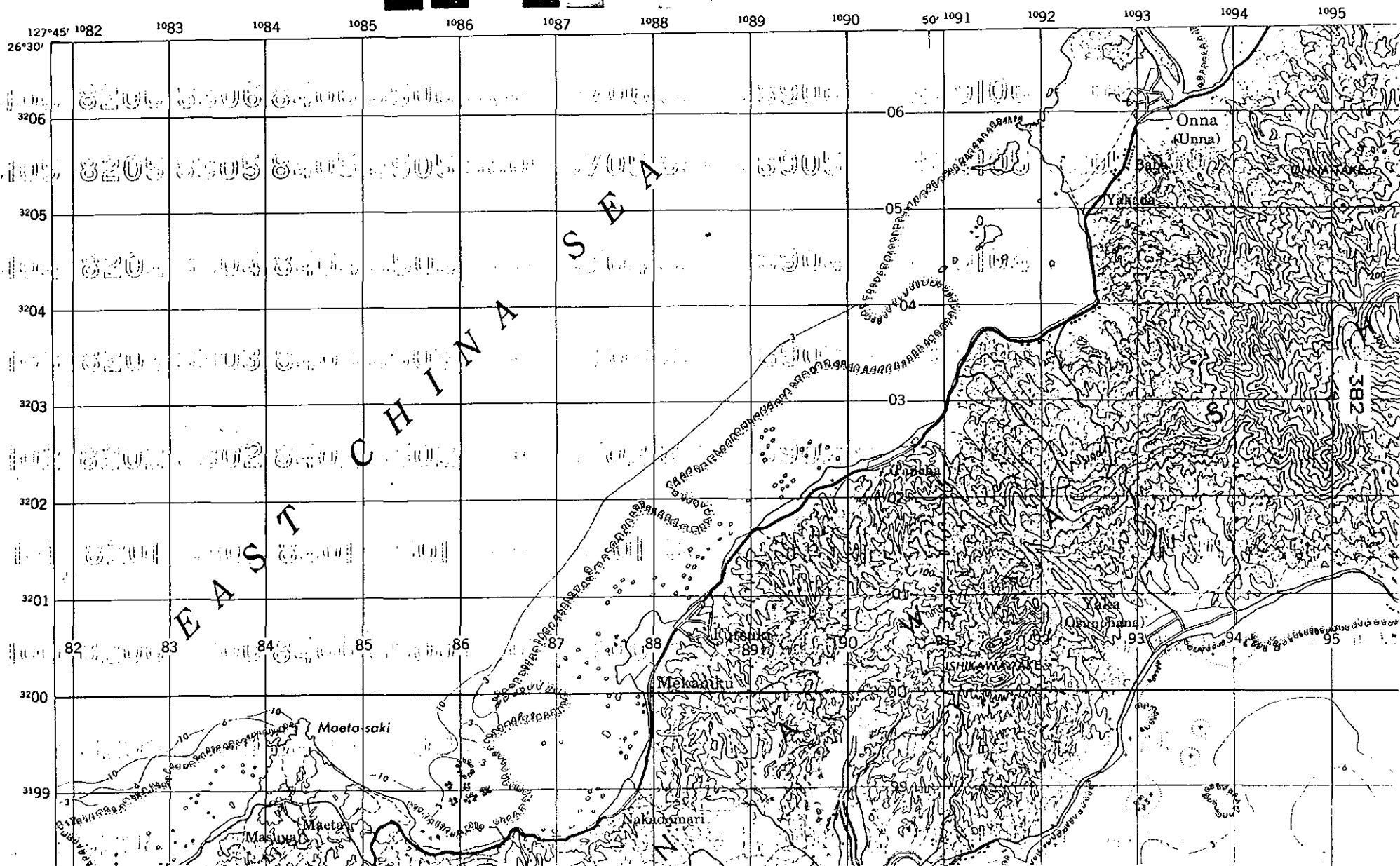
- National Highway
- Main Prefectural Roads
- More than 3 Meters Wide
- More than 2 Meters Wide
- More than 1 Meter Wide
- Less than 1 Meter Wide
- Impassable for Carts
- Tree-lined Roads: (A) Narrow (B) Wide
- Power Lines along Road: (A) Ordinary (B) High Tension
- Government Railways: (A) Two Tracks (B) Single Track (C) Station
- Feeder Railways: (D) Double (E) Single
- Boundaries: International
- Prefectural (A) Fixed (B) Approximate Province (Obsolete)
- Gun, shi or Sub-prefectural Ward, Machi or Mura (A) Fixed (B) Approx. Government Lands
- Property Lines (A) Fixed (B) Approximate
- (A) Iron Bridge
- (B) Wooden Bridge
- (C) Foot Bridge
- (D) Foot Ford
- (E) Vehicular Ford
- (F) Passenger Ferry (Single Boat)
- (G) Passenger and Horse Ferry (Two Boats)
- (H) Steam Ferry

- ⊙ Lighthouse
- ⊙ Radio Mast
- ⊙ Warning Signal
- ⊙ Boat Anchorage
- ⊙ Ship Anchorage
- ⊙ Anchorage
- ⊙ Commercial Port
- ⊙ Fixed Beacon
- ⊙ Fixed Beacon (Lightless)
- ⊙ Buoy (Lightless)
- (A) Flower Garden
- (B) Grove
- (C) Truck Garden
- (A) Orchard
- (B) Tea
- (C) Mulberry
- (D) Cultivated marsh
- (E) Irrigated rice field
- (F) Dry Rice Field
- (A) Wild Land
- (B) Palm
- (C) Bamboo
- (D) Conifers
- (E) Broad-leaf Trees
- (F) Grass Land
- (A) Cliff
- (B) Rock Outcropping
- (C) Scattered Rock
- (D) Talus Slope
- (E) Depression
- (F) Ravine, Gully
- (G) Crumbling Bank

RYUKYU-RETTO 1:50,000

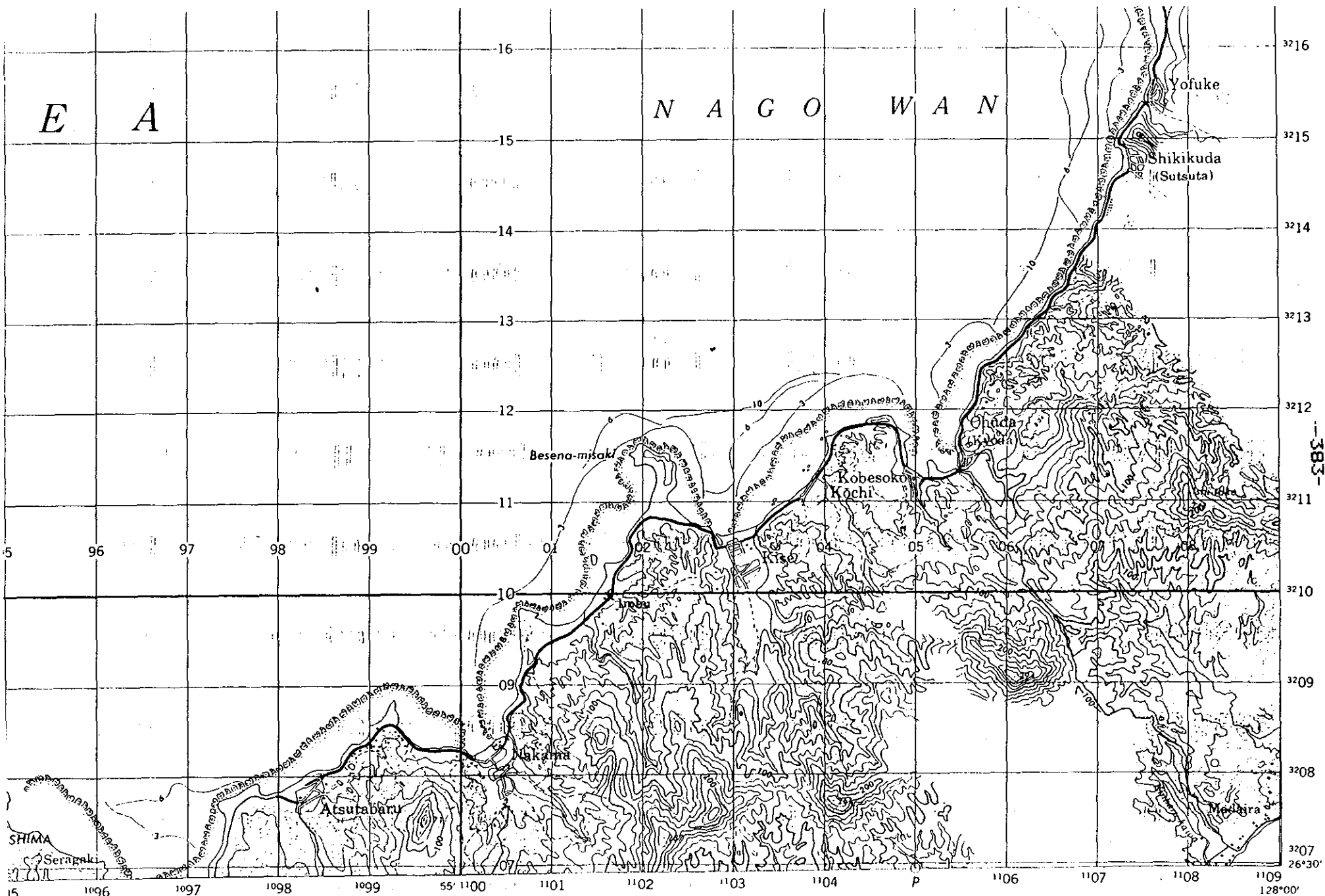
For use by War and Navy Department Agencies only
Not for sale or distribution

