



Spearhead NEWS

"Uncommon Valor was a Common Virtue"

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION of the 5TH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

**69TH ANNUAL REUNION - CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, IL
OCTOBER 16-21, 2018
HYATT PLACE CHAMPAIGN/URBANA**

Childhood memories, dolls and world peace

By Bonnie Haynes

The Iwo Jima Association of America honored Yoshitaka Shindo, longtime member of the Japanese Diet and grandson of LtGen Tademichi Kuribayashi, Japanese Garrison Commander of the Battle of Iwo Jima (later renamed the island of Iwo To) at its annual banquet in Arlington, Va., last February. The General Lawrence Snowden Peace and Reconciliation Award was presented, for the first time, to Shindo for his longtime work on peace.



Dr. Mary (Early) Swain and Yoshitaka Shindo

"It is a great honor and pleasure for me to receive the first Peace and Reconciliation Award named after a great hero of the Marine Corps," Shindo said. "The souls of the brave men from both sides who fought on Iwo To were rewarded."

Shindo spoke about the relationship between the two nations who were locked in mortal combat more than 70 years ago. He regularly attends the annual

"Reunion of Honor" on the island, formalized in 1995 by Gen Snowden and the Iwo Jima Association of Japan.

Shindo was also there in 1970 for the first reunion of American and Japanese Iwo Jima veterans and their families when he was 12 years old. He was accompanied by his paternal grandmother and the widow of Gen Kuribayashi, Madame Yoshii Kuribayashi; her late son, Taro; and the Rev. Tsuezo Wachi, a Buddhist monk who had been a captain on Iwo Jima.

For such great warriors on both sides to ultimately come together in peace as friends, Gen Snowden's and the Rev. Wachi's inspiration and devotion to peace and friendship paid off.

The young Shindo met an 11-year-old American girl traveling with her parents during that first peace trip. Her father, Charles Early, served with the 31st Replacement Draft and had been severely wounded in



RAY ELLIOTT
 Secretary
 Fifth Marine Division Assn.
 2609 N. High Cross Rd.
 Urbana, IL 61802
 (217) 840-2121
 talespress@talespress.com

THE SPEARHEAD NEWS

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 of the Fifth Marine Division Association*

EDITOR

Ray Elliott
 2609 N. High Cross Rd., Urbana, IL 61802
 (217) 840-2121; talespress@talespress.com

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NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY

Keeping up with the Camp Tarawa Museum building effort, Nicole Garcia (who is working on her master’s degree on the relationship between the military and the citizens of North Kohala during World War II), goes to FMDA Vice President Kathy Painton’s residence every week to catalog all the materials acquired for the museum from Alice Clark and others. They’ve gone through books, DVDs and VHS documentaries and films, and original photographs. Nicole is a student of Momi Naughton, a museology instructor at the University of Hawaii-Hilo and adviser of the Camp Tarawa Foundation. Nicole worked on digitalizing the oral interview cassettes and transcribing them while Kathy was in Japan (April 9-25). After her return to the Big Island, they continued cataloging the mounted photos, posters, framed photographs, and other artifacts.

Others have also collected material for the museum that will be forwarded to Kathy. I’ve received a number of items and have collected old issues of *Spearhead* back to 1970 that contained information on the first reunion included in Kathy Butler’s booklet for a presentation at February’s Iwo Jima Association of America Symposium. Others in the FMDA have also collected material of Marine Iwo Jima veterans and families and Japanese survivors. We will continue to gather material and plan to make the museum a reality to remember the service and sacrifices of those who fought and died on Iwo Jima.

On another note, 20 Illinois newspapers will be creating stories about the state’s history, places and key moments in advance of the state bicentennial on Dec. 3, 2018. One of the stories of interest to those attending the upcoming reunion is about a visit to President Abraham Lincoln’s Tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, Ill. Tara McClellan McAndrew’s piece for The State Journal-Register was about the attempt to steal Lincoln’s body from the tomb we will visit.

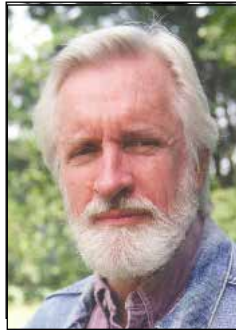
See the story, “‘Whiskey alone’ thwarted plans to steal President Lincoln’s body” at <http://www.bnd.com/news/local/article208805494.html>. Other stories published up to this date can be found at 200illinois.com and are made available by the Illinois Associated Press Media Editors and Illinois Press Association.

Oak Ridge Cemetery is the second most-visited cemetery in the United States, behind only Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va.

— Ray Elliott, Secretary

THE EDITOR'S DESK

By Ray Elliott



Reunion set to be held in the Midwest

It is quite an honor for my family and me to host the 69th annual reunion for the Iwo Jima veterans of the Fifth Marine Division Association this fall here in Urbana-Champaign, Ill., and to be able to set up visits to local places of historical, military or cultural significance.

Seeing the area where President Abraham Lincoln lived and practiced law (and who later in Washington signed the Morrill Land-Grant College Act on July 2, 1862, that led to the establishment of the University of Illinois in 1867 and 36 other major land grant colleges) is inspiring. It was here at the university in 1948 that Timothy Nugent, a 24-year-old doctoral student looking for a project, founded what would become the Division of Disability Resources and Education Services (DRES) at a time when World War II veterans with disabilities from war wounds had come to the university to pursue an education that had been disrupted by four years of war and needed these services. Nugent and the university took the lead in the country in providing resources, therapies and advocacy for students with disabilities that enabled them to participate in classes, student groups and athletics the same as other students.

Nugent continued at the university until he died in 2015 at age 92, just after the Chez family had made it possible, in conjunction with DRES, to have one of the most modern facilities in the country serving veterans coming back from war with physical and emotional difficulty, and the Center for Wounded Veterans in Higher Education at the University of Illinois was dedicated. A tour of the center and a presentation about the services offered for veterans are scheduled for the reunion.

Then we'll hear a presentation about the history of the ROTC program at the University of Illinois and the program's preparation for World War II. Marines leading the Naval ROTC unit, MECEPs (Marine

Enlisted Commissioning Education Program) and student candidates will provide information about how students earn commissions as Marine officers that sends Illinois graduates out to active duty status. LtCol Mathew Morgan, USMC (Ret.), the producer of the Smithsonian documentary, "The Unknown Flag Raiser of Iwo Jima," received his commission from this ROTC program. So did one of his classmates, former Blue Angel pilot Col Matthew Shortal. Navy Cross recipient Lt David W. Skibbe, 1st Recon Bn, still MIA in Vietnam, is another among the many.

A few miles away in Danville, the group will visit the Vermilion County War Museum, which has more than 25,000 artifacts and exhibits ranging from the Revolutionary War through Iraq and Afghanistan, and special POW/MIA and Medal of Honor sections. Danville native but born in Pawnee, Okla., and University of Illinois graduate who also earned his commission through the Naval ROTC program, Maj Kenneth D. Bailey, received the Medal of Honor posthumously for action in the battle of Guadalcanal with the Marine First Raider Battalion. He'd previously been awarded a Silver Star and a Purple Heart from the earlier battle on Tulagi, one of the Solomon Islands.

From Danville and the war museum, we head over to Dana, Ind., and the Ernie Pyle Museum and Home, in which the nationally known war correspondent was born and where the two Quonset huts there constitute the museum—one which depicts Pyle's European Theater experiences and one which presents the Pacific Theater where he was killed by Japanese machine-gun fire on Ie Island just west of Okinawa, the last major battle of World War II.

The next day, the group will head to Springfield to visit the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, the home where he lived in and practiced law in central and eastern Illinois until he was elected president in 1860, and his tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery. There is much Lincoln history in the area, much more than can be realized in one day.

On Saturday, filmmaker Arnold Shapiro has graciously provided his 1985 documentary, "Return to Iwo," narrated by Ed McMahon, to be shown at the Virginia Theater. The theater (where the annual Roger Ebert Film Festival is held) seats 1,525, and the public will be invited to attend with no charge. After the film, we invite Iwo Jima veterans on stage to join Shapiro to talk about the battle, the film and answer questions.

Continued on page 4

A photo left behind

I am writing to you about a photograph I have recently received. It belonged to Roger Emery, who served in the Fifth Marine Division in World War II. I met him while visiting a local nursing home. Unfortunately, he passed away recently, leaving this photograph of himself and another man at Camp Tarawa in Hawaii with a wooden washing machine. I hope you can find a good use for this picture.

—Noah Dutkewych
Jefferson, NH



Can anyone help complete the identifications in this photo from Camp Tarawa?

