

SEPTEMBER 2006

The ORION GALLIVANTER

1917 - 1919

Dickebush Sector

Mount Kemmel

Vierstraat Ridge

East Poperignhe Line

Hindenburg Line

LaSelle River St. Souplet

Meuse-Argonne St. Mihiel



1940- 1945

Makin

Majuro

Eniwetok

Saipan

Okinawa

2001- Present

Enduring Freedom

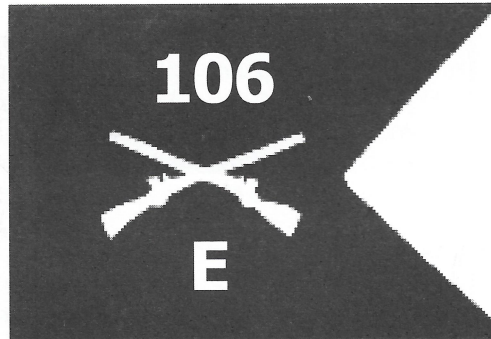
Iraqi Freedom

Noble Eagle

NARRATIVE of SERVICE Co E / 106th INFANTRY in SAIPAN

The company with a strength of 5 Officers and 168 men, embarked at Honolulu on 29 May 1944. The time of embarkation was in mid—morning around 10:00 A.M. we left the pier near Aloha Tower and headed out to sea. Although all hands suspected our destination, it was officially announced as being SAIPAN in the MARIANAS. A two-day stop was scheduled at KWAJALEIN ATOLL in the MARIANAS Islands. This announcement came after we were out to sea for a couple of hours. The balance of our convoy and escorts slowly assembled and the next morning saw us well on our way.

The Company quickly fell into the ship's routine and schedule of drills and seasickness was noticeable in its absence. On shipboard, over and above the ever-present ship drills, the Co was assembled at least once a day for orientation lectures concerning the mission. These lectures covered geography, history and overall war strategy and specific tactics relative to our target area. Platoons were given more detailed instructions by their respective leaders and



in a short time all the men were thoroughly familiar with all aspects and details of the assignment. In addition to lectures, map studies, etc., calisthenics were held daily to keep the men in shape physically.

We reached KWAJELIEN on June 9, after an uneventful voyage from HONOLULU. We stayed in the lagoon for 2 days as our ship was refueled and re-provisioned. We left KWAJELIEN about 1100 on the 11th of June and headed for the MARIANAS.

Although it was generally expected that

we would likely be used on SAIPAN, our position as reserve element made it necessary for us to study all other phases of the forager operation. This included operations on GUAM and the TINIAN Islands. Therefore, after we left KWAJELIEN our orientation discussions covered these Islands to the end that all were thoroughly conversant with them as they were with SAIPAN.

D Day on SAIPAN, 15 June 1944, found us 2 days away and although we had originally received orders attaching us to the GUAM attack force, we were reattached to the SAIPAN force and on the 19th and received orders to be prepared to land south of CHARAN KONOIA on the following morning.

We trans-shipped from the Livingston, our home since 28 May, to LST 341 and the next morning landed on Yellow beach # 1 at 12:30. After a short stay in the vicinity of the beach, we marched approximately two miles in a North-

(Continued on page 3)

THE ORION GALLIVANTER



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VOL. XLVII SEPTEMBER 2006 NO. 3

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Commander's Message

Greetings many friends;

Here we are closing in on the last days of summer, this year has seemed to have sped right past me in a lot of ways. Many projects are in the works and many are reaching completion. The Division monument is on its way to the Brigade Headquarters from Camp Smith as I am writing this, and should be in place within a few days. Col. Yaple has been very involved with this project and much thanks goes to him and the members of the 204th engineer Battalion from Binghamton, without whose efforts this would not have been accomplished. We would like to hold a formal dedication ceremony for the monument next year during the reunion. We are discussing the possibility of having the reunion in Syracuse so that we can tour the new Brigade Headquarters and see the monument at its new location.