KIN



E A

N A G O W A N



-383-

SHIMA

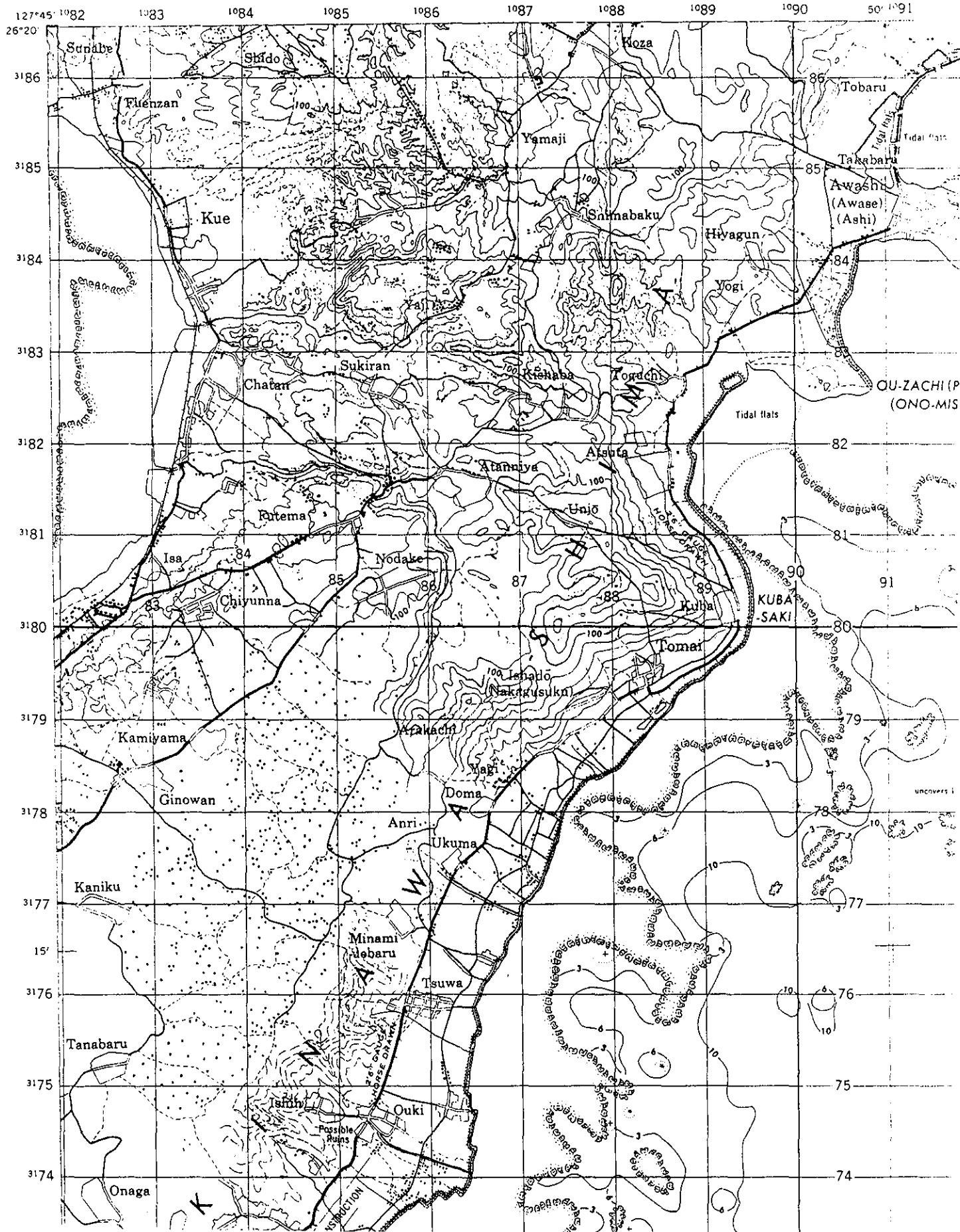
Seragaki

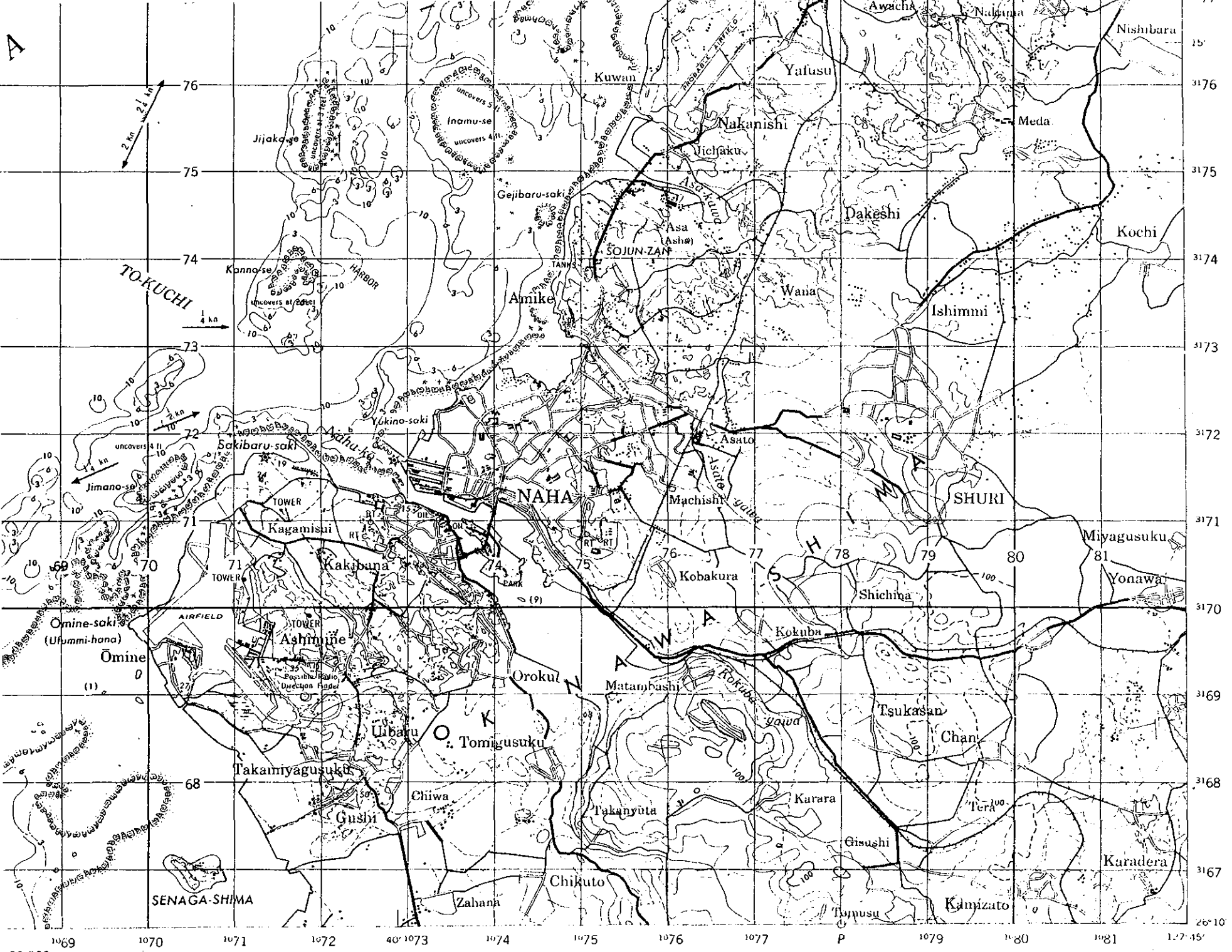
15 1096 1097 1098 1099 55' 1100 1101 1102 1103 1104 P 1106 1107 1108 1109 128°00'