Recalling one Marine's proud service

My father's best friend, Joseph Topor from Malden, Mass., joined the Marine Corps on Feb. 1, 1940. On Feb. 19, 1945, as a 24-year-old platoon sergeant, Topor landed on Iwo Jima leading his platoon ashore as part

of the initial assault waves with the A-1-28. S/Sgt Topor led his 37-man platoon onto the beaches of Iwo Jima and during the battle and was twice shot by Japanese gunfire. On March 11, 1945, Topor was injured when a Japanese bullet hit his right elbow. He also sustained a bullet wound in his leg. Though he was wounded twice, he was treated by Navy Corpsmen and opted to return to fight with his men. He remained on the island until the 36-day battle was won.

A veteran of Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima, Topor served 10 years in the Marine Corps. He was married with three children and grandchildren. In 2008, he died at age 87 and is buried in Melrose, Mass.

—Kevin Jarvis
Malden, Mass.

Looking for old *Spearhead* issue

I'm looking for a copy of the *Spearhead* magazine that was published after March 12, 1945. My name was in there because I was wounded on March 12, 1945, and I was also a member of the 31st replacement draft. Thank you.

—Addo Bonetti
Torrington, CT

THE EDITOR'S DESK

Continued from page 3

Later that night, a banquet will be held at the Hyatt Place hotel a couple of blocks from the theater. Members of the Naval ROTC will present colors. Sgt Paul Lewis, a Marine guard at the American Embassy in Tehran who spent 444 days in captivity during the 1979-80 Iranian Revolution after he was taken prisoner with the rest of the embassy personnel only 14 hours after he had reported for duty, is the keynote speaker.

Special guest Art Leenerman, one of 18 remaining USS Indianapolis crew members that took Little Boy, the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, to Tinian and served in eight of the ship's 10 battles, including Iwo Jima and Okinawa, joins the Iwo Jima veterans to remember the days of their youth and to honor those who never made it home.

This is one you don't want to miss.

FINAL MUSTER ("Roll Call of the Reef")

BEHANA, Bill **H&S-28** 1/3/2018
BROADFOOT, Dwayne W. **A-1-27** 7/11/2016
COURSON, Richard J. **C-1-26** 2/20/2018
DeHAVEN, Carl **5TH MT** 3/2/2018
DRAPER, Teddy Sr. **NAVAJO CODE TALKER**
12/14/2017
EBENKAMP, Francis **5TH MED** 2/7/2017
EMERY, Roger **I-3-13** 12/30/2017
MEYERS, Marvin B. "Cy" **5TH TANK** 3/6/2018
MLACHAK, Myron F. **C-1-26 (VN)** 6/20/2017

NIELSON, Milton **E-2-27** 2/9/2018
PAUL, Leland "Lee" **5TH JASCO** 10/7/2017
PECCHIA, Leonard J.S.T. **H-3-26** 1/28/2018
PRILOP, George J. **5TH AMPH DUKW**
1/27/2013
SANTA MARIA, Anthony J. **C-1-28** 1/18/2008
STAVAR, Preble **B-1-13** 10/25/2017
TORCHIA, John **I-3-28** 1/3/2018
WALKER, Olaf K. **AMPH TRAC** 10/14/2017
YELLIN, Jerry **ARMY AIR CORPS** 12/21/2017



Send Final Muster notices (including name, unit and date of death) by email to talespress@talespress.com, by USPS to Association Secretary Ray Elliott, 2609 N. High Cross Rd., Urbana, IL 61802, or by calling 217-840-2121.

Account of LtCol Butler, father of 4, killed on Iwo Jima

Editor's Note: The following is a newspaper article from 1945 reporting on the death of LtCol John A. Butler, battalion commander of I-27 and father of current Fifth Marine Division Association President John Butler Jr. It was sent in by Violet Kolecki, widow of John Kolecki (B-1-27), for the Camp Tarawa museum.

Struck by a shell as he was returning from the front lines on Iwo Jima for a well-earned rest in his bivouac area, LtCol John A. Butler, USMC, was killed instantly on March 5.

His widow, Denise Wright Butler, and his four children, Mary, age 7; John A. Jr., age 5; Morey, age 22 months; and Clinton, age 4 ½ months, reside at 464 B Avenue, Coronado (Calif.), and are members of the Sacred Heart parish in that city. His mother, Mrs. Emilie Butler of New Orleans, La., also survives.

Col Butler was born in New Orleans on Sept. 30, 1910. He was graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis and commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps in 1934, after which he spent a year in the basic school in Philadelphia. He then served with a special service squadron in Panama and after 19 months was transferred to Washington, D.C., for duty with the Latin-American section of Naval Intelligence.

After 18 months service in Quantico, Va., he was promoted to the rank of captain and sent to the Dominican Republic as Naval Attache. He served in that capacity for almost four years before being transferred



LtCol John A. Butler Sr.

to the Commanding Staff school at Quantico. Three months later he came to Camp Pendleton and left from there for duty in the Pacific theater of war. His majority was attained in July 1942, and he was made a lieutenant colonel early in 1943.

Much to learn from ‘snooping on the internet’

Flag signed by D-2-28

By Ray Elliott

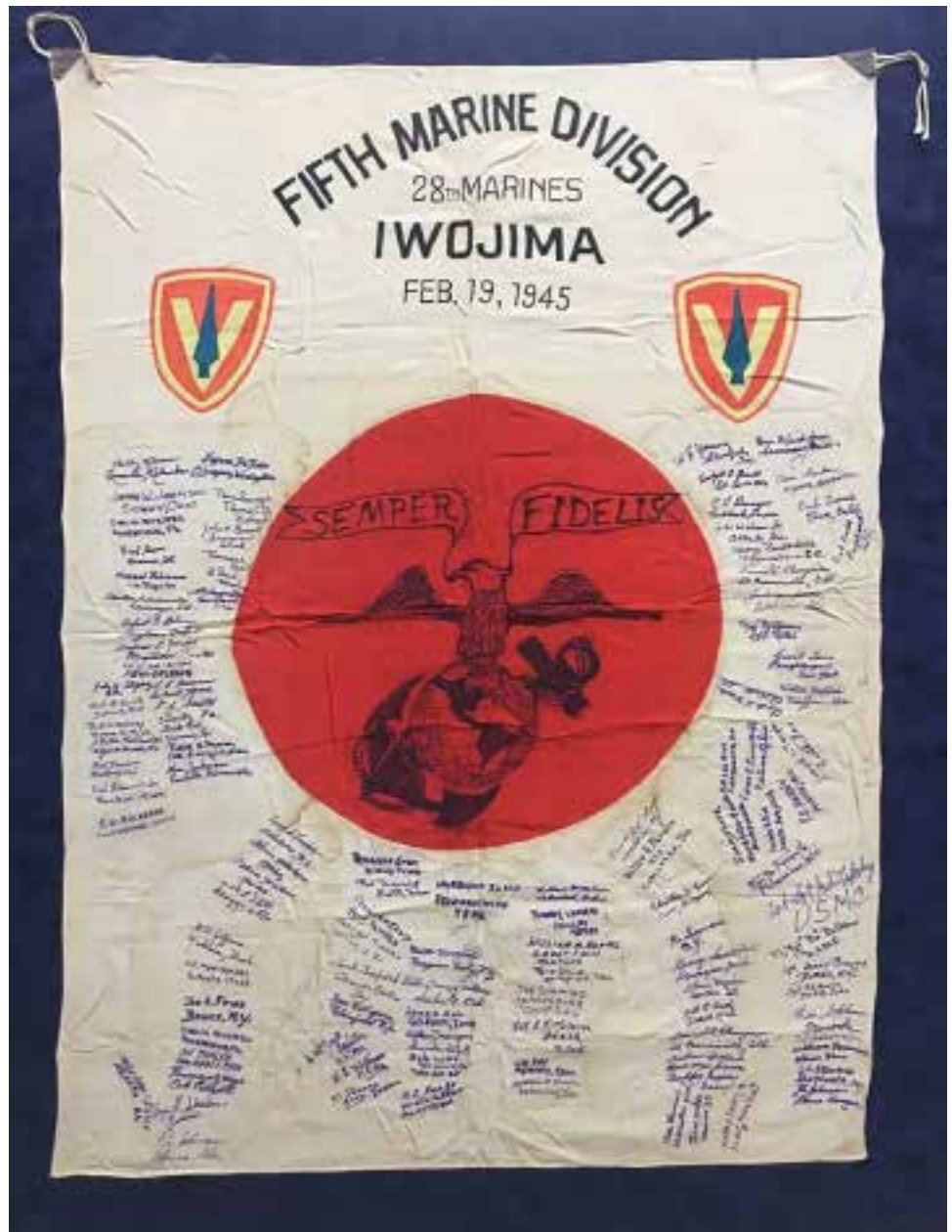
More than two years ago, I started receiving emails from John Ratomski with information about the men who fought in the Pacific Theater during World War II. Sometimes it'd just be a link to a story in a newspaper across the country; sometimes it would be a link to an obituary; other times there'd be photos of the campaigns throughout the Pacific.

