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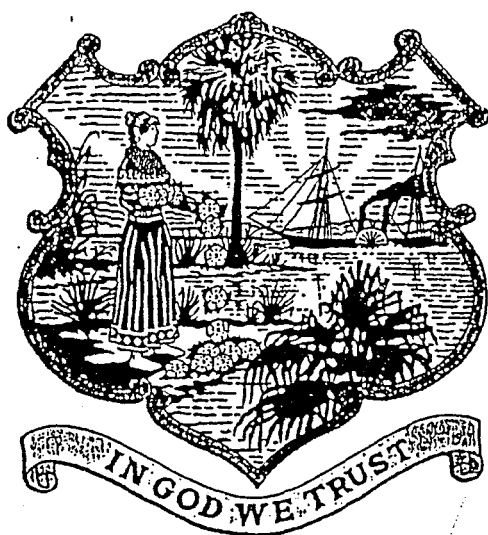
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FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF
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**Special Archives Publication
Number
137**

**SUMMARY HISTORIES:
WORLD WAR II
INDEPENDENT REGIMENTS,
SPECIAL UNITS ARMY AIR CORPS,
MARINE CORPS DIVISIONS**

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Robert Hawk
Director

INTRODUCTION

The information in all the Summary Unit Histories was compiled by Jack L. Picken of Waterloo, Iowa. He is an amateur historian who has made the research and study of American combat units in the wars of the twentieth century his life's work. These summaries were sent to us as part of his contribution to the establishment of the Camp Blanding Museum and Memorial Park of the Second World War.

Some of the material was extracted from the standard works on US units listed below. But there is considerable information contained in these pages that is the result of dogged research in original records, especially the detailed information concerning unit casualties and decorations awarded. The statistics on day to day casualties Mr. Picken has researched for most combat units is absolutely unique and available in this form in no other source. (His statistics on casualties are more accurate than those available from normal official sources!)

There are some gaps in the information available and some "fine tuning" yet to be accomplished but eventually we hope to put this material on a computer and publish it in a more complete and professional manner. Until then these photocopied compilations will meet the immediate needs of all those interested in the incredible history of America's soldiers, airmen and marines during the Second World War.

Robert Hawk
Department of Military
Affairs
St. Augustine, Florida
1991

RESOURCES

Army Almanac (1950)
Committee on Veterans Affairs; Medal of Honor Recipients 1863-1978
Fighting Divisions; Kahn, Ely J. and McLemore, Henry
Library, US Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania
University of Iowa; Army Divisional Combat Narratives, World War II (Archives)
Other public and private standard informational sources and institutions were consulted as necessary



503RD PARACHUTE REGIMENT "The Rock"

Activated—2 March 1942 at Fort Benning, Georgia

Inactivated—24 December 1945

Reactivated—2 March 1951 —

Battle Credits, World War II: Eastern New Guinea Mindoro Corregidor Negros

Commanding Officers (During Combat, WW II):

Colonel Kenneth H. Kinsler
Colonel George M. Jones

Early-1943—Mid-1943
Mid-1943—Inactivation

Combat Chronicle: The 503rd Parachute Regiment was one of a number of separate regiments which fought in World War II. That is, it was an independent unit and did not belong to any division, as did the majority of other regiments in the war.

After intensive training at Fort Benning, Georgia, the 503rd arrived in Australia on 2 December 1942.

After more training, the 503rd drew its first combat mission. It jumped into the beautiful Markham Valley in eastern New Guinea from 400 feet out of 81 C-47s onto the Nadzab Airstrip, 10:20 A.M., 5 September 1943. The Japanese were caught completely by surprise. The 1st Battalion seized the airstrip, and the 2nd and 3rd Battalions approached east and west of the field where they made contact with the 9th Australian Division by late-afternoon. By seizure of the Markham and Ramu Valleys, a direct approach to the northern region of New Guinea was opened. Practically all of the subsequent fighting in eastern New Guinea was done by Australian troops. The 503rd was withdrawn from the area on 17 September. The unit casualties totaled 3 men killed in the jump, 8 more by enemy action, 12 men wounded, and 33 injured during the jump.

The next scheduled jump was to be at Cape Gloucester, New Britain, but it was cancelled due to unfavorable terrain and weather conditions.

The next actions for the 503rd were at Hollikang, Dutch New Guinea, and on the island of Noemfoor, just off of the northern New Guinea coast.

Colonel George M. Jones, now commanding, led the jump on Kamiri Airdrome, Noemfoor, to reinforce the 158th Infantry Regiment. This jump occurred on 3 July 1944. Due to the small area of the drop zone and the clutter of wrecked Japanese planes off the runway, the 503rd suffered an unusually high rate of jump casualties on 3-4 July. Colonel Jones decided to bring in the one remaining battalion by boat.

The island was divided into two parts for the operation, and the 503rd was assigned the southern zone, where it slew over 1,000 Japanese. It was on 23 July 1944, that the 503rd had a Medal of Honor winner, Sergeant Ray E. Eubanks, Company D.

Sgt Eubanks singlehandedly charged an enemy machine-gun position with his Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR). When his weapon was rendered useless by a Jap bullet, he continued to charge, using his rifle as a club. Before he was overcome and killed, he had slain 19 Japs.

Next, on 15 December 1944, the 503rd Parachute Regiment, along with the 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, made an amphibious landing on the island of Mindoro, in the western Philippines. This was a relatively easy operation, since there were not a large

number of Japanese on Mindoro, casualties were very light, and by 31 January 1945, control of the island was turned over to Filipino guerrilla forces. However, the next operation was anything but easy. It was, by far, the toughest battle for the 503rd of the war.

On 16 February 1945, the 503rd made an airdrop on Corregidor to recapture "The Rock" from the fanatical Japanese. The 2nd and 3rd Battalions dropped with about 14 per cent casualties, and it was decided to bring in the rest of the troopers by boat. At about the same time, the 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division and the 151st Infantry Regiment, 38th Infantry Division also made amphibious landings on the island to help recapture it.

Corregidor is a tadpole-shaped island and was heavily fortified by some 5,000 Japanese troops, mostly naval personnel. Corregidor was severely pounded by naval and air bombardments prior to the landings, but this did little good since the Japanese remained underground during the worst of these bombardments.

The Japanese were initially surprised by the assault, but they quickly recovered and poured out of their caves and tunnels to give a hot reception to the invaders. However, Captain Itagaki, the Japanese commander, was killed at his observation post. Leaderless, the Japanese were no longer capable of co-ordinated offensive or defensive efforts. Each group fought on from isolated and widely separated strongpoints. Nevertheless, the Japanese fought to the bitter end—as usual.

The island was quickly split in two. Between 16-19 February 1945, the 503rd had another Medal of Honor winner, Private Lloyd G. McCarter, in a very gallant series of actions.

Shortly after the initial parachute assault, he crossed 30 yards of open terrain under intense enemy fire and, at point-blank range, silenced a machine-gun with hand grenades.

On the afternoon of 18 February, he shot six snipers. That evening, when a large Japanese force attempted to bypass his company, Pvt McCarter moved to an exposed area and opened fire. The Japanese repeatedly attacked his position throughout the night and each time were repulsed. By 2 A.M., all the men about him had been wounded. Shouting encouragement to his buddies and defiance at the enemy, he continued to bear the brunt of the attack, exposing himself to locate enemy soldiers and then pouring heavy fire upon them. When his submachinegun would no longer operate, he seized an automatic rifle and continued to inflict heavy casualties. In turn, this weapon became too hot to use, so he then began firing with an M1 rifle.

At dawn, the Japanese attacked with renewed intensity. Completely exposing himself to locate the most dangerous enemy positions, he was seriously wounded. But, although Pvt McCarter had already killed at least 30 Japanese, he refused to be evacuated until he had pointed out immediate objectives for attack.

Through his sustained and outstanding heroism in the face of grave and obvious danger, Pvt McCarter made outstanding contributions to the success of his company and to the recapture of Corregidor.

The Americans attacked with tanks, bazookas, and flamethrowers and, one by one, gradually wiped out or sealed-off the Japanese. Often, in desperation, the Japs blew up their own underground defenses, killing themselves and, frequently, some of the Americans with them. On the night of 23 February, they set-off a huge explosion in a tunnel housing their main ammunition stores, shaking the entire island and sending reverberations echoing along the whole of Manila harbor. By the evening of the 26th, almost all of Corregidor was in American hands, and two days later it was declared secured. U.S. casualties came to almost 1,000 men with an unusually large portion of them wounded. 5,000 Japanese were killed, with only 19 being taken prisoner.

After this bitter battle, the 503rd rested.

Then, in the spring of 1945, the paratroopers landed by sea to help out the 40th Infantry Division which was fighting a hard battle on the northern part of Negros. Operations were hampered by rainy, foggy weather as the 503rd, along with two regiments of the 40th Division attacked the main line of Japanese defenses on 9 April 1945. The remaining Japanese soon retreated further into the rugged, mountainous, jungled interior.

After the main battle, the 503rd occupied northwestern Negros, with one unit helping the 164th Infantry Regiment, Americal Division hunt remaining Japanese down in southern Negros. With the aid of Filipino guerrilla forces, mopping-up operations continued on into the summer of 1945.

During its time in combat in the Pacific, the 503rd accounted for some 10,000 Japanese. The 503rd Parachute Regiment was inactivated on 24 December 1945, at Camp Anza, Arlington, California.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—2
Distinguished Unit Citations—1 *
Distinguished Service Crosses—8
Silver Stars—75

Casualties: No official casualties are available.

* One to the entire regiment—Corregidor



517TH PARACHUTE REGIMENT "Attack"

Army of the United States

Activated—15 March 1943

Incorporated into the 13th Airborne Division on 1 March 1945

Battle Credits, World War II: Central Italy Southern France Ardennes Rhineland

Commanding Officer (During Combat, WW II):
Colonel Rupert D. Graves

Combat Chronicle: The 517th Parachute Regiment, an independent unit throughout most of World War II, was activated at Camp Toccoa, Georgia, on 15 March 1943.

The tough men of the 517th gave little thought to the forthcoming days ahead that Fate had brewing for them, as their troopship churned its way through the cold waters of the Atlantic. The situation was alleviated a great deal by movies, jive-sessions, stage shows—and the fact that there were also three detachments of WACs aboard ship.

In its first action, which was in west-central Italy north of Rome, the 517th was attached to the veteran 36th "Texas" Infantry Division, and went into position south of Grosseto on a clear Sunday morning, 18 June 1944.

The 1st and 2nd Battalions moved around on the right flank and forced the Germans to withdraw. They cut a path of destruction through the enemy positions, testified by twisted, gray-clad forms sprawled in unnatural positions and by the stunned group of battle-dazed prisoners.

Giving the "Tedeschi" no time to recover, the 517th pushed on. In rapid succession the paratroopers hurled a series of knife-like thrusts into the retreating horde of Germans, dislodging them from hillocks and mountain-top villages. Montarsio and Montepescali were taken against disorganized rearguard actions, and then Sticciano. The paratroopers were welcomed joyously by the populace and given fresh bread, cheeses, and wine. The night of 20 June was spent consolidating against possible counterattacks.

On the morning of the 24th, the 517th met stiff opposition at Follonica. Overcoming this, the regiment pushed on to take the dominating high ground.

The 3rd Battalion then left the outskirts of Gavarrano before dusk on an historic march that took them through enemy lines under the cover of darkness. Using mules and carts, the men piled equipment on them, and anything that rattled was strapped down or discarded. On both sides of the road the Germans slept in wheatfields, unaware of who was slipping by.

Around mid-day, under a terrific artillery and mortar barrage, intermingled by sporadic bursts from small-arms, the troopers attacked up the slopes of Monte Peloso. By dusk, the 1st Battalion occupied the hill after battling for every contour mark on the mountain. All positions were held despite desperate German attempts to dislodge the paratroops by artillery fire, until the famous 442nd Infantry Regiment composed of Japanese-Americans relieved them on 26 June 1944.

The 517th was then pulled back to around Frascati in preparation for an airdrop on southern France.

In admiration of their fighting ability "Axis Sally" had this to say about the 517th. "You men of the 517 are much better than we anticipated. But you are foolhardy...you will lose many men."

On our side of the fence, the commanding general of the 36th Infantry Division commended the 517th for its part in inflicting on the Wehrmacht one of the worst defeats in its history.

At about 4:30 A.M., 15 August 1944, the dark sky over southern France became filled with the paratroopers of the 517th. Some were scattered as far as 25 miles from their objectives. German convoys were attacked, communication lines severed, and towns and villages occupied and vacated as assembling troopers merged toward the focal point of battle. The men were widely scattered over the landscape, and town names such as Le Muy, La Motte, Les Arcs, and Draguignan would long be remembered.

The 1st Battalion made a gallant stand at Les Arcs against overwhelming odds. The 2nd Battalion pushed through to reinforce them and establish a battle line. The Germans began massing for an attack, when the 3rd Battalion arrived on the scene and launched a co-ordinated attack through the hills and vineyards. Once the 517th was intact, the Germans gave up hope of reaching their own coastal defenses to help repel the landings.

The storming of St. Cesaire on 22 August by two companies of the regiment was legend. They surged up mountainous slopes under murderous fire and took the town, receiving a commendation.

The next 2 weeks found German citadels falling in rapid succession—St. Vallier, Grasse, Bouyon, and La Rocquette.

On 9 September 1944, elements of the 517th jumped-off to make a bid for Col De Braus, an advantageous little stepping stone to the forbidden Sospel Valley, near the Italian border. At 1100 hours the little cluster of naked shambles shook with battle violence. On the night of the same day, the remnants of one platoon staggered back in silent testimony of the Germans' determination to maintain this Alpine stronghold on French soil. However, on the next day more infantry from the regiment occupied Col de Braus after a terrific 4-hour artillery barrage by the regiment's 460th Artillery Battalion.

18 September was a red letter day in the history of the "Champagne Campaign." With the artillery pieces of the 460th dug-in on the heights above the infantry, the 2nd and 3rd Battalions charged out from under a curtain of withering support to seize Mont Ventebren and Tete de Lavina. The paratroops apprehended an entire company of goosesteppers, together with scores of German dead sprawled out in the sun or crumpled in their bunker havens.

September 1944, died-out with attacks on Hill 1098 and with the relentless roar of the 75mm guns echoing through the deep chasms of the Maritime Alps. Batteries of German 170mm field guns chewed away at the thinning ranks of the 517th, while everybody counted the days until the next passes to Nice, on the Riviera. Patrols felt out the defenses of Fort Bar-bounet and Sospel, and found both suddenly deserted by the Germans.

Southern France may have been called the "Champagne Campaign," but there was no semblance of gaiety in those long, weary forced marches over the jagged trails of the Maritime Alps carrying backbreaking loads and pursuing the enemy. Nor was there any for the silent forms of American paratroopers that lay scattered in the hills and along the roads of southern France.

After many weeks of comparative paradise along the Riviera, the survivors in the 517th were suddenly entrained for northern France, thence into Belgium. The Germans had made a major breakthrough in the American lines in eastern Belgium, and had to be stopped. It was mid-December 1944—the time of the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes.

The 1st Battalion was sent to the 3rd Armored Division sector near Soy-Hotton, Belgium, where the German armor had been jabbing fiercely for several days. Not only did the 1st Battalion soon bear the brunt of these attacks, it slowly forced the Germans around in the opposite direction. And on 23-24 December 1944, the 517th had a Medal of Honor winner, Pfc Melvin E. Biddle, Company B, 1st Battalion.

He killed 3 snipers with unerring marksmanship and advanced 200 yards to dispatch a machine-gun crew. After signaling his company to advance, and shooting 3 more enemy soldiers, he crawled to within 20 yards of another machine-gun nest and tossed his last grenade into it and destroying it.

At daybreak, Pfc Biddle again led an advance toward an enemy machine-gun nest and, from 50 yards away, killed the crew and two supporting riflemen. The remainder of the enemy, finding themselves without automatic weapons support, fled in panic.

Pfc Biddle's courage and superb daring enabled his battalion to break the German grasp in the Soy-Hotton area with a minimum of casualties.

The 1st Battalion won the Distinguished Unit Citation for its action in this area, and was highly praised by Major-General Maurice Rose, commanding the 3rd Armored Division.

Christmas Day broke clear and cold. Dogfights, screens of flak, and "buzz bombs" afforded the groundfighters of the 517th a front row center at "the biggest show on earth." Low-flying Messerschmitt 109s gave machine-gunners and the artillery their first crack at enemy planes.

On 26 December 1944, the 517th was ordered to take Manhay at any cost. At 0205 hours (2:05 A.M.) on the 27th, Manhay reeled under a terrific barrage from 15 supporting artillery battalions. At 2:30 A.M. the 517th charged across the snowblanketed approaches to Manhay and entered the town. The Germans counterattacked with tanks, many of them captured American Shermans. This attack was smashed, and POWs asserted that they had been stunned by the violence and speed of the 517th's attack.

On 3 January 1945, the 517th again struck the Germans in conjunction with the 82nd Airborne Division. In less than three days it overran two villages, although snow, cold, and enemy fire made conditions almost unbearable. 500 German Volksgrenadiers were captured. The 517th was again praised, this time by the commander of the 7th Armored Division, Major-General Robert W. Hasbrouck.

By 13 January, the 3rd Battalion, attached to the 75th Infantry Division, swept for 5 kilometers (about 3 miles) against determined enemy mortar and small-arms fire, while the 2nd Battalion plunged into the German defenses at St. Vith. The Germans were staggered from their last foothold in the Bulge salient. The huge battle officially was over on 28 January 1945.

The 517th then billeted down for a rather brief rest at Stavelot.

The regiment was next attached to the 78th Infantry Division somewhat further to the north. Dawn of 6 February 1945, broke over the mudfields west of the Roer River, where Hitler's crack 1st Parachute Army had devoted 6 weeks of preparations against US attacks.

By twilight of the second day, the battle for the east bank had reached a violent pitch. Along with the 78th Division, the 517th was fighting some 6,000 men of the well-led and well-dug-in 272nd Volksgrenadier Division. Pinched-in by thousands of mines, engineers and infantry hammered away at the pillboxes and other emplacements all up and down the Roer. All during the battle for the east shore, the 517th fulfilled its slogan "Attack." The regiment attacked on 6 February in direct assault on some pillboxes. It attacked again on the 7th, three hours after being repulsed. It was still attacking when the 508th Parachute Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division came up to reinforce it on 8 February.

The 517th was then sent to Joigny, France, for a well-earned rest and rehabilitation.

On 1 March 1945, the 517th Parachute Regiment was made a part of the 13th Airborne Division. As part of this unit, the 517th was made ready to make several jumps inside Germany, but each time friendly troops had already overrun the proposed drop areas.

Following V-E Day, 8 May 1945, the 517th, along with the rest of the 13th Airborne, was stationed at Vitry-le-François, France, some distance east of Paris. The 13th Airborne had been scheduled for redeployment to the Pacific, but this move proved unnecessary, and its men began arriving back in the United States on 24 August 1945.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—1
Distinguished Unit Citations—1

Casualties:

No other awards or casualty figures are available.

24TH INFANTRY REGIMENT "Blockhousers"

(No shoulder patch authorized)

Originally—Part of the Infantry School Brigade at Ft. Benning, Georgia

Inactivated—October 1951 in Korea

Battle Credits, World War II: Bougainville Saipan Tinian Kerama Retto

Commanding Officer (During Combat, WW II):
Colonel Julian G. Hearne

Combat Chronicle: The 24th Infantry Regiment was alerted for overseas duty in April 1942. The regiment was understrength and received replacements from the 367th Infantry, another separate regiment, prior to departure. The 24th arrived at Efate, New Hebrides, May 1942.

The 24th Infantry didn't reach Guadalcanal until the mopping-up stage of the campaign. The 2nd Battalion got there in March 1943, and the rest of the unit arrived in August. The 3rd Battalion was then sent on to Munda, New Georgia, several months later.

In February 1944, the 1st Battalion was attached to the 37th Infantry Division on Bougainville, in the northern Solomons, for combat seasoning. The battalion engaged in patrol action against the Japanese while with the 37th, and later with the Americal Division. As of 10 May 1944, the 1st Battalion had suffered 11 men killed in action, 2 who died of their wounds, and 13 more wounded. It killed an estimated 47 Japanese and captured one prisoner. On 25 June, the unit was transferred to the Russell Islands.

In December 1944, the 24th Infantry Regiment moved to Saipan and Tinian, in the Marianas, for garrison duty. Although the 2nd and 4th Marine and 27th Infantry Divisions had fought a terrific battle on these islands and they had been declared secured, their jungles and caves were still infested with Japanese, and it was the 24th's task to clear the islands of all those who hadn't surrendered. By the time the 24th left Saipan and Tinian in July 1945, it had killed or captured 722 Japanese at the cost of just 12 men killed and 20 wounded.

In July 1945, the 24th moved on to Kerama Retto, a small group of islands west of Okinawa, to continue mopping-up remnants of enemy forces there. Early in August 1945, the Japanese on these islands capitulated, and on the 22nd, Colonel Hearne, with representative officers and enlisted men, accepted on Aka Island the first formal surrender of a Japanese army garrison.

No awards or a complete casualty listing is available.

From July 1950–October 1951, the 24th Infantry Regiment served in the Korean War as part of the 25th Infantry Division.



99TH INFANTRY BATTALION

Activated—10 July 1942

Battle Credits, World War II: Normandy Northern France-Belgium Siegfried Line
 Ardennes Rhineland Bavaria

Commanding Officers (During Combat, WW II):

Lt Colonel R. G. Turner
Major Harold D. Hansen

June 1943—August 1944
August 1944—Spring 1945

Combat Chronicle: The 99th Infantry Battalion (separate), was a U.S. Army unit composed solely of Americans of Norwegian descent, and was activated in July 1942 at Camp Ripley, Minnesota. Although, officially, it was not part of any division, the 99th was sometimes attached to larger units during its time in combat.

On 17 December 1942, the 99th Infantry Battalion was sent from Fort Snelling, Minnesota, to the mountain training center at Camp Hale, Colorado. Here the 99th underwent very rugged training. From Camp Hale the unit shipped out east to Camp Shanks, New York in August 1943 in preparation for going overseas. Arriving in Scotland, 16 September, the 99th boarded a train for the Wiltshire area of England. After more tough training in England and in Wales, the 99th landed in Normandy on 21 June 1944, eventually helping to secure the port of Cherbourg.

On 14 August the 99th was attached to the famous 2nd Armored Division. In late-August it participated in the capture of Elbeuf in furious house-to-house fighting.

Advancing into northern France, the 99th Battalion moved to Valenciennes, 8 September, for the purpose of securing the 1st Army sector against possible attack by an enemy pocket in a British sector of this area.

Continuing on into Belgium, the 99th advanced via Mechelen-Eupen-Herzogenrath where it was attached to the 30th Infantry Division. By this time, the 99th had run up against the Siegfried Line.

The battle of Wurselen, near Aachen, will always be a nightmare to the members of the battalion who were lucky enough to come out of it alive. For 9 days and nights in the face of continual and accurate concentrations of German artillery, mortar, and point-blank tank fire, the 99th attacked daily, was counterattacked and outnumbered, and driven from their hard-won positions only to surge back and retake them. The Germans fought savagely, throwing everything in the book at the Americans. The 99th fought side-by-side with some famous U.S. fighting divisions—the 30th, 1st, and 29th Infantry.

During the entire operation food, water, and ammunition were extremely hard to deliver to forward areas because of accurate enemy observation. Even during darkness men bringing up supplies were shelled with amazing accuracy.

After this German failure to break out of the trap around Aachen, the 99th was relieved on 24 October 1944 by part of the 30th Infantry Division.

After a rest, the 99th was placed in reserve at Tilff, Belgium.

Then, on the fateful day of 16 December 1944, the Battalion was alerted and proceeded by truck to Malmédy, Belgium to help check the onrushing Germans in the Ardennes. At night the men shivered in their foxholes and then helped beat back fanatical attacks by elements of the 1st SS Panzer Division, the best troops that Germany had. Enemy air activity was

fairly constant and there were frequent dog-fights overhead. Christmas dinner consisted of a K-ration. Each night furious artillery duels took place, while Germans dressed in white camouflage suits raided forward positions without success.

From 1-6 January 1945, the 99th occupied front line defenses on the outskirts of Malmédy. Patrol action was common and enemy artillery and rocket fire fairly heavy. German troops who had been wounded often came into the 99th's lines to surrender because of the intense cold.

On 6 January, the 99th was moved to the vicinity of Stavelot with positions in a deep pine woods. Its thin defense line was within shouting distance of German positions.

On 10 January, the Battalion successfully launched an attack, with the Germans offering violent resistance. Many of them were killed or captured. The next day, hand-to-hand combat occurred with both sides suffering fairly heavy losses.

On 15 January 1945, with the 517th Parachute Regiment on the right and the 119th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division on the left, the 99th was pinched out of the attack. After 31 days of continuous fighting, living in snowy foxholes in sub-zero weather, and under unrelenting artillery fire, the tired, bearded men of the 99th were relieved from the front lines on 18 January 1945. By this time, the Germans had been once again thrown back on the defensive.

On the morning of 22 January, the Battalion boarded a train for a long trip back to the coast of France. At Barneville the 99th Infantry Battalion joined the 474th Infantry Regiment. This unit was composed of former paratroopers and the élite fighters of the disbanded 1st Special Service Force.

As part of the 474th Infantry Regiment, the 99th re-entered Germany, crossed the Rhine, and soon advanced into Bavaria. Its mission was to patrol roads, woods, and towns, and clear up pockets of SS troops and other German die-hards bypassed by the rapidly advancing U.S. Army.

After V-E Day, 8 May 1945, the 99th was sent to the beautiful country of Norway to help occupy and control the situation there, and to help disarm the large number of German troops still stationed in that country. This was no small task. But the 99th carried out its instructions with the same efficiency and thoroughness that had helped pull it through the numerous tough battles it had fought in doing its part to help defeat Nazi tyranny.

Honors:

Casualties:

No honors or casualty figures are available for the 99th Infantry Battalion.

112TH CAVALRY REGIMENT "Rarin' To Go"
(No shoulder patch authorized)

Originally—Texas National Guard

Activated—18 November 1940

Inactivated—January 1946 in Japan

Battle Credits, World War II: New Britain Northern New Guinea Leyte Luzon

Commanding Officers (During Combat, WW II):

Brig-Gen Julian W. Cunningham	Sept 1941—July 1943
Colonel Alexander M. Miller	July 1943—October 1945

Combat Chronicle: The 112th Cavalry Regiment was originally a National Guard regiment from Texas, and was originally part of the 56th Cavalry Brigade. The 112th Cavalry Regiment was not part of ~~any~~ division.

After being stationed at Fort Bliss and Fort Clarke, Texas, the 112th Cavalry took part in maneuvers at Fort Bliss with the 1st Cavalry Division, and later in 1941 with the 3rd Army. The 112th left the San Francisco port of embarkation on 21 July 1942, and landed in Nouméa, New Caledonia, on 11 August. The regiment arrived dismounted, but with complete horse equipment. However, in May 1943, the unit was permanently dismounted after having been moved to Townsville, Australia.

Following intensive training, the 112th Cavalry landed on Woodlark Island, between the Solomons and New Guinea, on 1 July 1943. The beachhead was unopposed despite false reports that large numbers of Japanese were on the island. Meanwhile, the 158th Infantry Regiment had landed on also unoccupied Kiriwina Island. From these islands U.S. aircraft soon operated against Japanese held bases at Kaveing, Rabaul, and Gasmata.

In November 1943, the 112th again moved, this time to Goodenough Island to prepare for an assault on the Arawe Islands, which are about 75 miles off of the extreme western tip of New Britain.

Just before dawn on 15 December 1943, two battalions of the 112th landed at Arawe. A terrific naval bombardment preceeded the landings, but heavy casualties were incurred by the 112th due to the heavy coastal defenses of the Japanese, who also launched air strikes against the Americans.

From "shots" taken by Army photographers, the film "Attack—the Battle of New Britain", was conceived which became rated as the outstanding Army picture of 1943.

The battle for Arawe was officially closed in February 1944, although cavalry patrols were active in reconnaissance around Gasmata until the following June. The 158th Infantry Regiment also fought at Arawe. The primary purpose of this operation was as a feint to fool the Japanese. For the main landing on New Britain took place at Cape Gloucester, 26 December 1943, by the 1st Marine Division. The ruse succeeded.

Following the Arawe action, the 112th went to Finschhafen, eastern New Guinea, to re-equip for a landing on the northern coast of that huge island. This landing occurred on 29 June 1944.

Remaining in the lines 45 consecutive days, which included some units of the 112th being temporarily surrounded by the enemy, the cavalrymen, along with large contingents of the 31st, 32nd, and 43rd Infantry Divisions battled the Japanese 18th Army in some of the bloodiest fighting in the Pacific. The Japanese launched numerous heavy attacks across the hotly contested Driniumor River, and the river soon ran red with the blood of the fallen foe. The 112th Cavalry Regiment had two Medal of Honor winners—both posthumously—emerge from this bitter fighting. One was 2nd Lieutenant Dale E. Christensen, Troop E, at the Driniumor River, 16-19 July 1944.

On 16 July 1944, his platoon engaged in a savage fire-fight in which much damage was caused by one enemy machinegun effectively placed. Lt Christensen ordered his men to remain under cover, crept forward under fire, and, at a range of 15 yards, put the

gun and its crew out of commission.

On 19 July, while attacking an enemy position strong in mortars and machine-guns, his platoon was pinned down by intensive fire. Ordering his men to remain under cover, Lt Christensen crept forward alone to definitely locate the Japanese automatic weapons and the best direction from which to attack. Although his rifle was struck by a bullet and knocked from his hands, he continued his reconnaissance. He located 5 Jap machineguns, destroyed one with grenades, and rejoined his platoon. He then led his men to the point selected for launching the attack and, calling encouragement, led the charge. This assault was successful and the Japanese were driven from their positions with a loss of four mortars and ten machineguns, and leaving many dead on the battlefield.

On 4 August 1944, near Afua, Dutch New Guinea, Lt Christensen was killed in action about two yards from his objective while leading his platoon in an attack on an enemy machinegun position.