Scale 1:50,000

RYUKYU-RETTO 1:50,000

For use by War and Navy Department
Not for sale or distribution

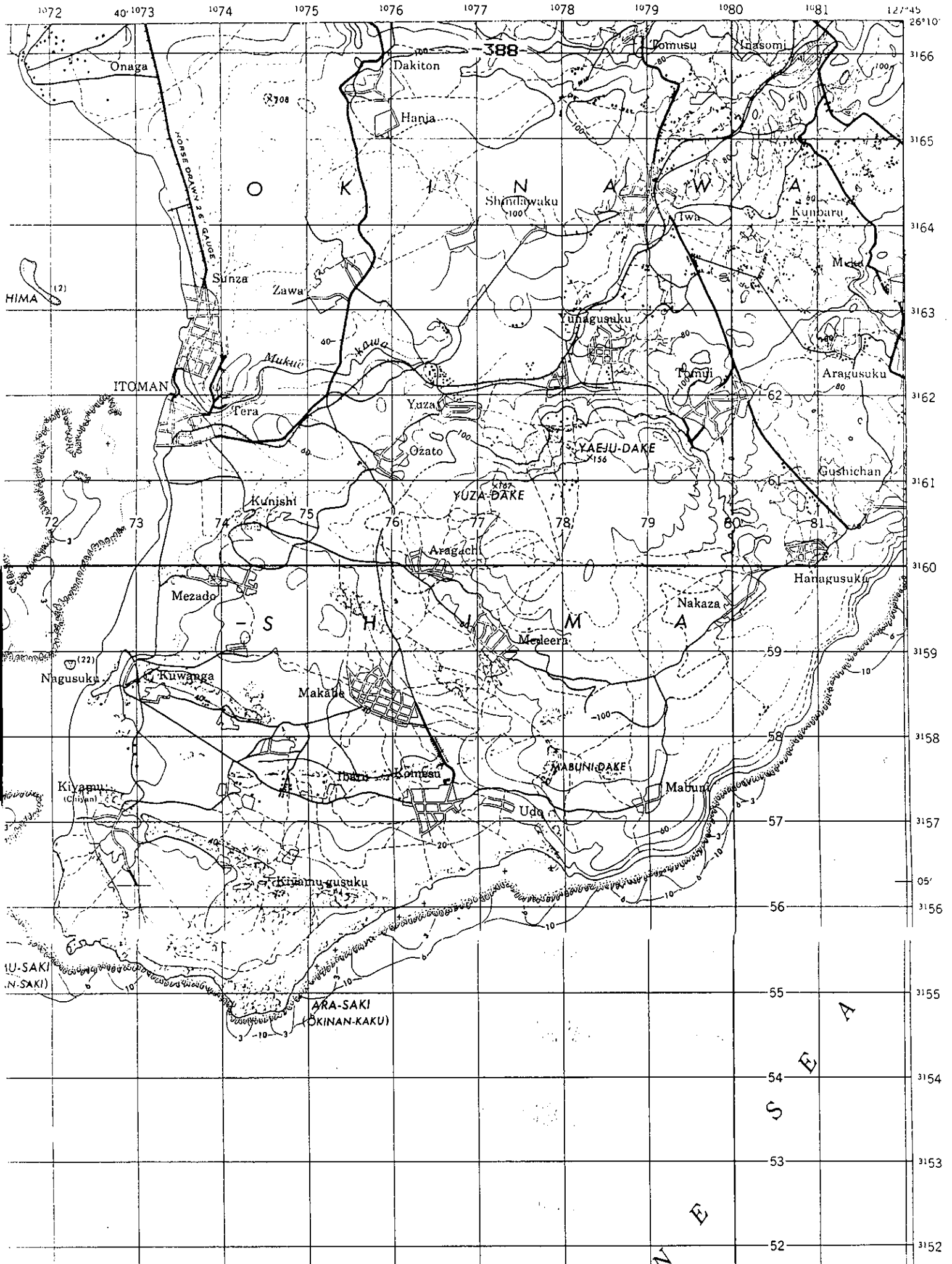




50,000
3 Miles

ARMY MAP SERVICE U.S. ARMY WASHINGTON D.C. 20315
1:50,000 1945

INDEX TO ADDRESS SHEETS



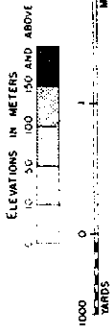
1072 1073 1074 1075 1076 1077 1078 1079 1080 1081 127°45'

3166 3165 3164 3163 3162 3161 3160 3159 3158 3157 3156 3155 3154 3153 3152

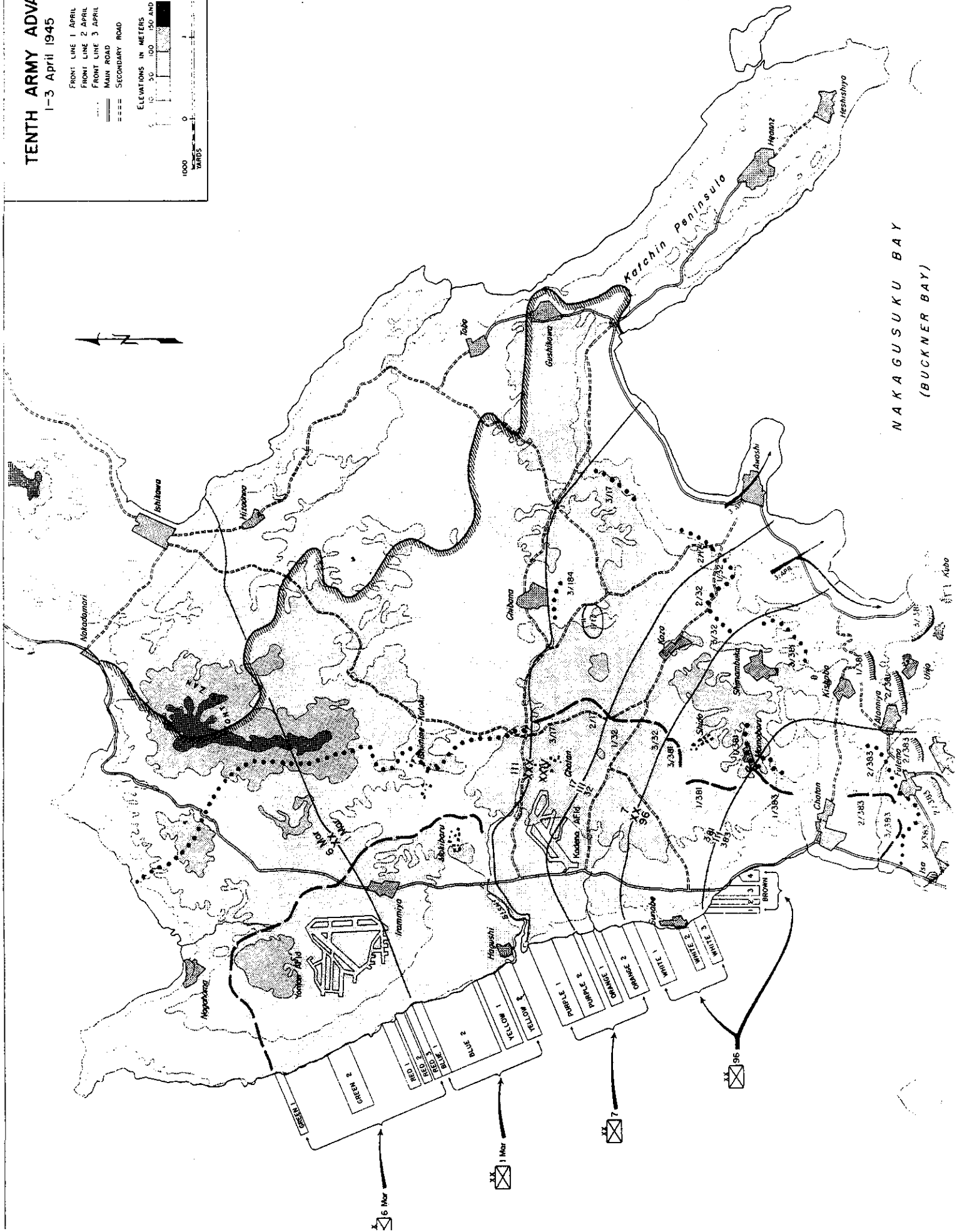
Onaga, Dakiton, Hanja, Sunza, Zawa, Mukuio, Yuzata, Ozato, Kunishi, Aragach, Meleera, Nakaza, Hanagusuku, Nagusuku, Kiyama, Kiyamugusuku, Uda, Mabun, Ara-saki (KINAN-KAKU), HIMA (2), ITOMAN, YAEJU-DAKE 156, YUZA-DAKE 100, MABUNI-DAKE 50, 388, 100, 80, 60, 40, 20, 10, 0, -10, -20, -30, -40, -50, -60, -70, -80, -90, -100, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1000, 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500, 1600, 1700, 1800, 1900, 2000, 2100, 2200, 2300, 2400, 2500, 2600, 2700, 2800, 2900, 3000, 3100, 3200, 3300, 3400, 3500, 3600, 3700, 3800, 3900, 4000, 4100, 4200, 4300, 4400, 4500, 4600, 4700, 4800, 4900, 5000, 5100, 5200, 5300, 5400, 5500, 5600, 5700, 5800, 5900, 6000, 6100, 6200, 6300, 6400, 6500, 6600, 6700, 6800, 6900, 7000, 7100, 7200, 7300, 7400, 7500, 7600, 7700, 7800, 7900, 8000, 8100, 8200, 8300, 8400, 8500, 8600, 8700, 8800, 8900, 9000, 9100, 9200, 9300, 9400, 9500, 9600, 9700, 9800, 9900, 10000