While I had no idea who he was or where he was from, I appreciated the emails and thanked him somewhere along the line. Most of the emails weren't about the members of the Fifth Marine Division or the Association. Nevertheless, they were interesting, I read what he sent and used what was pertinent in the newsletter.

When he sent me the flag here that was signed by members of D-2-28, I reached out to him and asked about his background and interest in what he sent and asked him about the flag and where he found it.

“I found it this morning snooping around the internet,” he wrote and explained that he's a WWII Pacific theater history

buff living on Long Island, N.Y. “My late Father was a 19-year-old Seabee whose battalion was assigned to the First Marine Amphibious Corps, sailing from Guadalcanal with the Second Parachute Battalion in late September 1943 and landing at Vella Lavella on Oct. 1, 1943. After almost two months, they sailed from Vella Lavella with the First Parachute Battalion on Nov. 22, 1943, landing on Bougainville the next day. As you know, many of these Paramarines went into the Fifth Division. My father went to Ulithi in the Western Caroline Islands.”



Now that I had his information, I wanted to find out who had the flag and get their permission to use the photo of the flag that was signed by 102 Marines who apparently had fought on Iwo Jima. Most of them were in D-2-28. John sent a link to www.iwojimamarineflag.com—which is where I reached Ron Blume, who said it was OK to print the flag. He lives in Dallas and has the flag framed and in his home.

On the home page of the website, Blume says, “My sister found this flag in my Uncle Glenn ‘Hap’ Harper’s (Cumberland, Md.) belongings after he had

passed away. Turns out like many Marines of World War II, my uncle chose to barely mention his military past. This Japanese flag turned sideways is signed by 102 Marines I believe all fought on Iwo Jima.”

Blume goes on to say that his uncle didn’t sign the flag, and didn’t think he fought on Iwo Jima. And there is no Glenn Harper listed in any of the Fifth Marine Division units in *Spearhead*, the Fifth Marine Division book published after the war. He was, Blume says, part of the 56th Replacement Draft, briefly joined D-2-28 where he obtained the flag and the signatures, then participated in the occupation of Japan in the Eighth Marine Regiment, Second Marine Division.

The names of all 102 Marines and the state in which they were from are listed on the website. Blume says the “project is a work in progress, and I may not have all of the Marines correctly identified in his spreadsheet, but it is a good start.” Also on the website are the actual muster rolls of the Second Battalion, 28th Marine Regiment for February and March of 1945: February 1945 No. 1, February 1945 No. 2, March 1945 No. 1, March 1945 No. 2, and March 1945 No. 3. To view those muster rolls, go to the website and click on each one individually. Those were provided by

Geoff Gentilini at Golden Arrow Research.

For those veterans and family members looking for Marines with whom they or their relatives served, Blume has also set up a Facebook page so comments to others are possible. And finally, there is also a family tree on Ancestry.com to see what else he could find out about these men. Blume says he “found it very heartwarming to find out that most of these men returned after the war to their small hometowns in 34 different states, where they married, had children and lived long lives.”

Many members of the Association have looked, and are looking, for information about their fathers or relatives who served. With this website, Ron Blume has made it possible to search for information about the Marines who served on Iwo Jima. And John Ratomski has provided information for quite a while with his “snooping for information on the internet.”

Check out the website, do a little snooping and gather the information and memorabilia for the Camp Tarawa museum. Without that, the information stays on the internet, gathers dust in homes across the country or, worse yet, ends up in the city dump. The FMDA would like that material for the Camp Tarawa Museum.

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USOs offered home comforts to military personnel on the Big Island

By Fred Greguras

I recently attended several reunions of Iwo Jima veterans who trained at Camp Tarawa on the Big Island of Hawaii. The highlight was exploring the Big Island with them during the Fifth Marine Division Association reunion in October 2017. In listening to the vets, the two most common memories I heard were about the graciousness of the people of the Big Island and the relief they felt when word came down that the Japanese had surrendered after the two atomic bombs were dropped so they wouldn't have to invade the mainland of Japan—which is what they were training to do. Some of the places the Marines remembered liking on the Big Island were the USOs. So I thought it would be interesting to try to identify where they were and what happened to them.

The United Service Organizations (USO) provided a home away from home for servicemen during WWII and featured dances, movies, relaxation, music and a place to write a letter home or grab a free cup of coffee and a sandwich. The USO offered a touch of home through its activities and events. The USO was founded in 1941 at the request of President Franklin Roosevelt. His request brought six organizations (YMCA, YWCA, Salvation Army, National Catholic Community Service, National Travelers Aid Association and the National Jewish Welfare Board) together to form a private, non-profit organization to provide morale, entertainment and other support services for U.S. military personnel away from home.

The Big Island USO was organized on Sept. 14, 1941, and USO facilities were opened throughout the island, beginning in early 1942, in buildings such as former stores, public libraries, church and school buildings, community halls and other places. Decorations and furnishings were often donated by the public. During the early part of World War II, the Big Island USOs served the Army units on the island and sailors at the Hilo Naval Air Station (NAS).

The arrival of the Second Marine Division after the Battle of Tarawa and the establishment of Camp Tarawa at Kamuela (Waimea) in December 1943 dramatically changed the demand for USO services. More than 50,000 Marines trained on the Big Island during the December

1943-August 1945 period. After the Second Marine Division left for the Tinian and Saipan campaigns, the Fifth Marine Division used Camp Tarawa both before and after the assault on Iwo Jima. The Fifth Division left for occupation duty in Japan in late August 1945 after the war ended, and Camp Tarawa was closed in November 1945.

The Marines were at four locations: The main camp was at Waimea; artillery camp at Pohakuloa; amtrac camp at Hapuna Beach; and the division rear at Camp Banyan at the port facilities in Hilo. The liberty destination closest to main side at Waimea was Honoka'a, about 15 miles east. Hilo was a very long trek (about 55 miles) from main side; Kona was about 40 miles; and Hawi about 22 miles. Hilo was the most important city on the Big Island during WWII and was the headquarters for the USO.

WAIMEA

The busiest and most popular USO was at Barbara (Kahilu) Hall (now Parker School) at main side Camp Tarawa in Waimea. It was the site of dances to music played by famous orchestras, entertainment by big-name stars and other recreational activities. Barbara Hall was built in 1915 as a place for rest and relaxation for Parker Ranch employees and later became the community hall. The building is still there on the north side of Lindsey Road across from the county park. There is a memorial to its USO service in front of the building. It was expanded during WWII to include the current theater wing, where a school and community program was held to commemorate the return of Iwo Jima vets at the FMDA reunion in October 2017. The vets were greeted by Parker School students as they entered the theater.

HILO

Wayne Cockrell was the director of Big Island USOs and established his initial headquarters at the Hilo Chamber of Commerce office in early February 1942. By early March 1942, the Big Island USO had its headquarters on the first floor of the Burns Building at the corner of Waianuenue and Keawe Street. The headquarters had reading and writing rooms for the

servicemen. The Burns Building is still there with various businesses on the ground level and the Hilo Bay Hostel upstairs where the Burns Hotel was once located.

Marines would recognize many of the buildings on the west side along Kamehameha Avenue in the downtown area of Hilo. Most of the makai (ocean) side buildings were washed away in the 1946 and 1960 tsunamis. There were several USO clubs and other USO facilities in Hilo. The Downtown USO club was at 459 Kamehameha (makai side), according to Sanborn maps. This was near the east side of Mo'ohiau Park, next door to the west of the American Factors (Amfac) warehouse known as the Cow Palace. This club is also known as the Mo'ohiau Park Club. It was washed away in the 1946 tsunami, along with many other buildings. The site of this USO is a recreation field on Kamehameha across from the HELE gas station at Ponahawai Street.

The Mokuola USO was a very popular recreation facility at Coconut Island to the northwest of Banyan Drive. Swimming, diving, boating and other water sports were available. Dances were also held there. There was a regularly scheduled bus service from the Downtown USO to the Mokuola USO. The USO facilities and bridge were swept away by the 1946 tsunami. Coconut Island continues to be a popular park



Lyman Museum photo

The Downtown USO club (above and below) in Hilo was on Kamehameha Avenue and offered entertainment options and support services for military personnel far from home. It was the last WWII-era USO open on the Big Island until it was destroyed and washed away in the April 1946 tsunami.

Lyman Museum photo





Lyman Museum photo

St. Joseph's Church in Hilo served as the Haili Street USO (or Center USO) from June 1942-December 1945.

today that is easily accessible by a walking bridge.

In May 1942, the Rev. Martin Dornbusch offered the use of the St. Joseph Catholic Church Parish Hall for use as a USO. This was the Haili Street USO or Center USO. This club was opened by early June 1942. The first level of the parish hall was used as club rooms, and the second floor was the recreation and dance hall. St. Joseph's Church is at the corner of Haili and Kapiolani Streets, about four blocks up the hill from Kamehameha. The parish hall was on the makai side of the church near the church tower. It was torn down in the early 1990s. There was a fire (set by an arsonist) on Sept. 14, 1943, that damaged the parish hall USO. A Haili Street USO was open until December 1945, but I don't know whether the parish hall was repaired or if a nearby building was used as the USO after the fire.