2nd Lt Christensen's leadership, intrepidity, and repeatedly demonstrated gallantry in action at the eventual cost of his life, above and beyond the call of duty, reflected the highest traditions of the U.S. armed forces.

By the time of Lt Christensen's death, Japanese offensive action in the Afua area had died down. On 4 August 1944, after a last desperate attack, the Japanese withdrew to the south. For the remainder of the war, this large group of the enemy were hunted down by Australian forces. Over 2,000 enemy dead were accounted for by the 112th Cavalry Regiment.

After remaining at Aitape, northern New Guinea, until 3 November 1944, the 112th embarked for embattled Leyte, in the Philippines. There, it came ashore on 16 November 1944, moving immediately up to the front lines to battle side-by-side with the 1st Cavalry Division on the northern end of the island. The 112th had a very tough time in cracking the Jap defenses in its sector, with the enemy offering the fiercest type of resistance. Finally, on 21 December 1944, troops advancing from the north linked-up with soldiers of the U.S. 24th Corps coming up from Ormoc. By 25 December 1944, Leyte was officially declared secured, but "mopping-up" actions continued for many months.

Next, came Luzon. From 9 February-13 March 1945, the 112th Cavalry maintained a 100-mile front line in East-Central Luzon (east of Manila) on the right flank of the 6th Infantry Division. This enabled the 6th Division to concentrate harder on trying to break the Japanese defenses of the Shimbu Line. For this splendid work, a commendation was given the regiment by Major-General O.W. Griswold, commander of the U.S. 14th Corps.

In subsequent action in East-Central Luzon, the 112th began an all-out assault on 8 April 1945, in the Santa Maria Valley to clean out pockets of Japanese holding out in the Ipo Dam area. With heavy counterbattery fire the 112th and the 169th Infantry Regiment, 43rd Infantry Division gradually bridged the span separating enemy and American lines. Ipo Dam was captured intact on 17 May 1945. The 112th then killed or captured hundreds of Japanese in the region east of Antipolo between 3 May-30 June 1945.

The 112th Cavalry Regiment was rated one of the more decorated units in the Pacific. -And except for the 503rd Parachute Regiment, no other independent U.S. regiment in the war had two Medal of Honor winners.

On 25 August 1945, the 112th left the Philippines for occupational duty in Japan. It was inactivated there on 17 January 1946.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—2

Casualties: No casualty figures are available.

Regrettably, no other awards are available.

Other 112th Cavalry Regiment Medal of Honor winners in World War II: KIA *

2nd Lt George W.G. Boyce, Jr., * 23 July 1944, Afua, northern New Guinea. He smothered a live hand grenade with his body, thus saving the lives of several of his men.

Footnote: East-Central Luzon is capitalized because it is the official name of a battle.



113TH CAVALRY GROUP "The Red Horse"

Activated—Early-1943

Battle Credits, World War II: Normandy Northern France-Belgium Siegfried Line
 Rhineland North-Central Germany

Days In Combat—309

Commanding Officer (During Combat, WW II):
 Colonel William S. Biddle Early-1943—End of war

Combat Chronicle: The 113th Cavalry Group, previously regiment, originally consisted of men mainly from the southern part of Iowa, but long before the war was over there were men in it from many different states. This unit's history dates clear back to the so-called "Black Hawk War" of 1832.

In World War II, the 113th Cavalry Group (Mechanized) landed on Omaha Beach, Normandy, on 29 June 1944, an incredibly hot day.

The Red Horse went into skirmish lines on 7 July, and soon tangled with Germans from the 17th SS Panzer Grenadier Division, one of the best enemy units in Normandy. The 113th fought like veterans, flanked by the crack U.S. 30th Infantry Division.

The story of the bitter fighting through the Normandy hedgerows has been told many times—the yard by yard fighting, the stalled advances, and often sudden death. It was no different with the Red Horse.

The rugged, bitter fighting eventually carried the 113th Cavalry to the edge of Gouche-erie, and the next day the Group drove the Germans over a rise in the ground and captured the town.

Next, came the heroic fight for St. Lô with the 113th attached to the 30th Infantry Division. The Germans rained devastating artillery fire upon the advancing Americans, but they still continued the advance. The Germans commanded the heights above the town and kept on pouring murderous artillery fire down on the Americans. Working with the 29th Infantry Division, the 113th helped to clear St. Lô of the last German troops inside the battered town, and the élite 3rd Parachute Division was practically wiped out.

In the American breakthrough west of St. Lô, late-July 1944, the 113th was part of the U.S. 19th Corps, consisting also of the 2nd Armored and 28th, 29th, and 30th Infantry Divisions. On 1 August, the 113th fought a fierce fight for Hill 263, two miles south of Percy, and then helped to capture hotly contested Gathemo.

By mid-August, the 113th was fighting in the vicinity of Domfront. On 22 August, after taking over 1,000 prisoners—which represented 2/3rds of the entire strength of the 113th Cavalry Group, a number of contacts were made with units of the British Army. In one fire-fight the 113th was ambushed by Germans with a bristling assortment of anti-tank guns, mortars, small arms, and panzerfausts and suffered considerable losses. On 25 August, the 113th was relieved by a British unit in the area west of the Breteuil-Conches road.

Soon after, the 113th headed across northern France—a blitzkrieg in reverse. The unit met mostly unorganized and ineffective opposition, but there was a bitter clash at Tournai, Belgium. It was a classic cavalry operation, spectacular in its speed, and superb in execution. The Red Horse continued on through Liège, and then into the Siegfried Line.

At the end of September 1944, the Group was attached to the crack 29th Infantry Division,

and in early-November 1944, found itself under the recently formed U.S. 9th Army. The 113th saw more furious fighting on the approaches to the Roer River.

When the Germans attacked in the Ardennes in mid-December 1944, the 113th helped hold the Roer River line in 9th Army's sector, while the Battle of the Bulge raged further south. However, the 113th spent Christmas Day up in the front line. It was a waiting game along the Roer, but the Germans didn't have the strength to launch a powerful attack both in the Ardennes and along the Roer at the same time.

Finally, on 23 February 1945, an all-out offensive was commenced to the Rhine. There was no really heavy resistance in the 113th's zone of attack.

On 1 April 1945, the 113th Cavalry crossed the Rhine and pulled up even with the mighty 2nd Armored Division. 370 prisoners were taken by the Red Horse from 28 separate German units, which indicated the disorganized state of the enemy.

On 2 April, the 113th overran a series of roadblocks and other defensive points, and went on to capture an ordnance depot. The unit also bagged 227 more POWs. Casualties were light.

Soon the 113th was advancing across north-central Germany in close co-operation with a number of smaller assorted units. A number of smaller towns were taken in one day. For the most part, opposition was quite disorganized.

The 113th advanced into Wernigerode, a large town of 55,000 people, at the foothills of the Harz Mountains. There were some 6,000 slave laborers in this town.

Once the Red Horse had entered the city, the Germans from without began a deluge of artillery and assault gun fire on the Americans. To complicate the matter, many of the slave laborers were running amok seeking revenge on any Germans they met. It took 4 hours to gain control of the slave laborers and also drive off the enemy.

Heavy fire was then met on the outskirts of Heimburg. The action was fierce enough so that the 113th temporarily pulled back, calling on the 83rd Infantry Division to flank the German positions.

The 113th, meanwhile, made another frontal assault on Heimburg and again met very fierce resistance, largely from part of some 600 fanatical SS troops roaming the area. Eventually, the 8th Armored Division relieved the 113th and assumed responsibility for eliminating the enemy strongpoint.

The Germans still fighting staged a number of ambushes against the 113th, and there were several sharp fights as the unit neared the wide Elbe River. After seizing Lüdderitz, the 113th then held defensive positions on the west bank of the Elbe.

Finally, contact was made with the Russian 121st Infantry Division.

Allied POWs were then transported from the notorious camp at Luckenwalde under the control of Major Everett E. Orman of the 113th Cavalry.

Part of the 30th Infantry Division then took over the 113th's sector along the Elbe.

The 113th had destroyed or captured over 600 tanks, armored cars, halftracks, and other vehicles, and taken 21,599 POWs.

The 113th Cavalry Group had established an admirable combat record for one of the smaller fighting outfits in the ETO.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—0
Distinguished Unit Citations—0
Distinguished Service Crosses—2
Silver Stars—96

Casualties: Killed In Action—161
(No other casualty figures
are available)

Comment: It seems rather hard to believe that even a combat unit the size of the 113th Cavalry Group (about 11,500 men at full-strength) did not lose any more than 161 men killed in action, in view of some of the battles they were in and their number of days in combat. At any rate, this figure is an unofficial one.

147TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

(No shoulder patch authorized)

Activated—15 October 1940

Inactivated—25 December 1945

Battle Credits, World War II: Guadalcanal Northern Solomons Iwo Jima

Commanding Officers (During Combat, WW II):

Colonel W. B. Tuttle	April 1942—August 1944
Lt-Col Robert F. Johnson	August 1944—May 1945
Lt-Col Walter N. Davies	May 1945—End of war

Combat Chronicle: The 147th Infantry Regiment, originally part of the 37th Infantry Division, with the majority of its men from Ohio, was alerted for overseas movement and arrived in Tongatabu in April 1942. In May, the 37th Division arrived in the Fiji Islands.

As the 147th settled into routine garrison duty, it seemed that fate had already decided its ultimate chore, but such wasn't the case as the unit would be one of the first separate infantry regiments to see combat.

On 4 November 1942, a force consisting of 1,700 men of the 1st Battalion, 147th landed unopposed at Aola Bay, Guadalcanal, about 30 miles southeast of Henderson Field. Their mission was to cover the construction of an airstrip near the bay. Also landing were several other units including 500 Seabees, two companies of the 2nd Marine Raider Battalion, one battery of artillery from the Americal Division, and the 5th Defense Battalion.

The 147th later moved to Koli Point where it was relieved by a reconnaissance unit of the Americal Division on 19 January 1943. The regiment then moved up to the Point Cruz area to be assigned to the Composite Army Marine Division (CAM), which was a temporary structured formation. This composite division included the 6th Marine Regiment from the 2nd Marine Division and the 182nd Infantry Regiment from the Americal Division as well as the 147th Infantry.

On 22 January 1943, the CAM Division opened a full-scale attack along and near the north coast of Guadalcanal with the general direction of attack northeast toward Cape Esperance. The 6th Marines attacked along the beach near the mouth of the Matanikau River, the 147th Infantry advanced in the center, and the 182nd Infantry was on the left and maintaining contact with the 25th Infantry Division. The Japanese resisted with the utmost skill and tenacity, but, nevertheless, the Americans forced them back 7 miles by the end of the month at a cost of 189 men killed and about 400 wounded. 4,000 Japanese were slain and 105 captured.

On 2 February, two battalions of the 147th crossed the Bonegi River and by 1710 hours (5:10 P.M.) had taken Tassafaronga. An estimated force of 700 Japanese had opposed the crossing and it was bitter combat. On the 3rd, the 147th established a line running inland from Tassafaronga Point. On 4 February, the advance toward the Umasani River was slowed down by the fierce action of enemy rearguards, but in the next 24 hours the 147th succeeded in advancing 1,000 yards further. On 6 February, the 161st Infantry Regiment passed through the 147th, thus giving it a rest, while it continued on in pursuit of the enemy and reached the Umasani River. One company of the 147th was then landed at Beaufort Bay astride the enemy's withdrawal route, and the last organized Japanese resistance on Guadalcanal ended on 9 February 1943. However, the Japanese successfully evacuated some 12,000 troops from the island.

In May 1943, the entire regiment was sent to Samoa where it was attached to a marine unit. In February 1944, the 147th was shipped to New Caledonia, and in April embarked for Emirau Island, north of Bougainville in the Solomons, where it landed on 11 April 1944. The 147th stayed here until 8 July 1944, when it returned to New Caledonia.

On 20 March 1945, the 147th landed on Iwo Jima where it took part in the final phase of

the bitter fighting on this terrible island, and participated in dangerous mop-up actions. On 30 June 1945, the 1st Battalion of the 147th relieved the 24th Infantry Regiment on Tinian.

On 8 September 1945, the entire regiment moved to Okinawa where it stayed until 8 December. The 147th was then shipped back to the United States and was inactivated on Christmas Day 1945.

Regrettably, no awards or casualty information is available for the 147th Infantry Regiment. However, it is known that there were no Medal of Honor winners.

158TH INFANTRY REGIMENT "Bushmasters"

(No shoulder patch available)

Activated—16 September 1940

Inactivated—17 January 1946 in Japan

Battle Credits, World War II: New Britain Northern New Guinea Noemfoor Luzon

Commanding Officers (During Combat, WW II):

Colonel J. Prugh Herndon
Colonel Earle O. Sandlin

Early-1943—May 1944
May 1944—End of war

Combat Chronicle: The 158th Infantry Regiment (separate), originally part of the 45th Infantry Division, was inducted at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, and in February 1941 moved to Camp Berkeley, Texas. The regiment maneuvered with the 45th, and then was released and shipped to the Panama Canal area on 31 December 1941. In January 1943 the 158th shipped first to Brisbane, Australia, and then to Port Moresby, New Guinea. In June 1943 the unit, now at Milne Bay, was organized as the 158th Regimental Combat Team, and therefore not part of any division.

In June 1943, the 158th landed on Kiriwina in the Trobriand Islands, while the 112th Cavalry Regiment, another "independent" unit, land on Woodlark Island. These islands are located roughly halfway between the Solomons and the eastern coast of New Guinea. There were no Japanese. Work was quickly begun on an airfield on Kiriwina.

The first combat for the 158th occurred when it was again teamed-up with the 112th Cavalry for the invasion of the Arawe Islands just off the western tip of New Britain in cooperation with the 1st Marine Division's landing on this large island.

Initially, there was some fierce action, with the Japanese launching air strikes against the landings. This landing worked as a decoy for the marines' main assault at Cape Gloucester, New Britain. The 158th remained in this area from 20 December 1943-into February 1944, patrolling and occupying the area.

Early on the morning of 21 May 1944, the 158th sailed to an area near Toem, northern New Guinea, and bivouacked near Arara.

On 23 May, the 158th passed through the lines of the 3rd Battalion, 163rd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Division, crossed the Tor River and on the following day the Tirfoam River. The 158th then headed for a terrain feature called Lone Tree Hill. In front was a short, violently twisting stream which was dubbed the Snaky River by the troops. At the rear of this hill lay Maffin Airstrip, an objective.

As the Bushmasters approached the stream, heavy artillery and machine-gun fire stopped their advance. Heavy artillery and naval gunfire was then adjusted on the Japanese positions.

On the following day the unit was again halted by heavy enemy fire. Probing of the principal Japanese positions indicated that they were in greater strength in this area than had been expected.

The 6th Infantry Division began arriving in the beachhead area on 5 June, and the 158th again took up the offensive toward Lone Tree Hill. But, before they could recross the Tirfoam River, the unit's mission was changed. General Krueger, commanding the U.S. 6th Army, wanted to use the 158th for an assault on Noemfoor Island, just off the north coast of New Guinea. And so, the 158th was relieved in place by the 20th Infantry Regiment, 6th Infantry Division. During the time the 158th spent in the Wakde-Sarmi area, it suffered 70 men killed, 257 wounded, and 4 missing. In return, the regiment killed 920 Japanese and took 11 prisoners.

The 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 158th RCT landed on Noemfoor, 2 July 1944, and took Kamiri Airdrome. The landing was lightly opposed, and the 158th pushed toward Kornasoren Airdrome against scattered resistance.

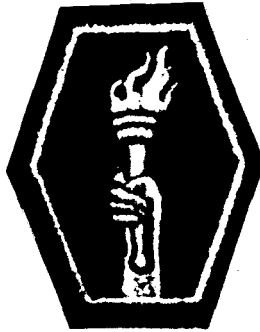
The 503rd Parachute Regiment made an airdrop on the island, and for the purpose of hunting down pockets of Japanese, the island was divided into two zones, The 503rd was assigned the southern sector and the 158th the northern zone. Up through 31 August 1944, the Bushmasters killed 611 Japanese, captured 179 more, and liberated 209 Korean slave-laborers, while sustaining losses of only 6 dead and 41 wounded. The 158th remained on Noemfoor until its departure for the invasion of Luzon.

The 158th landed at Lingayen Gulf on 11 January 1945, D-plus 2. The 158th was committed in the U.S. 1st Corps' extreme left flank as it headed into the Caraballo Mountains (facing north), and met fierce Japanese resistance including heavy artillery fire and counterattacks. The 158th was attached to the 43rd Infantry Division, on its right, and began an attack along the Damortis-Rosario Road on 12 January. The Bushmasters broke through to Cataguintingan in fierce fighting on 26 January, and continued to help the assault toward the key city of Baguio until relieved by the 33rd Infantry Division, 15 February 1945.

Transferred into southern Luzon, the 158th struck from the vicinity of Nasugbu, securing Balayan, and clearing the northern shores of Balayan and Batangas Bays. The town of Batangas was liberated, 11 March, and from 19-23 March the unit overran the outer defenses of Route 417. Along with the 11th Airborne Division, the 158th then closed with the Fuji Force's main line of resistance in bitter combat.

The 158th was then moved by sea to where it made an amphibious landing at the extreme southeast tip of Luzon on the Bicol Peninsula, near Legaspi. Advancing west into the interior of the wild peninsula, there were a number of smaller sharp actions but no major battles of any serious consequence. Contact was made with elements of the 1st Cavalry Division at Naga on 1 May 1945. The 158th remained at Naga until its transfer to Japan for occupational duty.

No awards or official casualty listing is available, although an estimate may be assumed of the number of men killed in action in the 158th Infantry Regiment. 70 men were lost in northern New Guinea, 6 more on Noemfoor, and one historian gives the KIA figure for Luzon at 245 men, but this last figure seems low. This historian has no figure for the Arawe operation, but it was not probably too high. So, at the least, the 158th lost 321 men, and possibly as high as 400.



442ND INFANTRY REGIMENT "Go For Broke"

Activated—1 February 1943

Battle Credits, World War II: Southern Italy Cassino Anzio Rome—Arno
 Vosges Mountains Southern France Po Valley

Commanding Officers (During Combat, WW II):
Colonel Charles W. Pence
Colonel Virgil R. Miller

Combat Chronicle: The famous 442nd Infantry Regiment, except for some of its officers, who were Caucasian, was composed of Japanese Americans (or Nisei, as they were referred to at the time—second generation Japanese born in the United States). It was first organized and then trained at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, consisting of approximately 1,500 volunteers from the mainland and about 3,000 more men from Hawaii.

However, to tell the full story of the Japanese Americans in World War II, it is necessary to begin with the 100th Infantry Battalion.

On 10 June 1942, the Hawaiian Provisional Battalion landed in Oakland, California, and two days later was activated as the 100th Infantry Battalion.

The Japanese Americans soon left by three different trains for Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. While en route, the men of the 100th had an uneasy moment. One of the trains pulled into a siding enclosed with barbed wire. Well aware of the internment of the West Coast Japanese Americans, the islanders wondered if the same fate wasn't in store for them. After an agonizing delay, the train slowly backed onto the main track and continued on its way.

From June–December 1942, the 100th trained in the summer heat and in the winter snow. During this time, about 100 men were transferred to the Military Intelligence Service Language School at Camp Savage, Minnesota. Although kept under wraps, at the time, these men would eventually serve in the Pacific as translators, interrogators, and interpreters. This group was the forerunner of some 6,000 Japanese Americans who later valiantly served in the Pacific, the story of which is just gradually being told.

After more intensive training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi and in Louisiana, the 100th was sent to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, and then shipped out for North Africa, landing at Oran, Algeria, on 2 September 1943.

Subsequently, the 100th was attached to the battle-tough 34th "Red Bull" Infantry Division which had seen very heavy fighting in Tunisia. There was no prejudice or animosity at all in General Ryder, the 34th's commander, and he was very glad to have the Japanese Americans. He would never have to regret it.

As the 34th entered the battle in southern Italy, the 100th shortly set about proving itself to be one of the finest units the U.S. Army ever put in the field. The 100th slugged north from Eboli, beginning 28 September 1943, through rugged terrain via Chiusano, San Giorgio, and Benevento.

Continuing further north, the 100th fought through a score of towns from 17 October–11 November 1943—San Martino, Airola, Santa Agata, Bagnoli, Limatola, and Caiazzo. Opposing enemy units included part of the Hermann Göring Panzer Division, and the Germans rained heavy artillery fire and "screaming meemies" (6-barrel rocket launchers, or, in German,

Nebelwerfers) down on the 100th. Even the Luftwaffe appeared briefly. At the Volturno River, the Germans were routed in a bayonet charge, probably the first such episode in Italy.

Bitter fighting continued as the 34th (100th still attached) slowly advanced in the mountains. There was desperate hand-to-hand combat on Monte Pantano. Then the Americans were halted by the extremely strong German defenses at Cassino, with the towering hill and its monastery above the town.

In some of the toughest fighting of the war, the 34th/100th succeeded in making a small, but important breach in the German defenses. Intensive, grueling combat followed in early-February 1944. Several hills about Cassino, and part of the town were taken by the Americans, but the German defenses were just too strong, even though the monastery, itself, was involved in a controversial bombing by the Allies in mid-February. Cassino wasn't taken until mid-May 1944 in a massive assault involving 5 Allied divisions. The 34th/100th had almost made it alone.

In late-March 1944, the 100th, now operating as a separate battalion, helped reinforce the Anzio beachhead. In late-May, the Allies finally broke out of the beachhead in terrific fighting. Rome fell on 4 June 1944. Rolling on through Rome, the 100th Infantry Battalion continued north. At Civitavecchia, on the western coast, it met up with the 442nd Infantry Regiment on 15 June. The regiment had just arrived in Italy, and now the two forces joined together, totalling some 6,000 men, and actually being the strength of a brigade.

A very skillful and daring operation occurred soon after. The Japanese Americans surprised the Germans in the town of Belvedere, and what was remarkable about this action is that some 170 of the enemy were killed, while the 442nd lost only one man and 8 more wounded! The 100th Infantry Battalion, which did most of the fighting, was later awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation.

Crossing the Cecina River, 1 July, Luciana fell in bitter house-to-house fighting against elements of the 16th SS Panzer Grenadier Division. Further north, in Livorno (Leghorn), the 442nd protected the entire western flank of the Allied advance, and its patrols were the first to penetrate into the historic city of Pisa.

On 15 July 1944, the 442nd's anti-tank company was detached and sent to help support the 517th Parachute Regiment in the coming invasion of southern France.

On 25 July, in Italy, the rest of the 442nd was pulled back to Vada for rest and recuperation.

Then, on 18 August 1944, the 442nd was attached to the 88th Infantry Division, and cleared out a number of German pockets south of the Arno River. Many prisoners were taken, as the Arno was crossed in early-September, and then the battle-weary Japanese Americans were delayed by strong enemy resistance in the Serchio River area. Three days later they were relieved in the line. The Rome-Arno campaign had cost the 442nd 1,272 casualties, and out of this number, 239 men were killed in action and another 972 more wounded. During this advance, the 442nd had covered 40 miles.

Then, on 26-27 September 1944, the outfit boarded Navy transports and headed for Marseille, southern France. The 2nd and 100th Battalions were sent by truck and the 3rd Battalion by freight train north up the Rhône Valley to join the U.S. 7th Army which had advanced as far as the Vosges Mountains in northeastern France. This is a very hilly, densely wooded region, and was full of fanatically resisting German troops. The 442nd was attached to the veteran 36th Infantry Division.

On 15 October 1944, the Japanese Americans began an assault on the town of Bruyères. The going was very tough. Mines, booby-traps, snipers, and artillery air bursts, coupled with the increasingly foul weather and the determined German resistance, made the fighting in the forests a nightmare. Nevertheless, Bruyères was taken after 3 days of bloody fighting. Next, came Biffontaine in which the Germans savagely counterattacked, but were beaten back.

Then, further east, in one of the most courageous actions of the war, the 442nd fought through a hornet's nest of Germans to rescue a battalion of the 36th Division which had become cut-off and surrounded and was slowly being cut to pieces. Undaunted, the Japanese Americans suffered heavy losses, but took an equally heavy toll of the enemy as they ten-

aciously slashed their way through to the trapped battalion. Needless to say, the men of the 36th were overjoyed to see their Oriental looking rescuers, and couldn't praise them enough.

After a month of the grimest fighting in the high Vosges, and having lost around 150 men killed and with 1,800 more in hospitals, the 442nd was sent back down to southern France by 21 November 1944. After the Vosges experience, the men of the 36th Infantry Division began calling the men of the 442nd "the little men of iron".

The 442nd's main mission in southern France was to guard the French-Italian border in case of an enemy thrust from northern Italy. However, this never occurred, although there were dangerous patrol actions along the border. Numerous passes were issued, and the men headed for the sunny Riviera.

Then, on 22 March 1945, the unit left southern France, and landed back in Livorno, Italy. General Clark, the Army commander in Italy, was more than glad to have the 442nd back for the final all-out Allied offensive, soon to commence.

Meanwhile, the 522nd Artillery Battalion had been detached from the 442nd, moved back up the Rhône Valley in France, and, during the spring of 1945, gave added artillery support to the 63rd, 45th, 44th, and again 63rd Infantry, 101st Airborne, and 4th Infantry Divisions, in that order, during these units' advance into various parts of southern Germany. The 522nd was in on the liberation of the notorious concentration camp at Dachau.

Back in Italy, again on the left (west) flank of the Allied line, the rest of the 442nd was in on the opening phase of the offensive by the Allies, beginning 5 April 1945. It was some of the toughest fighting of the entire Italian campaign. This battle included the 442nd scaling a 3,000-foot saddle between Monte Cerreta and Monte Folgorita at night. The Germans were taken completely by surprise, but, nevertheless, fought back furiously. It was in this early phase of the offensive that the 442nd had a Medal of Honor winner, Pfc Sadao S. Munemori, Company A, 100th Inf Bn, 5 April 1945, near Serravezza, Italy.

When his squad leader was wounded, he made a one-man frontal assault on 2 machine-gun nests and knocked out both gun emplacements.

Withdrawing under murderous fire and a shower of enemy grenades, he had nearly reached the safety of a shellhole when an unexploded grenade bounced off his helmet and tumbled toward two of his comrades. Pfc Munemori instantly dove on top of the live missile as it exploded, covering it with his body. He was killed by the blast, but he had heroically saved the lives of his two fellow soldiers.

The fighting continued hot and heavy as the 442nd battled north along and near the western Italian coast. On 11 April, the city of Carrara was entered, although Italian partisans had already taken control.

Then, on 17 April, the 3rd Battalion tried to take Foedinova and Monte Nebbione and ran into fierce opposition. The 2nd Battalion then joined in the attack on the 19th. It was just north of Mte. Nebbione, near a village called Aulla, that another very courageous one-man action occurred by 1st Lieutenant Daniel Inouye (now senator from Hawaii), Company E, 3rd Battalion, on 20 April 1945.

He led one of the attacking units in a determined assault on enemy positions up a slope. In spite of serious wounds, the gallant lieutenant single-handedly destroyed 2 machine-gun nests with grenades. Suddenly, a German arose from only some 10 yards away and fired a rifle grenade which struck him in the right arm and shattered it. In spite of this grievous wound, he still managed to throw another grenade which killed this German, but then was hit in the thigh by machine-gun fire which knocked him down a slope. Somehow, Lt Inouye kept from bleeding to death, and was later awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

The village of Aulla fell on the same day, and the 442nd then began a mad dash up the Ligurian coast. Italian Bersaglieri troops were routed at San Terenze with 40 killed and 135 captured. By this time, enemy resistance in the western coastal area had just about collapsed. When the 442nd entered the city of Genoa, and later Torino (Turin), they found both cities under Italian partisan control.

The Germans finally surrendered in northern Italy on 2 May 1945. This was followed by extensive occupational duty in northern Italy, although a great many men in the 442nd were quickly rotated back home under the points system.

Altogether, 17,600 Japanese Americans had served in the Army. No one could have really

blamed any one of them if they had never served at all, in view of the way Japanese Americans were treated shortly after Pearl Harbor—the forced moves to internment camps, confiscation of their property (in some cases, even their homes were burned down), and other humiliations and losses. In spite of all of this, the younger generation of Japanese Americans went out of their way to show their patriotism for their country, which, at least in the beginning, had shunned them.

The 442nd Infantry Regiment was, for its size, the most decorated U.S. unit of World War II. General Ryder of the 34th Infantry Division said that the 442nd was the fightingest outfit he had ever known—and, no question about it, the 442nd was one of the truly great outfits of World War II.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—1
Distinguished Unit Citations—8 *
Distinguished Service Crosses—52
Silver Stars—560

Casualties: Total Battle Deaths—
Killed In Action—680
Wounded—
Missing—67
Captured—
Total Casualties—9,486

* One to the entire 442nd Infantry Regiment (minus the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion)—
Po Valley, Italy

Notes: In 1951 Hollywood made a feature-length movie about the 442nd titled "Go For Broke". Van Johnson starred in it, as well as several former members of the 442nd.

Many, many years later, in 1982, on the TV program "Real People", it was arranged to have a number of former members of the 442nd and some of the "lost battalion" they had rescued of the 36th Infantry Division, meet on the show. It was quite a moving reunion, and the Japanese Americans received a standing ovation from the audience.

473RD INFANTRY REGIMENT

(No shoulder patch authorized)

Activated—January 1945 in Italy

Inactivated—July 1945

Battle Credits, World War II: Northern Apennines Po Valley

Commanding Officers (During Combat, WW II):

Colonel Willis G. Cronk

January—February 1945

Colonel William P. Yarborough

February 1945—End of war

Combat Chronicle: The 473rd Infantry Regiment was made up of men largely from disbanded antiaircraft units who had fought in many of the previous bitter battles in Italy.

After combat training at Montecatini, the 473rd moved into the front line on the night of 15 February 1945. The sector was broad and thinly held on both sides of the line, was very rough and mountainous, and the situation was static. Opposing the 473rd were Italians from the 5th "San Marco" Marine Regiment, augmented by a few Germans with light artillery.

On 17 February, Colonel Bill Yarborough, famed paratrooper and former commander of the 509th Parachute Battalion in rugged southern Italy fighting, arrived to take command of the new regiment.