TENTH ARMY ADVANCE 1-3 April 1945

FRONT LINE 1 APRIL
FRONT LINE 2 APRIL
FRONT LINE 3 APRIL
MAIN ROAD
SECONDARY ROAD



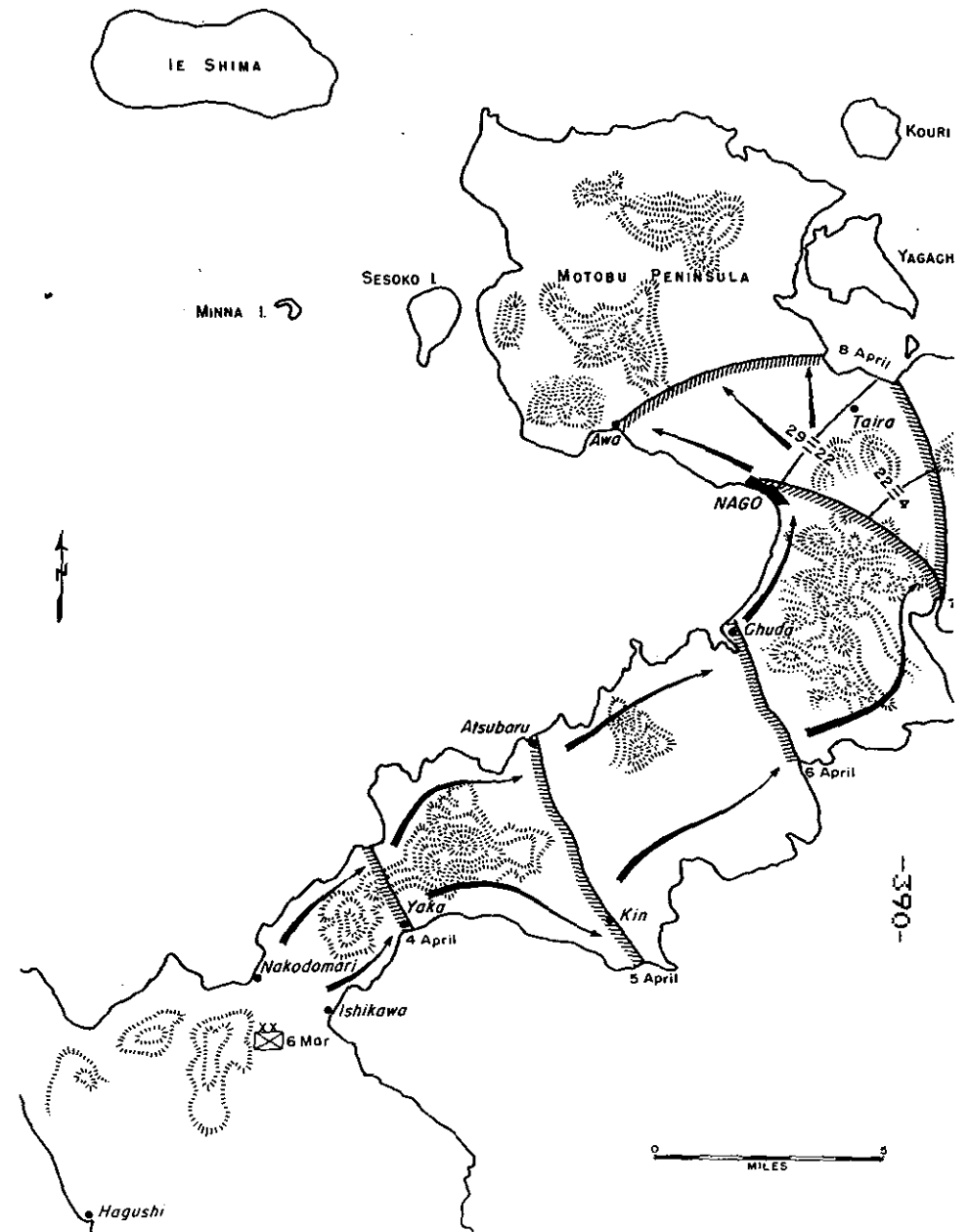
-389-

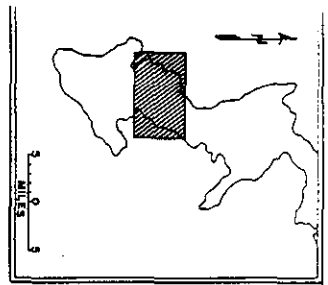


ADVANCE IN THE NORTH

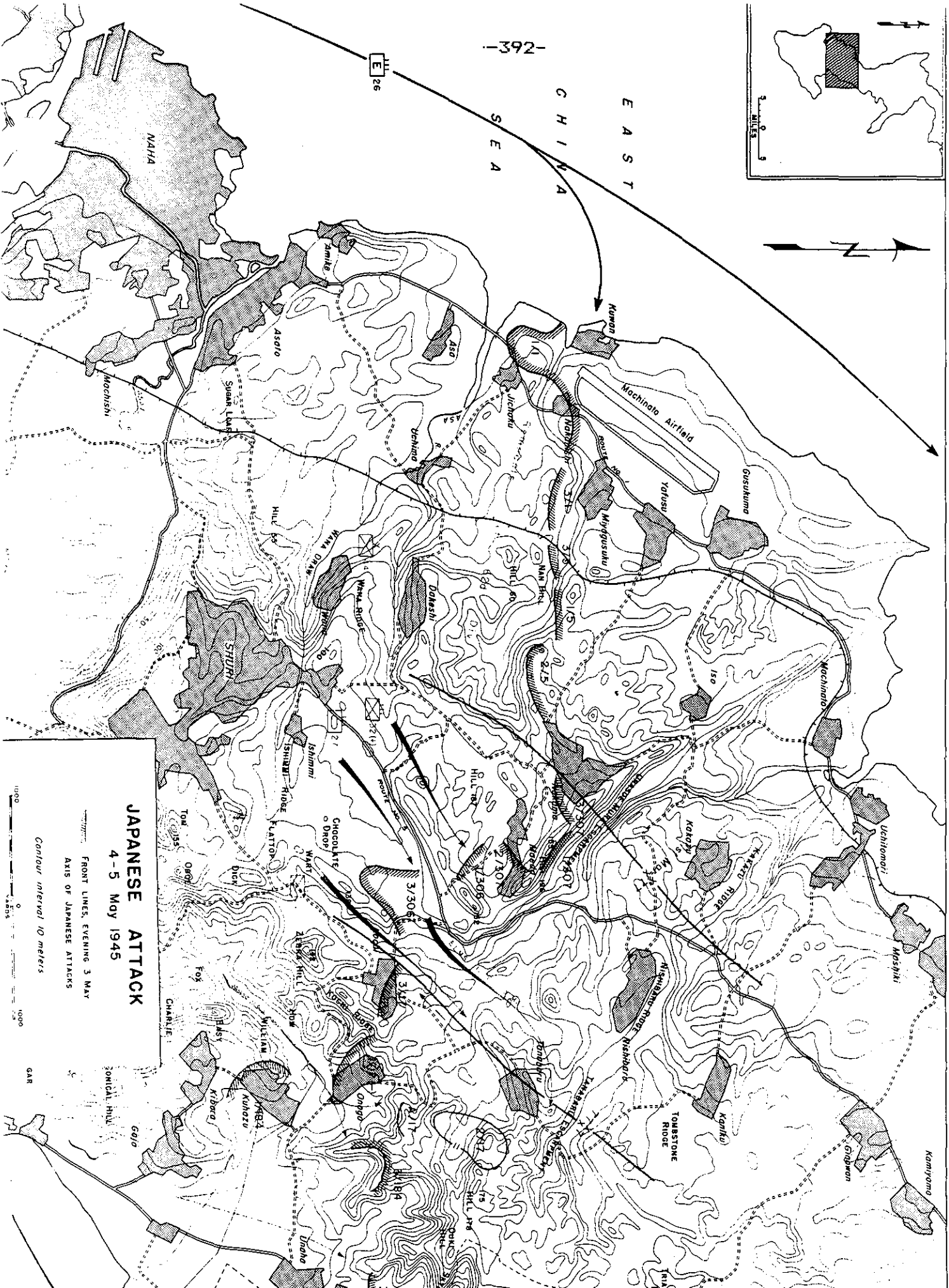
6TH MARINE DIVISION

4-8 April 1945





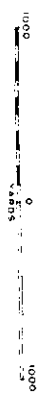
-392-
EAST
CHINA
SEA



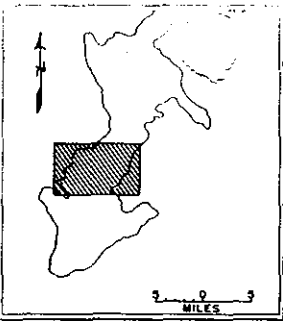
JAPANESE ATTACK
4-5 May 1945

FRONT LINES, EVENING 3 MAY
AXIS OF JAPANESE ATTACKS