There were two USO hostels in Hilo as of July 1945; one was at 614 Kilauea Ave. and the other at 55 Manono St. The hostels were mostly just cots, sheets, pillows, blankets and towels. The building at 614 Kilauea Ave. is still there and is used for offices of various types. The other USO hostel was in the gymnasium at a Japanese Buddhist Temple complex, which was at 55 Manono,

according to Sanborn maps. The Manono buildings were swept away in the 1946 tsunami. The site is now a recreation area.

In March 1943, the Yamatoza Theater on Mamo Street was donated to the USO and was named the USO Playhouse. Drama, music, lectures and other entertainment were provided there. The theater had a grand opening performance on March 12, 1943. This theater was located on the south side of Mamo Street, west of Punahoa Street, about a block and a half west of Kamehameha. The theater was destroyed by the 1960 tsunami. The site is in the present-day Hilo farmers market. USO performers stayed at the Naniloa Hotel on Banyan Drive where the Hilton Doubletree is now located.

HONOKA'A

The Parker Ranch management prohibited liquor in Waimea, so the Marines from Camp Tarawa went to the bars and clubs in Honoka'a to blow off steam. The Marines visited frequently since it was the closest town to Waimea. Many of the buildings on the Honoka'a main street, Mamane, would still be

recognizable by Camp Tarawa Marines. The store names have changed, but many of the WWII-era buildings are still there. Landmarks include the People's Theater, the Botelho Building, Andrade Building and the Hotel Honoka'a Club. The Historic Honoka'a Town Map, published by the Historic Honoka'a Town Project, is an excellent guide.

The first USO club in Honoka'a was in a room at the Hawaii County Public Library on Mamane, and the second USO was at the Union Church (now the Methodist Church) also on Mamane. The large Botelho Building on the north side of Mamane became the permanent location of the USO club. The upstairs of the Botelho Building was the USO dance hall. The building is presently used by the Hawaiian Cultural Center of Hamakua and several small businesses. I walked upstairs to check out the dance floor, but it looks like it's been partitioned into offices.

The nearby Hotel Honoka'a Club was also a favorite destination of the Marines. The hotel is just two doors down from the former USO club building and is still a hotel and hostel. There is no bar or restaurant inside the hotel anymore, but the bar and former restaurant rooms are still there. The large old restaurant room is used for family events like weddings, etc.

The Marines were usually dropped off for liberty by the Paradise Cafe at the southwest corner of Lehua and Mamane Streets. The cafe is now Gramma's Kitchen, which serves very good food. That corner has a sign which says, "Long Soup Corner." The story is that the Marines who frequented the Paradise Cafe and could not pronounce "saimin," a popular noodle dish at the cafe, instead calling it "Long Soup," and so the corner became "Long Soup Corner."

OTHER USOs

The Kona/Kealakekua USO was at the Christ Episcopal Church on Konawaena School Road, just east of Highway 11 before you get to Captain Cook. The Rev. Kenneth Miller and his family established the USO in Wallace Hall on the grounds of the church. There was a reading and writing area, ping-pong tables, a record player to listen to popular music and other activities. The USO offered Thanksgiving and other dinners, as well as dances. Wallace Hall is currently being used as a Hawaiian language immersion preschool.

In the early part of WWII, a thatched hut was built

on the grounds of the church as a "Little Grass Hut in Kealakekua," a popular song in the 1930s. Military personnel could have a photo taken under the sign at the grass shack and sent home to let families know they were safe on Hawaii. Servicemen were not allowed to say where they were in letters, but the popular song provided a way to communicate through a photograph that got by military censorship.

The USO in Hawi was located on the south side of Highway 270 in back of the current Ohana gas station at the intersection of 270 and Highway 250 (Hawi Road), just past the parking lot on a slight hill. This is in the area where the Hawi Farmers Market is held. The hall had various uses: movies, meetings, dances, etc. The building was demolished in the late 1940s or early 1950s. There are many WWII-period buildings on and around the main street of Hawi.

The USOs mentioned above are identified in a July 1945 Big Island USO brochure. There is a May 1942 USO brochure that lists USOs at several other rural places (Naalehu, Pahala, Pahoa and Kopoho), but these were before the Marines arrived at Camp Tarawa. The rural clubs were mostly rest and chow stops and operated full time only when needed.

The Downtown Hilo USO on Kamehameha Avenue, which was destroyed in the April 1946 tsunami, was scheduled to close in the summer of 1946. It was the last WWII-period USO open on the Big Island. The Haili Street (Hilo) and Barbara Hall (Waimea) USOs closed in December 1945. The Mokuola USO (Coconut Island at Hilo) closed in late November 1945.

The tradition of Big Island USOs continues today with the USO at the Pohakuloa Training Area along Saddle Road for Marines and soldiers training there. The facility is managed by Army retiree Jody Brissette, who hosted a visit by the FMDA reunion attendees in October 2017. The training area is the site of the artillery camp for Camp Tarawa.

The author wishes to thank "all the great people on the Big Island who helped with this article: Kathy Painton of the FMDA, Eric Page and Gladys Suzuki at the Lyman Museum, Mary Louise Haraguchi at the University of Hawaii-Hilo, Barbara Muffler at the Tsunami Museum, Justin Rajkowski at the Hawaii County Library in Hilo, Jody Brissette of the PTA USO, Eileen (Momi) Naughton at the NHERC in Honokaa, Ross Stephenson of Honokaa, Leslie Taylor Cockerham in Hilo, Dr. A. Stephen Woo of St. Joseph Church, Nancee Cline of Christ Church and Vietnam Veteran Joe Carvalho in Kapaau.



During the first reunion event in 1970, Mary Early, 11, visits with women whose husbands died on Iwo Jima.

(Photo courtesy of Mary Swain)

CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

Continued from page 1

the Iwo Jima battle.

Nearly 50 years later, and unbeknownst to Shindo, that same young girl—now Dr. Mary (Early) Swain—had just shared the story of that pivotal trip earlier in the day as part of the IJAA symposium.

When Shindo heard she was at the banquet, his eyes grew wide, his smile broadened and he gestured the height of the young girl and said, “Yes, yes, I remember her and her family very well. Please bring her over as soon as we start eating dinner, and the speeches and awards are done.”

The IJAA has long been a friend of Shindo-san—a gracious, intelligent, genuine friend. But rarely does anyone remember meeting a little girl and her parents 48 years ago. When Swain was escorted to his table, he recognized her immediately and the conversation seemed to begin right where it had left off all those years ago.

As they talked about his mother being an actress; his maternal grandmother, Baroness Nishi; Mary’s father, Charles, and his dedication to peace; John Rich, an Iwo Jima veteran and noted foreign policy reporter; and others, it became clear that this was a seminal and very happy event in a young man’s life. Shindo even remembered the doll that the women gave Mary as a gift.

Talking about how their families had spent time together, Shindo mentioned that after the 1970 reunion, Charles Early (who was also instrumental in planning the reunion event) had come to Japan on a second trip and stayed at their house as a guest of his mother. He



Dr. Mary (Early) Swain still has the doll that was given to her in 1970 as a gift during her family’s trip to Iwo Jima.

(Photo courtesy of Mary Swain)

even recalled a picture of them that is still in his house and promised to look for it to give Mary a copy.

This brief meeting while dinner was being served was more than a reunion between two people who were fortunate to be part of something larger as children. That trip was clearly one of the first steps on the road to peace and “Reunion of Honor” events.

The remarkable presentation Mary Swain had given earlier at the IJAA symposium was about her family’s trip to Iwo Jima with the Shindo and Nishi families in 1970. While the reunion event was covered by the U.S. media, in part because NBC’s Japan Bureau Chief John Rich, the trip itself went largely unnoticed in the United States. But in Japan, it clearly set the precedent and Japanese mind set for the later “Reunions of Honor.”

Although Shindo was a young boy at the time, he is now a prominent member of the Diet, adviser to the Japanese Iwo To Association, and head of the Bereaved Families of Iwo To. Compared to most people in the Japanese culture, his family had a different way of looking at the war and the loss—something many were

unaware of until Mary's presentation.

Gen Kuribayashi had spent a lot of time in the United States. Driving through the country, he liked the culture, the openness and the barbecue, and he made many friends. When the Japanese talked about war with America, Kuribayashi advised against it. He rightly believed they had vastly underestimated the U.S. military power and ability to fight because of the more laid back cultural characteristics of America. He was very anti-war, which was an unpopular position at that time.