On 24 February, the 473rd moved into the Serchio Valley, scene of the late-December 1944 Italo-German attack against the 92nd (Black) Infantry Division, and the 473rd relieved two regiments of this division.

On 2 March 1945, a raid was launched against the Italians who held well-prepared positions along a ridge, and a number of men were killed in this action.

During the remainder of March, intensive patrol actions were conducted, and the men of the 473rd were amused at the number of Italians deserting to come over to the Allied side—around 350 in all, not counting prisoners taken.

Then, in early-April 1945, the 473rd participated in the preliminary attack along the west coast before the Allied main event took place on 9 April. For this assault, the 92nd Infantry Division had been reorganized into one white regiment (the 473rd), the excellent Japanese American 442nd Infantry Regiment, back from France, and the Black 370th Infantry Regiment.

The attack began on 5 April 1945. The enemy had excellent fields of fire with maximum observation. Artillery and mortar fire poured against the hillsides in thundering barrages and the enemy replied in kind. It was intense fighting almost all the way, but the attack still did well—in fact, all three regiments performed well. Massa was entered on 10 April amid the cheering populace, while all the time the enemy kept the entire area under artillery fire.

The 473rd fought forward and in 5 days several companies were reduced in strength to 2 rifle platoons by the fighting at Strettoria Hill and Frigido.

On 13 April, the 473rd closed with the defenses of the Gothic Line. Facing the 473rd were two regiments of the German 148th Infantry Division. This was bitter fighting of the kind that won the war in Italy—every movement brought torrents of fire from the Germans. It took bloody fighting to take Hill 366, and between 13-18 April, there were over 50 men killed and 200 wounded in the 473rd.

Patrols to Sarzana on the 20th found it strongly held, but there were signs that the enemy was beginning to crack. Motorized patrols took the lead in probing for the enemy. On 24 April, the 1st Battalion advanced through San Stefano without firing a shot, and seized the high ground above the town after crossing the Magra River. La Spezia, a large town, was soon entered and about 50 Italian marines who resisted were soon eliminated. On 27 April, the 473rd entered the city of Genoa, and engineered the surrender of nearly 3,000 enemy troops at Uscio and Ferrada northeast of the city.

Only the Monte Moro garrison held out, but after persuasive encouragements to surrender

by Major-General Almond, commander of the 92nd Division and by Colonel Yarborough, and plans for a combined air-sea-land assault on this strategic fortress hill, the arrogant German commander decided to give up. This brought the total POW bag of the 473rd to 11,553. Large quantities of enemy material, hundreds of weapons, and thousands of rounds of ammunition of all descriptions were inventoried.

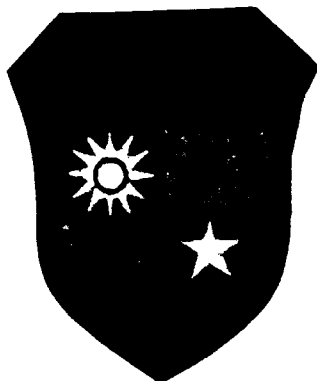
While the 1st Battalion garrisoned Genoa and the 2nd Battalion bivouacked in the city's outskirts, the 3rd Battalion guarded the POW stockade and Company K moved to Savona for garrison duty.

One month in the final all-out offensive in northern Italy had cost the regiment over 500 casualties, but it had inflicted probably three times that many on the enemy, not counting the prisoners it had taken.

In a short 7-month period of time, a fighting team was born, trained, fought in the decisive battle for victory in Italy, and was then disbanded so its men could be sent to finish the job in the Pacific of bringing peace to a war-weary world. Fortunately, this last move never proved necessary.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—0
Distinguished Unit Citations—0
Distinguished Service Crosses—1
Silver Stars—18

Casualties: Killed In Action—160
(No other exact casualty figures are available)



MERRILL'S MARAUDERS

Activated—3 October 1943

Inactivated—1 July 1945 in China

Battle Credits, World War II: Northern Burma

Commanding General (During Combat, WW II):
Brig-Gen Frank D. Merrill

Combat Chronicle: Merrill's Marauders, officially designated as the 5307th Composite Unit, was an all-volunteer force of originally 3,000 men. These men had received jungle training and were recruited from the Southwest Pacific and Caribbean areas. The call for volunteers stated it was for a hazardous mission of three months' duration with promise of real contact with the enemy. This promise of only three months was an exaggeration, but the part about contact with the enemy was very real. The force arrived in India in late-October 1943, and was then assigned to northern Burma under the code name "Galahad."

General Stilwell named Colonel (later Major-General) Frank D. Merrill as commander of the unit, and Colonel Charles Hunter, the original commander, remained to serve under Colonel Merrill.

Cocky and confident, the Marauders soon realized that they were to be General "Vinegar Joe" Stilwell's shock troops whose aggressive example was to encourage the Chinese troops in Burma to comparable aggressiveness.

The 5307th was dispatched by Stilwell to the Hukawng Valley in northern Burma with the eventual mission of taking the key city of Myitkyina.

Stilwell's strategy was proven sound. After a 60-mile trek through the jungle which took 8 days, the Marauders came out to meet their airdrop and seize the road at Walawbum on schedule, 3 March 1944. While Chinese forces attacked the Japanese defensive positions from the front, the Marauders had carried out a wide enveloping movement. This cut the Japanese line of communications at Walawbum, and the latter sustained heavy losses. However, the Marauders were heavily counterattacked the next day and fought a fierce 5-day battle alongside a Chinese regiment. Together, the two units killed 1,500 Japanese. Only by a rapid withdrawal and by skillful delaying actions was the Japanese 18th Division able to escape destruction.

Elated by this success, General Stilwell repeated this pattern with an even more sweeping envelopment to get behind the Japanese at Shaduzup in the hills separating the Hukawng and Mogaung Valleys. This involved an 85-mile jungle march to Kamaing, the central Japanese position in the Mogaung Valley. It rained 5 of the 6 days of this march.

After this grueling experience which included several skirmishes with the Japs to block the road behind the enemy at Inkangahtawng, about 20 miles above Kamaing, the Marauders were counterattacked and forced back to Nphum Ga. Here, they held off the Japs through 11 days of savage fighting. Then, threatened from behind by the advance of some Chinese troops plus the Marauders' 3rd Battalion, the Japanese were temporarily caught in a trap. But, in desperate fighting, 28 March-1 April, the Japanese succeeded in breaking out.

On 28 April 1944, the Marauders, accompanied by elements of the Chinese 30th Division, began a bold advance eastward from the Mogaung Valley over the high Kumon Mountains, some of which were over 6,000 feet above sea level. Using trails known only to their Kachin guides, the task force secretly made its way through country considered impassable to ordinary combat units. Arriving in the Irrawaddy Valley, the advance continued to Myitkyina where the main airfield was seized by a surprise attack on 17 May. Chinese reinforcements were promptly flown in, inspite of the airfield still being under small-arms fire.

By this time, the ravages of disease and combat exhaustion had taken their toll of the Marauders. Over half the men had already been evacuated, chiefly because of diseases such as malaria and dysentary, coupled with exhaustion. Out of the original 3,000 men only some 1,400 were now left. So far, they had covered around 300 miles, slipping and stumbling, battling jungle growth, struggling with fallen mules, waiting for airdropped supplies, eating cold K-rations, sleeping on wet ground, and suffering from the heat, hunger, fever, and thirst. There were also tigers, boa constrictors, deadly poisonous kraits, and, particularly troublesome and gruesome, the giant leeches which preyed on the men in the jungle. One Marauder summed up the feelings of most of the rest of the outfit when he said, "I'd rather get a bullet in the belly, than be eaten alive by the rotten, filthy vermin in this place."

On 18 May 1944, the Marauders and the Chinese opened the assault on Myitkyina, and the Japanese 18th Division resisted with the utmost skill and ferocity. The Japanese put up a very brave defense of Myitkyina, and the Marauders' attack bogged down.

As has been indicated, by this time the Marauders were about physically and sometimes mentally exhausted, with some of the men even going to sleep behind their weapons. Finally, after some very heavy and prolonged fighting, and a siege which lasted for 11 weeks, the Japanese, not in much better physical shape themselves, withdrew from Myitkyina on 3 August 1944.

In all, it had been a very successful operation for General Stilwell, except that he had hoped the Marauders would have been able to keep up the momentum longer. But it must be remembered that Burma is one of the roughest jungle/hill/valley—you name it—places in the world.

In the 11-week battle for Myitkyina, the Marauders lost 272 men killed and 955 wounded. The Japanese had some 3,000 men killed.

The Marauders were relieved by the excellent British 36th Infantry Division.

On 10 August 1944, the remainder of the Marauders were consolidated with the 475th Infantry Regiment. A little later, the 124th Cavalry Regiment (dismounted) arrived, and this unit, along with the 475th Infantry, was formed into the 532nd Brigade, operating under the code name of "Mars Task Force." This force took part in renewed operations in Burma in 1945.

Out of the original 3,000 Marauders, about 1,200 of them were left when the war with Japan ended on 15 August 1945.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—0
Distinguished Unit Citations—1 *

Casualties: No complete figures are available

* To the entire unit—Northern Burma

Note: No other awards are available

Footnote: It is known, however, that, altogether in Burma, U.S. forces lost 729 men.



RANGERS

Activated—19 June 1942

Battle Credits, World War II: Algeria Tunisia Sicily Southern Italy Anzio
 Normandy Siegfried Line Rhineland Central Europe
 New Guinea Leyte Luzon

Original Commander:

Colonel William O. Darby

Combat Chronicle: The Rangers were the most élite U.S. Army force of World War II, the American counterpart of the British Commandos.

The 20th century Rangers were raised after General Lucian K. Truscott had reported to the Chiefs of Staff on 26 May 1942 that there should be an immediate formation of an American force along Commando lines. President Roosevelt gave his support, and an appeal for "volunteers not averse to hazardous action" was answered by some 2,000 men stationed in Northern Ireland. After vigorous selection this number was whittled down to 500 on the initiation course at Carrickfergus on the coast north of Belfast. The 1st Ranger Battalion was formed on 19 June 1942. The 1st, 3rd, and 4th Ranger Battalions were the original Darby's Rangers. A few of the original Rangers participated in the Canadian raid on Dieppe, on the coast of northern France, in August 1942.

1st Ranger Battalion: As part of the Allied invasion of North Africa, 8 November 1942, the 1st landed in Algeria at Arzew some 30 miles west of Oran. Encountering sporadic resistance, the Rangers relatively easily accomplished their primary mission—the capture of two French forts dominating the approaches to the harbor.

In February 1943 the 1st Battalion moved into Tunisia, coming into close combat with German and Italian troops at Sened.

Shortly after, the Germans broke through the American lines at Kasserine Pass and the Rangers covered the withdrawal of the U.S. 2nd Corps under the fortunate cover of a heavy mist.

After the Kasserine Pass debacle, the 1st Battalion fought as straight-infantry for several weeks. A notable action was the routing of some Italian troops in the mountains east of El Guettar.

Although the war in Tunisia lasted until mid-May 1943, the Rangers were pulled out of the fighting on 27 March 1943.

In the invasion of Sicily, beginning on 10 July 1943, the 1st Battalion landed at Gela in support of the 1st Infantry Division. The Rangers held this town for 36 hours despite German and Italian tank-infantry attacks, and vitally contributed in saving the beachhead.

On D-plus 3 they and the 4th Ranger Battalion—Darby's force on Sicily—attacked the Monte Delta Lapa positions of the Italians which were supported by two batteries of heavy artillery. With tank support and bayonet charges, the Rangers cleared these defenses taking 600 prisoners, and next day making contact with the 3rd Infantry Division advancing on their left. Darby's Force became a self-contained unit on 13 July with the addition of 18 self-propelled guns. However, the old fortress mountain town of Butera was taken without a bombardment. A 50-man patrol gained the center of the town after outflanking road defenses and charging the old walled gate.

Three Ranger battalions, 1st, 3rd, and 4th, saw heavy action at the Salerno beachhead, 9-17 September 1943. In October these battalions were in the Allied line overlooking the Venafro valley area some 40 miles north from Naples. Some mountains changed hands several times while the Rangers were in the line 45 days, taking some 40 per cent casualties.

Reorganized for the Anzio landings, the 1st, 3rd, and 4th Battalions all came ashore in the cold early morning of 22 January 1944. They dug-in on the perimeter and from 25-28 January held the salient near the Carrocetto-Aprilia factory area. Relieved by British troops, 29 January, the Rangers marched through the night to positions for a spear-head attack to lead the U.S. 3rd Infantry Division's assault on Cisterna. Unknown to the Americans, the Germans had moved a crack division into Cisterna this very night.

By 0100 hours in the early morning darkness of 31 January, the 1st and 3rd Battalions were through the German lines as planned after disposing a number of sentries.

Sometime after 0200 hours, the 4th Ranger Battalion, which was supposed to follow-up the attack, was somehow detected and fired upon by a single machine-gun. Then the 4th was caught in a cross-fire.

While this was occurring, the 1st and 3rd Battalions inched their way along a drainage ditch in a long single-file and shot their way through several forward enemy positions. However, by now, all element of surprise had been lost. Still, as daylight broke, the Rangers attempted to race across the several hundred yards left to reach Cisterna, but the Germans and also some Italian Fascist troops were ready and waiting and the Rangers were caught in murderous fire. They fought valiantly but had little chance caught out in the open. About midday German tanks overran the Rangers who had not already been killed and captured over 500 of them.

Valiant efforts were made to save the 1st and 3rd Battalions. The 4th Rangers made a gallant try to get through but were forced to fall back after suffering heavy casualties. And the 3rd Infantry Division fought on past Isola Bella to within 1,000 yards of the Rangers but then was also forced back after taking very heavy losses. There were just too many Germans with too many tanks.

Colonel Bill Darby was deeply sorrowed by the loss of these two élite battalions. But he soon reformed what was left of the 4th Battalion, which had suffered 50 per cent casualties, and carried on. Figures have varied, but according to the Rangers, out of 767 men, in the 1st and 3rd Battalions 60 per cent of them were killed or wounded (not 500 captured) and only 18 men escaped capture to return safely back to friendly lines. The 1st and 3rd Ranger Battalions were never reconstituted.

2nd Ranger Battalion:

Activated--In the United States in April 1943

Commander--Lt Colonel James Rudder

The 2nd Ranger Battalion completed its training in the States in November 1943, having established a U.S. Army record of 15 miles in a 2-hour speed march. It crossed the Atlantic on the liner Queen Elizabeth, and was based in extreme southwest England (Cornwall). After spending some time on the Isle of Wight, and then completing their cliff-climbing exercises in Dorset, the 2nd sailed for Normandy on 5 June 1944.

On D-Day, 6 June 1944, the 2nd Rangers, in a very courageous and skillful action, assaulted the Pointe du Hoc cliffs. This area was to the west of Omaha Beach. These cliffs were climbed with difficulty since the rocket fired scaling ropes had become waterlogged. The companies drove the enemy from his forward positions and established a perimeter for aggressive patrolling. D Company on the right, E in the center, and F on the left set up a semi-circle of defensive positions, and destroyed 4 unmounted 155mm guns before accurate 88mm fire stopped any movement in the forward positions. German counterattacks were repulsed.

Before dawn on 7 June, the second of two strong German attacks overran D Company, and the rest of the battalion fell back to its reserve positions. Naval gunfire and accurate small-arms fire from the Rangers broke up further enemy attacks during the rest of the day. That evening strong patrols went out to successfully destroy an ammunition dump and a German observation post. On 8 June, when the Rangers were relieved, they were down virtually to the strength of single Sections, E Company having only one officer and 19 enlisted men left.

Replacements were trained during July and August before the battalion's next mission: protecting the U.S. 29th Infantry Division's right flank in the assault on the fortress city of Brest in extreme western Brittany. This large pocket of Germans included their crack 2nd Parachute Division and the 343rd Infantry Division. The Germans made good use

of their long-established defenses. In two days of hard fighting, the 2nd Ranger Battalion advanced some 1,000 yards by 5 September 1944, but then came under heavy artillery fire for several days before reaching the Lochrist (Graf Spee) battery on 8 September. The next day Lt Colonel Rudder led his 2nd Rangers in a successful attack, the battalion securing the battery by mid-day. 1,800 prisoners were taken at the battery and in mopping up Le Conquet Peninsula. In difficult, tedious, and bloody fighting the port of Brest finally fell on 18 September 1944. Some 35,000 Germans went into captivity, but the 39-day battle cost the 2nd, 8th, and 29th Infantry Divisions, the 2nd Ranger Battalion, and the French Forces of the Interior (FFI) some 10,000 casualties in killed and wounded. Besides this, the Germans had totally wrecked the harbor facilities, making them useless to the Allies for several months to come.

After a rest, the 2nd Battalion moved east to Paris and on through northern France into Luxembourg. Moved further north, by 6 December 1944, the 2nd was camped deep inside the grim Hürtgen Forest. Snow had fallen earlier that day, but their log huts were warm if dimly lit by number 10 can heaters filled with dirt soaked in oil.

That evening the battalion prepared for an assault on a hill mass beyond the towns of Brandenburg and Bergstein. Several units had failed to capture this high ground overlooking the Germans at Schmidt and the Roer River dams.

E Company opened the road to the hill at 0730, and D and F Companies passed through to seize the hill by 0830. Withering fire pinned down all three companies who had lost half their strength by 1100 hours, before a slight easing in the bombardment enabled them to improve their positions. E Company went forward to reinforce the men on the hill, and that following morning a second major enemy attack was repulsed. Evacuating the wounded to a forward aid station at a church was difficult—some wounded men had lain on the hill all night—but this task was at last completed when American artillery fire cut the road with the German attacks dying away.

The battle reopened in the afternoon when for 3 hours German 88mm and self-propelled guns and 150 infantrymen tried to retake the hill, getting within 100 yards of the aid-post church. Their last attack was stopped by artillery, although General Model had offered special awards to any unit able to retake this hill. The Rangers held on until relieved on 9 December 1944. During this action they had helped support the 5th Armored Division.

In subsequent actions in the Hürtgen Forest area and on the approaches to the Roer, the 2nd Ranger Battalion also supported the 8th and 78th Infantry Divisions.

In the spring of 1945, the 2nd Ranger Battalion, advancing along the same route as the 2nd Infantry Division, moved through central Germany against mostly ineffectual resistance along this zone of attack—via Göttingen, Merseburg, and Leipzig, to the Mulde River, and when the war in Europe ended was in Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, along with the 2nd Infantry and 16th Armored Divisions.

3rd Ranger Battalion:

Activated—From volunteers around a nucleus of the 1st Ranger Battalion

Commander—Major Herman W. Danner

The 3rd Ranger Battalion served on Sicily and also in Italy with the 1st and 4th Ranger Battalions. (For the main actions of the 3rd Rangers, see 1st Ranger Battalion).

4th Ranger Battalion:

Activated—29 May 1943

Commander—Lt Colonel Roy Murray

The 4th Ranger Battalion landed at Gela, Sicily, 10 July 1943 along with the 1st Ranger Battalion, helping to beat back strong enemy counterattacks at the beachhead.

At the Anzio beachhead, Italy, in late-January 1944, the 4th Rangers attempted to break through to the trapped 1st and 3rd Ranger Battalions near Cisterna. But they were checked by murderous machine-gun fire. Then A and B Companies put in an attack to the west of the road leading to Cisterna, but were again held up by heavy machine-gun fire. E Company managed to take two enemy positions and some houses overlooking other Germans 150 yards away. Although they were within 200 yards of the last German defenses between them and the 1st and 3rd Battalions, they couldn't break through. Still, with the support of E Company's machine-guns, C and F Companies got along the ditch east of the road and, by mid-day had

taken buildings on both sides of the road in fierce fighting. Mines lying on top of the road were quickly cleared, and fire from half-tracks prevented the enemy from leaving the ditches and buildings beyond the American advance.

Altogether, in this action, the 4th Ranger Battalion had 60 men killed and 120 wounded, with 5 company commanders being killed.

The remainder of the 4th Battalion fought on at the Anzio beachhead for 60 more days. After leaving Anzio the 4th Ranger Battalion was disbanded.

5th Ranger Battalion:

Activated—1 September 1943 at Camp Forrest, Tennessee

Commander—Major Max F. Schneider

The 5th Ranger Battalion arrived in the United Kingdom in March 1944. Once there, it trained first in Scotland and then in Devonshire, England.

The 5th landed in Normandy on D-Day, 6 June 1944, near Vierville which is east of Pointe du Hoc, and suffered about 60 casualties. On the night of 7 June, contact was made by field telephone with the 2nd Rangers at Pointe du Hoc. On D-plus 2 the 5th relieved the 2nd Ranger Battalion at the Pointe. On 10 June, the 5th Battalion took the coastal defenses from Grandchamp les Baines to Isigny, meeting little resistance. For their actions at the Normandy beachhead the 5th Ranger Battalion was awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation.

In the battle for Brest, Brittany, the 5th captured Le Conquet in a 2-hour assault and La Mon Blanche with less opposition.

On 17 September 1944, attacking pillboxes defending Fort du Portzic, a 40-pound charge failed to break open a steel and concrete strongpoint. So that night an 11-man patrol placed 2 forty pound and 2 fifty pound charges of C-2 explosive on the concrete and covered these charges with 20 gallons of gasoline-oil mix. The flaming pyre burned for 40 minutes. The Germans then placed machine-guns around other posts to prevent further demolitions, but they were demoralized by the great explosion and surrendered the next day.

During October-November 1944, the battalion provided the security guard for 12th Army Group's headquarters in Belgium.

In December 1944 the 5th Rangers were attached to the 6th Cavalry Group of Patton's 3rd Army which was fighting into the Saar. Many individual companies worked in close support of the tankers.

Then, from 9 February to 11 March 1945, the 5th was attached to the 94th Infantry Division during the difficult fighting in the Saar-Moselle Triangle. The Rangers took over an 11,000 yard (10 kilometers) front near Wehingen and attacked northwest toward Oberleuken across an anti-tank ditch. Company F found itself in an electrically controlled minefield and under heavy enfilade machine-gun and mortar fire, but was extracted by the other companies' assaults.

Somewhat later the Rangers held defensive positions in and around some houses 1300 yards from the Irsch-Zerf road. Two strong counterattacks were held off even though the Germans had two supporting tanks. The 294th Field Artillery provided invaluable support by greatly helping to break up further attacks by the 136th Regiment of the Austrian 2nd Mountain Division.

On 28 February, the Rangers attacked the high ground to the south, being checked once on its heavily wooded slopes by rockets. The battalion was forced to stop near the top of this hill mass, and that night over 1,100 rockets and artillery shells fell on its positions. In spite of all this, the Rangers held on, thus easing the passageway for some American armor to break through. The battalion was finally relieved on 3 March, some 9 days after it had set out on this infiltration mission.

In April 1945, as part of the 3rd Army's advance through central Germany, on General Patton's orders, the 5th Rangers took some 1,000 Germans to look at the notorious concentration camp at Buchenwald in the province of Thuringia. After this bitter, eye-opening experience, the Rangers were shifted further south, but still under Patton's 3rd Army.

On 21 April, now in Bavaria, they rode on the tanks of the 3rd Cavalry Group and captured a bridge across the Danube River against minor resistance.

By V-E Day, 8 May 1945, the Rangers were in Ried, Austria. The 5th Ranger Battalion was disbanded that following month.

6th Ranger Battalion:

Activated—Formed from the 98th Field Artillery Battalion on 20 August 1944 in New Guinea

Commander—Colonel Henry A. Mucci

The 6th Ranger Battalion was the only Ranger battalion which fought in the Pacific. The 6th Rangers participated in the initial American return to the Philippines. Companies landed on the small islands of Dinagat, Homonhon, and Suluan, 17-18 October 1944, a few days before the U.S. 6th Army landed on the large island of Leyte which was nearby. The Rangers destroyed Japanese radar and observation posts, and looked for plans which might show that land-fired sea mines were expected in Leyte Gulf. However, no such mines were discovered.

When the Japanese battleship Yamashiro was lost with almost all of her crew in an action with U.S. battleships, some of her crew managed to struggle ashore near the village of Loreto. Company C was stationed near here to prevent Japanese reinforcements from joining their garrison on Dinagat which had taken to the hills. The company spent two days rounding up these shipwrecked sailors, many of whom, once ashore, were armed and ready to fight. Some escaped into the jungle, but 10 were captured. While they were being shipped to Leyte, 2 Japanese planes attacked the LCI transport and almost half the crew were killed or wounded.

The weather in the Philippines was continually wet through October 1944 when the 6th Battalion was patrolling from Loreto. The men were supplied by dugout canoes sailing from the original beachhead. Patrolling through deep swamps in heavy jungle, and on steep mountainsides, led to most of the men having skin infected with fungus, and many of them had worn through the soles of their boots. However, fresh ten-in-one rations and fresh medical supplies were parachuted in during the first part of November.

During the last half of November 1944, the 6th Rangers guarded the U.S. 6th Army Headquarters on Leyte, and later guarded a Seabee naval construction force building an airstrip at Tanauan.

On 9 January 1945, the U.S. 6th Army landed at Lingayen Gulf, Luzon. The Rangers were soon put ashore and set up a perimeter defense for the 6th Infantry Division.

Soon the 6th Army units were battling into the central Luzon plain and south toward Manila, having furious and heavy battles with large forces of Japanese.

The 6th Ranger Battalion was placed on the eastern flank of the advance southward, when it was discovered that the Japanese were holding a large group of Americans captive at a prison camp at Cabanatuan in the central Luzon plain.

A very bold plan was put into effect and successfully executed. Each man in this daring night raid on the camp even knew the exact building he was to attack. With the help of Filipino guerrilla units protecting their flanks, the Rangers struck swiftly, overpowering the Jap guards and quickly releasing the captives. The raid was completed in 30 minutes. Had any one group of Rangers failed in their part of the mission, the Japs could have killed their prisoners, or most of them, in moments. Ranger losses were almost negligible, as were the losses of the prisoners they rescued. For this valiant action their commanding officer, Colonel Henry A. Mucci, received the Distinguished Service Cross, every officer was awarded the Silver Star, and every enlisted man got the Bronze Star.

In the spring of 1945, B Company, as part of an ad hoc force called "Task Force Connolly," made a very lengthy reconnaissance in force all the way up the western coast of Luzon (from a point north of Lingayen Gulf). The sizeable towns of Laoag and Vigan were captured with this force meeting, mostly, scattered and ineffectual opposition, since the larger Japanese forces were located further inland in the mountains of the Cordillera Central. Upon reaching the northwestern coast of Luzon, this force turned east and eventually reached Aparri, preparing a landing zone for the 511th Parachute Regiment, 11th Airborne Division which dropped into this area on 23 June 1945. This trek had taken 28 days and covered 250 miles.

The 6th Ranger Battalion was disbanded in Kyoto, Japan, on 30 December 1945.

Honors :

Casualties:

No awards or complete casualty figures are available for the Rangers. However, the following killed in action figures are available for some of the battalions:

	KIA
1st Ranger Battalion	92
2nd Ranger Battalion	Unavailable
3rd Ranger Battalion	42
4th Ranger Battalion	140 (the minimum)
5th Ranger Battalion	117 (complete figure)
6th Ranger Battalion	Unavailable

The KIA's of the 1st and 3rd Battalions do not include those suffered in the Anzio beachhead ambush near Cisterna, Italy, in late-January 1944.

Notes: In one of the more individual hard-luck ironies of the war, Colonel William O. Darby who had first organized and then trained the original Rangers into one of the toughest combat organizations of World War II, was killed in Italy on 1 May 1945—one day before the Germans surrendered in Italy. He had wanted to still be where the action was, and was up front with the famous 10th Mountain Division as it advanced into the Alps around Lake Garda in northern Italy. He was killed by a burst from a mortar shell—not yet having reached his 35th birthday.

The U.S. Rangers are still very much in existence, as of this writing (13 May 1984), with headquarters at Fort Benning, Georgia. In the autumn of 1983 Ranger troops took part in the invasion of the island of Grenada in the Caribbean West Indies.

Footnote: In spite of Ranger claims, the figure of around 500 men captured in the ambush near Cisterna, Italy, may well be correct. Not long after this battle, the Germans marched a large group of captured Rangers through the streets of Rome.



1ST SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE "The Devil's Brigade"

Activated—5 July 1942

Inactivated—5 December 1944 in southern France

Battle Credits, World War II: Southern Italy Anzio Southern France

Commanding General In World War II:

Brig-Gen Robert T. Frederick

July 1942—December 1944

Combat Chronicle: The 1st Special Service Force was a unique and very élite outfit of World War II. A mixed U.S.-Canadian unit, the Force rarely numbered more than 1,600 combat men at any one time. Yet, in its brief history, it had many times that number of casualties. Hundreds died in battles which are now only brief historical footnotes, but, at the time, represented major gains for the nations arrayed against the Axis. There never was an outfit quite like it. Trained for anything, including extensive hand-to-hand combat, and with a commander they idolized who was handsome enough to be a Hollywood actor and was whip-cord tough, these wild fighting men did everything from conquering "unconquerable" mountain strongholds, to smuggling in ladies of pleasure under the MP's noses.

Many men who made up the 1st Special Service Force had been in the stockade for various offenses, and were given the option of continuing their sentences or joining the Force. However, contrary to popular belief, the majority of the Forcemen were not felons. There were ex-college men, teachers, farmers, construction workers, and former guards of movie actors and politicians, among others.

The Force's headquarters was set-up in Helena, Montana, and the Force trained at Fort Harrison.

In late-October 1943, the 1st Special Service Force sailed to Casablanca, Morocco, arriving there on 5 November. After moving on to Oran, Algeria, the Force arrived in Naples, Italy, on 17 November.

The Force was assigned the extremely difficult task of capturing two formidable mountains called Monte la Difensa and Monte la Remetanea in the German Winter Line, just south of Cassino. The Force was assigned to the 36th Infantry Division for "Operation Raincoat", aptly named because of the unusually inclement weather.

In early-December 1943, the attack jumped off. The German troops, among the best in their entire army, thought these two mountain masses to be all but impregnable, but the 1st Special Service Force took both in some of the toughest fighting in southern Italy.