Contour interval 10 meters

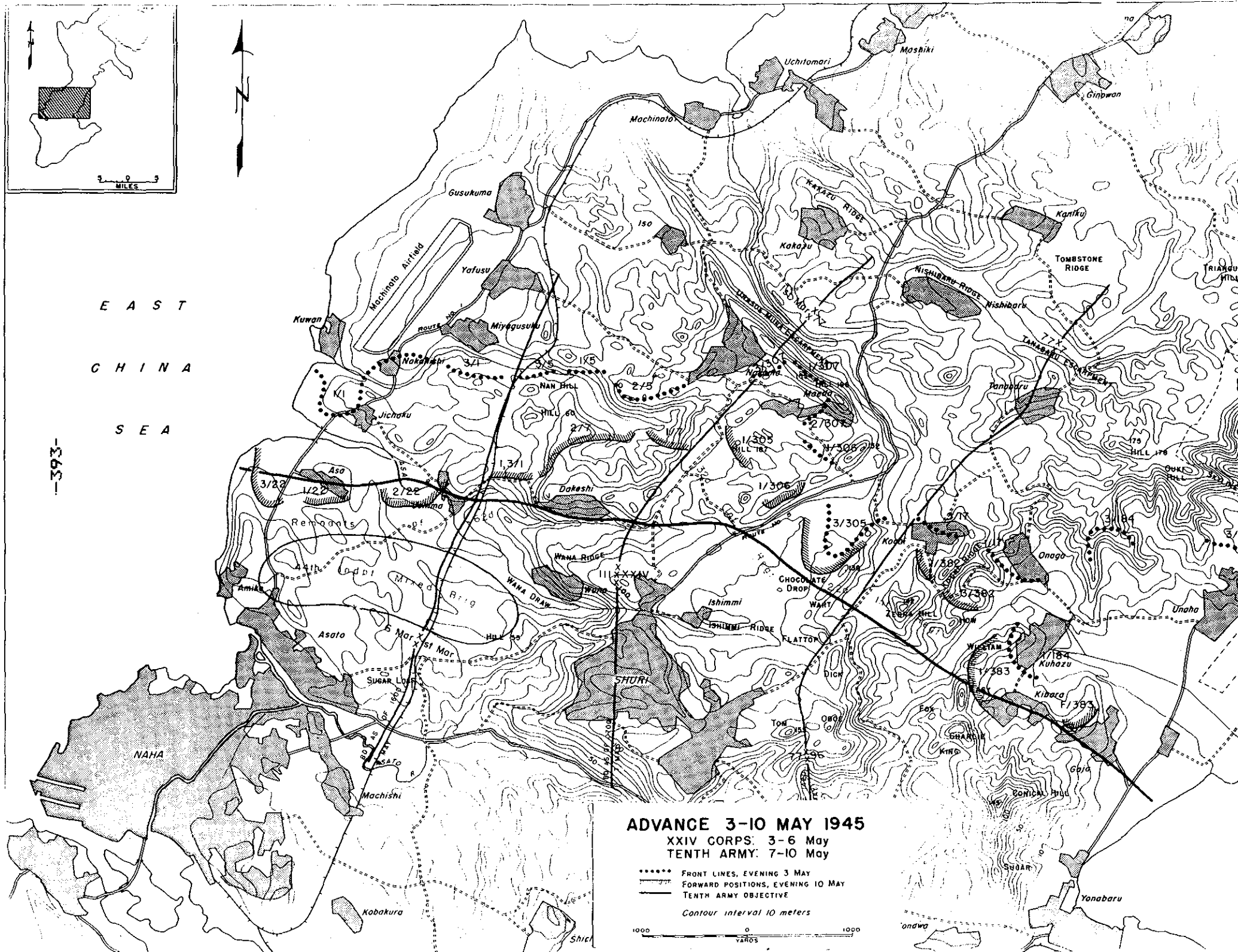


GAR



EAST
CHINA
SEA

-393-

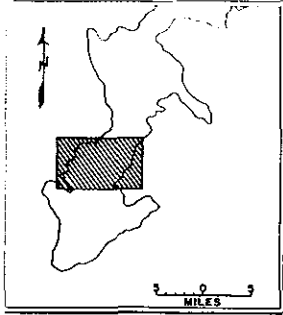


ADVANCE 3-10 MAY 1945

XXIV CORPS: 3-6 May
TENTH ARMY: 7-10 May

- FRONT LINES, EVENING 3 MAY
 - FORWARD POSITIONS, EVENING 10 MAY
 - TENTH ARMY OBJECTIVE
- Contour interval 10 meters



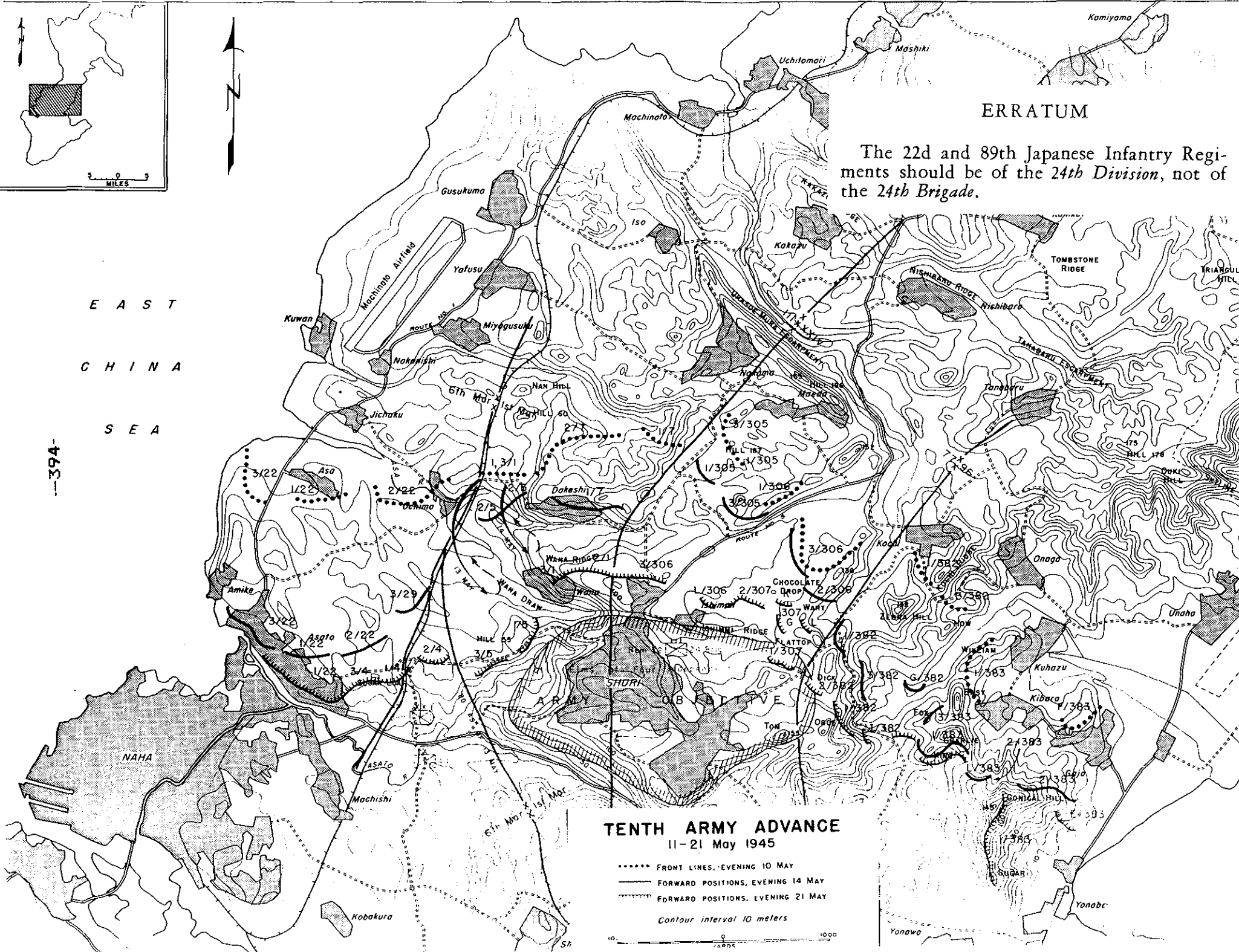


ERRATUM

The 22d and 89th Japanese Infantry Regiments should be of the 24th Division, not of the 24th Brigade.