One story of great courage is how Gen Kuribayashi's widow found the means to raise her children with his ideals and without bitterness, hate or dishonor. In Japan, death before dishonor is the bushido code, so veterans who survived the war and returned home to their families were dishonored.

But Mary Swain offered a glimpse into another way of thinking that was emerging in Japan: one that was against war, pro-peace and believed in honoring the dead and the living. This new perspective was beginning to take hold in the 1970s, although older politicians were against it. Clearly, as Gen Snowden, who spent years living in Japan, started campaigning for a permanent Reunion of Honor, he gained support

from new leaders who were gaining prominence, such as Shindo, and who remembered 1970.

The Rev. Wachi, then a captain, had become a Buddhist monk. We know very little of what had happened to the Nishis. Yasunori Nishi was one of the presidents of the Bereaved Families group, but he stopped attending the reunions; and Mary's talk revealed more about the involvement of Baroness Nishi—something we had not known much about.

By 1995, only Madame Kuribayashi and her late son, Taro, went back to the island. It has only been in recent years that there has been a strong influx of politicians and government officials attending on both sides.

What touched the hearts and minds of people such as Charles Early, a young Mary Early, Madame Kuribayashi, her grandson Shindo, Baroness Nishi and so many others as a personal celebration of peace and friendship has evolved from the belief of a few families to the belief of our nations.

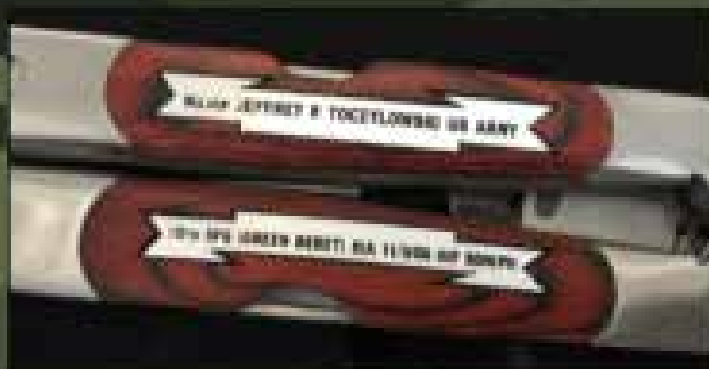
Mary plans to return to the island (Iwo Jima/Iwo-To) in 2020 for the 75th anniversary Reunion of Honor and will undoubtedly see Shindo-san again.

What started with a doll has resulted in an enduring strategic alliance. And above all, it is the friendship that continues.

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Editor's Note: *The following are excerpts from the writings of John Coltrane and Del Treichler. Other memoirs and material will go to the Camp Tarawa Museum to preserve the individual experiences of those Marines in the Fifth Marine Division. Please send books, memoirs, interviews, newspaper or magazine clips, videos and other memorabilia of Iwo Jima veterans for the museum.*

On Iwo Jima ...

By John Coltrane, L-4-13

I went from Camp Tarawa via a troop transport ship. Once we saw the island, we got in to a smaller landing craft boat to get closer to the beach. About 25 Marines and three squad leaders were in the front of each boat. I was a squad leader and was in the middle at the front.

The Japanese dropped an artillery shell in front of the craft I was in and a piece of shrapnel hit me in my right elbow. It didn't break a bone, but I had a pretty big gash. A corpsman cleaned my injury and put a bandage around my elbow and arm. He later got killed, so he couldn't turn in a report confirming I was wounded; therefore, I never received a Purple Heart.

We were supposed to take the island in three days. We out-numbered the Japanese, but they knew the island and were hiding in underground tunnels and caves. When the ramps went down, we ran as best we could off the landing craft and landed on Green Beach around 4 p.m. that first day. We made our way up the sand, but it was like running in wheat, and our feet sank ankle deep in it. We were trying to run, but it was hard in the coarse black sand.

There, lying in a ditch was where I saw my first dead Marine. He would not be the last. The Seabees would bulldoze a deep trench and the burial detail would place Americans in them for burial on this forbidden, forsaken ground. I saw Marines spray the bodies of the dead to keep the flies off the bodies while they waited to fill the trenches to cover them over.

My closest friend, Sgt Down R. Wood, a squad leader and machine gunner in my platoon, got killed on the front lines close to the last day of the battle. What made it so eerie was that he told us before he died, "Well, boys, I've been on a lot of islands, and this one is the one I ain't coming off of alive."

On Iwo Jima, I was in the security platoon for the artillery. Each battery had four 105mm howitzers. My

platoon squad set up the security parameters for the battery. We had to go in front to see if there were any snipers there so the artillery could move up without the Japanese getting to the guns.

We slept in foxholes every night—two to a foxhole. One man would stay up half the night and the other one would take the other half to watch for the Japanese who would sneak in and slit your throat, if they could, to get to the guns.

It was hard to dig a foxhole because every time I would start to dig with my metal helmet, the hole would fill back up. One time a mortar shell came into the bottom of my foxhole, barely missing me. But it was a dud. Then another time when I was digging a foxhole, a piece of shrapnel came by missing my throat by about six inches. I had stopped digging and was standing up talking to my foxhole buddy. I learned not to talk while I was working to avoid being distracted and also to stay as low as possible.

While I was in the foxhole, I would smoke but used a blanket to cover my head so the enemy wouldn't see the smoke and give our position away. We ate K, D and C rations for meals and drank distilled water. We had cheese, crackers and fig bars, which looked like a dog turd. The D-rations had a chocolate bar. C-rations had beanie weenies and a can of hash. We didn't eat much and got four pieces of toilet paper a day. We didn't take baths. One time I used my helmet to catch rainwater to try to take a little bath, but someone stole it.

I was about 800 yards to the north when the flag was being raised. Being busy carrying out my duties, I didn't see the flag being raised by my division. I did, however, see Old Glory proudly flying afterward.

I was on the island for 37 days. My squadron had to stay an additional day to clear up the artillery area. The Japanese had been killed or surrendered or were in hiding. There were a few Army Air Corps fighter planes still there. The last night I heard some shots, and I sent one of my boys over to see what was going on. He came back and reported that the Japanese were killing the pilots as they slept in their pup tents. The battle was supposed to over and the island secured, so they let their guard down. Needless to say, no one in my squadron slept much that night as we kept watch.

I went back to Camp Tarawa via ship. This was where I re-enlisted for two additional years. While I was at Camp Tarawa preparing for the invasion of Japan, the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This ended the war. It caused terrible devastation and death, but we had no choice.

... and back home

By Del Treichler, L-4-13

We were all relieved to find the war was over, and we did not have to invade Japan after all. We did go in and occupy the Island of Kyushu, setting up bases at Sasebo and in a little town of Kawatana, just about half way between Sasebo and Nagasaki. My time there included some visits to Nagasaki, where I could see first hand the destruction of the atomic bomb.

Eventually, I had enough “points” to go home. I arrived through the Port of San Diego, the same place I left in 1944. We spent some time back at Camp Pendleton and had some dandy liberties in Los Angeles. We were then sent to Great Lakes Naval Station, where I was discharged. I went home on the old North Shore electric train. My dad was waiting for me at the station with his taxicab that he drove in those days. He took me home to 42nd and Lloyd Street (in Milwaukee).

I must say that being home and in a house seemed strange to me—a real house, not a barracks, a tent, a field, a beach, a ship or any of those things where I had spent my time during the war years. I felt confined. The memory of past civilian days had dimmed. Everything seemed to have changed. My parents, the house, and my little brother Donnie and my sister Carol were starting to grow up, and most of all, I guess, I had changed. My girlfriend had written me a “Dear John” letter, so I was free from that and available for whatever came.

I learned to be a radio operator, complete with Morse Code; I could climb telephone poles. I learned to kill people with clubs, knives, guns and judo. None of those things sounded too interesting to me, and neither did going out to Madison to pick up a football career. I had gotten a partial scholarship from the University of Wisconsin from Harry Stuhlderer, the coach at Madison in the prewar days. The war took a lot of the so-called “rah rah” stuff out of me. I did go on to school at what was to become the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for three years on the GI Bill.

After coming home, I found I had a touch of malaria and had some bad bouts with very high temperatures. I did not know I had it, but the doctor said I did. We of World War II had the same problems of veterans of all other wars before and since. Coming home was hard and we had a hard time getting used to it. My bed at home was located against a wall, and I had many dreams or nightmares.

They were so severe that I actually knocked a large hole in the wall next to the bed. There were no dry walls

in those days, just regular lathe and plaster. I had the re-occurring periods when I was being shelled by artillery and mortar. It was always just that ... destruction coming down from above. So what do you do? You dig a hole to get some protection, and that is what I was doing when I carved out this large hole in the wall.

After a year or so, it started to subside a little at a time. I guess we eventually put a dresser in front of the hole so it would not show. Scenes like mine were very common, and one hesitated to tell anyone or just make light of it. Many of us were in the same boat, so it was just something we had to get through, and we did. The effect that battle had on the minds and lives of combat veterans was very different than those who were in the war, but did not actually fight directly against the enemy.