The Germans soon realized that they were up against an élite force. Next, came Monte Sammucro and the Monte Maio Range. In one hour of savage fighting, the ridge at the peak of Sammucro was taken. The Germans launched several vicious counterattacks, but were beaten back. The 1st Regiment of the Force remained under heavy shell fire throughout Christmas Day 1943. At Monte Maio, the 3rd Regiment held through almost 3 days of sustained counterattacks. After these battles, out of 1,800 men, some 1,400 were either dead or in the hospital as casualties. The Force was renewed to a strength of approximately 2,300 men by replacements and the return of some of its men from the hospitals.

Then the Force was transferred to the Anzio beachhead. It is a matter of record that it

was given twice as much front to hold as the entire 3rd Infantry Division—and the 3rd was considered one of the best divisions in the entire U.S. Army. However, the Mussolini Canal helped aid the Force in its defense of the eastern flank of the beachhead. Opposing it were two crack outfits—part of the Hermann Göring Panzer Division and the 16th SS Panzer Grenadier Division.

Within a week, the aggressiveness of Force patrols had caused the Germans to pull back almost a half a mile. The tenseness of combat was present, alright, but the freezing discomfort of the mountain fighting was gone. However, the Force was heavily shelled by German artillery.

It was during this period that the Force got the name from the Germans, "The Black Devil's Brigade." A diary was found on the body of a German lieutenant, an officer in the Hermann Göring Division. In it, was written, "The Black Devils are all around us every time we come into the line, and we never hear them come." A German prisoner had on him a German directive stating, "You are fighting an élite Canadian-American Force. They are treacherous, unmerciful, and clever. You cannot afford to relax. The first soldier or group of soldiers capturing one of these men will be given a 10-day furlough."

The hardest blow of the German offensive at Anzio in mid-February 1944, didn't fall on the Forces' sector. Nevertheless, it had its share of casualties, while holding its ground.

On 23 May 1944, the breakout at the beachhead began, and the Force suffered heavy casualties as it almost recklessly raced into the German lines, ahead of most of the other U.S. outfits. By 25 May, the Force had taken Monte Arrestina, and two days later Rocca Massina. Meanwhile, the 1st Armored and 3rd Infantry Divisions had punched a wide hole in the German lines.

The next objective for the Force was Valmontone. But near there, the Germans momentarily stopped falling back, and lashed back with a heavy artillery barrage and a series of counterattacks. The Germans also had heavy and medium tanks, and their lethal 88mm guns caused heavy losses in the Force. Finally, on the early morning of 4 June 1944, elements of the Force entered Rome, among the first U.S. troops to do so. The men were almost completely spent, and given a well-deserved rest and recuperation.

After this, the 1st Special Service Force was elected to help launch the invasion of southern France. But the Force didn't initially land on the mainland. It was assigned to capture the Hyères Islands, off the southern coast. It was almost like right out of an Errol Flynn movie as the men attacked the forts on these islands. But the Force lost many good men before these islands were secured by 16 August 1944.

After the fall of the Hyères Islands, the "Devil's Brigade" was moved to the mainland, advancing from the Riviera coast to positions along the French-Italian border. Resistance was moderate with numerous roadblocks and delaying actions being encountered.

While extensive patrolling was done along the border, the men had access to leaves in Nice, Cannes, and Menton—light years away from the freezing cold of the mountains of Italy.

Then, on 28 November 1944, the Force was pulled back to Villeneuve-Loubet on the coast between Cannes and Nice. The top brass figured that the day for a need of a small, élite force had passed, and that corps and divisions were to make up the downfall of Nazi Germany.

On 5 December 1944, the Force had its final parade. For an outfit that had prided itself on lack of sentimental or emotional displays, the farewell occasion was a highly moving one, and many of the men wept including General Frederick.

The remnants of the Force were put in with the 474th Infantry Regiment, General Frederick was given command of the 45th Infantry Division, and the 1st Special Service Force passed into history.

Honors: No award figures are available.

Total Battle Deaths	—449
Killed In Action	—419
Wounded	—1,800 *
Missing	—38
Captured	—4
Total Casualties	—2,300 *

Approximate figure *



1ST AIR FORCE

Activated—18 December 1940 at Mitchel Field, New York
Covering the northeastern part of the United States and nearby oceanic area—saw extensive patrolling against German submarines.



2ND AIR FORCE

Activated—18 December 1940 at McChord Field, Washington
Covering the western United States



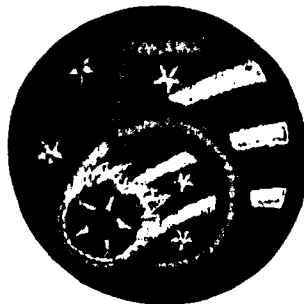
3RD AIR FORCE

Activated—18 December 1940 at MacDill Field, Tampa, Florida
Covering the southern United States and the Gulf of Mexico—
flew over 1,000 antisubmarine patrol sorties.



4TH AIR FORCE

Activated—18 December 1940 at March Field, California
Responsible for the coastal defense of the western United States
After September 1943, it assumed mostly training assignments.



5TH AIR FORCE

Activated—20 September 1941 at Nichols Field, Luzon,
as the Philippine Department Air Force

16 November 1941—Redesignated the Far East Air Force

18 September 1942—Redesignated the Fifth Air Force

Battle Area, World War II: The Southwest Pacific

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Ma.j-Gen Lewis H. Brereton

Lt-Gen George H. Brett

Lt-Gen George C. Kenney

Lt-Gen Ennis C. Whitehead

16 November 1941-18 January 1942

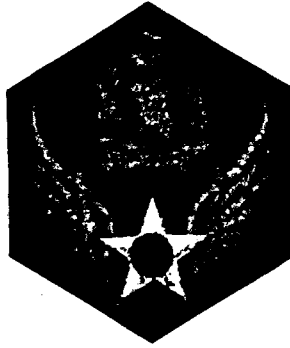
23 February 1942-4 August 1942

3 September 1942-15 June 1944

15 June 1944-29 December 1945

Operational Notes: Operating against the Japanese in the Southwest Pacific, the 5th Air Force made a total of 415,979 sorties, dropped 232,496 tons of bombs, claimed 6,298 enemy planes destroyed, and lost 2,494 aircraft due to enemy action. The 5th Air Forces' combat experiences included: Delaying actions in the Philippines and Dutch East Indies—Defensive action in Australia and the Battle of the Coral Sea, all in the winter to summer, 1942—The Papuan Offensive, Southeast New Guinea, with the transport of some 15,000 Army troops including the majority of the U.S. 32nd Infantry Division over the Owen Stanley Mountain Range in mid-September 1942, and subsequent supply by air—An attack upon a Japanese convoy in the Bismarck Sea and upon targets in the Bismarck Archipelago—Supporting action in the Northern New Guinea campaign, spring-summer 1944—Supporting action in the Palau Islands and Morotai invasions, September-December 1944—Bombing of the Celebes and Ceram areas and the oil center at Balikpapan, eastern Borneo—Reduction of the Philippines, October 1944-into 1945—The neutralization of Formosa, spring 1945—Air strikes against the coast of China, 1945—and, finally, Attacks on Kyushu, flown from bases on Okinawa, spring-summer 1945.

No awards or casualties available.



6TH AIR FORCE

Activated—20 November 1940 at Albrook Field, Canal Zone
as the Panama Canal Air Force

5 August 1941—Redesignated the Caribbean Air Force

5 February 1942—Redesignated the 6th Air Force

Battle Area, World War II: Caribbean Air Command

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Davenport Johnson

Maj-Gen Hubert R. Harmon

Brig-Gen Ralph H. Wooten

Brig-Gen Edgar P. Sorenson

Maj-Gen William O. Butler

19 September 1941-23 November 1942

23 November 1942-8 November 1943

8 November 1943-16 May 1944

16 May 1944-September 1944

21 September 1944-24 July 1945

Operational Notes: The primary mission of the 6th Air Force in World War II was the defense of the Panama Canal against enemy air attacks. Continuing patrols begun by its predecessors months before the time of Pearl Harbor, the 6th flew thousands of operational hours in keeping watch over the Isthmus of Panama and the vast expanses of water and jungle that constitute approaches to the canal.

In operations co-ordinated with those of the AAF Antisubmarine Command and the Antilles Air Command, it participated in antisubmarine search and attack missions during the critical period of the German U-boat menace in the Caribbean.

Its units engaged in numerous reconnaissance and photographic sorties in connection with establishment of new bases in Central and South America, and gave protection to the southern air transport route.

Before the end of 1942, the 6th Air Force also undertook a program of training designed originally to meet its own needs only. As danger to the Canal became less acute, this work was gradually expanded to include operational training for crews destined to serve in other theaters.

No awards or casualties available.



7TH AIR FORCE

Activated—1 November 1940 at Fort Shafter, Hawaii

5 February 1942—Redesignated the 7th Air Force

Battle Area, World War II: Central Pacific

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Frederick L. Martin	2 November 1940-18 December 1941
Maj-Gen Clarence L. Tinker	18 December 1941-7 June 1942
Maj-Gen Howard C. Davidson	9 June 1942-20 June 1942
Maj-Gen Willis H. Hale	20 June 1942-15 April 1944
Maj-Gen Robert W. Douglass, Jr.	15 April 1944-24 June 1945
Maj-Gen Thomas D. White	24 June 1945-18 October 1946

Operational Notes: Operating against the Japanese in the Central Pacific, the 7th Air Force made a total of 59,101 sorties, dropped 32,733 tons of bombs, claimed the destruction of 794 enemy airplanes, and lost 378 aircraft due to enemy action. Its combat experience included participation in the Battle of Midway, Guadalcanal, Gilbert and Marshall Islands, attacks upon Truk, Woleai, and other objectives in the Caroline Group, and neutralization of Wake Island.

Although having little part in preliminary operations against the Marianas, 7th Air Force fighters and bombers moved to Saipan soon after the capture of that island, providing air defense, support for ground operations, and cover for the invasions of Tinian and Guam. The 7th also mined anchorages in the Bonin Islands, operated from the Palau Islands against targets in the Philippines, and from Iwo Jima, after its capitulation, escorted B-29s on missions to the Japanese home islands.

Shortly after the invasion of Okinawa, units of the 7th moved in to assist ground forces in overcoming Japanese resistance, and they took part in tactical isolation of the island of Kyushu.

No awards or casualties available.



8TH AIR FORCE

Activated—28 January 1942 at Savannah, Georgia

Battle Area, World War II: Europe

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Brig-Gen Asa N. Duncan	28 January 1942-5 May 1942
Lt-Gen Carl A. Spaatz	5 May 1942-1 December 1942
Lt-Gen Ira C. Eaker	1 December 1942-6 January 1944
Lt-Gen James H. Doolittle	6 January 1944-10 May 1945

Operational Notes: The 8th Air Force was the daylight precision-bombing force in a combined Anglo-American air assault against Germany. In successive phases of the offensive begun in 1942, its objectives were submarine yards and pens, aircraft industries, transportation, oil plants, and other critical war industries.

Although predominantly strategic in character, the 8th Air Force repeatedly employed its striking power to attack tactical targets in operations co-ordinated with ground armies, such as advances in Normandy after D-Day and in the Battle of the Bulge. In addition, it engaged in a large number of special missions—leaflet-dropping, supply of partisan groups, and repatriation of displaced persons and prisoners of war.

By February 1943, a system was undertaken where the British would bomb Germany by night, and the Americans by day—an almost "around the clock" bombing.

At peak strength, the 8th included 40½ heavy bombardment, 15 fighter, and 2 photo reconnaissance groups—an organization capable of dispatching in a single mission (Christmas Eve 1944) more than 2,000 heavy bombers and almost 1,000 fighters, carrying 21,000 men.

The 8th Air Force claimed the destruction of 20,419 enemy aircraft and, on its 1,034,052 flights (332,904 by heavy bombers), consumed a total of 1,155,412,000 gallons of gasoline.

Transferred to the Pacific in the summer of 1945, the 8th established headquarters on Okinawa, but had little opportunity to engage in combat before V-J Day, 14 August 1945.

The major and heaviest or most important bombing attacks and other actions of the 8th and 9th Air Forces over Europe:

15 April 1942—Raid on Cherbourg, Normandy, France

17 August 1942—Raid on Rouen, France, against marshalling yards area. Twelve B-17s participated and none were lost. This was the 8th Air Force's first attack of the war.

27 January 1943—Attack on Wilhelmshaven, northern Germany. First U.S. air strike of the war on German soil.

5 April 1943—Heavy raid on Antwerp, Belgium, causing heavy damage.

13 June 1943—60 B-17 bombers attacked the submarine shipyards at Kiel, in north Germany, and 22 planes are shot down.

22 June 1943—First big daylight bombing raid by the 8th Air Force—a successful attack on a synthetic rubber factory at Hüls, in the Ruhr, putting it temporarily out of action.

24 July 1943—167 bombers drop 400 tons of bombs on industrial targets at Heroya, Norway, while 41 other B-17s bomb German naval installations at Trondheim.

1 August 1943—177 B-24 Liberator bombers from the 9th Air Force drop 311 tons of bombs on the huge oil refineries at Ploesti, Rumania. The attack puts 40% of the refining plant out of commission, but the Americans suffer very heavy losses—54 bombers and 532 airmen.

17 August 1943—Attack on the Messerschmitt fighter-aircraft factories at Schweinfurt and Regensburg, Germany. 60 planes are shot down by flak and the German fighter-planes. However, a new tactic is used. Instead of returning to England, the planes continue on to land in Egypt.

27 August 1943—187 B-17 Flying Fortresses bomb Witten, a large town in the Ruhr.

22 September 1943—Raid on ~~E~~den, on the northwest coast of Germany where there are submarine pens.

8 October 1943—357 bombers of the 8th Air Force carry out a massive raid on Bremen and Vegesack, northwest Germany, but incur heavy losses.

14 October 1943—Second raid on Schweinfurt, this time on the vital ball-bearing plants. 290 bombers take part, and 60 are shot down and 138 more damaged. Only a moderate amount of damage is inflicted. U.S. attacks on this scale are temporarily halted due to the heavy losses sustained.

3 November 1943—A daylight raid by 500 aircraft devastates the harbor at Wilhelmshaven. Many U-boat pens are destroyed.

5 December 1943—The 9th Air Force opens "Operation Crossbow" against the bases where the Germans are experimenting with secret weapons.

13 December 1943—Attack on Kiel by 710 bombers.

4 January 1944—U.S. and R.A.F. airplanes begin dropping arms and supplies to French, Belgian, Dutch, and Italian partisan formations under the code name "Carpetbagger".

12 January 1944—"Operation Pointblank" gets underway, a strategic air offensive against the German aeronautical industry. Some 650 bombers attack factories in Braunschweig (Brunswick), Halberstadt, and Oschersleben (all in north-central Germany). Losses are again heavy—60 planes.

29 January 1944—800 bombers make a massive attack on the industrial center of Frankfurt.

4 March 1944—First 8th Air Force attack on Berlin. (The Royal Air Force also attacked Berlin in this same period). A large ball-bearing works is temporarily put out of action.

12 May 1944—Along with the 15th Air Force, the 8th Air Force resumes attacks on not only the oil refineries in Rumania, but on all other German oil refineries.

Spring 1944—Bombing of selected target areas in France—preparation of Normandy invasion.

21 June 1944—Major raid on Berlin by 1,000 bombers and 1,200 fighters. The planes then continued on eastward and landed in Russia.

22 June 1944—9th Air Force tactical raid on Cherbourg, Normandy, with 1,000 bombers. Support of subsequent American ground attack.

21 July 1944—Raids on German airfields in Rumania.

Late-July 1944—A highly risky, high-level saturating "carpet bombing" (the danger of hitting friendly troops) of German-held positions in Normandy, in preparation for a major American ground offensive. There were some U.S. casualties, notably in the 30th Infantry Division, including Major-General Leslie McNair who was killed. However, whole German platoons and companies were wiped out, and many tanks and hundreds of other vehicles were destroyed.

11 December 1944—Around 1,600 Flying Fortresses, the largest U.S. force yet sent over Germany, blasts Frankfurt, Hanau, and Giessen.

February 1945—The destruction of the city of Dresden, Germany, a highly controversial—and useless and tragic action. At this time, the city had little, if any, strategic importance. The bulk of the bombing was done by the British R.A.F., but some 400 U.S. planes also participated. To make the bombing even more tragic, the city was overflowing with refugees from the eastern provinces of Germany who were fleeing the oncoming Russians, and so, the casualties were terrible—as high as 110,000 people may have perished! Just 8 Allied planes were shot down.

Note: In July 1943, a large part of Hamburg was destroyed by the R.A.F. with great loss of life.

26 February 1945—1,000 bomber raid on Berlin.

Note: Some of the 9th Air Force attacks have been included in this article for the sake of convenience.

Also, there were other American bombing raids over France and central Europe, some of which were carried out by the 15th Air Force.

The British Royal Air Force (R.A.F.), besides repeated night bombings of Berlin and the attacks on Hamburg and Dresden, carried out numerous raids on the Ruhr industrial complex including the cities of Essen, Duisburg, Dortmund, and Wuppertal, plus others. Besides this, the British also bombed Cologne, including a 1,000 bomber attack, and many other major German cities including Düsseldorf, Mannheim, Ludwigshafen, Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Munich, Augsburg, Nuremberg, Friedrichshafen, Kassel, Lübeck, and Stettin, and also the Eder-Möhne Dams, and the German V-1 and V-2 "buzz bomb" (rocket) bases at Peenemünde, on the Baltic. The Italian cities of Naples, Milano, Genoa, and Torino (Turin) were also bombed prior to the Italian surrender in September 1943.

No awards or casualty figures are available other than those listed within this article.



9TH AIR FORCE

Activated—2 September 1941 at Bowman Field, Kentucky,
as the 5th Air Support Command

8 April 1942—Redesignated the 9th Air Force

Battle Area, World War II: Mediterranean Area Europe

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Lt-Gen Lewis H. Brereton

28 June 1942-2 August 1944

Lt-Gen Hoyt S. Vandenberg

2 August 1944-23 May 1945

Operational Notes: Arriving in the Middle East when Rommel's armies stood before El Alamein, the 9th Air Force and its predecessor, the United States Army Middle East Air Force, concentrated on disruption of enemy supply lines in the eastern Mediterranean and co-operated with the British 8th Army in driving the Axis forces across North Africa. As the campaign moved westward, its heavy bomber attacks were extended to targets in Tunisia, Italy, and Sicily.

Reorganized in the United Kingdom, 16 October 1943, as the tactical arm of the United States Army Air Forces in the ETO, the 9th engaged in the pre-invasion air offensive, took part in D-Day, and crossed to France soon thereafter. Following close on the heels of the enemy, it operated from five different countries in less than a year.

In addition to its primary mission of furnishing tactical support for American armies in the ETO, the 9th participated with the 8th Air Force in the strategic bombing program, providing escort and bombing when suitable targets were available.

By V-E Day, 8 May 1945, the 9th Air Force had made 659,513 sorties, dropped 582,701 tons of bombs, claimed destruction of 9,497 enemy aircraft, and lost 6,731 planes to enemy action.

No awards or casualties available.



10TH AIR FORCE

Activated—12 February 1942 at Patterson Field, Ohio

Battle Area, World War II: China-Burma-India

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Lewis H. Brereton	5 March 1942-25 June 1942
Brig-Gen Earl L. Naiden	25 June 1942-18 August 1942
Maj-Gen Clayton L. Bissell	18 August 1942-19 August 1943
Maj-Gen Howard C. Davidson	19 August 1943-1 August 1945

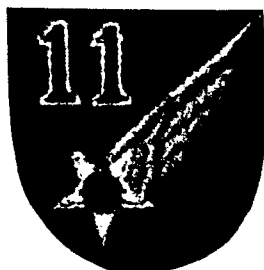
Operational Notes: In the China-Burma-India Theater, the 10th Air Force had, as its primary function, defense of the ferry route over the Hump. From the Kunming terminal, its China Air Task Force struck at Japanese installations, port facilities, and shipping in the China Seas, while its India Air Task Force guarded the Dinjan and insured neutralization of airfields at Myitkyina and other places in northern Burma.

Although duties of the China Air Task Force were assumed by the 14th Air Force in March 1943, the 10th continued to operate from bases in Assam, disrupting enemy lines of communication, flying sweeps over the Bay of Bengal, and mining harbors at Rangoon, Bangkok, and Moulmein.

Later, as components of the Eastern Air Command (15 December 1943-1 June 1945), 10th Air Force units took part in all important phases of the Burma campaign, furnishing airborne support to General Wingate's forces, dropping supplies to Merrill's Marauders, and facilitating General Stilwell's reconquest of northern Burma. By April 1945, some 350,000 men were wholly dependent upon air supply by these units.

In August 1945, the 10th moved to China, anticipating an offensive against the Japanese home islands.

No awards or casualties available.



11TH AIR FORCE

Activated—15 January 1942 at Elmendorf Field, Alaska,
as the Alaskan Air Force

5 February 1942—Redesignated the 11th Air Force

Battle Area, World War II: Northern Pacific

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Col Lionel H. Dunlap

Maj-Gen William O. Butler

Maj-Gen Davenport Johnson

17 February 1942-8 March 1942

8 March 1942-6 September 1943

6 September 1943-23 July 1945

Operational Notes: When carrier-based planes of a Japanese task force struck at Dutch Harbor on 3 June 1942, aircraft of the 11th Air Force from well-concealed bases in an advanced area participated in operations that resulted in the enemy's withdrawal to Kiska and Attu.

During the next 14 months whenever weather permitted, units of the 11th bombed Japanese installations in the outer Aleutians—first from Unak, then from Adak, and finally from Amchitka. In addition, they ran search missions, struck at shipping, engaged in photographic reconnaissance, and kept patrols in the air.

Before the close of the Aleutian campaign, 24 August 1943, elements of the 11th Air Force began to fly offensive sweeps against the Kurile Islands. These missions later gave way to more direct attacks, in which airfields, canneries, staging areas, the Katakoka Naval Base, and shipping in Paramushiru Strait were the principal targets.

On occasion, the 11th provided cover for naval vessels which were shelling the Kuriles and, through its aircraft concentrating on high-altitude photographic reconnaissance, obtained the first pictures of Japan's northern defenses.

The 11th Air Force made 7,318 sorties, dropped 4,331 tons of bombs, claimed destruction of 113 enemy aircraft, and lost 88 planes to enemy action.

No awards or casualties available.



12TH AIR FORCE

Activated—20 August 1942 ~~at~~ Bolling Field, District of Columbia

Battle Area, World War II: Mediterranean Area

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen James H. Doolittle	23 September 1942-1 March 1943
Lt-Gen Carl A. Spaatz	1 March 1943-21 December 1943
Maj-Gen John K. Cannon	21 December 1943-2 April 1945
Maj-Gen Benjamin W. Chidlaw	2 April 1945-26 May 1945

Operational Notes: On 8 November 1942, when Allied landings were made in French Morocco and Algeria, elements of the 12th Air Force participated in the initial operations, and secured bases newly won.

Operating, after February 1943, within the framework of the Northwest African Air Forces, and later under direction of the Mediterranean Allied Air Forces, the 12th took an active part in the Tunisian campaign, bore the brunt of the attack upon Pantelleria, and flew hundreds of missions contributing to the capitulation of Sicily.

Its units assisted in securing the beachheads at Salerno and Anzio, and gave tactical assistance to the U.S. 5th Army in its advance through Italy.

In connection with the Allied landing in southern France, aircraft of the 12th carried out preliminary bombings, provided cover for the invasion, and facilitated the northward progress of Allied forces.

In the final assault in northern Italy, its units had a substantial part in immobilizing German lines of communication. Also, out of the XII Bomber Command came the Fifteenth Air Force.

The 12th Air Force made 430,681 sorties, dropped 217,156 tons of bombs, claimed destruction of 3,565 enemy aircraft, and lost 2,843 planes to enemy action.

No awards or casualties available.



15TH AIR FORCE

Activated—1 November 1943 in Tunis, Tunisia

Battle Area, World War II: Mediterranean Area and Central Europe

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen James H. Doolittle

1 November 1943—3 January 1944

Maj-Gen Nathan F. Twining

3 January 1944—26 May 1945

Operational Notes: Composed initially of heavy-bombardment groups of the XII Bomber Command, the 15th Air Force was established in the MTO to complete the strategic encirclement of Germany and her satellites.

In attacks co-ordinated with 8th Air Force missions, its units, operating from Foggia, Italy, and bases further south, attacked enemy airfields, hammered at aircraft factories in the Wiener-Neustadt, Austria, and Regensburg, Germany, areas, bombed oil refineries at Ploesti, Blechhammer, distant Ruhland (in the province of Saxony, Germany), and Vienna, and struck tank, armament, and munition plants at Linz, Pilsen, Prague, Budapest, and Munich.

Overshadowed but never obscured by this effort was the 15th's campaign against enemy lines of communication. Not only were marshalling yards, bridges, and tunnels hit, but whenever the Italian ground situation demanded, more direct tactical support was given, as in the Rome-Arno campaign and the stalemate at Cassino.

In connection with the Allied invasion of southern France, the 15th participated in pre-invasion bombings, and provided cover on D-Day (southern France).

The 15th's units carried supplies to partisans in the Balkans, and rescued large numbers of air crews shot down in enemy held territory.

The 15th Air Force flew 242,377 sorties, dropped 309,278 tons of bombs, destroyed 6,258 enemy aircraft, and lost 3,410 planes to enemy action.

No awards or casualties available.



14TH AIR FORCE

Activated—10 March 1943 at Kunming, China

Battle Area, World War II: Central and Southern China and Northern Burma

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Claire L. Chennault

10 March 1943—10 August 1945

Operational Notes: In March 1943, the 14th Air Force replaced the China Air Task Force, which had continued the work of the Flying Tigers after disbandment of the American Volunteer Group in July 1942.

Pursuing against the Japanese a policy of attrition similar to that of its predecessors, the 14th whittled away at the enemy's air force, interdicted lines of communication, and ferreted out troop concentrations.

From Hengyang, its units struck at Hankow, Canton, and traffic on inland waterways; from Kweilin, they swept the coast of the South China Sea and mined shipping lanes; from Yunnanyi, they protected the eastern end of the Hump route and bombed military targets near the Burmese towns of Myitkyina, Bhamo, Lashio, and Katha.

To the Chinese armies, the 14th gave tactical support and furnished air supply—especially during the Japanese drive toward Hsian, Ankang, and Chihkiang in the spring of 1945.

In the area around the city of Chengtu, the 14th gave protection to forward bases of B-29s then stationed in India. The 14th Air Force also engaged in night reconnaissance, and flew diversionary missions co-ordinated with the invasion of Luzon and the landing on Okinawa.

No awards or casualties available.



13TH AIR FORCE

Activated—13 January 1943 at Nouméa, New Caledonia

Battle Area, World War II:—Southwest and Western Pacific

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Nathan F. Twining	13 January 1943-11 December 1943
Brig-Gen Ray L. Owens	12 December 1943-6 January 1944
Maj-Gen Hubert R. Harmon	6 January 1944-6 June 1944
Brig-Gen George L. Usher	6 June 1944-15 June 1944
Maj-Gen St. Clair Streett	15 June 1944-19 February 1945
Maj-Gen Paul B. Wurtsmith	19 February 1945-15 July 1946

Operational Notes: The 13th Air Force provided air defense for Guadalcanal, struck at Japanese shipping, and bombed airfields in the Central Solomons. After the capture of Munda, New Georgia, its attacks swung northward, culminating in the landing on Bougainville, in Empress Augusta Bay.

With the 5th Air Force, it participated in the air offensive against the big Japanese bases on New Ireland and on Rabaul, New Britain.

In support of landings at Hollandia and Aitape, northern New Guinea, the 13th neutralized Woleai by a series of bombings, and struck at the Carolines in connection with the Central Pacific push against the Marianas.

The 13th's aircraft attacked enemy defenses on Biak and Noemfoor prior to invasion, hammered at Japanese airfields in western New Guinea and on Halmahera in support of land operations on Morotai, and bombed the oil refining center at Balikpapan, Borneo.

After participation in the Philippine campaign, the 13th extended its striking power to distant targets in Java, Malaya, Indo-China, and the China coast.

By V-J Day, some units had begun movement to Okinawa, in preparation for an assault upon Japan.

In all, the 13th Air Force made 93,726 sorties, dropped 65,318 tons of bombs, claimed destruction of 1,395 enemy aircraft, and lost 645 planes to enemy action.

No awards or casualties available.



20TH AIR FORCE

Activated—4 April 1944 in Washington, D.C.

Battle Area, World War II: Superbombers against Japan

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Gen-Henry H. "Hap" Arnold

Maj-Gen Curtis E. LeMay

Lt-Gen Nathan F. Twining

6 April 1944-16 July 1945

16 July 1945-1 August 1945

1 August 1945-15 October 1945

Operational Notes: The 20th Air Force, equipped with Superfortresses, had as its principal function the carrying of the war to the Japanese homeland. This program was inaugurated on 15 June 1944, when India-based B-29s of the XX Bomber Command, staged through forward areas in China, bombed the steel works at Yawata.

Attacks upon aircraft factories, oil refineries, ordnance plants, and other critical industries followed until late-March 1945, when these groups were transferred to the Marianas. Here units of the XXI Bomber Command stationed on Saipan, Tinian, and Guam, had hammered at Japanese targets since 24 November 1944, when they made the first B-29 attack upon Tokyo.

During the last 5 months of the war, the 20th Air Force mined Japanese home waters, initiated incendiary raids, and on 6 and 9 August 1945, dropped the two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

In addition, the 20th lent support in the Burma campaign, facilitated the invasion of Okinawa by bombing airfields on Kyushu, and, after V-J Day, dropped food and medical supplies to Allied prisoners of war in Japan.

In all, the 20th Air Force flew 38,808 sorties, dropped 171,060 tons of bombs, claimed 1,225 enemy aircraft destroyed, and lost 494 planes to enemy action.

No awards or casualties available.