E A S T
C H I N A
S E A

394-

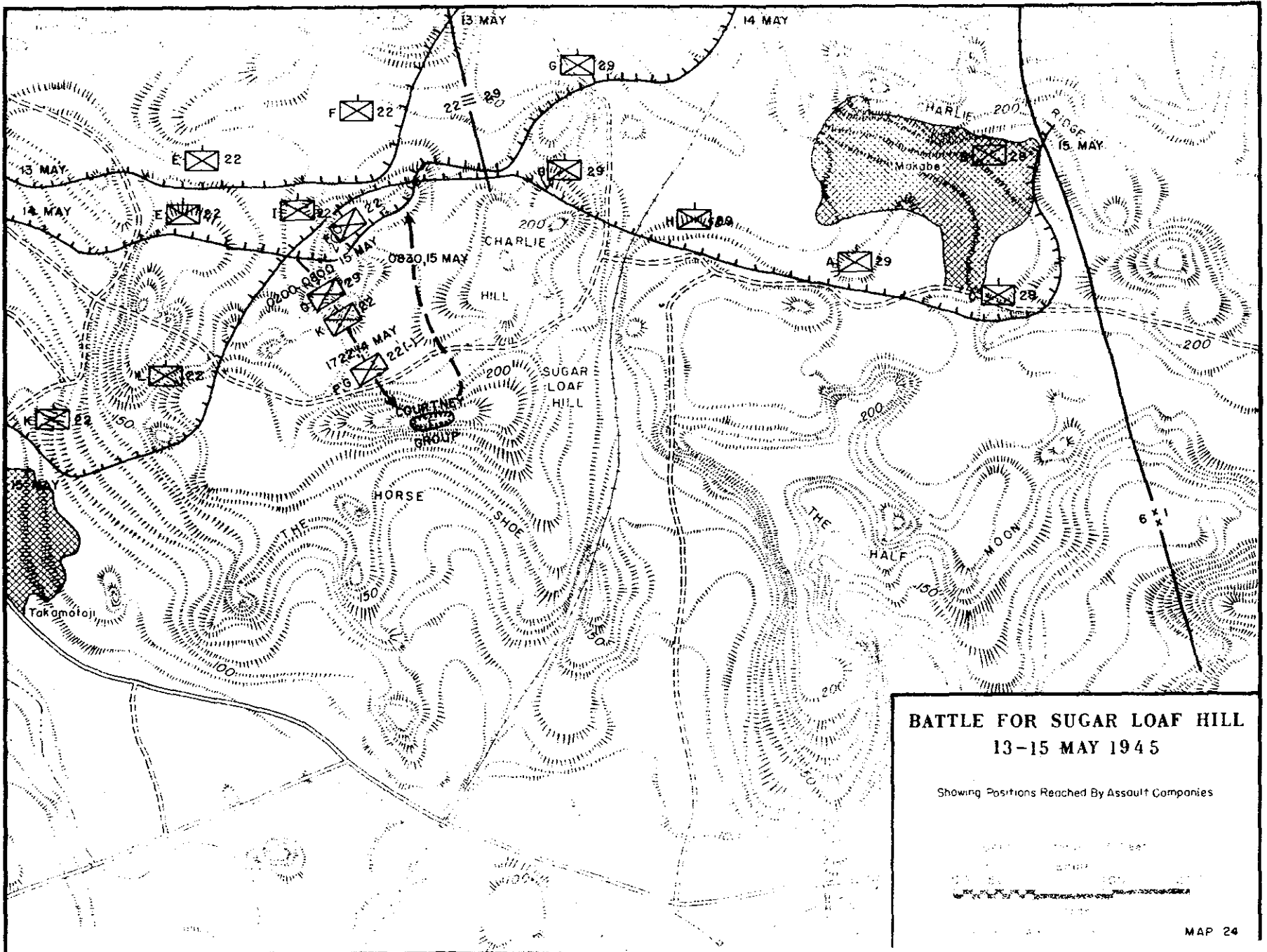


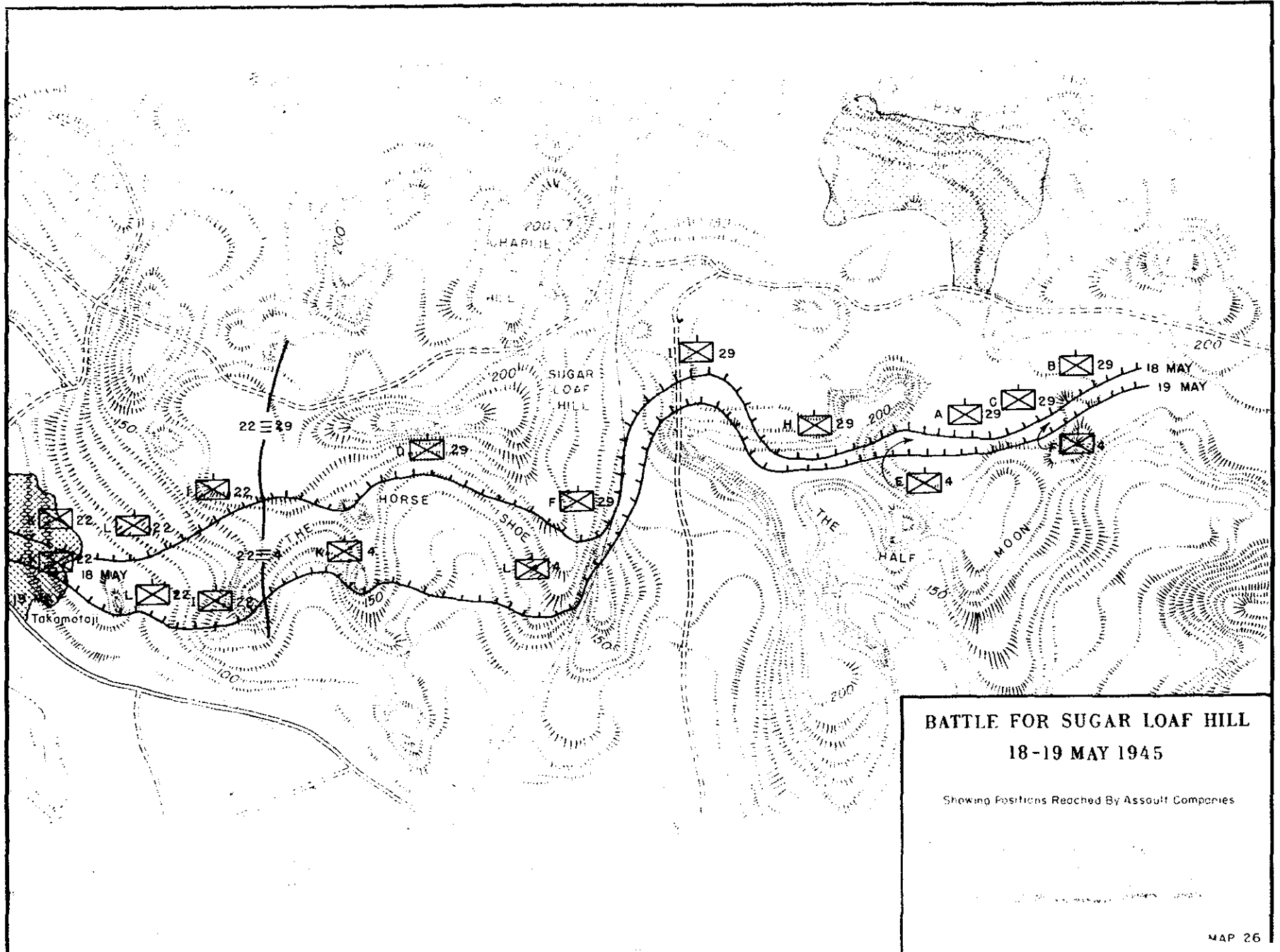
TENTH ARMY ADVANCE 11-21 May 1945

- FRONT LINES, EVENING 10 MAY
 - FORWARD POSITIONS, EVENING 14 MAY
 - FORWARD POSITIONS, EVENING 21 MAY
- Contour interval 10 meters



Yonawa

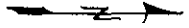
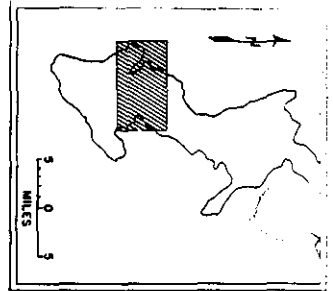