New York State is still instrumental to the war effort with more units deploying to support Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. The 222nd Military Police Company just sent a contingent of soldiers to support a Military Police company from Puerto Rico. Many of these soldiers are from central New York and are currently training at the mobilization station for their upcoming deployment. I have considerable knowledge of this because I am that unit's acting First Sergeant. Yet again the New York Army National Guard is preparing young soldiers to go into harms way and I watch as those families are impacted by the service members' deployment. This is the point that I have made during my tenure as the National Commander that we, as an organization, can have an impact for those families by our involvement in family support activities and unit activities. As I watch from the twilight of my career, I am tremendously proud of the Army National Guard and the 27th Division Association for its involvement in soldier and family support. It has been a great ride and one that I am proud to have made.

Lastly I would again like to thank those members who work tirelessly within the organization to make things happen on a daily basis. Members like Col. Gary Yaple who guide and mentor those of us that still need prodding from day to day, Ray Swift who will be the next National Commander who shared many phone calls and conversations to work through issues. To all those younger members who will replace us in the elected positions, I look forward, with confidence, to your continued commitment to our soldiers and families, just as the Division has to the United States Army. I look forward to seeing everyone at the reunion in Saratoga Springs at the end of the month.

Yours in friendship

Harold Jones IV

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 - Reunion Notices
 - Mailbag items
 - Taps
- New Membership application
- Membership Dues—\$10.00
- Memorial Fund Donations
 - Gallivanter Donations
 - Change of address

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Roberta Comerford
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126 Sergeant Street
Johnson City, NY 13790-1922

Make checks payable to:
Women's Auxiliary,
27th Division Association, Inc.

NOTE: Please do not combine Women's Auxiliary Items with Division Association Items. Doing so significantly increases the time it takes for the Women's Auxiliary to receive the money. Please be sure to send checks made out correctly to the Women's Auxiliary, directly to Esther Gardner.

MEMBERSHIPS
See Page 7

Co E 106th Infantry in Saipan

(Continued from page 1)

Westerly direction and reached a bivouac area.

We remained in the bivouac area until the morning of the 23rd. Our stay was uneventful there with the possible exception of an enemy plane that flew overhead and dropped a few bombs, none of which did us any damage.

We received orders to move out of this area. Early in the morning of the 23rd, we moved out in an approach march formation with E Co. in a reserve position. Our destination or jump off place was the South Lactern base of Mt. TAPOTCHAN where we were to relieve the Marines. The relief was effected late in the afternoon. E Co. remained in reserve and dug in near TOPOTCHAN for the night.

24 June - We moved up on the left of G Co. at the very base of the mountain in a wooded area. Late in the afternoon as we were preparing to set-up for the night, we were fired upon by a machine-gun and a few snipers. We suffered 2 casualties.

25 June - Early in the morning, Japs infiltrated into our lines and threw hand grenades. In the morning, when it became light we had one dead and one wounded. Orders were received that the Battalion was to hold the line while the 1st Battalion was shifted to another location. E Co. on the left and G Co. on the right covering a front of some 300 yards in densely wooded terrain. We pushed forward slowly until we came to the edge of the woods. We were immediately subjected to Mortar and Machinegun fire. Casualties were inflicted on our right flank and exposed due to G Co. falling back. We held the line there and evacuated our casualties. At about 1500 hours orders were received that the Company was to withdraw from the area that it was located and to attack at 1630 with the objective of a tree line 1600 yards to the front. The setting off of an ammunition dump delayed leaving our line in the woods and we just had time to get rations and only water for some men when we had to move out.

E Co. led off after a heavy Machinegun

and Artillery preparation. We skirted a line of trees along a field leading to our objective and did only emerge about 500 yards from the objective. 3rd. Platoon was in the lead, the 2nd was next and the 1st followed by the weapons platoon. As the leading Platoons neared the tree line they were fired on by the enemy with machine gun, mortar, and sniper fire. We had to fall back to the second line of trees where reorganization was attempted. G Co. had to come up on our left and contact was finally made with them at 2130. They had been trapped and had to wait until darkness before moving. It was decided that to stay in the open taking in consideration the condition of the men, lack of ammunition and supplies, number of casualties, would have been inviting disaster. We moved to a wooded area arriving there at 0130, 26 June. It was a bad day for E Co. We lost 6 killed and 21 wounded. In addition, we had 2 Officers wounded.