Of the 16 million servicemen and women in WWII, about 850,000 actually were in direct combat during the four years of the war. We rarely, if ever, talked of the bloody madness of combat. Why should we stir up those miserable days? Why would we want our children to know about the terrible things we had to do and see? So we usually avoided that part of it. I do not believe we avoided it consciously, but just kind of stuffed it all in the back of our heads.

At this point, a word should be said about “buddyism.” It is what is causing all these reunions that are going on these days, as we are in our ’80s and ’90s. Sharing all these things with our friends from long ago seems to help us continue on as we get older and many of us are dying off. I have heard that combat veterans really do not fight for their flag or country, but for each other. I believe this is true. If you could see us when we finally do meet up after all those years, you could feel the love we have for each other. You could see the tears, either outwardly or emotionally stifled so, as we cannot speak for a moment. We are happy to have survived the war and probably just as happy to survive long enough to meet again and wonder why we were spared the fate of many of our buddies who were unable to live a full life as we have.

In recollecting these events of so long ago, I noticed it was not very real any more. My thoughts are more like reading a book or seeing a movie. I know it was real, but it does not seem that way any longer. It hasn’t for a long time.

Every so often, I will get a flashback that is fairly real, but it is usually brief and more like a movie. It is not important any more. But I did want the new generations to know how it was back “in the days of yore.” Now it takes a back seat to my family, friends and my Social Security check every third of the month.

Fifth Marine Division served well in Vietnam

Editor's Note:

Like Bill Baumann, hundreds of Vietnam veterans who fought with the Fifth Marine Division are eligible for full membership in the FMDA. To ensure that the Association continues to be represented by those who served in the division, those who served in Vietnam are encouraged to join the Association.

By William J. Baumann

USMC 1965-1969



Bill Baumann sits on the back of a "Mighty Mite" in Lang Vei, an Army Special Forces compound located at the Laotian border. The back of the vehicle has a "V" insignia to signify the Fifth Marine Division, even though his company was attached to the Third Marine Division. He points out the pen and notebook in his pocket and the PRC 25 radio behind him, but also mentions that the Timex watch on his wrist still runs to this day.

In addition to the Iwo Jima veterans, the Fifth Marine Division Association recognizes the services, sacrifices

and hardships endured by those who served honorably and well with the 26th, 27th and 13th Marines during the Vietnam War when they were activated for over three years between early 1966 and late 1969 and fought in a long, difficult war in Vietnam as components of the First and Third Marine Divisions.

These Vietnam veterans lived up to the standards set by those who stormed Iwo's beaches in February 1945 and are invited to join the Association. I was one of those who fought with the Fifth in Vietnam and hope others will find a home with the Association and those with whom they served.

In April 1966, I completed radio school. I was sent to Las Pulgas, Camp Pendleton, where I was assigned to H&S Company, First Battalion, 26th Marine Regiment. LBJ had just escalated the war in Vietnam, and the Fifth Marine Division was being reactivated for the first time since Iwo Jima. We trained long and hard, then we were transported to San Diego where we boarded the LPH Iwo Jima, an amphibious assault ship and two other ships, the USS Thomaston and the USS Vancouver.

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We sailed on July 8 (to the best of my recollection). We sailed by the island of Iwo Jima, where an emotional ceremony was held on the flight deck. I thought of my dad and uncles who were Marines and saw combat in the Pacific war. It was also very meaningful because our unit had fought on the island in 1945.

After sailing via Hawaii, we went to the Philippine Islands where we conducted a practice operation on Mindoro. We then sailed to Vietnam, where we conducted a combat operation with the Army in

the vicinity of the Mekong Delta. The operation was uneventful; however, one Marine was killed in a friendly fire incident.

We returned to Subic Bay to resupply. We then went back to Vietnam, where we were inserted into Operation Prairie I, which we called Deckhouse IV, in mid-September 1966. We were credited with killing more than 200 NVA soldiers. There was also talk of killing what appeared to be a Chinese adviser. We sustained a number of casualties.

Offloaded at Da Nang, we convoyed south about 14 miles to Hill 55. The area was known as Happy Valley, or Dodge City. We relieved 1/9. I was TAD to both Alpha and Delta Companies during the ensuing months. Alpha Company was initially positioned at an old French house south of Hill 55, on the way to An Hoi, and I was TAD to them during that time.

Due to heavy monsoon rains, the position was abandoned and we were transported by amtraks to Hill 55. The house was set to be blown in place, although the charges did not go off. One of our mortar crews

positioned an 81 mortar atop a grave mound and after a couple of attempts, dropped a round onto the house where the charges ignited in a tremendous explosion.

Alpha was positioned on finger one of 55. I was involved with the company on a couple of “County Fair” operations. We would cordon off a village during the night, then sweep it the next day to check for VC activity. The people were treated by our corpsmen. This was part of the “Pacification” program. We also allowed the peasants to harvest rice, after which we would herd them like cattle by using amtraks to another location. We killed a number of VC along the adjacent river as they tried to escape.

We lost people one or two at a time. During Operation Shasta, three Marines from an Alpha Company platoon were blown up by an explosive device. Another was killed by a sniper round. I was present during those incidents.

The area around Hill 55 was comprised mostly of small villages surrounded by rice paddies. Although our casualties were considered light by military standards, the stress of dealing with booby traps, punji pits and snipers as we patrolled was nerve-wracking. In essence, we never knew who or what we were dealing with.

There was an enemy sniper we nicknamed “Zorro.” Several Marines were hit. We later learned that it was a female, and that one of our own snipers did her in. Because we did resupply convoys to other areas, we lost a number of Marines from explosive devices placed on the road. It seemed very suspicious to me that the villagers could be in the area and not detonate them.

Sometimes we would get atop amtraks, which

were sandbagged for protection. We would then ride through the rice paddies in what I would describe as mechanized patrols. On one occasion, a trak became stuck. A second trak arrived to assist and also became stuck. A tank retriever arrived and became equally stuck in the muddy paddies. So we had three “mortar magnets” disabled in the open. We spent a nervous night protecting the vehicles. Thankfully, nothing transpired. A “jolly green giant” helicopter arrived in the morning and freed the vehicles.

There was a series of villages known as Le Son. We lost a few guys during small unit operations in that area. Another village near Hill 55 was a constant danger zone.

When the Hill Fights began near Khe Sanh in the spring of 1967, we were relieved by 1/7 and convoyed north. We arrived at Khe Sanh at the end of that battle. We participated in Operations Crockett and Ardmore. At that point, all of our companies came together as a complete battalion.

Because our companies occasionally operated in support of other units during the Hill 55 months, some of the history is somewhat vague. When reading the PUC awarded to the Third Marine Division for 1966/1967, the word “reinforced” is on the heading. We comprised a portion of that designation.

I have many small stories to relate about my experiences. I was no hero and only did my job. However, I am tremendously proud of the men who served with me, as well as our outfit. Although we did not take an island, it is my hope that the heroes of Iwo Jima are as proud of us as we are of them!

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

LIFE MEMBERS

CAMPBELL, Harold “Hal” – Oswego, IL
CONA, William – Palm Harbor, FL
DOZARK, Kent – Tampa, FL
GENAUST, Billy G. – Effingham, IL
GORDEN, Pam – Pineville, LA
JONES, David L. **M-3-28 (VN)** Lakeside, AZ
LOWE, Gerald **C 5TH MED** South Jacksonville, IL
MOSELEY, Milidge “Scott” **K-4-13** Sugarland, TX
SWAIN, Mary Early – Tallahassee, FL

ANNUAL MEMBERS

BARKLEY, Steve – Saint Cloud, FL
FERRIN, Lester – Fruitland, UT
FERRIN, Lynn T. – Sandy, UT
JECROIX, Katrina – Bozeman, MT
KOBALL, Karl – Sioux Falls, SD
MURPHY, Michael – Casey, IL
RATOMSKI, John – Westbury, NY

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BEHANA, Nory – El Cajon, CA
BROADFOOT, Collette – Paisley, OR
MLACHAK, Thelma – Painesville, OH

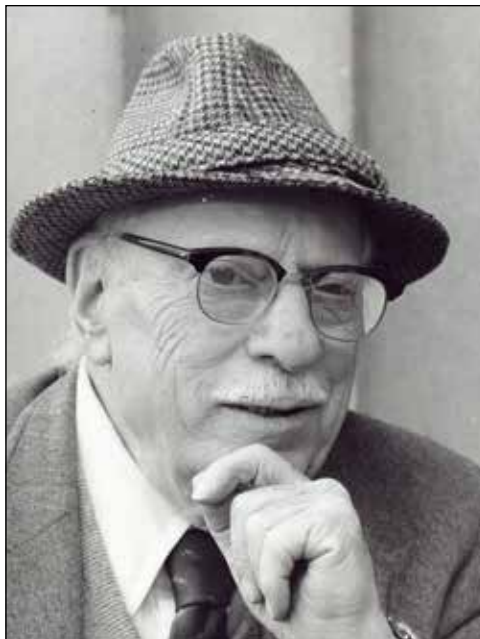
Progress happening in push to name ship for Rosenthal

By Tom Graves

Efforts to christen a Navy warship the USS Joe Rosenthal are picking up speed.

Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal took the iconic flag-raising image atop Mt. Suribachi on Feb. 23, 1945, on the fifth day of the Iwo Jima battle. He photographed alongside Marine Corps cameraman William Genaust, who filmed the Fifth Division Marines raising the flag. Rosenthal had time for only one shot—a lucky one it turned out—and his photo has become synonymous with Iwo Jima and the U.S. Marine Corps.

Iwo Jima veterans in the Bay Area, members of the Joe Rosenthal Chapter of the U.S. Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association, have asked the Navy



Joe Rosenthal (photo by Nancy Wong)

Secretary to name a ship for Rosenthal. An experienced newspaper photographer, Rosenthal had asked to be assigned to the Pacific war, “where the action was.” He made four amphibious landings with the Marines and insisted on photographing on the beaches alongside them. His persistence nearly cost him his life on several occasions, but it also resulted in his many photos on the front lines, including the famous one atop Mt. Suribachi. Rosenthal earned the Pulitzer Prize and was made an Honorary Marine by the Commandant of the Marine Corps Charles C. Krulak.

Several Navy ships have been named for people who never set foot on a battlefield. Those behind the USS Joe Rosenthal believe his

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courage on the beaches and his photo's contribution to the legacy of the Corps earned him the honor they are seeking. Rosenthal, who died in 2006, always praised the men who did the fighting. "I took the picture," he would say, "but the Marines took Iwo Jima."

More than 3,000 petition signatures, mostly from veterans, have been delivered to Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer. Each presentation the Marines make about Rosenthal and Iwo Jima produce dozens more signatures. A presentation on Saturday, May 26, at the San Leandro, Calif., library, is expected to fill the 200-plus-seat auditorium. A larger audience will meet Chapter Historian Tom Graves, who will address 2,000 VFW members at the California Department Convention in Bakersfield, June 6-10.

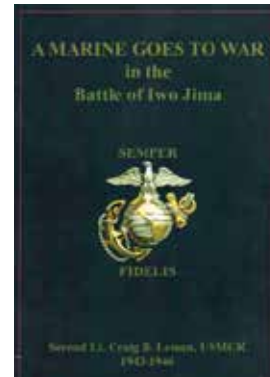
More help is needed to show that people beyond California believe Rosenthal deserves a Navy ship with his name on it. Go to www.USSJoe.org to sign the petition and learn more about Rosenthal and the famous picture. Ask your veterans and social groups to support the program and collect signatures at your meetings. Send your questions and comments, or request your own presentation on the flag-raising, by emailing TeamLeader@USSJoe.org.

More Reading Online

"A Marine Goes To War in the Battle of Iwo Jima"

A memoir by 2nd Lt. Craig B. Leman
USMCR 1943-1946

www.talespress.com/archive.html



Remember, archive issues of **Spearhead News** and **The Black Sands** (published by the Iwo Jima Association of America) are available here, too.

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Read about accounts of 3/26 in Vietnam

By John Butler

In World War II, 3/26, activated in January 1944, trained intensely as a cohesive unit at Camp Pendleton and at Camp Tarawa for nearly a year before going ashore on Iwo Jima on 19 February 1945 as part of the Fifth Marine Division. The battle lasted 36 days and cost 3/26 190 KIA and 540 WIA. Few of the men in 3/26 that came ashore on D-Day boarded ship 36 days later for the return to Camp Tarawa where they were joined by some returning WIA and replacements for Iwo's losses. The battalion then sailed for occupation duty in Japan and the Palau Islands. On 19 February 1946, just one year after landing on Iwo Jima and just over two years after activation, 3/26 arrived home at Pendleton and was deactivated and disbanded.

Third Battalion, 26th Marines was reactivated for the Vietnam War in March 1966 and deactivated in May 1970. The men who served in 3/26 during this period had a much different unit experience than their WWII predecessors; however, those who endured Con Thien and Khe Sanh had a no-less-harrowing combat experience as those who stormed Iwo's beaches in 1945.

Third Battalion, 26th Marines was in Vietnam from December 1966 to March 1970, a period of over three years. Given that officers and men were on a 13-month tour, there was an ongoing turnover of personnel that was further enhanced by casualties, illness, R&R and rotation of officers and NCOs to other units and assignments. This situation with 3/26 and other battalions deployed during the long duration of the Vietnam War contrasted with 3/26 in WWII, which for the most part maintained unit integrity, less replacements for casualties in combat, throughout its two-year existence.

On Iwo, 3/26 fought with the 26th Marines, a regiment of the Fifth Marine Division. In Vietnam, 3/26 fought with the 26th Marines some of the time, but on other occasions with the Ninth Marines or other regiments of the Third Marine Division to which 3/26 and the 26th Marines were assigned. For the biggest and well-known battle of the war, the 26th Marines fought as a regiment, with all three of its battalions on board. In fact, a battalion of the Ninth Marines was attached to the 26th Marines at Khe Sanh.

What was not different between the Marines of 3/26 in WWII and the Marines of 3/26 in Vietnam was

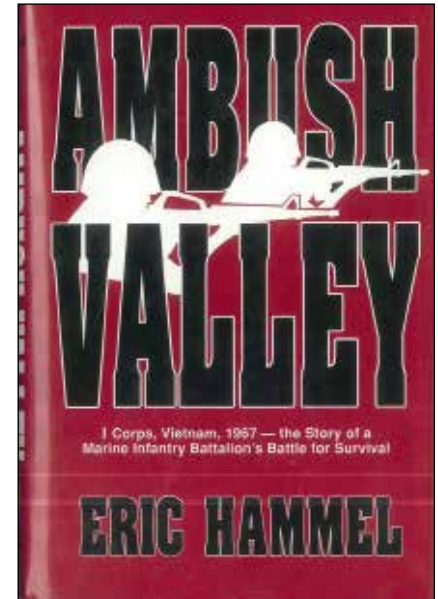
the grit, courage and commitment to each other that Marines have always shown in battle.

Between Sept. 9-11 in 1967, 3/26 lost 56 KIA and 290 WIA when attacked by NVA artillery, rockets and infantry. This engagement in a V-shaped valley near Con Thien, where 3/26 fought for its very existence, was as intense and bloody as any bad day on Iwo Jima, and these 3/26 Marines amply lived up to the legacy of their WWII predecessors in prevailing against a determined and well-armed foe. 3/26 and other units in the 26th Marines also had Iwo Jima-like moments at Khe Sanh during that long struggle from January to mid-April 1968.

Eric Hammel, a writer and historian, has written two excellent books covering 3/26 and the 26th Marines in these Vietnam battles of September '67 and January-April '68. Hammel also contributes to a third book, "Lima 6, a Marine Company Commander in Vietnam," written by Dick Camp with Hammel. Camp's personal memoir of his command of Lima Company spans a period of six months and includes the fight at Ambush Valley and Khe Sanh.

Camp's "Lima-6, A Marine Company Commander in Vietnam" is a closing companion to "Ambush Valley" and "Khe Sanh, Siege in the Clouds."

Because Eric Hammel and Dick Camp have contributed so much to the history of the 26th Marines in Vietnam and to the Marines of WWII, including Iwo Jima with numerous books and histories, FMDA has extended Honorary Lifetime Membership to both and is proud to present a review of their books which cover the fighting in 1967 and 1968 when 3/26 and other units of the 26th Marines lived up to the legacy of the Spearhead Division forged in blood and courage on Iwo Jima.



“Ambush Valley”

By Eric Hammel

(335 pages, Pacifica Military History)

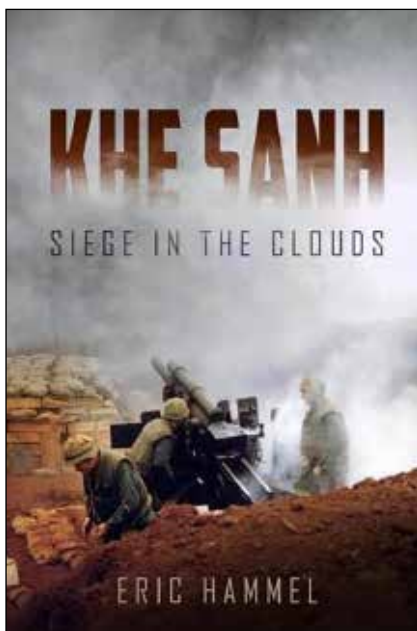
A gripping account of close combat between the Third Battalion, 26th Marines and Regular North Vietnamese infantry supported by rockets and artillery that occurred in late summer of 1967 near Con Thien just south of the DMZ separating South and North Vietnam, Hammel uses an oral history format with eyewitness accounts of event by event, and hour by hour, as the battle begins, continues and finally ends. It is a difficult book to put down once started, and it will leave any reader with an understanding and appreciation of what our Vietnam generation of Marines endured and experienced during this troubling period when our national political leadership directed military operations and the deployment of Marines into defensive positions within range of NVA artillery and mobile infantry. The result was intense combat at places like Con Thien, and later at Khe Sanh, where much Marine blood was shed, and courage and grit prevailed.