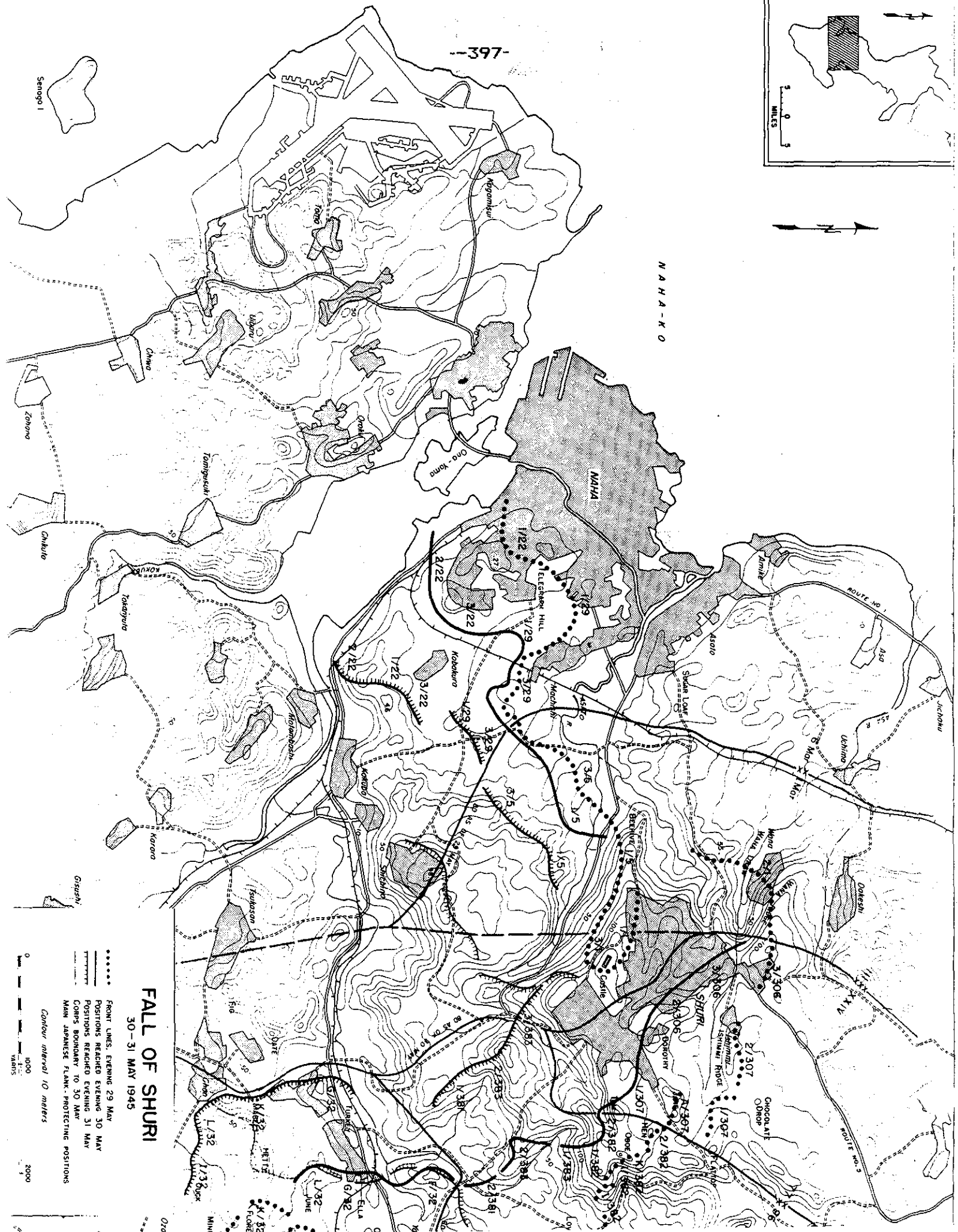
BATTLE FOR SUGAR LOAF HILL

18-19 MAY 1945

Showing Positions Reached By Assault Companies



0 1 2
MILES



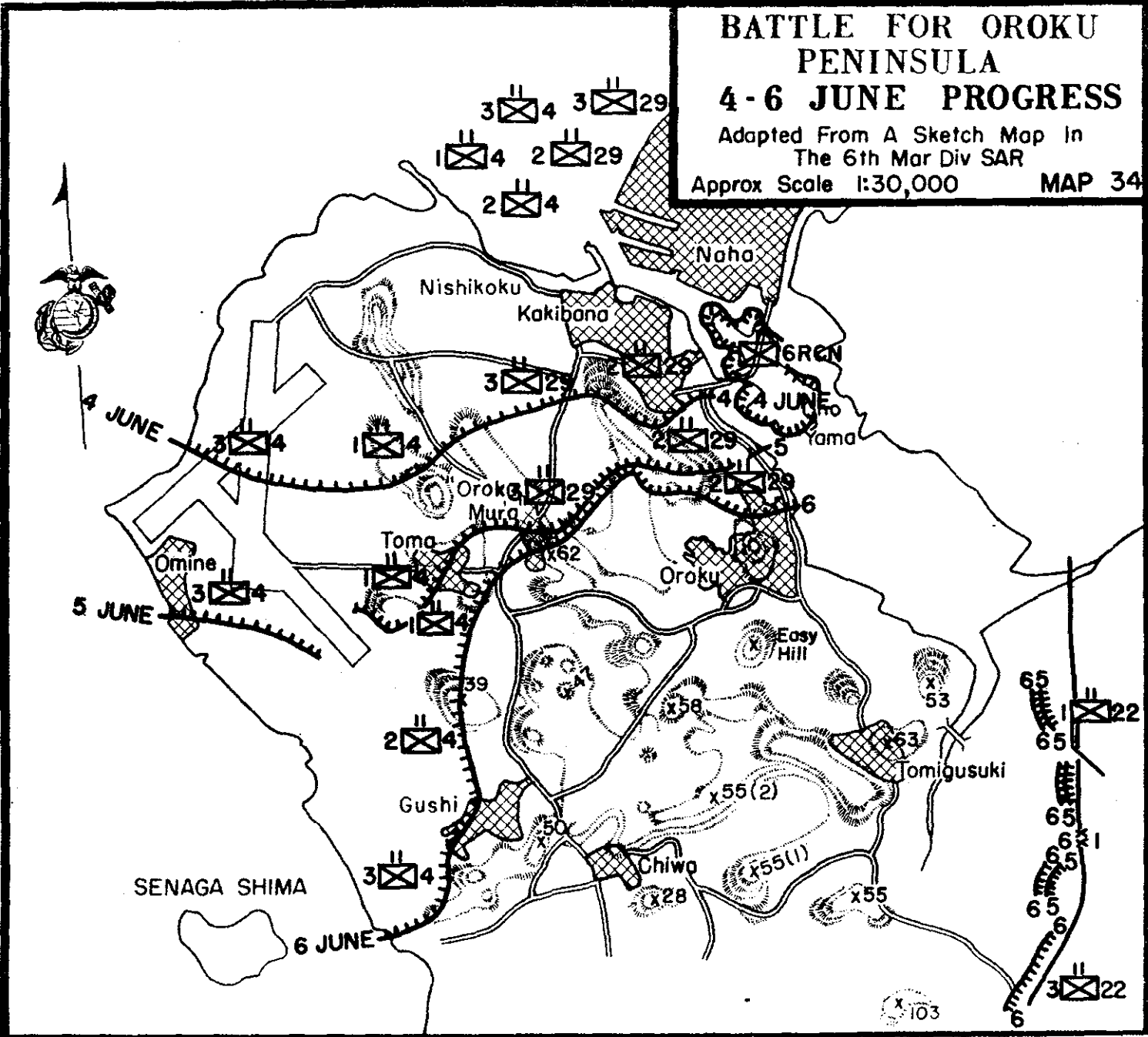
FALL OF SHURI

30-31 MAY 1945

- FRONT LINES, EVENING 29 MAY
 - POSITIONS REACHED EVENING 30 MAY
 - POSITIONS REACHED EVENING 31 MAY
 - COMB BOUNDARY TO 30 MAY
 - MAIN JAPANESE FLANK-PROTECTING POSITIONS
- Contour interval 10 meters
- 0 1000 2000
yards

BATTLE FOR OROKU PENINSULA 4-6 JUNE PROGRESS

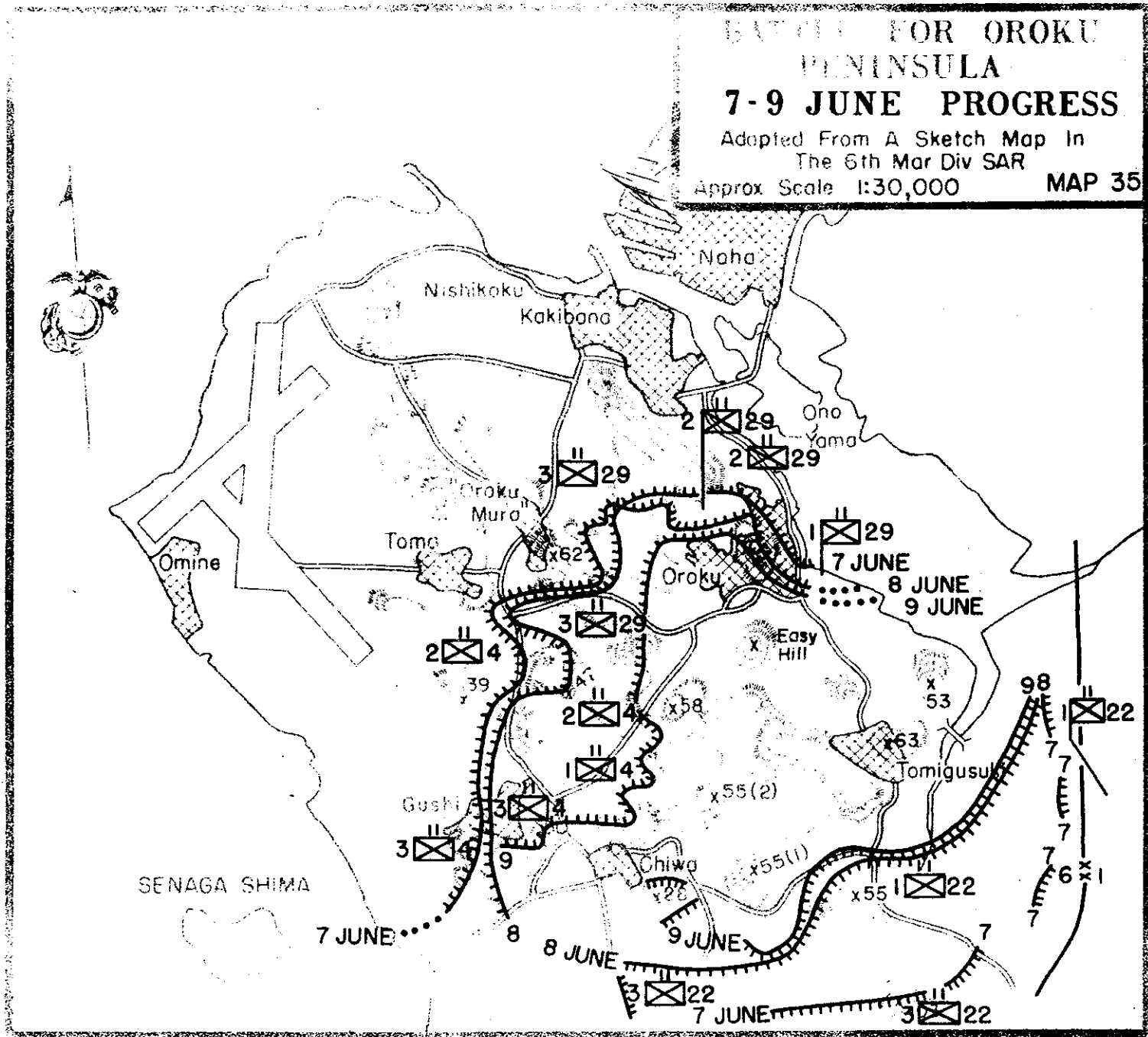
Adapted From A Sketch Map In
The 6th Mar Div SAR
Approx Scale 1:30,000 MAP 34