Some of the major bombing attacks by the 20th Air Force on Japan:

15 June 1944—Raid on the steel works at Yawata

8 December 1944—Bombing begins on Japanese-held Iwo Jima

9 February 1945—Large Superfortress Raid on Tokyo

10 March 1945—Large fire-bombing raid on Tokyo. Over 300 planes from bases in the Marianas—14 of them were lost. Over 100,000 people perished!

12 March 1945—Incendiary bombing attack on Nagoya

13 March 1945—Incendiary attack on Osaka. 300 bombers participated, and 8 square miles of the city are destroyed.

20 March 1945—Second attack on Nagoya by 300 B-29s.

28 July 1945—Attacks on several large cities in Japan, including Kobe and Kure, by 2,000 planes (some from the U.S. Navy).

2 August 1945—Large Superfortress raid on several Japanese cities—Toyama largely destroyed.

6 August 1945—First atomic bomb ever dropped on the enemy from a B-29, the Enola Gay, destroying Hiroshima.

9 August 1945—A second atomic bomb destroys Nagasaki.

14 August 1945—B-29 attacks on several Japanese cities—last bombing raid of World War II.



1ST MARINE DIVISION "The Big One"

Activated—1 February 1941

Battle Credits, World War II: Guadalcanal New Britain Peleliu Okinawa

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Alexander A. Vandegrift
Maj-Gen William H. Rupertus
Maj-Gen Pedro delle Valle

Combat Chronicle: The 1st Marine Division was the first American division to conduct an offensive operation against the enemy in World War II.

Little was known about the Solomon Islands by Americans before 1942, least of all, Guadalcanal, an island roughly 90 miles by 60 long, disease-ridden, full of jungle rot, and numerous Japanese. And yet, from the distance aboard ship, the island actually looked beautiful. The operation would be sort of "a shot in the dark", but at this stage of the war, the American people were quite desperate for any kind of strong offensive action.

On 7 August 1942, the 1st Marine Division landed on Guadalcanal with no opposition on the beaches—an ominous sign. The Japanese had already begun a key airstrip on the island, called Henderson Field by the Americans, and this was a major objective of the marines—to take and hold this important airfield.

During those early days and weeks, the Japanese had naval and local air superiority and they could, and did shell and bomb the marines almost at will. Meanwhile, the Japanese were busy sending reinforcements of 1,000 crack troops, the Ichiki Detachment, to annihilate the marines. Most of these men were China veterans and, overconfident and ignorant, they thought the marines would be a pushover. How wrong they were!

In the early pre-dawn hours of 21 August 1942, after a mortar barrage, the Japs threw themselves against the marines—and were stopped cold. Greatly aiding the marines was this single strand of barbed wire that they had just had time to erect, about waist high, and the Japs, failing to detect it in the darkness, greatly had the momentum of their charge upset. They were decimated, and during the next day the marines surrounded and wiped out the remainder of the enemy force in a coconut grove. At the end of the battle, the marines were compelled to put a bullet through the heads of the Jap corpses lying on the beach. Some of the Japs had been known to play dead, and then shoot marines in the back. This action became known as the Battle of the Tenaru, although the battle actually took place near the smaller, nearby Ilu River. The morale of the marines was decidedly strengthened. Colonel Ichiki, one of the few Japanese who got away, burned his unit's colors and then committed suicide.

The marines tried to strengthen their positions as best they could with defenses around the airfield, and awaited the next onslaught. It came on 12 September 1942.

After trekking through the jungle, and after a heavy shelling by Japanese warships, some 2,000 men from the 35th Brigade under General Kawaguchi, threw themselves against an area which soon became known as "Bloody Ridge." The 1st Marine Division, widely strung out, was aided in this battle by the 1st Marine Raider Battalion under Colonel Edson. The first enemy assault failed in vicious fighting.

Despite this, Kawaguchi resumed the assault again on the following night. The Japanese,

under American mortar and artillery fire, plunged up the ridge in a frenzied, wild attack shouting and screaming obscenities. They were again beaten back.

Then, later on in the night, the Japs fiercely assaulted the ridge for the third time, and came dangerously close to Henderson Field. The marines were temporarily forced back, but then rallied and closed with the Japanese in some of the most wild, desperate, and confused night hand-to-hand fighting of the entire war. Although the battle didn't die-out until daylight, it had already been decided by then, and it was a costly failure for the Japanese, the remainder of whom fled back into the jungle to the north. They lost over 600 men, while the marines had around 150 men killed in action or die of wounds.

Subjected to continuous Japanese naval bombardments, the marines tried to improve their positions, while hoping for some reinforcements. They arrived on 13 October 1942—the 164th Infantry Regiment of the Army's Americal Division. That very same night the marines and soldiers were subjected to a very heavy naval bombardment.

Then, on 23 October, the Japanese attacked with their entire 2nd "Sendai" Division in the most ferocious, heaviest, and bloodiest fighting on Guadalcanal. This assault came not far from the "Bloody Ridge" area.

It was during this massive assault that Sergeant John Basilone, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, won the Medal of Honor in a very courageous action on the night of 24-25 October.

While the Japanese were hammering at the marines' defensive positions, Sgt Basilone, in charge of two sections of heavy machineguns, fought valiantly to check the savage and determined enemy assault. In a fierce frontal attack with the Japanese blasting his guns with grenades and mortar fire, one of the sergeant's gun crews was put out of action, leaving only two men to carry on. Moving an extra gun into position, he placed it in action, then, under continual fire, repaired another and personally manned it, holding the line until replacements arrived.

A little later, with ammunition running critically low and the supply lines cut-off, Sgt Basilone, at great risk of his life and in the face of continued enemy attack, battled his way through hostile lines with urgently needed ammunition for his gunners, thereby contributing in large measure to the virtual annihilation of a Japanese regiment. His actions were in the highest traditions of the U.S. armed forces.

(Sgt Basilone could have sat the rest of the war out as a war hero. Instead, he felt bad about this, and eventually re-enlisted. He was killed by a burst from a mortar shell on Iwo Jima in February 1945).

In the most desperate kind of fighting, the Marine and Army troops held all their positions and beat the Japanese to a standstill. In three days and nights of ferocious, sometimes hand-to-hand combat, the enemy was thrown back and again retreated into the jungle. The Americans waited for them to return, but they didn't. This was the crucible of the fighting on Guadalcanal.

After only a brief rest, the 1st Marine Division went over to the attack on 1 November 1942, with powerful air support and also artillery and naval gun support. It was on this very first day of attack that one of the most heroically incredible acts of the war occurred, and it begs to be told.

Corporal Anthony Casamento was a member of the 5th Marine Regiment which was making the main effort in this attack. On the morning of the 1st, he and 29 other men were sent to protect a vital sector of the U.S. airfield. However, they were soon attacked by superior enemy forces, and, in a short time, all of his men except himself and two others were either killed or seriously wounded. One of these 2 men was dazed from a mortar burst, so Corporal Casamento sent the remaining other man who had a leg wound, back for help.

For the next 2 hours, which seemed like an eternity, manning a machinegun, he blazed away at a force of approximately 1,000 Japanese troops! The ground in front of him became covered thick with the bodies of dead enemy soldiers as he frantically fought to turn back the screaming enemy tide. Miraculously, he held his position inspite of the overwhelming odds, and the fact that he was covered with blood from no less than 14 wounds—including one from a bullet that had passed through his neck!

Finally, other marines came to the rescue and routed the Japanese in a savage bayonet charge.

By his skill and incomparable courage, Corporal Casamento had practically singlehandedly turned back a major enemy attack. The most ironic part about this incredible act of heroism

is that Mr. Casamento wasn't awarded the Medal of Honor until President Carter was in office a great many years later.

The 5th Marines advanced to within a short distance of Point Cruz, a Japanese strongpoint. Other units of the 1st advanced toward the Metapona River to stop the Japs from landing fresh troops at Koli Point. On 3 November, a Japanese pocket at Point Cruz was wiped out.

Meanwhile, the 7th Marines destroyed the Japanese whom they had surrounded in the area of the Gavaga torrent.

The 1st was aided in this offensive toward Point Cruz by elements of the 2nd Marine Division and the 164th Infantry Regiment, Americal Division. Further offensive operations temporarily halted on 11 November 1942, due to largely the drenching downpours which hit the island during this period, and also to let other recently arrived Marine and Army units eventually resume the attack and give the 1st Marine Division a most hard-earned respite from the fighting.

Finally, during the first week in December 1942—after 4 long, bitter, desperate months on this island of death, the 1st Marine Division began evacuating for a so well-deserved rest. Some of the men were so weak from exhaustion, malaria, and dysentery that they had to be helped aboard the ships by naval personnel. The 1st Marine Division lost 642 men on the "Canal", but statistics alone don't begin to tell the story. For the men of the 1st Marine Division, Guadalcanal was more than just a name—it was an emotion.

The 1st was sent to Australia for rest and rehabilitation.

It was a full year before the division began its next operation, a landing at the western tip of the large island of New Britain—at Cape Gloucester, on 26 December 1943.

New Britain has some of the worst climate and jungle terrain in the Pacific. Slightly inland, the marines sank to their waist in swampy water and mud. Eventually, they reached drier ground, and beat back a sizeable Japanese attack. Then, counterattacking, the marines advanced through tall Kunai grass and captured an important airstrip. Due to the rainsoaked foliage, bazooka and mortar rounds failed to explode in the wet earth, and the effect of flamethrowers was reduced because of the dampness.

During January 1944, there were some furious clashes, as the marines drove the Japanese deeper into the island. An amphibious landing was made on the Willaumez Peninsula, and more hard fighting ensued. With around the western 1/4 of the large island secured, the marines were relieved by the 40th Infantry Division and other Army elements in April 1944. The 1st Marine Division had 310 men killed and some 1,100 wounded.

After rest and recuperation, the 1st's next battle was one of the most vicious and bloody of the entire war in the Pacific—Peleliu, in the Palau Island chain, some 550 miles east of Mindanao. The invasion took place on 15 September 1944.

The Japanese had 11,000 men on Peleliu, centered around their 14th Infantry Division. There was the usual preliminary naval bombardment which did little, if any, good against the Japanese in their caves and other underground hideaways. As they landed, to the marines' surprise, although there were skirmishes, the Japanese launched no Banzai attack at the beach but waited for the marines to advance inland.

The marines crossed the airfield and headed toward the Umurbrogal, a high ridge mass, as the Japs opened up with a murderous hail of fire. There was no cover and the terrific heat, as high as 110 degrees, was almost as deadly as the Jap bullets. The direct attack up this ridge was entrusted to the 1st Marine Regiment. Many men dropped from sheer heat exhaustion. As others inched their way upward, the Japs sometimes fired upon them from behind from their concealed connections of underground tunnels. It was bitter combat at its worst. The sharp coral rocks added to the ordeal, as the marines got to the top of one hill and fought off a counterattack from another.

In the continuous, ferocious, chaotic battle for the series of hills of the Umurbrogal, the marines beat off repeated counterattacks. They would reach the top of one hill, only to find that they were exposed to flanking fire from another part of this ridge mass. The Japanese had emplacements which included some made of concrete. These and others often had to be blasted with demolitions or attacked with flamethrowers. And there was also some savage hand-to-hand fighting.

By early-October, the 1st Marine Regiment was relieved by part of the 81st Infantry Division as the raging battle continued. The 5th Marine Regiment came up against an immense

system of caves. The Sherman tanks and flamethrowers were in action, while Marine Corsairs (planes) dropped napalm and phosphorus on the Japanese who were skillfully using their artillery in this Pacific holocaust. At one place, the Japs ambushed a company of marines, some of whom were saved by other marines throwing smoke grenades to help cover their exposed plight. Pfc Arthur J. Jackson, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, won the Medal of Honor in another very daring and gallant action.

Boldly taking the initiative when his platoon was held up by intense enemy fire, he proceeded forward and charged a large pillbox housing some 35 Japanese. He then hurled white phosphorus grenades brought up by a fellow marine, and killed all of the enemy inside. Advancing alone under the continuous fire from other enemy emplacements, he employed similar means to eliminate two smaller positions in the nearby area.

Determined to smash this entire pocket of resistance, although harrassed on all sides by the shattering blasts of Japanese weapons, and covered only by small rifle parties, he stormed one gun position after another. Dealing death and destruction to the savagely fighting Japanese, he succeeded in wiping out a total of 12 pillboxes and 50 enemy soldiers.

The skillful, intrepid, courageous one-man assault of Pfc Jackson greatly contributed to the complete annihilation of the enemy on the southern sector of the island, and his conduct reflected the highest credit upon himself and the U.S. military.

By mid-October 1944, almost all of the 1st had been evacuated from the terrible island, and the 81st Infantry Division, which had fought a bitter battle on nearby Angaur, took over the task of eliminating the remaining Japanese from Peleliu. The living nightmare that was Peleliu cost the 1st Marine Division an incredible total of 1,252 men killed or missing in action. The 81st Division lost 208 men.

As if this wasn't enough, the last and biggest battle for the 1st was when it and the 6th Marine and 7th and 96th Infantry Divisions all invaded Okinawa on Easter Sunday, 1 April 1945. Few had any illusions that this would be an easy operation. It wasn't, to say the least!

After securing the northern part of the long, narrow island the 1st and 6th Marine Divisions came down to assist the Army on the southern part of the island where the heavy fighting was occurring—extremely heavy fighting. The 1st relieved the exhausted 27th Infantry Division on 30 April 1945, and clashed against the highly formidable defenses of the Shuri Line. The fighting was on a level with what had occurred on Iwo Jima. The Japanese had an extremely strong system of cave defenses and huge pillboxes, besides numerous artillery pieces of all types and many mortars, and the casualties quickly mounted on both sides at an alarming rate. At the cost of very heavy casualties, the 1st took the greater part of Dakeshi Ridge, while the recently arrived 77th Infantry Division advanced slowly toward the town of Shuri. This occurred around 12 May.

It was in May that drenching downpours hit the island, turning the larger shell craters into miniature lakes and adding to the misery of this incredible battle. The incessant fighting continued unabated.

By mid-May, the 1st was battling to take the Wana River Valley but, at first, could make little headway even with tanks and flamethrowers. On 19 May, Wana Ridge was taken in a heavy assault by the 1st Marine Regiment, and then strong Japanese counterattacks were thrown back.

Inching forward against extremely heavy resistance with the 77th Infantry Division on its left flank, the two divisions drove on Shuri, and with Shuri Ridge finally being captured by the 1st on 29 May. Shuri town fell two days later to the 77th.

The dreadful fighting continued. On 10 June, after several Japanese night counterattacks in which they suffered heavy losses, the marines, at the cost of heavy casualties took a hill west of the town of Yuza. On the 12th, the 1st captured part of Kunishi Ridge.

There was some more hard fighting, but the Japanese flanks had, by now, been pushed in, and by 21 June 1945, the terrible island was declared secured. The 1st Marine Division had lost over 2,200 men!

Regarding numbers of men in a comparatively confined area (there were 2 Marine and 4 Army divisions on Okinawa—plus over 100,000 Japanese), and the sustained and intense nature of the fighting, plus the cost—over 7,600 soldiers and marines killed and 4,900 more naval personnel also dead—few battles could compare with Okinawa.

And few outfits can compare with the 1st Marine Division's record in World War II.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—19
Distinguished Unit Citations—3 *
Navy Crosses—
Silver Stars—

Casualties: Total Deaths and
Missing In Action—4,465
Wounded—13,849
Total Casualties—18,314

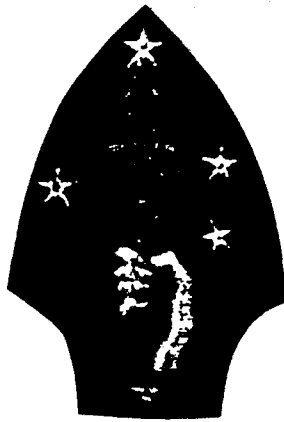
* Three to the entire 1st Marine Division—Guadalcanal—Peleliu—Okinawa

No number of Navy Crosses or Silver Stars are available

Other 1st Marine Division Medal of Honor winners in World War II: Killed in action *

Cpl Lewis K. Bausell, * 5th Mar Rgt, 15 September 1944, on Peleliu
Hosp Apprentice l/c Robert E. Bush, 5th Mar Rgt, 2 May 1945, on Okinawa
Pfc William A. Foster, * 1st Mar Rgt, 2 May 1945, on Okinawa
Cpl John P. Fardy, * 1st Mar Rgt, 7 May 1945, on Okinawa
Pvt Dale M. Hansen, * 1st Mar Rgt, 7 May 1945, on Okinawa
Cpl Louis J. Hauge, * 1st Mar Rgt, 14 May 1945, on Okinawa
Sgt Elbert L. Kinser, * 1st Mar Rgt, 4 May 1945, on Okinawa
Richard E. Kraus, * 8th Amphibious Tractor Bn, 5 October 1944, on Peleliu
Pfc John D. New, * 7th Mar Rgt, 25 September 1944, on Peleliu
Pltn Sgt Mitchell Paige, 26 October 1942, on Guadalcanal
Pvt Wesley Phelps, * 7th Mar Rgt, 4 October 1944, on Peleliu
Capt Everett P. Pope, 1st Mar Rgt, 19-20 September 1944, on Peleliu
Pfc Charles H. Roan, * 7th Mar Rgt, 18 September 1944, on Peleliu
1st Lt Carlton R. Rouh, 5th Mar Rgt, 15 September 1944, on Peleliu
Pfc Albert E. Schwab, * 7 May 1945, on Okinawa
Maj-Gen Alexander A. Vandegrift, 1st Mar Dvn (Commanding), 7 Aug-9 Dec 1942, Guadalcanal

The 1st Marine Division later saw extensive service in both the Korean and Vietnam Wars. For many years the 1st Marine Division has been based at Camp Pendleton, California, and is there, as of this writing. (27 November 1985)



2ND MARINE DIVISION "Liberty"

Activated—1 February 1941

Battle Credits, World War II: Guadalcanal Tarawa Saipan Tinian Okinawa

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen John Marston	April 1942—April 1943
Maj-Gen Julian C. Smith	May 1943—April 1944
Maj-Gen Thomas E. Watson	April 1944—June 1945
Maj-Gen Leroy P. Hunt	June 1945—July 1946

Combat Chronicle: The 2nd Marine Division was organized in February 1941, at Camp Elliott, San Diego, California. In May 1941, the 6th Marine Regiment was detached and sent to Iceland. A year later, it rejoined the rest of the division back at Camp Elliott. After intensive training, the 8th Marine Regiment was sent to Samoa, to assume the defense there.

In early-August 1942, the 2nd Marine Regiment saw some of the most bitter fighting of the opening days of the Guadalcanal campaign, when it took the smaller, nearby islands of Gavutu and Tanambogo. This regiment then went over to Guadalcanal, and part of it saw heavy fighting.

The 8th Marines of the 2nd arrived on Guadalcanal in early-November 1942, helping to aid the hard-pressed 1st Marine and part of the Army Americal Divisions.

In November 1942, a large force of Americans from four different regiments, including the 8th Marines, began an offensive toward Point Cruz. The Japanese resisted very determinedly, but the marines had made fairly good progress, when suddenly, for no apparent reason, they were ordered to withdraw. Evidently, the top "brass" wanted to further soften up the Japanese positions with artillery bombardments before sending the ground troops any further. Further attacks were temporarily suspended. There then followed a period of extensive patrol activities.

Also, on Guadalcanal, during November 1942, the Japs made nightly air raids, and sleep became a nervous luxury.

Getting back to patrolling, from 24 November—well into December 1942, the 2nd had 100 men killed and 198 wounded. Throughout December 1942, while the valiant 1st Marine Division was finally evacuated, extensive patrolling and probing actions continued. In late-December the 25th Infantry Division arrived on the island.

In early-January 1943, the 2nd's 6th Regiment came to Guadalcanal, and for the first time the 2nd Marine Division was fighting as an integral unit.

Finally, on 10 January 1943, an all-out offensive was commenced. The 2nd Marine Division pushed the enemy into the interior in intensive combat. After a heavy artillery bombardment, Army troops attacked Mt. Austen, while the marines attacked nearer the northern coast, just north of the Matanikau River, toward Point Cruz.

In mid-January 1943, a temporary combined Army-Marine division was formed to simplify tactical command purposes. This structure consisted of the Army 182nd and 147th Infantry Regiments and the 2nd's 6th Marine Regiment. It was called the CAM Division (Combined Army Marine). This organization did well. In five days of brisk fighting, Japanese posi-

tions were overrun, and the offensive now became a pursuit.

After a surprise Japanese air attack on 26 January 1943, in which moderate damage was inflicted, the 6th Marines and the 182nd Infantry resumed the attack west of Poha, and contact was made with the 25th Infantry Division.

The mopping-up phase of the campaign now began, and by 10 February 1943, Guadalcanal was finally declared secured. The 2nd Marine Division lost 272 men on the "Canal".

After Guadalcanal, the 2nd sailed to New Zealand for rest and rehabilitation, plus further training. The New Zealanders were unusually friendly, and a lot of the marines soon had a girl friend, some even wives.

Then, on 20 November 1943, the 2nd Marine Division assaulted Tarawa Atoll, in the Gilbert Islands. While one regiment of the 27th Infantry Division landed on Makin Atoll, further to the north, the 2nd headed into the 3 by 1/3 mile island of Betio.

The Japanese commander on Tarawa had boasted that "a million men couldn't take the atoll in a hundred years." It was that well fortified. The Japanese had coconut tree log bunkers, interlaced with heavy sandbags, plus sometimes cement, concrete pillboxes several feet thick, and other emplacements—and 4,700 picked troops.

Due to a miscalculation on judging the tides, the marines had to wade several hundred yards in chest to neck-deep water through murderous enemy machinegun fire. Many of them never reached shore. Those who did huddled below a long seawall near the water's edge, many of them being in a state of shock. Casualties were very heavy. Gradually, men here and there courageously began to seek out the enemy despite the intense machinegun, rifle, and mortar fire. One such man was 1st Lieutenant William Dean Hawkins, commanding officer of a scout sniper platoon.

Lt Hawkins unhesitatingly moved forward under heavy enemy fire at the end of a pier, neutralizing Japanese emplacements in coverage of troops assaulting the beaches. He repeatedly risked his life throughout the day and night to direct and lead attacks on pillboxes and other Jap installations with grenades and demolitions.

At dawn of the next day, he personally initiated an assault against a position fortified by five machineguns and, crawling forward in the face of withering fire, boldly fired point-blank into the loopholes of the Jap emplacement and completed its destruction with grenades. The lieutenant was seriously wounded in the chest during this action, but refused to withdraw. He continued to carry the fight to the enemy, and destroyed three more pillboxes before he was caught in a burst of enemy shellfire and fell mortally wounded.

Lt Hawkins' indomitable courage was an inspiration and a vital factor in helping overcome seemingly insurmountable enemy obstacles. He was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The fighting on Tarawa was unmatched in its ferocity, and for the number of men concentrated in such a small area. It was still touch and go until about 1300 hours of the second day, 21 November 1943, as Colonel David Shoup, the commander on the beaches, urged his men inland. Had the Japanese been able to mount a counterattack early in the battle, the marines may have been in serious trouble. But the heavy U.S. Navy bombardment, prior to the landings, seriously upset their lines of communication, and no such attack occurred.

The marines were gradually able to get some tanks ashore, and slowly moved inland. The Japanese offered suicidal resistance, but by the 4th day this terrible battle was ended. The Japs were annihilated, with some of them actually killing themselves toward the end of the battle. Some put the barrels of their rifles to their heads and pulled the triggers with their toes. The 2nd Marine Division lost close to 1,000 men!

Many mistakes in amphibious assault landing techniques were corrected from out of the experience of terrible Tarawa. And the entire 2nd Marine Division received the Distinguished Unit Citation.

After Tarawa the 2nd sailed back to the island of Hawaii, for rest and recuperation.

On 15 June 1944, the 2nd and 4th Marine Divisions landed on Saipan, in the Marianas. Saipan was a key Japanese bastion, and they had some 30,000 men on the island centered around their 43rd Division, and part of their 29th Division.

The 2nd encountered heavy fire almost immediately—in fact, a number of landing craft were hit by Jap artillery and mortar shells. The Japs fought fanatically, and the battle

was furious, with considerable hand-to-hand combat occurring. Losses were very heavy on both sides. For awhile, the beachhead was mass confusion, and it was almost every man for himself until late in the afternoon of the 15th, when a fairly solid front line was established. There were over 2,000 marine casualties by the end of the first day!

The Japs launched strong counterattacks with tanks, 15-17 June 1944. At night, the marines were aided by flares and, in bloody fighting, the Nips lost close to 1,000 men.

Next, the 2nd Marine Division captured Point Afetna and the village of Charan Kanca, in fierce fighting.

Saipan was some of the costliest and one of the more prolonged and vicious battles in the Pacific. The fighting was especially intense on Mt. Tapotchau and in Death Valley, the former of which part of the 2nd reached the summit on 25 June 1944. This key feature on Saipan was held by the 2nd against a furious counterattack.

The 2nd then fought into, and through, the town of Garapan despite desperate, but futile Japanese opposition.

Then, in the early morning darkness of 7 July 1944, the Japs executed a huge, fanatical Banzai (or Gyokusai) attack. There were some 5,000 Japs in on the assault, and some were armed only with swords or clubs. Many were drunk. None seemed afraid to die.

Elements of the 2nd fought valiantly. However, the main blow fell upon the Army's 27th Infantry Division. The soldiers fought courageously, and, finally, this onslaught lost momentum and died-out after one huge hand-to-hand free-for-all struggle.

There were numerous acts of valor on Saipan, and it may seem unfair to single any one man out. However, in this case, one man does stand out.

Pfc Guy Gabaldon, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division was certainly unique—an outstanding marine. What he did on Saipan (and later Tinian) was truly incredible—almost beyond belief.

Pfc Gabaldon had spent much time growing up in East Los Angeles with friends of Japanese-American heritage, and learned to speak fluent Japanese. Guy, himself, was of Hispanic descent, and stood only some 5'3" tall. But his knowledge of Japanese was his ticket into the Marine Corps, as interpreters were needed very badly.

The Corps has always frowned upon "lone wolf" tactics. The underlying code has always been teamwork. Yet, this is exactly what Pfc Gabaldon defied. He began operating as a lone wolf. His first excursion behind Japanese lines netted one enemy soldier killed and two prisoners.

His commanding officer, Captain John Schwabe, took him aside, asked him what he was trying to prove, and threatened to have him court-martialed if he acted on his own again.

Undaunted, Pfc Gabaldon, soon after, again went out alone into the night. He shot and killed more of the enemy and took more prisoners. This time Captain Schwabe admitted that Guy might have a very good thing going as some of these Jap POWs came forth with some very valuable information.

Soon, Pfc Gabaldon was allowed to roam about pretty much at his own free will. Sometimes another marine went along with him. He seemed to have a charmed life.

His most incredible feat of arms was at Marpi Point, at the northern tip of Saipan, right after the huge Banzai attack. With great courage, combat savvy, and daring, under extremely dangerous circumstances, he somehow was able to persuade over 800 Japanese soldiers into surrendering! He told a ranking Japanese officer that they would all be very well treated—good food, clean place to sleep, and humane conditions otherwise. He mentioned that a marine general had said all of this and this carried a great deal of weight with the Japs, as they are very respectful of any kind of authority. It may also very well have saved his life, as many of these Japs were still full of fight.

At length, the Japanese commander finally agreed to surrender his men. Other marines, appearing over a hill, could hardly believe their eyes.

Pfc Gabaldon was eventually very seriously wounded in the hand while on a hazardous patrol mission.

Altogether, on Saipan and Tinian, he had captured over 1,000 Japanese, killed at least 33 more, and had saved the lives of hundreds of Americans, and Japanese, as well. With great daring, much courage, great combat sagacity, and incredible luck Pfc Gabaldon had

shortened the entire battle on Saipan, and his name became a symbol throughout the entire 2nd Marine Regiment. Pfc Gabaldon's actions were in keeping with the very highest traditions of the U.S. armed forces.

The 4th Marine Division finished clearing the northern tip of Saipan, and the entire island was declared secured by 10 July 1944. However, Japanese stragglers, hiding in the jungled areas and in the hills, were still being flushed out years after the war ended. The Japanese commander on Saipan committed suicide, as did Vice-Admiral Nagumo. Such was the seriousness with which the Japanese took the loss of Saipan.

On 25 July 1944, the 2nd Marine Division landed on nearby Tinian, a day after the 4th Marine Division. Pushing through the canebrake the 2nd fought off a number of fierce counterattacks, and was then forced to eliminate the remaining Japs on the higher ground.

On 27 July 1944, a typhoon hit Tinian. Rain turned the heat to steam, and the rich red soil of the island into an abysmal of ankle-clutching muck. Despite all of this and the enemy resistance, Tinian was secured by 1 August 1944.

The 2nd Marine Division then went back over to Saipan to act as a defense force, and, along with the 27th Infantry Division, more Japanese were flushed out of the jungle and the hills in difficult and dangerous "mopping-up" operations. On 31 December 1944, the 2nd was relieved of this duty, and began training for the invasion of Okinawa. The 2nd Marine Division lost over 1,300 men on Saipan, and close to 200 men on Tinian.

On the day of the Okinawa invasion, 1 April 1945, the 2nd Marine Division was designated as floating-reserve.

In June 1945, part of the 8th Marine Regiment secured the small islands of Iheya and Aguni. This regiment then joined in the battle on Okinawa, taking part in the final attacks between 18-21 June 1945. The 8th Marines lost 58 men.

In September 1945, the 2nd Marine Division moved to Japan for occupational duty. During July 1946, the 2nd moved to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—8	Casualties: Total Dead and
Distinguished Unit Citations—3 *	Missing In Action—2,795
Navy Crosses—	Wounded—8,753
Silver Stars—	Total Casualties—11,548

* Two to the 2nd and 8th Marine Regiments—Guadalcanal
One to the entire 2nd Marine Division—Tarawa

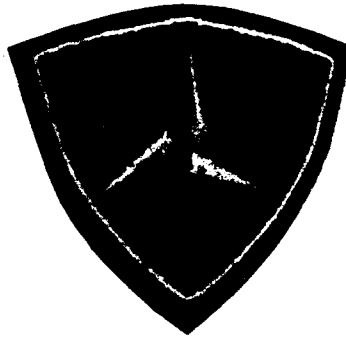
No Navy Crosses or Silver Stars are available.