“Khe Sanh, Siege in the Clouds”

By Eric Hammel

(376 pages, Casemate Publishers)

Hammel’s account of the siege of Khe Sanh from January to mid-April 1968 leaves no stone unturned. At Khe Sanh, two to three divisions of NVA infantry supported by artillery located in nearby Laos surrounded



6,000 Marines of the 26th Marine Regiment with their supporting units from January-April 1968 when the siege was lifted and the 26th Marines left Khe Sanh. Hammel once again uses an oral history format of multiple participants from the Commanding General of the Third Marine Division to the men in the ranks. His day-by-

day account from oral history, letters and diaries misses nothing. Hammel’s unbiased straightforward account of this battle is masterful.

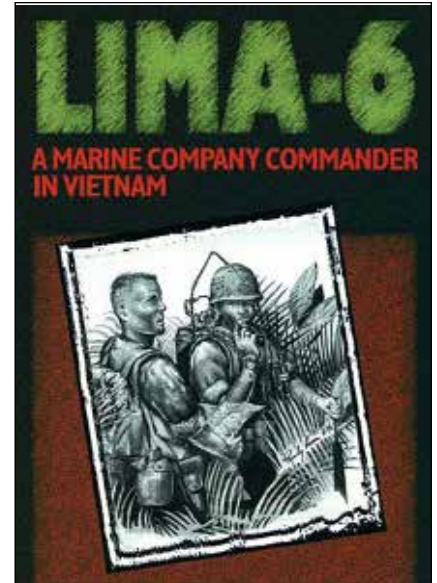
“Lima-6,

A Marine Company Commander in Vietnam”

By Dick Camp with Eric Hammel

(295 pages, Pacifica Press)

Dick Camp’s honest memoir of his six months as a Marine company commander in Vietnam in command of Lima 3/26 from June ’67- January ’68 includes the bloody fight at Ambush Valley and the opening round at Khe Sanh, when his well-placed listening post and a hastily ordered reaction force upset the enemy timetable for a major assault on the Khe Sanh combat base. Camp addresses every issue of command during this difficult period, including his own fears, fatigue and the awesome responsibility of leading Marines in combat. This is a most honest portrayal of a Marine company commander in Vietnam.



Last call for 2017 Hawaii Reunion Journals

Only a limited supply of the 2017 Hawaii Reunion Journal is left, and the Association does not currently plan another reprint. So if you would like to order a copy, please do so now.

Also, there were a few mailing problems, which we believe were resolved; however, if anyone ordered the journal and did not receive it, please notify Kath Butler asap at kbutler813@verizon.net

**or (813) 810-4241
so that can be corrected.**

FMDA 69th ANNUAL REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

October 16-21, 2018, in Champaign-Urbana, IL

Please print the following information as you would like it to appear on your ID Badge.

1. **Your name:** _____

(a) If you are an Iwo Jima or Vietnam Veteran,
please indicate your rank, company, battalion, regiment. _____

(b) If you are a family member of an Iwo Jima or Vietnam Veteran, please indicate your relationship to the veteran and
the veteran's name, rank, company, battalion and regiment.

(c) If you are not an Iwo Jima or Vietnam Veteran, or a relative of an Iwo Jima or Vietnam Veteran,
please indicate your affiliation with the FMDA. _____

2. **Your address:** _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

3. **Your email address:** _____ **Phone #** _____

4. Name(s) of spouse or other guests who will be accompanying you.

5. Indicate any dietary restrictions, disabilities, etc., that require accommodation.

6. Airline flight information, so we can provide transportation to hotel, if needed.
Airline/flight/arrival date and time _____
Airline/flight/departure date and time _____

Cost Per Person:	# of persons	total
1. Registration @ \$50 each	_____	\$ _____
2. Tour #1 Oct. 17 - Univ. of Illinois @ \$30 each	_____	\$ _____
3. Tour #2 Oct. 18 - Danville/Dana @ \$75 each	_____	\$ _____
4. Tour #3 Oct. 19 - Lincoln sites @ \$75 each	_____	\$ _____
5. Banquet* Oct. 20 - @ \$50 each	_____	\$ _____

Grand Total Enclosed: \$ _____

*Indicate # of meal selection(s) for Oct. 20 Banquet:

- _____ Beef medallions with wild mushroom madiera sauce & buttermilk whipped sweet potato
- _____ Cider chicken with pear apple chutney & wild rice medley
- _____ Gnocchi with spiced pumpkin cream sauce & a parmesan crisp

Registration deadline is August 15, 2018.

Mail completed form and check/money order payable to FMDA to:

FMDA REUNION
c/o Ray Elliott
2609 N. High Cross Road
Urbana, IL 61802

FMDA 69th ANNUAL REUNION PROGRAM

October 16-21, 2018

HYATT PLACE CHAMPAIGN/URBANA, IL

Transportation:

You will be responsible for your own transportation to Champaign, IL. Your local Marine Corps League Detachment or other veterans groups could be asked to sponsor your transportation.

Hotel Accommodations:

You may book your room reservation online at

http://champaign.place.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html?corp_id=G-5THD

or by calling the hotel directly at (217) 531-2800

Be sure to mention that you are with the Fifth Marine Division Association Reunion group.

The hotel is located at 217 N. Neil St. (the corner of Neil and Main Streets) in downtown Champaign, within walking distance to numerous restaurants, cafes and shops. The hotel website is www.HyattPlaceChampaign.com. The negotiated rate is \$119 plus tax per night, based on double occupancy. Breakfast and parking are included with this rate.

Hospitality Room

Snacks and drinks will be provided in the Hospitality Room during the times it is open each day.

Tour Descriptions

The cost for each tour is listed below and includes admission fees, transportation, driver gratuity and lunch.

Tour #1 - \$30 University of Illinois Chez Center for Wounded Veterans in Higher Education; lunch with presentation about university's military history and NROTC program

Tour #2 - \$75 Vermilion County War Museum in Danville, IL; lunch; Ernie Pyle WWII Museum, Dana, IN

Tour #3 - \$75 Lincoln's Home and Lincoln's Tomb; lunch at Muldaner's; Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, IL

Schedule of Events

- Tue, Oct. 16** - Arrival at hotel; registration; Hospitality Room open (3-10 p.m.)
- Wed, Oct. 17** - **Tour #1** - Departs hotel 8:30 a.m. and returns 3 p.m.; Hospitality Room open (3-10 p.m.)
- Thu, Oct. 18** - **Tour #2** - Departs hotel at 8:30 a.m. and returns at 5 p.m.; Hospitality Room open (5 p.m.-10 p.m.)
- Fri, Oct. 19** - **Tour #3** - Departs hotel at 8:00 a.m. and returns at 5:00 p.m.; Hospitality Room open (5 p.m.-10 p.m.)
- Sat, Oct. 20** - Business Meeting - 9 a.m.
Memorial Service - 10 a.m.
Showing of Arnold Shapiro's "Return to Iwo Jima" at historic Virginia Theatre - 1 p.m.
Pre-Banquet Cash Bar Reception - 6 p.m.
Group Photograph - 6:30 p.m.
Banquet - 7 p.m.
- Sun, Oct. 21** - Departures

Please return the Reunion Registration Form ASAP, so we know how many people to expect at the reunion.

Registration deadline is August 15, 2018.

{Please be sure to make a copy of the information you want to keep.}

FIFTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Ray Elliott, Secretary
2609 N. High Cross Rd.
Urbana, IL 61802

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5th Marine Division Association MEMBERSHIP FORM

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AS		MM	

All annual memberships expire on 31 December. Please renew on time.

New Membership () Renewal () Legacy () Associate ()

Fifth Marine Div Service: _____
Co. Bn. Reg.

Name: _____
Street: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Zip: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____

Mail to: 5th Marine Division Association
Ray Elliott, Secretary
2609 N. High Cross Rd.
Urbana, IL 61802
or email talespress@talespress.com

Date of birth (for Life Membership): _____

Dues (please check):

- () Annual \$ 25.00
- () Lifetime \$ 150.00
age 64 and under
- () Lifetime \$ 100.00
age 65 through 79
- () Lifetime \$ 50.00
age 80 and over
- () General Fund \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

(Make checks payable to: 5th Marine Division Assn.)