BATTLES FOR OROKU PENINSULA 7-9 JUNE PROGRESS

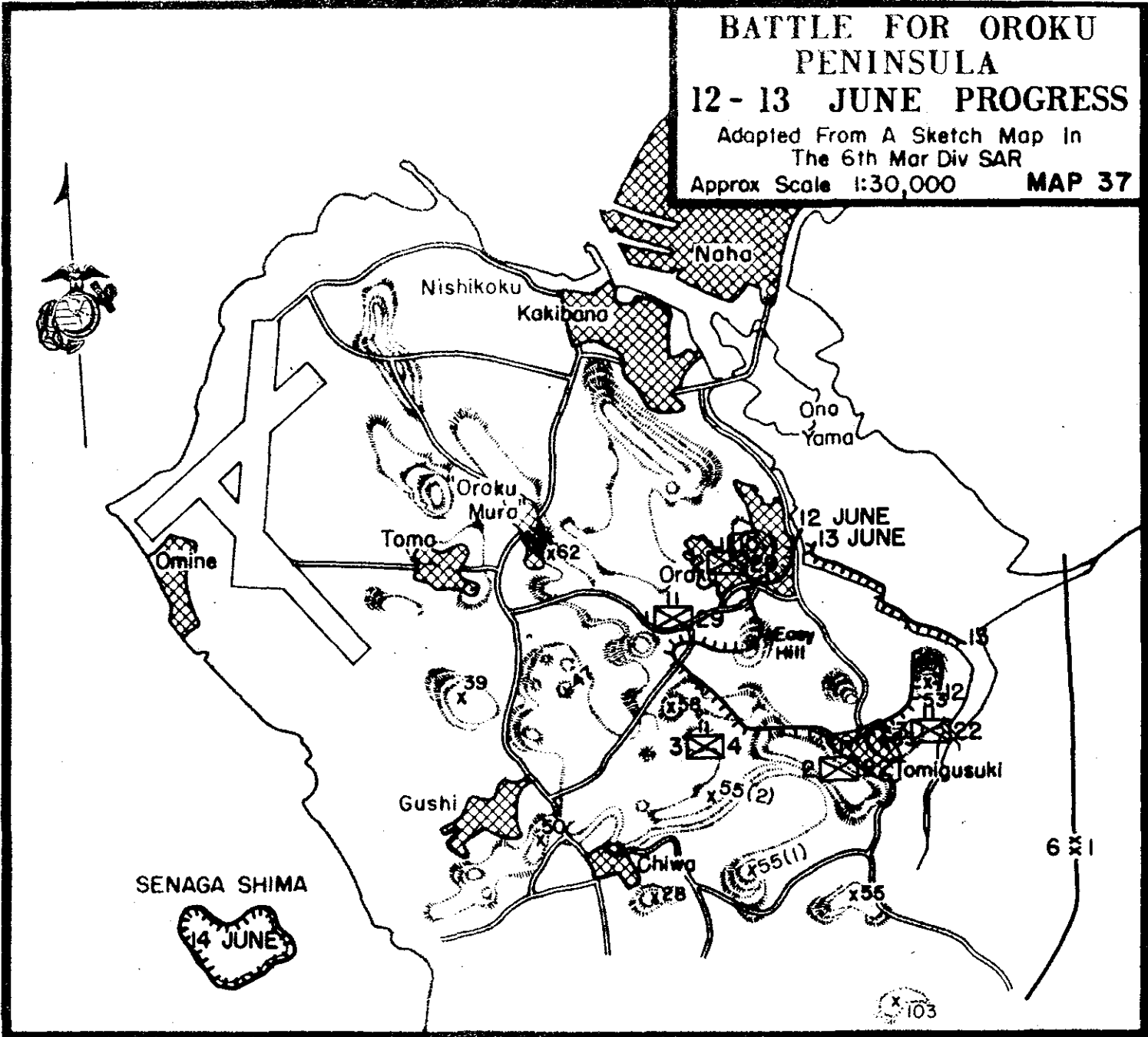
Adapted From A Sketch Map In
The 6th Mar Div SAR
Approx Scale 1:30,000

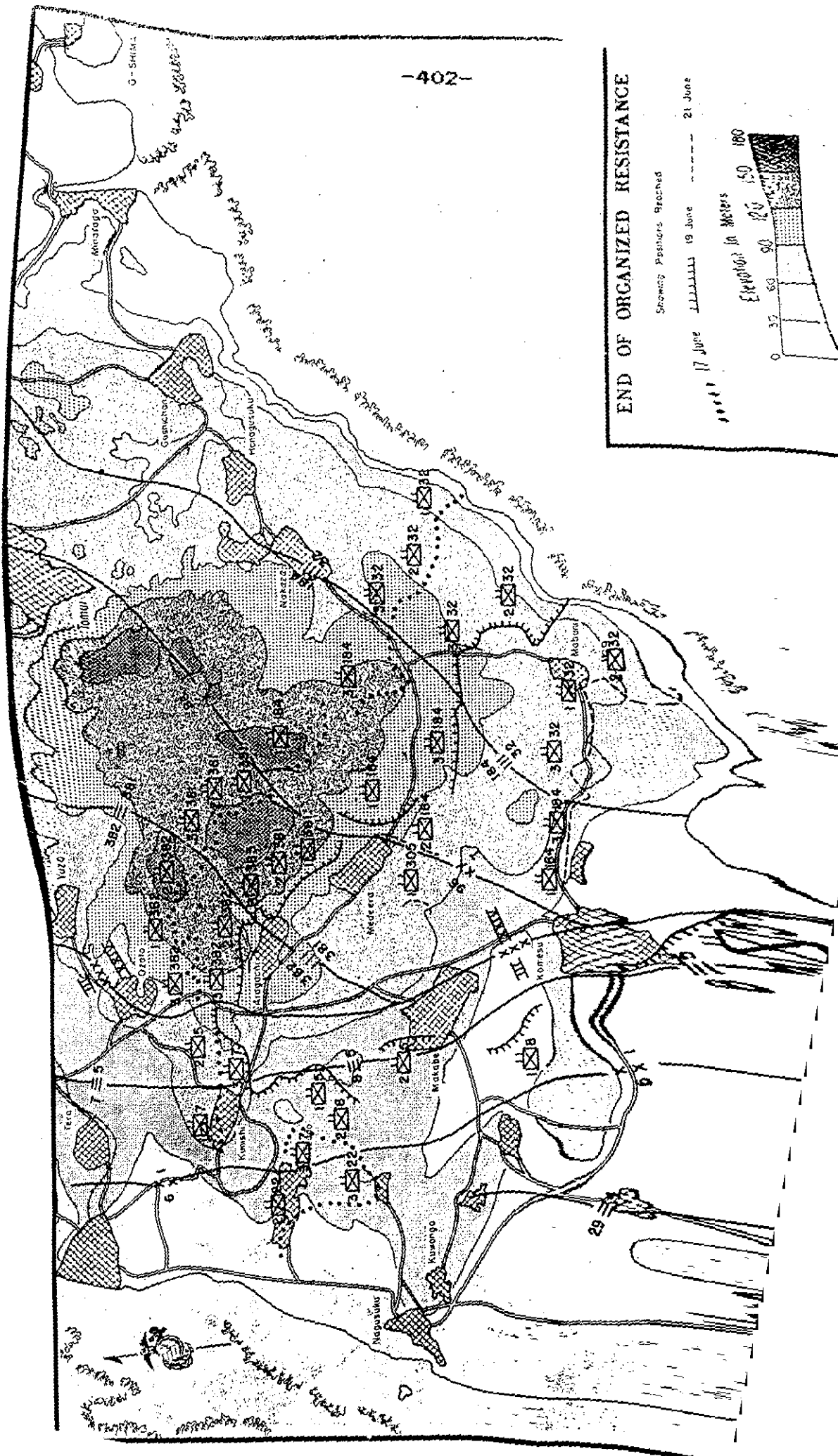
MAP 35



BATTLE FOR OROKU PENINSULA 12-13 JUNE PROGRESS

Adapted From A Sketch Map In
The 6th Mar Div SAR
Approx Scale 1:30,000 **MAP 37**





END OF ORGANIZED RESISTANCE

Showing Positions Breached

17 June 1944 19 June 21 June