Other 2nd Marine Division Medal of Honor winners in World War II: Killed in action *

Pfc Harold C. Agerholm, * 10th Mar Arty Rgt, 7 July 1944, on Saipan
1st Lt Alexander Bonnyman, Jr., * 8th Mar Rgt, 20-22 November 1943, on Tarawa
S/Sgt William J. Bordelon, * 20 November 1943, on Tarawa
Pfc Harold G. Epperson, * 6th Mar Rgt, 25 June 1944, on Saipan
Colonel David M. Shoup, 20-22 November 1943, on Tarawa
Sgt Grant F. Timmerman, * 6th Mar Rgt, 8 July 1944, on Saipan
Pfc Robert L. Wilson, * 6th Mar Rgt, 4 August 1944, on Tinian

Since July 1946, the 2nd Marine Division has been based at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. However, an update is now in order, as the 2nd is now in Saudi Arabia. (5 February 1991)

As of this writing, Guy Gabaldon has yet to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. Why? Simple. Because, during World War II, the Marine Corps was very prejudiced against Hispanics, and also Orientals, or any other non-white elements. A grave injustice? To say the least! Mr. Gabaldon, at great length, received the Navy Cross. He may yet finally receive his so well-deserved and so long-awaited Medal of Honor.



3RD MARINE DIVISION "The Fighting Third"

Activated—16 September 1942

Battle Credits, World War II: Bougainville Guam Iwo Jima

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Allen H. Turnage

Maj-Gen ~~Graves~~ B. Erskine

Combat Chronicle: The 3rd Marine Division was officially activated in September 1942, in two echelons: the advance echelon (3rd and 9th Marine Regiments) at Camp Elliott, San Diego, California, and the rear echelon (21st Marine Regiment and reinforcing units, including the 12th Artillery Regiment) at New River, North Carolina.

After being stationed on Guadalcanal through much of 1943, and undergoing intensive training there, the 3rd Marine Division's first major operation in World War II was when it landed at Cape Torokina, on the southern coast of Bougainville, in the northern Solomon Islands, 1-2 November 1943. In the meantime, there occurred a naval clash in nearby Empress Augusta Bay, in which American forces inflicted a sound defeat on a Japanese cruiser-destroyer force which had been sent to bombard the troops who had just gotten ashore.

The Japanese already on the island soon attacked the beachhead but were sent reeling back. They sustained considerable losses.

The terrain to the rear of the beaches was not bad, but worse than that. It was a sink, a swamp, a bog, a miasma, swimming with giant crocodiles, dark with the tangle of creepers and lianas, shadowy with the great, gray bulk of the mangrove trees or crisscrossed with their fallen trunks. This was nature in the raw, the Bougainville rain forest, where the 3rd Marine Division would live and fight for the next two months. And Bougainville was also filled with English speaking Japs.

The marines pushed inland, and there were numerous clashes with the Japanese. The Japanese attempted to roll up the left of the Marine line which was anchored on the southern edge of the Koromokina swamp. The marines stopped them but, temporarily, failed to throw them back. The battle in the swamp then see-sawed back and forth, with marines and Japs trading shot for shot, and blundering around in a slop of muck and slimy water.

Then, thanks greatly to a Captain Gordon Warner, who came up leading a tank and with a helmet full of white phosphorus grenades, the Japs were wiped out in droves, and the marines attacked through the suddenly silent swamp choked with the bodies of the foe. Captain Warner lost a leg, and was later awarded the Navy Cross.

The 23rd Regiment of the infamous Japanese 6th Division which had raped Nanking, China, soon after attacked a marine roadblock but was hurled back.

There then developed a furious battle for a dominating ridge area, in which hand grenades were the decisive weapon. It lasted for 9 days and cost the Japanese 1,200 men.

Meanwhile, the 37th Infantry Division had arrived in mid-November, and the Americal Division in January 1944, with the 3rd Marine Division leaving the island that same month. Among other casualties, Bougainville cost the 3rd 253 men killed and missing.

The 3rd Marine Division's next battle was when it took part in the historic recapture of Guam. The 3rd landed at Asan Point, west of Agana, on 21 July 1944. The 1st Marine Provisional Brigade landed further south at Agat.

The marines had established the beachhead to several hundred yards in depth, when the Marine Brigade was hit by a Japanese night attack. In wild fighting, this attack was beaten back.

The terrain on Guam was much like that of Saipan and Tinian—some dense jungle areas, combined with broken, jagged crevices, and always the hill regions plus, in this case, numerous caves, and the heat. In this type of rugged terrain, the 3rd inched forward and, a few days later, the excellent 77th Infantry Division landed.

Then, on the night of 25 July 1944, the Japanese launched their biggest Banzai attack of the war, with the main blow crashing against the 3rd Marine Division. Screaming obscenities, thousands of Japs came on and were scythed down, but more took their place. They managed to force a gap between two of the 3rd's regiments, and sprayed damaging fire into either side of the marine positions. Every available man was thrown into the line in a desperate attempt to throw back the frenzied Japanese assault. A counterattack was mounted, and this succeeded in stopping them. The remaining Japs were routed and hunted down the following day. The Japanese left 3,500 dead on the battlefield. It was a close call for the 3rd, which lost around 200 men.

The Marine and Army troops then battled north up the island with the 3rd on the left flank. It had a tough battle at Finegayan—and a Medal of Honor winner, Pfc Frank Witek, 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, 3 August 1944.

When his rifle platoon was halted by heavy surprise fire from well-camouflaged enemy positions, Pfc Witek daringly remained standing to fire his BAR into a depression holding some Japanese. Eight of the enemy were killed. When his platoon withdrew to a safer area, he remained to guard a severely wounded buddy, and courageously returned the enemy fire until stretcher bearers arrived.

When his platoon was again pinned down, on his own initiative, he moved forward boldly with the reinforcing tanks and infantry. He alternately threw hand grenades and fired his rifle, coming to within 5-10 yards of the enemy positions. He destroyed the hostile machine-gun emplacement and 8 more Japanese before he was struck down and killed.

Pfc Witek's gallant action was an inspiration to those around him, and effectively reduced the Japanese strongpoint, enabling his platoon to reach its objective.

Organized Japanese resistance on Guam ended by 10 August 1944, but dangerous mopping-up operations continued for several months. Years later, Japanese were still being discovered, not knowing the war had ended. Guam cost the 3rd Marine Division 619 men—killed.

The 3rd stayed on Guam—until it was time to sail into the hell of Iwo Jima.

Iwo Jima was invaded on 19 February 1945. The 4th and 5th Marine Divisions made the initial assault landings, and on the 23rd, the 3rd's 9th and 21st Regiments were thrown into the awful battle.

Placed in between the 4th and 5th Divisions, the 3rd charged forward with a yell, into the windblown sand that pelted the men's faces like buckshot, into a storm of fire that stripped them of their company commanders in minutes. They pressed on, led by lieutenants and then sergeants, flowing like a green wave around the mounds of the Japanese pillboxes, and surging beyond to flood the Jap trenches with jabbing bayonets. The Americans then swept out of these trenches and across a bullet-drenched airfield, and then up a hill to fight the counterattacking Japanese. The enemy was thrown back. The men of the 3rd held this hill, and eventually went on to crack the heart of the most heavily fortified fixed positions the world has ever known.

The Japanese had the most intricate cave-tunnel system imaginable, with their strong pillboxes, heavy artillery, mortars, and 23,000 men. Often, the Japs had to be buried in their holes with bulldozers, or burned alive with flamethrowers. They also launched numerous local counterattacks, and did much infiltrating at night with frequent hand-to-hand encounters.

There were countless acts of heroism on Iwo Jima. One case, among many, was that of Corporal Hershel Williams of the 3rd's 21st Regiment, who destroyed one pillbox after another and its occupants with his flamethrower. On one occasion, he grimly charged enemy riflemen who attempted to stop him with fixed bayonets, and eliminated them with a burst of flame from his weapon. He was greatly responsible for reducing an enemy strongpoint which had been holding up part of his regiment, and enabled his own company to reach its objective. Corporal Williams was one of 26 men who won the Medal of Honor on Iwo—many of them never living to tell about it.

On 26 March 1945, the horrible island was finally declared officially secured but, as

usual, "mopping-up" actions continued for some time. Altogether, some 6,800 marines and sailors paid the supreme price. One-third of all the marines who fought on Iwo were either killed or wounded—some 20,000 men, with the 3rd Marine Division having close to 1,000 men either killed in action or dying of wounds. Almost the entire Japanese force was annihilated, although over 1,000 were taken prisoner.

The U.S. Marine Corps has, so far, considered Iwo Jima the toughest battle in its long history.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—9	Casualties: Total Dead and
Distinguished Unit Citations—	Missing In Action—1,932
Navy Crosses—64	Wounded—6,744
Silver Stars—	Total Casualties—8,676

Other 3rd Marine Division Medal of Honor winners in World War II: Killed in action *

2nd Lt John H. Leims, 9th Mar Rgt, 7 March 1945, on Iwo Jima

Pfc Leonard F. Mason, 3rd Mar Rgt, 22 July 1944, on Guam

Sgt Robert A. Owens, * 1 November 1943, Cape Torokina, Bougainville

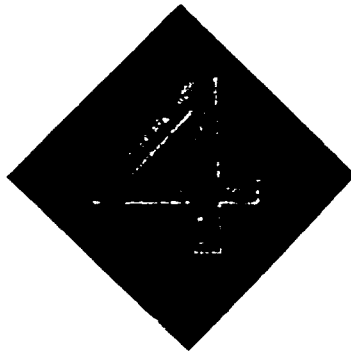
Pfc Luther Skaggs, Jr., 3rd Mar Rgt, 21-22 July 1944, on Guam

Sgt Herbert J. Thomas, * 3rd Mar Rgt, 7 November 1943, Koromokina River, Bougainville

Pvt Wilson D. Watson, 9th Mar Rgt, 26-27 February 1945, on Iwo Jima

Captain Louis H. Wilson, Jr., 9th Mar Rgt, 25-26 July 1944, on Guam

Note: The 3rd Marine Division later saw extensive service in the Vietnam War. As of this writing, the 3rd is stationed on Okinawa. (14 July 1984)



4TH MARINE DIVISION "Fighting Fourth"

Activated—16 August 1943

Inactivated—After World War II

Battle Credits, World War II: Marshall Islands Saipan Tinian Iwo Jima

Commanding Generals (During Combat, WW II):

Maj-Gen Harry Schmidt

August 1943—July 1944

Maj-Gen Clifton B. Cates

July 1944—November 1945

Combat Chronicle: The 4th Marine Division was activated at Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, California, on 16 August 1943.

The first battle for the 4th Marine Division was when it invaded Kwajalein Atoll, in the Marshall Islands, in conjunction with the 7th Infantry Division, on 1 February 1944. While the 7th attacked Kwajalein Island, the 4th invaded the twin islands of Roi and Namur, at the northern end of the atoll. The invasions were preceded by heavy naval bombardments.

The fighting on all three of these islands was fierce. Isolated into pockets by lack of communications, which were disrupted by the U.S. naval bombardments, the Japanese on Roi were mopped-up in two days.

Namur, unlike Roi, was densely wooded, giving considerable cover to the defenders. Despite desperate, but unco-ordinated defense efforts by the Japanese, the 24th Marine Regiment made good progress. A most unfortunate incident occurred in this battle. A demolitions team hurled a satchel charge into a blockhouse full of torpedo warheads. The resulting explosion sent trunks of palm trees and huge chunks of concrete hurling through the air. 20 marines were killed and 100 more wounded as a result. But the attack stalled only momentarily. By dusk, the regiment held 3/4ths of the mile-wide island. The night was marked by small-scale Jap counterattacks, before Namur was secured on 2 February 1944. The 4th Marine Division lost 190 men in this entire operation.

The 4th soon sailed back to the Hawaiian Islands, on the island of Maui.

The next battle for the 4th Marine Division was on Saipan, in the Marianas. The 4th and the 2nd Marine Division made the initial assault landing on 15 June 1944. There was initial opposition, but, mainly, from artillery, mortar, and antiboat gun fire. However, most of the assault troops in the 4th's zone of attack were ashore and dispersed before the Japanese could concentrate their artillery and mortar fire.

Soon, though, all down the line from Charan Kanoa and Lake Susupe to Agingan Point, enemy fire increased in intensity. The terrain was all in the enemy's favor, and the Japanese had an unusual proportion of heavy weapons. Everywhere the severity of the battle heightened.

The Japs mounted a counterattack that first night, although the brunt of it fell upon the 2nd Marine Division. This was repulsed with heavy losses to the Japanese. It was on 16 June 1944, that the 4th Marine Division had a Medal of Honor winner on Saipan, Sgt Robert H. McCard, Company A, 4th Tank Battalion.

Cut-off from the other units of his platoon when his tank was put out of action by a

battery of enemy 77mm guns, G/Sgt McCard carried on resolutely, bringing all the tank's weapons to bear on the Japanese. However, the severity of hostile fire caused him to order his crew out of the escape hatch, while he courageously exposed himself to enemy guns by throwing hand grenades, in order to cover the evacuation of his men.

Seriously wounded during this action, and with his supply of grenades exhausted, Sgt McCard then dismantled one of the tank's machineguns, and faced the Japanese for the second time. He delivered vigorous fire into their positions, destroying 16 of the enemy, but sacrificing himself to insure the safety of his crew.

Sgt McCard's valiant fighting spirit and heroic self-sacrifice to protect the lives of some of his fellow marines upheld the highest traditions of the U.S. armed forces.

By now, the battle was on in full fury. In the first two days and nights on Saipan, the 2nd and 4th Marine Divisions sustained losses of 2,500 men killed, wounded, and missing!

To maintain the momentum of the attack, and to help compensate for casualties, the Army 27th Infantry Division was landed on 17 June 1944.

On 23 June 1944, the 27th Division was placed in between the two marine divisions, and the three divisions battled northward slowly against fanatical opposition. On 3 July 1944, strong resistance on Hill 721 temporarily stopped the advance, and it wasn't until the next day that this hill and another Japanese strongpoint, Hill 767, were stormed and taken.

A tremendous Banzai attack was launched against, mainly, the 27th Infantry Division in the pre-dawn darkness of 7 July 1944. With the greatest effort, aided by the 10th Marine Artillery Regiment, plus Army cooks, clerks, rear-echelon officers, and other elements, this terrible enemy onslaught was finally defeated.

A very grim event was witnessed by the men of the 4th Marine Division as they reached the northern tip of Saipan, at Marpi Point. The Japs had told the civilians on the island that if they fell into the hands of the Americans, they would be beaten and tortured. As a result, hundreds of them hurled themselves over the edges of cliffs into the sea, or to the rocks at the bottom of the cliffs. Some of these people were women and children, some, even, with babies in their arms, and some who were pregnant. Even the combat-hardened veterans of the 4th grimaced in horror at this sickening mass-suicide.

By August 1944, the Japanese had lost close to 30,000 men killed on Saipan. The 2nd and 4th Marine and 27th Infantry Divisions all lost well over 1,000 men killed in action or died of wounds! The 4th Marine Division, alone, had 1,107 men killed and missing in action.

While the 27th Infantry Division conducted mopping-up operations on Saipan, the 4th Marine Division landed on nearby Tinian on 24 July 1944. The 2nd Marine Division landed the following day.

The 4th received two furious Japanese attacks—as usual, after dark. There was a considerable break made in the marine lines, and the fighting was at close-quarters. But by daybreak, the Jap attackers had been wiped out, with some of the remainder of them blowing themselves up with hand grenades.

Although not as prolonged or heavy as the fighting on Saipan, Tinian was still rough going. The marines had to attack across an open area toward a ridge held by the Japanese, and they sustained severe losses. After battling to the top of this ridge, the marines had to beat back a night attack. There was some wild hand-to-hand combat. This was followed by a Banzai charge of some 600-700 Japs. It failed, and the island was declared secured by 1 August 1944. The 4th lost 214 men on Tinian. The entire 4th Marine Division was awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation for Saipan and Tinian.

After Saipan and Tinian came rest and rehabilitation back again on Maui.

Then, in February 1945, came the hell of Iwo Jima. The 4th and 5th Marine Divisions landed on this black, volcanic-sanded island, dominated by the 550-foot Mt. Suribachi, on the morning of 19 February 1945. It was murderous, and the casualties quickly mounted at an alarming rate. The 5th was on the left and closest to the hail of death raining down on the beachhead from Mt. Suribachi, but the 4th also suffered heavily. Courageously, however, the marines forced their way inland in ferocious fighting. Actually, they had little other choice, for to remain on the beach would have meant almost certain death. A very courageous and inspiring leader in this early stage of the fighting on Iwo Jima was Colonel Justice M. Chambers, of the 25th Marine Regiment.

Lt Col Chambers, leading the 3rd Battalion of the 25th, seized the high ground to the

left of a quarry, and then engaged in a fire fight until relieved. His men had suffered considerable casualties, but had tenaciously held their ground. At 1900 hours, 19 February 1945, Lt Colonel Chambers battalion had only 150 men, when they were later relieved at 0100 (1 A.M.) by the 1st Battalion, 24th Marines. The closing of the day found the high ground in the 4th's zone of attack secured, but it had cost 35 per cent casualties.

For the above action, as well as outstanding qualities of valor and leadership displayed up through 22 February 1945, Lt Col Chambers was later awarded the Medal of Honor—one of 26 awarded to marines on Iwo Jima, where "uncommon valor was a common virtue". Colonel Chambers was luckier than so many others, for he survived the war to receive his medal.

The 3rd Marine Division was landed on 23 February 1945, and the three divisions gradually worked into a turning maneuver to the right, with the 4th Division on the right flank, nearest the east coast.

No one had ever seen anything like Iwo Jima. The Japanese had the most intricate cave-tunnel system of defenses imaginable. Often, they would slip to a concealed hole after the marines had advanced beyond, and shoot them in the back. Frequently, the marines would have to go back and retake ground they already thought had been secured. And, at night, there was considerable Japanese infiltration. This resulted in frequent hand-to-hand encounters.

One of the 4th's major objectives was Motoyama Airfield No. 1. It would take the 4th 24 grim days of relentless combat to advance from this airstrip to the eastern coast just above Tachiiwa Point—a distance of slightly over 3 miles!

On 8-9 March 1945, the Japs made a large counterattack in the 4th's sector. It cost them close to 1,000 men.

The grinding, harrowing ordeal continued. Between 12-16 March, the 25th Marines cleaned out many pockets of the enemy. The Japs, as usual, resisted with the utmost tenacity. Hundreds of pounds of demolitions were used in blasting the Jap-held cave entrances and exits.

One of the many acts of heroism on Iwo Jima may be worth noting.

On 15-16 March 1945, Pharmacist Mate 1/c Francis Pierce, serving as a corpsman with the 24th Marine Regiment, repeatedly risked his life to save wounded marines in dangerously exposed positions, some of whom had been ambushed. He also fired his submachinegun at the Japs, and killed one with his .45 automatic. When wounded, he brushed aside help until others were assured of safety. Francis Pierce was also more fortunate than many others, for he, too, lived to receive the Medal of Honor.

During the same above period, about 60 Japs tried to break out of a pocket they were trapped in. They failed and were driven back into their caves. By 1000 hours on 16 March, this pocket was finally reduced.

Meanwhile, the remainder of the 4th Division conducted extensive mopping-up actions, policed the area, and buried the dead.

Finally, Iwo Jima was declared secured on 26 March 1945. The 4th Marine Division had lost over 1,800 men, and one-third of all the marines who fought on Iwo were either killed or wounded—some 20,000 men! The Japanese force of over 23,000 men was mostly annihilated, with the 4th taking only 44 prisoners.

Iwo Jima was the last, and, by far, toughest battle of the 4th Marine Division in World War II.

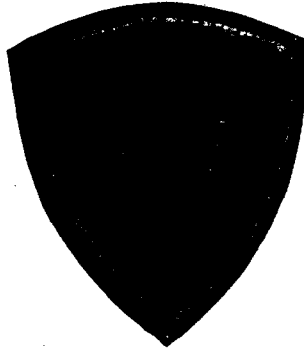
Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—12	Casualties: Total Dead and
Distinguished Unit Citations—1 *	Missing In Action—3,317
Navy Crosses—111	Wounded—13,006
Silver Stars—646	Total Casualties—16,323

* One to the entire 4th Marine Division—Saipan and Tinian

Other 4th Marine Division Medal of Honor winners in World War II: Killed in action *

Pfc Richard B. Anderson, * 1 February 1944, on Roi, Kwajalein Atoll
 Sgt Darrell S. Cole, * 23rd Mar Rgt, 19 February 1945, on Iwo Jima
 Lt Col Aquilla J. Dyess, * 24th Mar Rgt, 1-2 February 1944, on Namur, Kwajalein Atoll
 Sgt Ross F. Gray, * 25th Mar Rgt, 21 February 1945, on Iwo Jima
 Pfc Douglas T. Jacobson, 23rd Mar Rgt, 26 February 1945, on Iwo Jima
 Capt Joseph J. McCarthy, 24th Mar Rgt, 21 February 1945, on Iwo Jima

Pvt Joseph W. Ozbourn, * 23rd Mar Rgt, 30 July 1944, on Tinian
1st Lt John V. Power, * 1 February 1944, on Namur, Kwajalein Atoll
Pvt Richard K. Sorenson, 1-2 February 1944, on Namur, Kwajalein Atoll



5TH MARINE DIVISION "Spearhead"

Activated—21 January 1944

Inactivated—After World War II

Battle Credits, World War II: Iwo Jima

Commanding General (During Combat, WW II):
Maj-Gen Keller E. Rockey

Combat Chronicle: The 5th Marine Division was activated at Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, California, on 21 January 1944. Although untried in combat as a unit before Iwo Jima, the 5th was composed of 40 per cent seasoned veterans who had already been in combat with one of the other Marine divisions or regiments.

On 19 February 1945, the 5th, 4th, and 3rd Marine Divisions assaulted the black, volcanic sanded island of Iwo Jima, some 660 nautical miles south of Tokyo. The marines had made repeated practice landings on beaches as similar to Iwo as possible, and even with a hill quite like the 550-foot Mount Suribachi, which dominated the southern end of the island.

Iwo Jima is only 5 miles long at its extreme from north to south, and about half that distance across. From the air, the shape may remind one of a pork chop. The Japanese had spent years fortifying Iwo with the most intricate system of cave/tunnel defenses imaginable, and they had 23,000 men on the island, centered around their 109th Division, plus plenty of artillery, mortars, and machineguns.

Although the Air Force and Navy had both bombed and shelled the island for weeks prior to the assault, the Japanese were so well dug-in that these bombardments did only a moderate amount of damage.

The marines began landing at about 0900 hours on 19 February 1945, with the 5th Marine Division on the left and closest to Mount Suribachi. The 4th Marine Division was on their right, while the 3rd Marine Division was held ready in floating reserve.

For 20 minutes the Japanese held their fire. Then they opened up with a devastating hail of pre-sighted artillery, mortar, machinegun, and small-arms fire, particularly from the slopes and caves of Mt. Suribachi. Some of the marines from the 5th who had advanced a short distance inland, as well as those on the beach, burroughed into the black, volcanic sands, desperately seeking to escape this hail of death. About the only cover was wherever there was a shellhole or crater, and these were dubious in their safety. No place was really safe, but the marines had to get off the beach or be slowly cut to pieces. Casualties mounted at an alarming rate, but the marines courageously inched their way forward. They had little other choice, since to remain on the beach meant almost certain death.

In 4 days of savage fighting, elements of the 5th battered their way to the top of Mt. Suribachi, 23 February, and planted "Old Glory", producing perhaps the most famous photograph to come out of the war, taken by Joe Rosenthal. (Actually, more than one picture was taken of the flag raising. Three of the six men in the most famous of these photos were later killed in action).

Reaching the top of Mt. Suribachi by no means meant an end to the struggle. In fact, it

was violent almost beyond belief, and on the same day of the flag raising, two regiments of the 3rd Marine Division were thrown into the inferno.

Against the most fanatical resistance, the marines were slowly able to conduct a gradual turning maneuver and advance slowly northward, with the 5th Division on the left—or outer rim of the wheel of attack. This meant that the 5th had the furthest distance to cover of the three divisions.

No one had ever seen anything like Iwo Jima. In this holocaust the marines often discovered that the Jap positions would have to be retaken all over again. With their tunnel network, the Japanese could oppose the Americans as they advanced, and then sneak to a connected underground position to the rear and fire upon them from behind. Or they would proceed to an underground hole establishment further ahead. Often, the only way to destroy the enemy was to blast him out or bury him beneath, sealing up the tunnel entrances with bulldozers. Flamethrowers were also used a great deal. At night, the Japs often tried to infiltrate back within the marine lines, and there were frequent hand-to-hand encounters.

There were countless acts of heroism on Iwo, where "uncommon valor was a common virtue." The 5th Marine Division, alone, had 17 Medal of Honor winners—many of them posthumously, and it would be hard to single out any one action. The following one, in particular, may be worth noting; that of Private Franklin Sigler, 2nd Battalion, 26th Marine Regiment, on 14 March 1945.

Pvt Sigler led a bold charge against an enemy gun installation which had held up his company for several days and, reaching the position ahead of the others, assailed the Jap emplacement with grenades and annihilated the entire crew.

As more Japanese troops opened fire from concealed tunnels and caves above, he quickly scaled the rocks leading to the guns, surprised the Japanese with a furious one-man assault and, though severely wounded, deliberately crawled back to his squad. He refused evacuation, and directed heavy machinegun and rocket barrages on the enemy cave entrances. He then carried 3 wounded men to safety, in spite of his own wounds, and then returned to the battle until ordered to retire for medical treatment.

Each time the marines managed to penetrate one defense line, they would find another even more formidable one ahead. The marines used everything they could muster against the Japanese—tanks, flamethrowers, bazookas, satchel charges, rifles, and bayonets. Finally, American persistence won out, and the northern tip of the island was reached, and the terrible place secured by 26 March 1945.

The 23,000-man Japanese force was mostly annihilated, although 1,083 were taken prisoner, a good percentage of them by the 5th Division. One-third of all the marines who fought on Iwo were either killed or wounded—some 20,000 men on "hell's half acre!"

Although Iwo Jima may have been the 5th Marine Division's only battle of World War II, no one can deny that it was one of the war's toughest and bloodiest.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—17	Casualties: Total Dead and
Distinguished Unit Citations—1	* To the entire Missing In Action—2,113
Navy Crosses—	division— Wounded—6,450
Silver Stars—	Iwo Jima Total Casualties—8,563

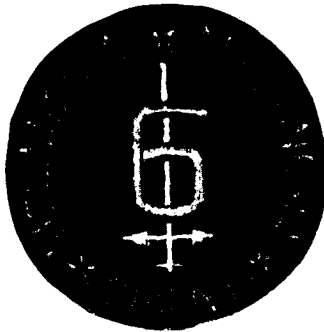
No Navy Crosses or Silver Stars are available for the 5th Marine Division.

Other 5th Marine Division Medal of Honor winners in World War II—all on Iwo Jima: KIA *

Cpl Charles J. Berry, * 26th Mar Rgt, 3 March 1945
Pfc William R. Caddy, * 26th Mar Rgt, 3 March 1945
Capt Robert H. Dunlap, 26th Mar Rgt, 20-21 February 1945
Sgt William G. Harrell, 28th Mar Rgt, 3 March 1945
Platoon Sgt Joseph R. Julian, * 27th Mar Rgt, 9 March 1945
Pfc James D. La Belle, * 27th Marine Rgt, 8 March 1945
Pfc Jack H. Lucas, 26th Mar Rgt, 20 February 1945
1st Lt Jack Lummus, * 27th Mar Rgt, 8 March 1945
1st Lt Harry L. Martin, * 5th Pioneer Bn, 26 March 1945
Pvt George Phillips, * 28th Mar Rgt, 14 March 1945

Pvt Donald J. Ruhl, * 28th Mar Rgt, 19-21 February 1945
Cpl Tony Stein, * 28th Mar Rgt, 19 February 1945
Pharmacist's Mate 2/c George E. Wahlen, 26th Mar Rgt, 3 March 1945
Sgt William G. Walsh, * 27th Mar Rgt, 27 February 1945
Pharmacist's Mate 3/c Jack Williams, * 28th Mar Rgt, 3 March 1945
Pharmacist's Mate 1/c John H. Willis, * 27th Mar Rgt, 28 February 1945

Two regiments of the 5th Marine Division served in the Vietnam War.



6TH MARINE DIVISION "The Striking Sixth"

Activated—7 September 1944 on Guadalcanal

Inactivated—After serving in North China

Battle Credits, World War II: Okinawa

Commanding General (During Combat, WW II):
Maj-Gen Lemuel C. Shepherd

Combat Chronicle: The 6th Marine Division was primarily a new outfit in name only. As a division, it was expanded from Marine units which had fought in battles previous to Okinawa. The 6th included the rebuilt 4th Marine Regiment, the original of which had been lost in the Philippines in 1942, and the 22nd Marine Regiment which had fought on Eniwetok Atoll in the Marshall Islands. These two regiments had been combined to form the 1st Marine Provisional Brigade which took part in the historic recapture of Guam in the summer of 1944. In turn, the new 29th Marine Regiment was added to make up the 6th Marine Division, plus the 15th Artillery Regiment, as well as all the other various types of supporting units such as engineers, supply, medical detachment, communications, etc., which make up any American fighting division. And so, many of the men in the 6th were the cream of the Corps. There were veterans of not only Eniwetok, Saipan, and Guam, but of also the disbanded Marine Raider battalions which had fought on Guadalcanal, New Georgia, and Bougainville. The 6th also had another nickname, due to a number of professional football players in its ranks—"The All-Stars." The division was anxious to prove itself in the terrific battle that was about to come.

On 1 April 1945, the 6th Marine Division, along with the 1st Marine and 7th and 96th Infantry Divisions, invaded Okinawa, landing toward the southwest side of the long, narrow island. It was both Easter Sunday and All Fool's Day, but few of the veterans in these outfits were under any illusions that it would be easy. Not with the only too well-known type of resistance that the Japanese were capable of putting up. They had their 24th and 62nd Divisions, the 44th Independent Mixed Brigade, a tank unit, and various other assorted troops on Okinawa initially totaling some 80,000 men. However, the Japanese had elected to make their major stand toward the southern end of the island. Unaware of this, the Americans sent the two Marine divisions wheeling north, while the two Army divisions, after capturing two airfields, pivoted south.

The 6th Marine Division bore the brunt of the fighting on northern Okinawa. It cleared the northern 2/3rds of the island throughout April and into early-May. In particular, there was heavy fighting on the Motobu Peninsula, a rather heavily wooded area. And on this peninsula, the 6th assaulted and cracked the powerfully organized Japanese defenses on Mount Yaetake, where there were a number of acts of individual heroism. By early-May 1945, the 6th had methodically killed-off the 2,500 defenders of northern Okinawa, while losing 236 men.

On 30 April, the 1st Marine Division had come down to relieve the exhausted 27th Infantry Division, and the 6th Marine Division soon followed into the inferno of southern Okinawa. The Americans battered away at the highly formidable Shuri Line in extremely tough, heavy, and costly fighting. The marines and soldiers were plastered almost continuously with artillery fire and the Japanese had their "knee" mortars which they used so accurately, plenty of automatic weapons, and the most intricate cave/tunnel system of defenses that the Americans had yet met anywhere in the Pacific.

The 6th Marine Division was in the extreme right flank of the U.S. line, with the 1st Marine Division on its left flank. On the 6th's right flank was nothing but the open sea.

In savage, exhausting combat the 6th hammered away at the extremely tough Jap defenses, along with the 1st Marine and 77th, 96th, and 7th Infantry Divisions, from west to east, facing south. Gains were measured in terms of yards and even feet, as the 6th achieved a series of small gains at the cost of very heavy casualties.

And then came the rains—incessant, drenching downpours which turned the battlefield into one big mass of slippery mud and muck, and made miniature lakes out of some of the larger shell craters. But the dreadful battle continued unabated, as the casualties kept on mounting. On 14-15 May 1945, the 6th had one of its 5 Medal of Honor winners on Okinawa in a very daring and courageous display of leadership and initiative by Major Henry A. Courtney, Jr., executive officer of the 2nd Battalion, 22nd Marine Regiment.

Ordered to hold for the night in static defense behind Sugar Loaf Hill after leading the forward elements of his command in a prolonged fire fight, Major Courtney weighed the effect of a hostile night counterattack against the tactical value of an immediate marine assault. Resolving to initiate the assault, he promptly obtained permission to advance and seize the forward slope of the hill.

Quickly explaining the situation to his small remaining force, he then proceeded to advance forward, boldly blasting nearby Japanese cave positions and neutralizing their guns as he went. Inspired by his courage, every man followed without hesitation. Together, the intrepid marines braved a terrific concentration of enemy fire to skirt the hill on the right and reach the reverse slope. Temporarily halting, Major Courtney sent men to the rear for more ammunition and possible replacements. Reinforced by 26 men and more grenades, and leading by example rather than command, he pushed ahead with unrelenting aggressiveness, hurling grenades into cave openings with devastating effect.

He then saw large numbers of Japs forming 100 yards away and instantly attacked, killing many and forcing the others to retire into some caves. He then ordered his men to dig-in, and coolly disregarding the continuous hail of flying enemy shrapnel, tirelessly rallied his men and aided casualties.

Although instantly killed by an enemy mortar burst while moving among his men, Major Courtney had made an important contribution to the success of the 6th Marine Division's advance on Okinawa. His deeds were a lasting inspiration to all those men around him.

Slowly, but surely, American persistence and courage paid off, and the main Japanese defense line finally crumbled, with Naha falling in fierce house-to-house fighting.

On 4 June, the 4th and 29th Regiments made a classic amphibious assault landing on the Oroku Peninsula at the southwest end of Okinawa. The Japanese had dug-in emplacements in the hills, and the cost in extracting the Japs out of their strongholds was fairly heavy. But by 13 June, the marines had occupied all the high ground in the region and surrounded a flat, swampy area on three sides. With this development, some of the remaining Japanese blew themselves up with grenades, while others were cut down by marine fire, and still many more surrendered.

By 21 June 1945, incredible Okinawa was finally officially declared secured.

Yes, the 6th Marine Division had been anxious to prove itself—and it did, performing almost flawlessly in its only battle of World War II—but a battle that was one of the longest, hardest, and bloodiest of the war.

After V-J Day, 14 August 1945, the 1st and 6th Marine Divisions were later sent to help occupy and control the situation in certain areas of northern China. The marines were pulled out of China before the communist takeover there in October 1949.

Honors: Congressional Medals of Honor—5	Casualties: Total Dead and
Distinguished Unit Citations—1 *	Missing In Action—1,637
Navy Crosses—	Wounded—6,590
Silver Stars—	Total Casualties—8,227

* One to the entire 6th Marine Division—Okinawa

Other 6th Marine Division Medal of Honor winners in World War II: Killed in action *

Cpl Richard E. Bush, 4th Mar Rgt, 16 April 1945, Mount Yaetake, Okinawa
Pfc Harold Gonsalves, * 15th Mar Arty Rgt, 15 April 1945, Mount Yaetake, Okinawa
Hospital Apprentice l/c Fred F. Lester, * 22nd Mar Rgt, 8 June 1945, on Okinawa
Pvt Robert M. McTureous, * 29th Mar Rgt, 7 June 1945, on Okinawa



MARINE RAIDERS

Activated—16 February 1942

Battle Credits, World War II: Makin Atoll Tulagi Guadalcanal
New Georgia and smaller islands in the Central Solomons
Bougainville

Original Commanders:

Lt Colonel Merritt A. Edson
Lt Colonel Evans F. Carlson

Combat Chronicle: The Marine Raiders were the cream of the Corps, the Marine counterpart of the Army Rangers.

When the United States was plunged so shockingly into World War II, President Roosevelt wanted commando-like formations. He was influenced in this by Prime Minister Churchill and, no doubt, by Captain James Roosevelt, USMC (the President's son), who, in January 1942, wrote to the Commandant proposing marine units of commandos, stressing in his letter the value of guerrillas in China as well as British experience. The Marine Corps had already made a study of the British Commandos when two of their captains visited Scotland. Largely on the basis of their report the 1st and 2nd Separate Battalions—later renamed Raider Battalions—were formed in early-1942. Their roles included landing on beaches generally thought inaccessible, raids requiring surprise and high speed, and guerrilla-type operations for protracted periods of time behind enemy lines.

1st Marine Raider Battalion:

Activated—16 February 1942

Commander—Lt Colonel Merritt A. Edson

The 1st Marine Raiders landed on Tulagi in early-August 1942, just before the 1st Marine Division landed on nearby Guadalcanal. Four separate Japanese attacks on the Raiders were beaten back, and by nightfall on 8 August the Raiders had secured Tulagi.

Soon after, the battalion was moved over to Guadalcanal. In mid-September 1942, the 1st Marine Raiders helped the 1st Marine Division beat back large, frenzied Japanese attacks on Bloody Ridge which included some of the most wild and desperate night fighting in the war.

On 16 October, the Raiders left Guadalcanal for rest and reorganization in Nouméa, New Caledonia 800 miles south of the "Canal".

Then, on 5 July 1943, during the invasion of New Georgia, the battalion was in a series of actions. Their heaviest fighting, on 20 July, began at 1015 hours when advancing toward Bairoko, they came upon Japanese machine-gun and sniper positions. In minutes they were pinned down, as the enemy's log and coral bunkers under sprawling banyan roots made a series of well camouflaged defenses along a ridge. The thick jungle caused marine mortar rounds to explode before they reached the Jap bunkers, and without flamethrowers the marines had only demolition charges and small-arms to reduce these defenses. The 1st Raiders were joined by the 4th Raider Battalion, but progress was slow despite the Raiders' determination. Finally, the Raiders withdrew during the night to positions around Enogai.

The 1st Marine Raider Battalion lost 74 men killed and 139 wounded before leaving bloody New Georgia on 28-29 August 1943. This was the 1st Battalion's last action, and it was disbanded on 1 February 1944. It received a Distinguished Unit Citation for its operations in the Solomon Islands.

2nd Marine Raider Battalion:

Activated—16 February 1942

Commander—Lt Colonel Evans F. Carlson

The 2nd Marine Raiders made a raid on Makin Island (north of Tarawa) on 17-18 August 1942. The Raiders were taken from Pearl Harbor in an 8-day voyage on two 2,700 ton submarines, the Nautilus and the Argonaut. The primary mission of this raid was to, hopefully, divert Japanese troops from Guadalcanal. This surprise raid caused considerable casualties to the Japanese garrison, and the battalion had a posthumous Medal of Honor winner, Sergeant Clyde Thomason. The Raiders had 30 fatal casualties—14 men killed in action, 7 who drowned when they were caught in large waves breaking the surf, and 9 men who drifted westward in a boat and were later caught by the Japanese and executed.

The 2nd Raider Battalion eventually continued on to Guadalcanal. Their most notable feat on this embattled island was when they made a landing, early-November 1942 along with elements of the Army's 147th Infantry Regiment, at Aola. This area was 30 miles south from Henderson Field. For a month these highly-trained men fought a series of running fights with the Japanese who were scattered in various areas of the jungle, and in general, harrassing them, while losing just 17 men. Meanwhile, they sent a few hundred of the enemy to their ancestors.

In November 1943, under Lt Colonel Joseph P. McCaffrey,* the 2nd Battalion landed west of Cape Torokina on Bougainville, helping to support the 3rd Marine Division. The Raiders advanced east to a mission station, and on 9 November fought a stubborn battle for a trail junction that they succeeded in taking that afternoon.

For the rest of November and into December, the battalion fought in support of the 3rd Marine Regiment of the 3rd Division, before being withdrawn to Guadalcanal on 11 January 1944. The 2nd Marine Raider Battalion received the Distinguished Unit Citation for its actions in the Solomon Islands before being disbanded on 31 January 1944.

* Killed in action

3rd Marine Raider Battalion:

Activated—20 September 1942 on Samoa

Commanders—Lt Colonel Harry B. Liversedge (Harry "The Horse" was an international athlete)

Lt Colonel Fred D. Beans

The 3rd Marine Raiders, on the night of 20-21 February 1943, landed on Pavuvu in the Russell Islands northwest of Guadalcanal, supporting an Army landing that same night on nearby Banika Island. There were no Japanese, and the Raiders garrisoned Pavuvu for one month.

On 1 November 1943, the 3rd Battalion (now under Lt Colonel Beans), landed on Puruata which is off-shore from Cape Torokina, Bougainville, where the main marine landing occurred. On Puruata the battalion overcame resistance by a reinforced Japanese rifle company. Meanwhile, M Company, detached from this landing, went ashore on the main beachhead and set up a road block 1,000 yards inland.

Later that month, along with other marine elements including the 1st Marine Parachute Battalion, M Company landed at Koiari, Bougainville, an hour's voyage south of Cape Torokina. Put ashore by mistake in the middle of a Japanese supply base, they fought all day and were only extricated that evening by U.S. destroyers and the 155mm guns at the Cape laying a three-sided box protective barrage of fire.

The 3rd Marine Raider Battalion was withdrawn from Bougainville on 11 January 1944, and was disbanded at the end of the month.

4th Marine Raider Battalion:

Activated—23 October 1942 at Camp Linda Vista, California

Commanders—Major James Roosevelt

Lt Colonel Michael S. Currin

The 4th Marine Raiders arrived at Espiritu Santo in the New Hebrides in February 1943. After being trained by Major Roosevelt, command of the battalion passed to Lt Colonel Currin in May 1943.

The battalion's first action was on New Georgia near Segi Point. It pre-empted any Jap-

Japanese attempt to occupy the eastern tip of the island. A week later, after paddling their boats 8 miles, they landed at Regi on a patrol in strength that would take them through jungle and swamp, often waist-deep in muddy water. On this first day they set up a rear-guard 2 miles inland protecting their swing west to their first bivouac. From here they needed two days in terrible terrain to work their way around the Viru inlet, a distance of some 12 miles. Several attacks by Japanese patrols were brushed off before the two platoons east of the inlet took Tombe village on 1 July 1943, and the same morning the rest of the battalion took Teterma with its 3-inch gun overlooking the narrow harbor entrance. An attempted forcing of this passage by a naval force was blocked, and the 4th Marine Raiders, after a 6-hour battle, had to fight off a final suicide attack before the village was taken.

In the meantime, N, Q, and Headquarters Companies had landed at Oloana Bay on Vangunu, a staging point for New Georgia which it adjoins. The Raiders contacted a scouting party and established a beachhead for the 103rd Infantry Regiment, 43rd Infantry Division. In spite of this, the Army landing parties were scattered in the rough weather. In subsequent fighting, the Marine and Army companies became separated, but still took the main Japanese positions by nightfall.

On the following night, a Japanese barge convoy attempted to land supplies and was sunk. Other mopping-up by the three Raider companies was completed before they rejoined the rest of the 4th Battalion which moved to New Georgia's north coast on 18 July 1943.

After their valiant action at Bairoko during 6 weeks on New Georgia with the 1st Marine Raider Battalion, the 4th Marine Raiders effective strength was only 154 men. 54 men had been killed, 139 wounded, and the others were sick.

The 4th Marine Raider Battalion was not brought back up to full strength before being disbanded on 1 February 1944.

Note: No other awards or casualty figures are available for the Marine Raiders—only those listed in the above articles, excepting number of Congressional Medal of Honor winners—4.



SEABEES "Fighting Seabees"

First Organized—8 January 1942

Battle Credits, World War II: Practically anywhere there was a major U.S. amphibious assault landing

Combat and Work Chronicle: The Seabees were the rugged offspring of the U.S. Navy—a weird breed of roughnecks and near-geniuses, men who weren't really supposed to fight but always managed to get into the scrap. They served wherever the guns blazed, but it was in the Pacific that they racked up a record that brought blushes of inferiority to soldiers, marines, sailors, and airmen alike.

Born of one of the best-kept secret scandals of the war, the Naval Construction Battalions were one of the major factors in the winning of the war in the Pacific. They went everywhere the troops went, often getting there before the first GI or marine hit the beach. Despite everything, through it all, they always remained rugged and untamed, the "wild men" of the war. In the States they were the "terrors of the taverns." Kid sailors and marines saw their graying hair and lined faces and sometimes tried to bait or ridicule them, but few ever tried it a second time.

The younger servicemen soon cracked, "Never hit a Seabee—he may be your grandfather."

The first Naval Construction Battalion was hastily slapped together not long after our country entered the war. On 8 January 1942, personnel and equipment were hurriedly assembled at Quonset, Rhode Island. By 28 February, the prototype of the Naval C.B.—hence Seabee—had off-loaded at Bora-Bora, in the Society Islands. Other sailors with construction experience were rushed to Pearl Harbor.

The Seabee experiment worked out so well that immediate authority was obtained to formally recruit men into a special and separate branch of the Navy—the Naval Construction Battalions, themselves.

Almost from the beginning, the Seabees took on a flavor and color all their own. The outfit attracted all types, but many men were "older" guys who wanted to get into action but had been turned down by the various branches of the service. Among others, there were oil-field roustabouts and sandhogs, miners, truck drivers, and rugged types who had built bridges in the Andes Mountains of South America or skyscrapers in New York.

As the war went on, Seabee battalions fanned out across the world. They often did the seemingly impossible wherever they went. On desolate Adak, in the Aleutians, they used their power shovels, bulldozers, and dump trucks to peel off the mucky gumbo of the tundra, often 4 feet or more deep. Once down to solid ground, they built airfields and roads.

On embattled Guadalcanal, a marine patrol was cut-off and surrounded by the Japanese. It was early in the campaign and with no reserves to spare. And so, five Seabee bulldozers were fired up. Armed with submachineguns and grenades, and with the heavy steel dozer blades raised high for a shield, the Seabees roared into the jungle, taking the Japs completely by surprise. As bullets spanged harmlessly off the dozers, the marines loaded up their dead and wounded and were successfully evacuated from the area.

It was on the "Canal" that a Seabee still, which was turning out 50 gallons of white lightning a day, was ruined by enemy-thrown hand grenades.

"Our booze!" bellowed the Seabees.

The counterattack they made with a vengeance never hit the communiqués, but it was highly successful. The Seabees tore into the Japs, killed 17 of them, and sent the better part of an entire battalion on the run.

The Seabees converted the muddy mangrove swamps of Merauke, Dutch New Guinea, into a finished airstrip in just 8 days.

On Eniwetok, in the Marshall Islands, after the island had been taken, the Seabees were ordered to build an officer's club. After asking to build one for the enlisted men first, the answer was what could be expected. "No." The officer's club came first.

And so, the Seabees did it, throwing up a club that provided the barest minimum of shelter and comfort, in less than five days.

Then, by scrounging and stealing, they got the materials to build an EM club. And it was a thing of beauty, complete with hot and cold running water and a bar that was a regular booze-spring, everlastingly fed by a special still the Seabees had rigged for the sole use of the suffering swabbies and gyrenes.

When he heard about it, the island commander hit the roof, but there wasn't a thing he could do about it! He would have been a laughing stock in short order if he would have tried.

On Saipan, the Seabees were building airstrips while the fighting raged on around them. Shells and slugs ripped over the heads of the men clearing the strip. The Japanese began closing in on the Seabees and it looked as if they might be overrun. About half of them then stopped working and formed a perimeter defense, while the other half kept on working. The Japanese were driven back.

It was on Saipan that the Japanese launched a huge Banzai attack against the 27th Infantry Division. After this terrible battle was over, more than 2,000 dead Japanese were counted on the battlefield. The overpowering stench of the corpses in the hot sun was intolerable, so the Seabees buried their fallen foe the easy way. They simply bulldozed the bodies into one huge, massive grave.

On nearby Tinian, the Seabees moved 11 million cubic yards of mud, rock, and coral to build the world's biggest bomber base—six strips, each 1½ miles long. Seabees constructed fuel tanks, barracks, and hospitals, and pushed through highways and railroads. On Guam they carved out and surfaced 100 miles of road in 90 days!

The Seabees also served in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy, but it was in the Pacific where they achieved their real reputation. Through it all, the Regular Navy shook its head in amazement. The Seabees simply would not tolerate "chicken" and just rebelled if their orders made no sense.

As the island hopping continued across the vast reaches of the Pacific, the Construction Battalions reached a fabulous level of ability and efficiency.

On Iwo Jima and Okinawa, the Seabees labored under constant enemy fire, often far in front of the main line of resistance. They drove roads through heavily wooded areas and swamps, and leveled off entire hills so that planes could land and take off.

When his attack bogged down in one sector on Okinawa, an Army commander radioed for reinforcements. When informed that the only available troops were 163 Seabees he shouted, "Then for God's sake send them up. They're worth a regiment of infantry!"

The 163 Seabees got their guns and tore into the bush. Thirty minutes later the Army outfit's commander radioed that the impasse was broken.

"Those crazy bastards came charging out of the trees and the Japs took off and ran!" he reported in amazement. "They're all nuts—but I wish I had 'em in my unit!"

On occasions, Seabee surveying parties went into enemy-held islands hours or even days ahead of the assault troops. They slipped in by night in tiny rowboats or by swimming, to survey the lay of the land and choose where they would begin working. It was deadly dangerous work, but only 3 men were lost in all these operations!

During the war, American servicemen had a habit, which has never been satisfactorily explained, of writing "Kilroy was here" in almost any place they served. At any rate, "Kilroy" became sort of a symbol of the spirit of the American fighting man.

What with their record and spectacular accomplishments, it's little wonder that many of the 260,000 Seabees of World War II insisted that "Kilroy" was one of their own. No one argued with them.

Navy Unit Commendations for the following Seabee (Construction Battalions): The 3rd, 33rd, 71st, 301st, and 1006th. No other awards or any casualty figures are available.

U.S. UNIT CASUALTIES—WORLD WAR II

(In the order of the number of total battle deaths)

UNIT	TOTAL DEAD	KIA	WOUNDED	TOTAL CASUALTIES
3rd Infantry Dvn	5,634	4,922	18,766	25,977
4th Infantry Dvn	4,798	4,017	17,371	22,580
29th Infantry Dvn	4,736	3,870	15,541	20,603
9th Infantry Dvn	4,531	3,863	17,416	23,284
1st Marine Dvn	4,465		13,849	18,314
1st Infantry Dvn	4,365	3,616	15,208	20,659
45th Infantry Dvn	4,276	3,714	14,541	21,260
36th Infantry Dvn	3,890	3,318	14,190	20,652
90th Infantry Dvn	3,868	3,270	14,386	19,128
34th Infantry Dvn	3,708	3,145	12,545	17,680
30th Infantry Dvn	3,525	2,992	13,376	18,435
83rd Infantry Dvn	3,387	2,960	11,000	14,902
4th Marine Dvn	3,317		13,006	16,323
2nd Infantry Dvn	3,272	2,833	12,000	16,812
80th Infantry Dvn	3,194	2,800	11,500	15,865
35th Infantry Dvn	2,936	2,476	11,526	15,813
79th Infantry Dvn	2,923	2,454	10,971	15,181
28th Infantry Dvn	2,873	2,316	9,609	16,762
8th Infantry Dvn	2,804	2,513	10,057	13,967
2nd Marine Dvn	2,729		8,753	11,482
5th Infantry Dvn	2,628	2,277	9,549	12,797
88th Infantry Dvn	2,529	2,282	9,225	13,095
32nd Infantry Dvn	2,524	2,108	6,627	8,763
101st Airborne Dvn	2,500	2,188	6,800	10,162
7th Infantry Dvn	2,346	1,957	7,258	9,221
3rd Armored Dvn	2,302	2,043	7,160	9,673
96th Infantry Dvn	2,166	1,596	7,281	8,945
26th Infantry Dvn	2,116	1,892	7,886	10,743
82nd Airborne Dvn	2,116	1,737	6,950	9,581
5th Marine Dvn	2,113		6,450	8,563
27th Infantry Dvn	1,977	1,545	5,485	7,071
3rd Marine Dvn	1,932		6,744	8,676
1st Armored Dvn	1,907	1,623	6,300	8,657
77th Infantry Dvn	1,904	1,482	6,000	7,559
85th Infantry Dvn	1,749	1,572	6,314	8,785

UNIT	TOTAL DEAD	KIA	WOUNDED	TOTAL CASUALTIES
78th Infantry Dvn	1,655	1,432	6,103	8,151
6th Marine Dvn	1,637		6,590	8,227
91st Infantry Dvn	1,633	1,456	6,748	8,800
43rd Infantry Dvn	1,514	1,213	5,187	6,411
25th Infantry Dvn	1,508	1,253	4,190	5,450
4th Armored Dvn	1,483	1,282	5,098	7,258
104th Infantry Dvn	1,465	1,285	5,200	6,818
2nd Armored Dvn	1,456	1,200	5,757	7,283
37th Infantry Dvn	1,456	1,112	5,261	6,378
84th Infantry Dvn	1,420	1,282	5,098	7,258
24th Infantry Dvn	1,441	1,209	5,321	6,547
95th Infantry Dvn	1,374	1,206	4,945	6,592
6th Armored Dvn	1,270	1,074	4,200	5,445
87th Infantry Dvn	1,269	1,124	4,342	6,004
Americal Dvn	1,259	1,075	3,350	4,442
7th Armored Dvn	1,222	994	4,000	6,084
1st Cavalry Dvn	1,152	887	4,035	4,932
99th Infantry Dvn	1,131	983	4,177	6,543
17th Airborne Dvn	1,130	978	4,704	6,332
6th Infantry Dvn	1,120	898	3,876	4,777
44th Infantry Dvn	1,101	940	4,209	5,557
94th Infantry Dvn	1,100	950	4,789	6,474
102nd Infantry Dvn	1,012	888	3,668	4,878
41st Infantry Dvn	975	758	3,504	4,275
63rd Infantry Dvn	960	844	3,326	4,487
10th Armored Dvn	945	790	4,000	5,070
100th Infantry Dvn	944	847	3,539	5,002
10th Mountain Dvn	941	862	3,174	4,062
75th Infantry Dvn	922	818	3,314	4,325
5th Armored Dvn	840	665	2,842	3,570
70th Infantry Dvn	840	758	2,713	3,922
103rd Infantry Dvn	821	659	3,329	4,497
66th Infantry Dvn *	800	795	636	1,452
442nd Infantry Rgt		680		
38th Infantry Dvn	791	653	2,814	3,472
76th Infantry Dvn	779	667	2,197	3,033
9th Armored Dvn	741	607	2,350	3,952

UNIT	TOTAL DEAD	KIA	WOUNDED	TOTAL CASUALTIES
12th Armored Dvn	718	605	2,416	3,516
40th Infantry Dvn	718	587	2,407	2,994
42nd Infantry Dvn	655	553	2,212	3,971
11th Airborne Dvn	631	516	1,926	2,453
11th Armored Dvn	628	523	2,394	2,968
92nd Infantry Dvn	610	544	2,187	2,993
14th Armored Dvn	609	544	1,955	2,729
81st Infantry Dvn	520	374	1,942	2,322
106th Infantry Dvn	513	444	1,278	8,419 **
33rd Infantry Dvn	509	388	2,024	2,418
1st Spec Serv Force	449	419		2,500
31st Infantry Dvn	418	342	1,392	1,733
69th Infantry Dvn	384	341	1,146	1,506
8th Armored Dvn	355	299	1,375	1,720
158th Infantry Rgt	340	290	1,097	1,390
89th Infantry Dvn	311	281	690	1,016
65th Infantry Dvn	261	233	927	1,230
97th Infantry Dvn	215	188	721	979
71st Infantry Dvn	169	150	643	821
113th Cavalry Grp	161	154		
86th Infantry Dvn	161	136	618	785
473rd Infantry Rgt		160	450	
3rd Ranger Bn	150			
1st Ranger Bn	140			
4th Ranger Bn	140			
13th Armored Dvn	129	107	712	819
5th Ranger Bn		117		
20th Armored Dvn	54	46	134	186
93rd Infantry Dvn	50	43	133	194
16th Armored Dvn	5	4	28	32

No casualty figures are available for the following units:

Philippine Inf Dvn	6th Ranger Bn	99th Infantry Bn
1st Marine Provl Bgde	6th Cavalry Grp	112th Cavalry Rgt
2nd Ranger Bn	13th Amd Grp	147th Infantry Rgt
2nd Cavalry Grp	14th Cavalry Grp	474th Infantry Rgt
3rd Cavalry Grp	15th Cavalry Grp	503rd Parachute Rgt
4th Cavalry Grp	22nd Marine Rgt	517th Parachute Rgt
Marine Raiders	Merrill's Marauders	Mars Task Force
	102nd Cavalry Grp	106th Cavalry Grp

Notes on the casualty listing:

- 1 Some of the totals are approximate figures. However, the total battle death and the KIA (killed in action) figures are quite accurate. An exception to this is the Ranger battalions. All of those battalions which are listed are approximate figures except for the 5th Ranger Battalion which is an exact figure.
- 2 * The 66th Infantry Division lost over 700 men in the English Channel in December 1944, due to enemy submarine action.
- 3 ** The 106th Infantry Division had close to 7,000 men captured in the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944.
- 4 No killed in action figures are available for any of the Marine divisions—only the total ~~battle~~ death figures.
- 5 The total battle death column includes those men who later died of wounds.
- 6 Captured and missing in action figures have been omitted primarily due to lack of space. In the Pacific, as a rule, very few men surrendered to the Japanese.
- 7 Figures are also incomplete for the 1st Special Service Force and the Japanese-American 442nd Infantry Regiment, the 473rd Infantry Regiment, and the 113th Cavalry Group. The 473rd fought in Italy, and the 113th fought in Europe.
- 8 The casualty figures for all of these units does not include any units or personnel which may have been temporarily attached to a given unit at any time.

U.S. BATTLE DEATHS IN WORLD WAR II—INCLUDES ARMY, MARINE CORPS, AND NAVY

France	52,844	
Germany	42,915	
Sicily and Italy	25,953	
Belgium	10,418	
Tunisia	3,053	
Holland	2,468	
Luxembourg	1,297	
Algeria	671	
Morocco	130 *	
Austria	118	
Czechoslovakia	116	
Yugoslavia	7	
	<u>139,990</u>	
Philippines	26,428	(Leyte, Luzon, Mindanao, Cebu, Samar, Negros, and others)
Okinawa	13,415	(Also, includes Ie Shima, Tsugen Shima, and Kerama Rettc
Iwo Jima	6,100 *	
Mariana Islands	5,160	(Saipan, Tinian, and Guam)
Solomon Islands	3,625	(Guadalcanal, New Georgia, Bougainville, and others)
New Guinea	2,774	(Also, includes Biak, Wakde, Noemfoor, and Morotai)
Palau Islands	2,715	(Peleliu, Angaur, and smaller islands)
Gilbert Islands	1,715	(Tarawa and Makin)
Burma	729	
Marshall Islands	708	(Eniwetok and Kwajalein)
Aleutian Islands	457	(Attu and Kiska)
Admiralty Islands	329	(Los Negros, Manus, and Lorengau)
New Britain	315	
China	61	
	<u>64,530</u>	
GRAND TOTAL	204,520	(In this listing)

* Approximate figures

WORLD WAR II

North Africa—battle deaths listed in order for Morocco-Algeria: Nov-Dec 1942

	Listed	Approx. Total
1st Amd Dvn	91	190
9th Inf Dvn	33	70
3rd Inf Dvn		66 (exact figure)
34th Inf Dvn	19	45
2nd Amd Dvn	7	20
1st Inf Dvn	unavailable	

Approx. total-290 (not including the 1st Infantry Dvn)

North Africa—battle deaths listed in order for Tunisia: Jan—13 May 1943

1st Inf Dvn		750 (approx. figure)
1st Amd Dvn	290	550
9th Inf Dvn	220	450
34th Inf Dvn	183	380
1st Ranger Bn	unavailable	

Approx. total-2,130 (not counting the 1st Ranger Bn)

Sicily—battle deaths listed in order for Sicily: 10 July—17 Aug 1943

3rd Inf Dvn		381 (exact figure)
45th Inf Dvn		302 (exact figure)
1st Inf Dvn		264 (exact figure)
82nd Abn Dvn		206 (exact figure)
9th Inf Dvn	63	130
2nd Amd Dvn	23	60
Rangers	unavailable	

Approx. total-1,345 (not counting the Rangers)

Italy—battle deaths listed in order for Southern Italy (includes 1st Battle of Cassino)
9 Sept 1943—into February 1944

36th Inf Dvn	692	1,400
34th Inf Dvn	601	1,225
45th Inf Dvn	404	820
3rd Inf Dvn		683 (exact figure)
82nd Abn Dvn	81	175
1st Amd Dvn	61	110
1st Spec Srv Force	unavailable	
Rangers	unavailable	

Cassino:

34th Inf Dvn	610
36th Inf Dvn	370 (142nd Rg)

Approx. total-980

Approx. total-4,410 (not counting the last 2 units)

Italy—battle deaths listed in order for Anzio (includes both the beachhead and the breakout to Rome): 22 Jan—4 June 1944

	Listed	Approx. Total
3rd Inf Dvn		1,585 (exact figure)
45th Inf Dvn	661	1,330
34th Inf Dvn	252	520
1st Amd Dvn	260	500
36th Inf Dvn	104	220
82nd Abn Dvn	68	150 (504th Para Rgt, only)
91st Inf Dvn	5	12
1st Spec Srv Frce Rangers	unavailable unavailable	

Approx. total-4,320 (not counting the last 2 units)

Italy—battle deaths listed in order for the Rome-Arno Campaign: June—early-Sept 1944

91st Inf Dvn	270	545
88th Inf Dvn	237	490
34th Inf Dvn	195	415
1st Amd Dvn	156	300
36th Inf Dvn	93	200
92nd Inf Dvn		104 (exact figure)
85th Inf Dvn	35	65

Approx. total-2,120

Italy—battle deaths listed in order for the Battle Through the Gothic Line and into the Northern Apennines (includes from about mid-Sept—through Oct 1944)

88th Inf Dvn	437	890
85th Inf Dvn	414	800
91st Inf Dvn	362	730
34th Inf Dvn	253	520
1st Amd Dvn	59	110
92nd Inf Dvn		80 (exact figure)

Approx. total-3,130

Italy—battle deaths listed in order for the Final Allied Offensive In Northern Italy— from out of the Apennines—into the Po Valley and to the Alps: beginning mid-April—2 May 1945

10th Mtn Dvn	272	500
88th Inf Dvn	91	195
91st Inf Dvn	75	155
1st Amd Dvn	73	130
92nd Inf Dvn		115 (exact figure)
34th Inf Dvn	40	90
85th Inf Dvn	18	35
442nd Inf Rgt	unavailable	
473rd Inf Rgt	unavailable	

Approx. total-1,220 (not including the last 2 units)

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for the Battle of Normandy: 6 June 1944-
mid-Aug 1944

	Listed	Approx. Total	
29th Inf Dvn	1,301	2,700	
4th Inf Dvn	1,216	2,500	
90th Inf Dvn	1,049	1,950	Helping to repulse German
9th Inf Dvn	847	1,700	Counteroffensive at Mortain, Normandy
2nd Inf Dvn	818	1,650	7-14 August 1944:
30th Inf Dvn	803	1,640	30th Inf Dvn 355
83rd Inf Dvn	810	1,580	35th Inf Dvn 165
79th Inf Dvn	596	1,200	4th Inf Dvn 115
101st Abn Dvn	400	850	3rd Amd Dvn 110
35th Inf Dvn	394	825	2nd Amd Dvn 95
3rd Amd Dvn	361	710	1st Inf Dvn unknown
28th Inf Dvn	332	710	
8th Inf Dvn	320	630	
82nd Abn Dvn	250	530	
2nd Amd Dvn	197	425	
5th Inf Dvn	134	300	
80th Inf Dvn	70	135	
5th Amd Dvn	45	105	
4th Amd Dvn	42	90	
1st Inf Dvn		unavailable	

Approx. total-20,230 (not counting the 1st Inf Dvn)

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for the Battle of Brittany: 1 Aug 1944-
mid-Sept 1944

8th Inf Dvn	411	790
29th Inf Dvn	325	700
2nd Inf Dvn	229	480
83rd Inf Dvn	213	400
6th Amd Dvn	117	250
4th Amd Dvn	42	100

Approx. total-2,720

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for U.S. 1st Army Attack Into The Siegfried Line:
Mid-Sept 1944

28th Inf Dvn	245
3rd Amd Dvn	225
9th Inf Dvn	200
4th Inf Dvn	180
5th Amd Dvn	125
30th Inf Dvn	90
2nd Amd Dvn	25

Approx. total-1,090

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for the U.S. 3rd Army Offensive from Lorraine—into the Saar, and U.S. 7th Army Offensive from southern Lorraine—into Alsace; co-ordinated together into one big massive offensive: beginning 8 Nov 1944—well into Dec 1944

	Listed	Approx. Total
95th Inf Dvn	481	980 (3rd Army)
26th Inf Dvn	412	840 (3rd Army)
90th Inf Dvn	331	640 (3rd Army)
80th Inf Dvn	321	635 (3rd Army)
35th Inf Dvn	277	575 (3rd Army)
79th Inf Dvn	257	515 (7th Army)
44th Inf Dvn	225	465 (7th Army)
100th Inf Dvn	219	420 (7th Army)
103rd Inf Dvn	189	380 (7th Army)
87th Inf Dvn	169	315 (3rd Army)
4th Amd Dvn	144	300 (3rd Army)
5th Inf Dvn	134	285 (3rd Army)
6th Amd Dvn	108	225 (3rd Army)
45th Inf Dvn	101	210 (7th Army)
10th Amd Dvn	87	185 (3rd Army)
14th Amd Dvn	55	100 (7th Army)
12th Amd Dvn	33	62 (7th Army) (exact figure)

Approx. total-7,335

note: Some of the above units entered combat well after the offensive was under way.

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for Southern France: August 1944

36th Inf Dvn	128	270
3rd Inf Dvn		220 (exact figure)
45th Inf Dvn	52	115
1st Spec Srv Frce		unavailable
517th Para Rgt		unavailable

Approx. total-605 (not including the last 2 units)

Italy—battle deaths listed in order for the Northern Apennines: November 1944—to the beginning of the U.S. 5th Army Offensive which began on 14 April 1945. Also, this listing doesn't include the beginning of the 92nd Infantry Dvn.'s attack which commenced on 5 April 1945.

10th Mtn Dvn	440
92nd Inf Dvn	362 (exact figure)
34th Inf Dvn	180
88th Inf Dvn	175
91st Inf Dvn	130
85th Inf Dvn	90
1st Amd Dvn	55

Approx. total-1,430

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for the Battle In The Hürtgen Forest, extreme western Germany—Altogether, beginning in mid-Sept 1944 and lasting through most of Dec 1944. The 9th Infantry Dvn was the first American unit to fight in this forest.

	Listed	Approx. Total
4th Inf Dvn	391	815
9th Inf Dvn	351	710
28th Inf Dvn	252	550
8th Inf Dvn	264	500
83rd Inf Dvn	204	390
5th Amd Dvn	120	255
1st Inf Dvn	unavailable	

~~Approx.~~ total-3,220 (not including the great 1st Infantry Dvn which, no doubt, lost at least 400 men in this terrible forest)

note: The 8th Infantry Dvn's fighting in this forest overlaps with the autumn Assault To The Roer River.

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for U.S. 3rd Army divisions in Lorraine, northern France (along the line of the Moselle River). Much of the Battle of Metz is included in this time sequence which is from early-September-7 November 1944:

	Approx. Total
80th Inf Dvn	1,000
5th Inf Dvn	735 M
35th Inf Dvn	600
90th Inf Dvn	300 M
7th Amd Dvn	250 M
4th Amd Dvn	230
26th Inf Dvn	190
6th Amd Dvn.	145
10th Amd Dvn	10

Approx. total—3,460

M—indicates was in the Battle of Metz

Italy—battle deaths listed in order (approx. totals):

Allied break through the Gustav Line, Italy: beginning 11 May 1944

85th Inf Dvn	510
88th Inf Dvn	220

Approx. total-730

Europe

Vosges Mountains, northeastern France: October 1944, only (approx. totals)

3rd Inf Dvn	unavailable
79th Inf Dvn	380
36th Inf Dvn	320
45th Inf Dvn	300

Approx. total-1000 (not including the 3rd Infantry Dvn)

The Remagen Bridgehead, across the Rhine, Germany: Mid-March 1945

1st Inf Dvn	unavailable
78th Inf Dvn	335
9th Inf Dvn	270
99th Inf Dvn	200
9th Amd Dvn	120

Approx. total-925 (not counting the 1st Infantry Dvn)

The Scheldt Estuary, southwestern Holland: Late-Oct—Early Nov 1944

104th Inf Dvn	270
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"Operation Market Garden"—Airdrop Into Southern Holland: 17 Sept—into Nov 1944

101st Abn Dvn	750
82nd Abn Dvn	460

Approx. total-1,210

note: The break through the Gustav Line, Italy and the clearing of the Scheldt Estuary in south Holland were largely British operations.

The Battle of Metz, Lorraine, France: beginning 7 Sept—late-Nov 1944

5th Inf Dvn	770
95th Inf Dvn	380
7th Amd Dvn	250
90th Inf Dvn	230

Approx. total-1,630

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for the Battle of the Bulge: 16 Dec 1944-
28 Jan 1945

	Listed	Approx. Total
101st Abn Dvn	290	610
26th Inf Dvn	280	575
80th Inf Dvn	292	570
30th Inf Dvn	227	475
75th Inf Dvn	223	465
84th Inf Dvn	232	455
17th Abn Dvn	218	450
83rd Inf Dvn	234	450
28th Inf Dvn	187	440
35th Inf Dvn	198	430
99th Inf Dvn	219	425
5th Inf Dvn	172	400
106th Inf Dvn	189	400
90th Inf Dvn	204	385
3rd Amd Dvn	184	360
2nd Inf Dvn	175	350
87th Inf Dvn	170	320
6th Amd Dvn	142	315
82nd Abn Dvn	145	310
4th Inf Dvn	141	300
78th Inf Dvn	147	280
9th Amd Dvn	131	275
11th Amd Dvn	133	275
7th Amd Dvn	146	270
4th Amd Dvn	91	190
10th Amd Dvn	86	180
2nd Amd Dvn	80	175
9th Inf Dvn	75	150
5th Amd Dvn	14	35
1st Inf Dvn	unavailable	

Approx. total-11,315 (not counting the 1st Inf Dvn)

note: Several different cavalry groups (consisting of around 3,000 men each) were also in the Battle of the Bulge, but no casualty figures are available for them, and, likewise, the 517th Parachute Regiment.

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for the Battle Against the German Offensive In Northern Alsace, France: Throughout Jan 1945

	Listed	Approx. Total
45th Inf Dvn	147	315
70th Inf Dvn	145	300
79th Inf Dvn	145	290
42nd Inf Dvn	140	290
12th Amd Dvn	102	245
14th Amd Dvn	115	225
36th Inf Dvn	85	185
44th Inf Dvn	73	170
100th Inf Dvn	70	150
103rd Inf Dvn	69	140
63rd Inf Dvn	36	85
95th Inf Dvn	9	25

Approx. total-2,420

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for the Battle of the Colmar Pocket, eastern Alsace, northeastern France: 20 Jan-12 Feb 1945

3rd Inf Dvn		317 (exact figure)
28th Inf Dvn	75	170
75th Inf Dvn	65	150
63rd Inf Dvn	51	115 (254th Rgt, only)
12th Amd Dvn	28	65

Approx. total-820

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for U.S. 7th Army breakthrough the Siegfried Line mid-March 1945

36th Inf Dvn	103	215
103rd Inf Dvn	80	160
45th Inf Dvn	57	120
42nd Inf Dvn	55	120
63rd Inf Dvn	46	105
65th Inf Dvn	43	90
70th Inf Dvn	27	60
14th Amd Dvn	22	45
100th Inf Dvn	18	35
71st Inf Dvn	5	10
6th Amd Dvn	4	10
3rd Inf Dvn		unavailable

Approx. total-965 (not counting the 3rd Inf Dvn)

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for the Assault to the Roer River: mid-November—
into Dec 1944

8th Inf Dvn	575
84th Inf Dvn	550
104th Inf Dvn	520
29th Inf Dvn	500
102nd Inf Dvn	460
30th Inf Dvn	225
2nd Amd Dvn	160
3rd Amd Dvn	140

Approx. total-3,130

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for the Assault Across the Roer—to the Rhine:
beginning 23 Feb-into early-March 1945. U.S. 9th and part of 1st Armies.

8th Inf Dvn	385
84th Inf Dvn	265
102nd Inf Dvn	255
104th Inf Dvn	235
69th Inf Dvn	160
29th Inf Dvn	140
30th Inf Dvn	140
8th Amd Dvn	135
9th Amd Dvn	135
3rd Amd Dvn	130
2nd Amd Dvn	105
35th Inf Dvn	95
83rd Inf Dvn	50
5th Amd Dvn	30
75th Inf Dvn	30
79th Inf Dvn	15

Approx. total-2,310

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for the Battle of the Ruhr Pocket: late-March—
mid-April 1945

8th Inf Dvn	320
78th Inf Dvn	180
99th Inf Dvn	150
97th Inf Dvn	140
75th Inf Dvn	130
3rd Amd Dvn	120
9th Inf Dvn	105
7th Amd Dvn	100
13th Amd Dvn	95
95th Inf Dvn	95
8th Amd Dvn	90
86th Inf Dvn	90
104th Inf Dvn	80
35th Inf Dvn	60
82nd Abn Dvn	55
101st Abn Dvn	45
2nd Amd Dvn	40
79th Inf Dvn	40
5th Inf Dvn	25
94th Inf Dvn	25
29th Inf Dvn	15
83rd Inf Dvn	10
1st Inf Dvn	unavailable

Approx. total-2,015 (not counting the 1st Inf Dvn)

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for the Eifel Campaign, western Germany, by the U.S. 3rd Army: 29 Jan—12 March 1945

	Listed	Approx. Total
76th Inf Dvn	287	580
4th Inf Dvn	251	500
80th Inf Dvn	237	460
87th Inf Dvn	216	390
5th Inf Dvn	142	320
90th Inf Dvn	136	250
69th Inf Dvn	81	170 (1st Army)
4th Amd Dvn	77	165
2nd Inf Dvn	60	130 (1st Army)
6th Amd Dvn	57	125
11th Amd Dvn	56	120
10th Amd Dvn	44	100
28th Inf Dvn	20	50 (1st Army)
17th Abn Dvn	12	30

Approx. total-3,390

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for the Palatinate Campaign, western Germany, to the Rhine, by the U.S. 3rd Army: 13-23 March 1945

26th Inf Dvn	67	145
80th Inf Dvn	73	135
94th Inf Dvn	64	135
90th Inf Dvn	64	110
10th Amd Dvn	47	105
12th Amd Dvn	34	80
4th Amd Dvn	26	60
11th Amd Dvn	19	45
5th Inf Dvn	17	40
76th Inf Dvn	18	38
89th Inf Dvn	17	37
65th Inf Dvn	2	5

Approx. total-940

Europe—number of battle deaths listed when and where the following units crossed the Rhine in Germany: March-April 1945

1st Inf Dvn	unavailable	15-16 Mar 45	Remagen bridgehead, 1st Army
2nd Inf Dvn	20	23 Mar 45	mid-Rhineland, 1st Army
2nd Amd Dvn	negligible	27 Mar 45	near Wesel, 9th Army
3rd Inf Dvn	unavailable	26 Mar 45	Worms bridgehead, 7th Army
3rd Amd Dvn	2	23 Mar 45	near Cologne, 1st Army
4th Inf Dvn	negligible	30 Mar 45	7th Army area
4th Amd Dvn	18	24 Mar 45	Worms bridgehead, 3rd Army
5th Inf Dvn	3	22 Mar 45	Oppenheim bridgehead, 3rd Army
5th Amd Dvn	5	30-31 Mar 45	at Wesel, 9th Army
6th Amd Dvn	5	25 Mar 45	at Oppenheim, 3rd Army
7th Amd Dvn	negligible	25 Mar 45	1st Army area
8th Inf Dvn	16	29-30 Mar 45	near Cologne, 1st Army
8th Amd Dvn	negligible	26 Mar 45	into the Ruhr, 9th Army
9th Inf Dvn	40	9 Mar 45	Remagen bridgehead, 1st Army
9th Amd Dvn	8	7 Mar 45	Remagen bridgehead, 1st Army
10th Amd Dvn	negligible	28 Mar 45	7th Army area
11th Amd Dvn	unknown	late-Mar 45	at Oppenheim, 3rd Army
12th Amd Dvn	3	27-28 Mar 45	at Worms, 7th Army
14th Amd Dvn	2	1 Apr 45	near Worms, 7th Army
26th Inf Dvn	negligible	26 Mar 45	at Oppenheim, 3rd Army
29th Inf Dvn	unknown	unknown	9th Army area
30th Inf Dvn	35	24 Mar 45	near Buderich, 9th Army
35th Inf Dvn	15	25-26 Mar 45	near Rheinberg, 9th Army
42nd Inf Dvn	3	31 Mar 45	7th Army area
44th Inf Dvn	negligible	26-27 Mar 45	at Worms, 7th Army
45th Inf Dvn	30	26 Mar 45	near Worms, 7th Army
63rd Inf Dvn	negligible	28 Mar 45	at Neuschloss, 7th Army
65th Inf Dvn	negligible	29-30 Mar 45	near Schwabenheim, 3rd Army
69th Inf Dvn	negligible	26-28 Mar 45	1st Army area
71st Inf Dvn	negligible	30 Mar 45	at Oppenheim, 7th Army
75th Inf Dvn	6	24 and 30 Mar 45	into the Ruhr, 9th Army
76th Inf Dvn	negligible	26-27 Mar 45	at Boppard, 3rd Army
78th Inf Dvn	16	8 Mar 45	Remagen bridgehead, 1st Army
79th Inf Dvn	40	24 Mar 45	near Rheinberg, 9th Army
80th Inf Dvn	30	27-28 Mar 45	Oppenheim vicinity, 3rd Army
83rd Inf Dvn	negligible	29 Mar 45	south of Wesel, 9th Army
84th Inf Dvn	negligible	1 Apr 45	9th Army area
87th Inf Dvn	35	25 Mar 45	Braubach-Boppard area, 3rd Army
89th Inf Dvn	110	26 Mar 45	Wellmich-Oberwesel region, 3rd Army
90th Inf Dvn	35	24 Mar 45	near Mainz, 3rd Army
95th Inf Dvn	unknown	early-Apr 45	into the Ruhr, 9th Army
99th Inf Dvn	30	10-11 Mar 45	Remagen bridgehead, 1st Army
100th Inf Dvn	negligible	31 Mar 45	7th Army area
102nd Inf Dvn	negligible	3-4 Apr 45	at Wesel, 9th Army
104th Inf Dvn	3	21-22 Mar 45	at Honnef, 1st Army

note: Any divisions not listed which were in Europe—they were either mopping-up, policing, or resting in areas behind the main line of advance at the time of these Rhine crossings. There are 520 known approximate battle deaths in this works. The 17th Airborne Dvn airdropped across the Rhine near Wesel, on 24 March 1945, losing, altogether, on that day, approximately 350 men!

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for Across The Elbe—Into Mecklenburg,
northern Germany: late-April—8 May 1945

82nd Abn Dvn	29
8th Inf Dvn	15
7th Amd Dvn	2
Approx. total 46	

Europe—battle deaths listed in order—Into Czechoslovakia: late-April—9 May 1945

97th Inf Dvn	57
90th Inf Dvn	35
5th Inf Dvn	12
26th Inf Dvn	9
89th Inf Dvn	9
16th Amd Dvn	5
87th Inf Dvn	2
9th Amd Dvn	2
Approx. total 131	

Europe—battle deaths listed in order—At, and South Of The Danube, southern Germany,
including (for some units) Austria: late-April—8 May 1945

65th Inf Dvn	72	
20th Amd Dvn	50	M
12th Amd Dvn	46	
45th Inf Dvn	40	M
86th Inf Dvn	40	
100th Inf Dvn	35	(southern Württemberg, somewhat north of the Danube)
63rd Inf Dvn	32	
42nd Inf Dvn	31	M
11th Amd Dvn	28	
99th Inf Dvn	27	
44th Inf Dvn	24	
13th Amd Dvn	20	
103rd Inf Dvn	18	
10th Amd Dvn	17	
71st Inf Dvn	17	
14th Amd Dvn	16	
36th Inf Dvn	10	
26th Inf Dvn	9	
4th Inf Dvn	6	
80th Inf Dvn	2	
101st Abn Dvn	2	
	3rd Inf Dvn	unavailable
Approx. total 542		

M Includes fighting in Munich, Germany

Europe—battle deaths listed in order for April 1945: Germany and northern Italy

	Listed	Approx. Total		Listed	Approx. Total	
10th Mtn Dvn	270	510	26th Inf Dvn	20	45	
63rd Inf Dvn	194	410	101st Abn Dvn	19	45	
83rd Inf Dvn	164	305	103rd Inf Dvn	21	42	
8th Inf Dvn	164	300	79th Inf Dvn	20	40	
3rd Inf Dvn		250	5th Inf Dvn	14	40	
3rd Amd Dvn	123	225	85th Inf Dvn	18	33	
100th Inf Dvn	122	225	36th Inf Dvn	12	30	
9th Inf Dvn	109	225	94th Inf Dvn	10	25	
97th Inf Dvn	102	200	106th Inf Dvn	9	20	
4th Inf Dvn	95	200	28th Inf Dvn	6	20	
12th Amd Dvn	92	200	70th Inf Dvn	3	8	
45th Inf Dvn	92	200	1st Inf Dvn		unavailable	
69th Inf Dvn	94	195			Approx. total-8,485 (not counting the 1st Inf Dvn)	
88th Inf Dvn	90	195				
78th Inf Dvn	100	185			In Brittany, France—April 1945	
99th Inf Dvn	95	180				
10th Amd Dvn	86	180			66th Inf Dvn	12 (exact figure)
2nd Inf Dvn	80	170				
80th Inf Dvn	86	165				
91st Inf Dvn	80	165				
104th Inf Dvn	68	150				
14th Amd Dvn	78	145				
75th Inf Dvn	67	145				
86th Inf Dvn	74	145				
42nd Inf Dvn	68	140				
44th Inf Dvn	62	135				
13th Amd Dvn	55	124				
1st Amd Dvn	70	120				
84th Inf Dvn	60	115				
4th Amd Dvn	52	115				
92nd Inf Dvn		115 (exact figure)				
89th Inf Dvn	52	110				
30th Inf Dvn	46	110				
8th Amd Dvn	54	105				
95th Inf Dvn	48	105				
9th Amd Dvn	47	105				
65th Inf Dvn	54	100				
71st Inf Dvn	54	100				
76th Inf Dvn	50	100				
6th Amd Dvn	46	100				
17th Abn Dvn	44	100				
34th Inf Dvn	43	100				
5th Amd Dvn	44	95				
11th Amd Dvn	44	95				
2nd Amd Dvn	41	95				
7th Amd Dvn	55	90				
87th Inf Dvn	45	80				
90th Inf Dvn	42	80				
82nd Abn Dvn	35	80				
102nd Inf Dvn	35	80				
35th Inf Dvn	27	65				
29th Inf Dvn	23	55 (exact figure)				
20th Amd Dvn	29	52				

WORLD WAR II

Pacific—battle deaths listed in order for all of the following units and campaigns:

Guadalcanal: 7 Aug 1942—9 Feb 1943

	Listed	Approx. Total
1st Mar Dvn		642 (exact figure)
Americal Dvn	193	365
2nd Mar Dvn		342 (exact figure)
25th Inf Dvn	115	230
Marine Raiders		unavailable
147th Inf Rgt		unavailable

Approx. total-1,580 (not including the last 2 units)

Papua, Southeast New Guinea: Nov 1942—2 Jan 1943

32nd Inf Dvn	253	530
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Attu: May 1943

7th Inf Dvn		441 (exact figure)
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New Georgia: July-August 1943

43rd Inf Dvn	171	550
37th Inf Dvn	103	225
25th Inf Dvn	71	145
Marine Raiders		unavailable

Approx. total-920 (not including the Marine Raiders)

Makin: 20-23 Nov 1943

27th Inf Dvn		71 (exact figure) (165th Rgt, only)
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Tarawa: 20-24 Nov 1943

2nd Mar Dvn		1,000 (approx. figure)
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Bougainville: Nov 1943—Nov 1944

Americal Dvn	151	275
3rd Mar Dvn		253 (exact figure)
37th Inf Dvn	89	200
93rd Inf Dvn	13	25
Marine Raiders		unavailable

Approx. total-755 (not including the Marine Raiders)

note: Only the Americal Dvn stayed on Bougainville until late-1944.

Pacific—battle deaths listed in order for all of the following units and campaigns:

New Britain: 26 Dec 1943—well into 1944

	Listed	Approx. Total
1st Mar Dvn		310 (exact figure)
40th Inf Dvn	5	15
		Approx. total-325

Kwajalein: Early-Feb 1944

4th Mar Dvn		190 (exact figure)
7th Inf Dvn	65	170
		Approx. total-360

Eniwetok: Mid-Feb 1944

27th Inf Dvn	40	100 (106th Rgt, only)
22nd Mar Rgt		unavailable

Admiralty Islands: March 1944

1st Cav Dvn		326 (exact figure)
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Biak: May—Aug 1944

41st Inf Dvn	192	400
24th Inf Dvn	22	40 (34th Rgt, only)
		Approx. total-440

Northern New Guinea: April—Sept 1944

32nd Inf Dvn	100	230
6th Inf Dvn	121	220
31st Inf Dvn	55	115
41st Inf Dvn	44	90
158th Inf Rgt		70 (exact figure)
24th Inf Dvn		43 (exact figure)
43rd Inf Dvn	13	35
33rd Inf Dvn	2	5
112th Cav Rgt		unavailable

Approx. total-710 (not including the 112th Cavalry Rgt)

Saipan: 15 June—into Aug 1944

2nd Mar Dvn		1,200 (approx. figure)
4th Mar Dvn		1,107 (exact figure)
27th Inf Dvn		1,025 (approx. figure)

Approx. total-3,335

Pacific—battle deaths listed in order for all of the following units and campaigns:

	Listed	Approx. Total
Tinian: July-into Aug 1944		
4th Mar Dvn		214 (exact figure)
2nd Mar Dvn		185 (approx. figure)
		Approx. total-400
Guam: July-Aug 1944		
3rd Mar Dvn		619 (exact figure)
77th Inf Dvn		248 (exact figure)
1st Mar Prov Bgde	unavailable	
		Total-867 (not including the 1st Marine Provisional Brigade)
Peleliu: Mid-Sept—Nov 1944		
1st Mar Dvn		1,252 (exact figure)
81st Inf Dvn		208 (exact figure)
		Total-1,460
Angaur: Mid-Sept-Oct 1944		
81st Inf Dvn		265 (exact figure)
Morotai: Mid-Sept—into Dec 1944		
31st Inf Dvn	34	75
33rd Inf Dvn	25	55
32nd Inf Dvn	2	5
		Approx. total-135
Leyte: 20 Oct 1944—into Feb 1945		
7th Inf Dvn		584 (exact figure)
24th Inf Dvn		544 (exact figure)
96th Inf Dvn		532 (exact figure)
77th Inf Dvn	233	490
32nd Inf Dvn		450 (exact figure)
1st Cav Dvn		203 (exact figure)
11th Abn Dvn		200 (approx. figure)
Americal Dvn	82	145
38th Inf Dvn	51	105
112th Cav Rgt	unavailable	
		Approx. total-3,255 (not including the 112th Cavalry Rgt or the 6th Ranger Battalion)

Pacific—battle deaths listed in order for all of the following units and campaigns:

Luzon: 9 January—mid-August 1945

	Listed	Approx. Total
25th Inf Dvn	536	1,070
43rd Inf Dvn	473	970
6th Inf Dvn	494	930
32nd Inf Dvn	407	900
37th Inf Dvn	411	850
1st Cav Dvn	368	710
38th Inf Dvn	336	675
11th Abn Dvn	225	430
33rd Inf Dvn	199	420
40th Inf Dvn	188	390
158th Inf Rgt		245 (exact figure)
24th Inf Dvn	60	140 (34th Rgt, only)
6th Ranger Bn	unavailable	
13th Amd Grp	unavailable	
112th Cav Rgt	unavailable	

Approx. total-6,730 (not including the last 3 formations)

Iwo Jima: 19 February—end of March 1945

5th Mar Dvn	2,113 (exact figure)
4th Mar Dvn	1,800 (approx. figure)
3rd Mar Dvn	988 (exact figure)
147th Inf Rgt	unavailable

Approx. total-4,900 (not including the 147th Infantry Rgt)

Okinawa: 1 April—end of June 1945 (all are exact figures)

1st Mar Dvn	2,234
6th Mar Dvn	1,637
96th Inf Dvn	1,506
7th Inf Dvn	1,122
77th Inf Dvn	1,018
27th Inf Dvn	711
2nd Mar Dvn	36 (8th Rgt, only)

Total-8,264

Corregidor (recapture): February 1945

503rd Para Rgt	250 (approx. figure)
Other minor elements	unavailable

Cebu: Late-March—April 1945

Americal Dvn	410 (exact figure)
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Ie Shima: 16-29 April 1945

77th Inf Dvn	230 (approx. figure)
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Pacific—battle deaths listed in order for all of the following units and campaigns:

Panay: March 1945

	Approx. Total
40th Inf Dvn	20 (exact figure)

Negros: April—June 1945

40th Inf Dvn	325
503rd Para Rgt	unavailable

Mindanao: 17 April—mid-August 1945

24th Inf Dvn	500
31st Inf Dvn	220
41st Inf Dvn	110
93rd Inf Dvn	5
	835 Approx. total

Burma: February 1944—August 1945

Merrill's Marauders and Mars Task Force	729 (exact figure)
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In the Battle-Myitkyina—Summer 1944

Merrill's Marauders	272
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