26 June - The Company was put in Battalion reserve and we followed B Co. along the tree ridgeline and by nightfall reached a bivouac, which was directly above where we met the Japs the night before. We dug in with the balance of the Battalion in the woods. Japs infiltrated into our perimeter and threw grenades around. No damage was done and the morning revealed no casualties.

27 June - The E Co. was in front of the Battalion on this day. We followed L

(Continued on page 6)

80 PLUS CLUB



First Name

Last Name

William (Bill)	Ellsworth	(Age 87)
Franklin J.	Hunt	(Age 82)
Palmer L.	Larson	(Age 81)
Emmett Scott	Prothero	(Age 83)
Carl	Sorg	(Age 88)
Harold	Tuttle	(Age 84)

27th Division Monument to Relocate

Syracuse, NY- September 2006

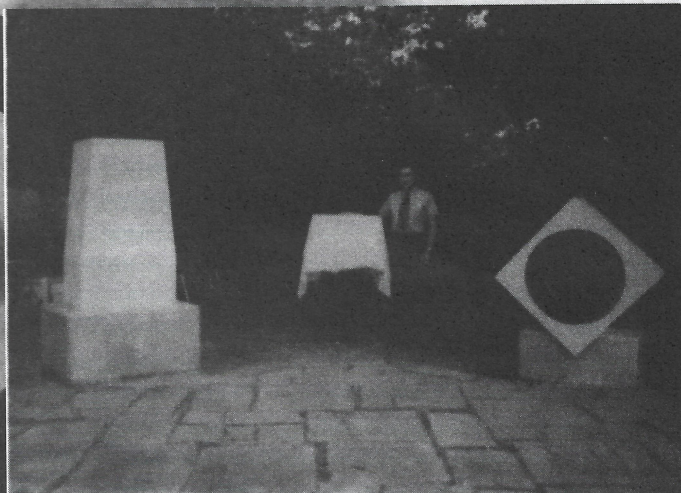
The 27th Division Monuments is set to be relocated this month to the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Headquarters in Syracuse New York. Many thanks go out to the LTC Carlton Cleveland, commander of the 204th Engineers in Binghamton, NY. The men and

women of the his unit have provided all of the manpower, material and equipment required to make this move . The travertine marble stones have weathered over the years since LTC Burleigh Cubert quarried them from Okinawa, and dedicated them in Camp Smith, New York in 1971 (see photo bottom right). With the

cooperation and approval of LTC Cubert, The Association Board of Directors and The Adjutant General of the NY- MG Taluto, the memorial will now be seen and cared for by the many 27th Infantry Soldiers that will pass them everyday at the Brigade Headquarters.

*DEDICATED TO ALL THE
MEN OF THE 27TH INFA-
NTRY DIVISION WHO AN-
SWERED THEIR COUNTRY'S
CALL.*

*In April 1945, on the beaches
north of here, landed the 27th
Infantry Division. "New York's
Own". This Division was
the first to break the Hinden-
burg Line in WW I and was a
major participant in the Paci-
fic campaigns of WW II.*

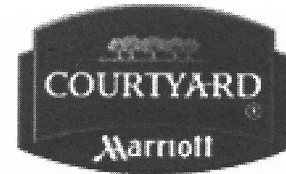


The Annual 27th Division Association Inc. Reunion

SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 1, 2006



Courtyard Marriott
 11 Excelsior Avenue
 Saratoga Springs, NY 12866



Schedule of Events

Courtyard Marriott

Friday, September 29, 2006

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM Registration

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Blinger

Saturday, September 30, 2006

7:00 AM - 9:00 AM Breakfast

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Membership Meeting

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Ladies Auxiliary Meeting

12:00 PM Commander's Luncheon

Immediately followed by a Memorial Service

5:00 PM Cocktail Hour

6:00 PM Dinner, Banquet Room

Sunday, October 1, 2006

7:00 AM - 9:00 AM Breakfast

10:00 AM Farewells

The NEW Courtyard Hotel by Marriott is conveniently located in historic downtown Saratoga Springs and less than 2 miles from the race track. We're within walking distance to museums, restaurants, retail shops and the City Center.

Directions:

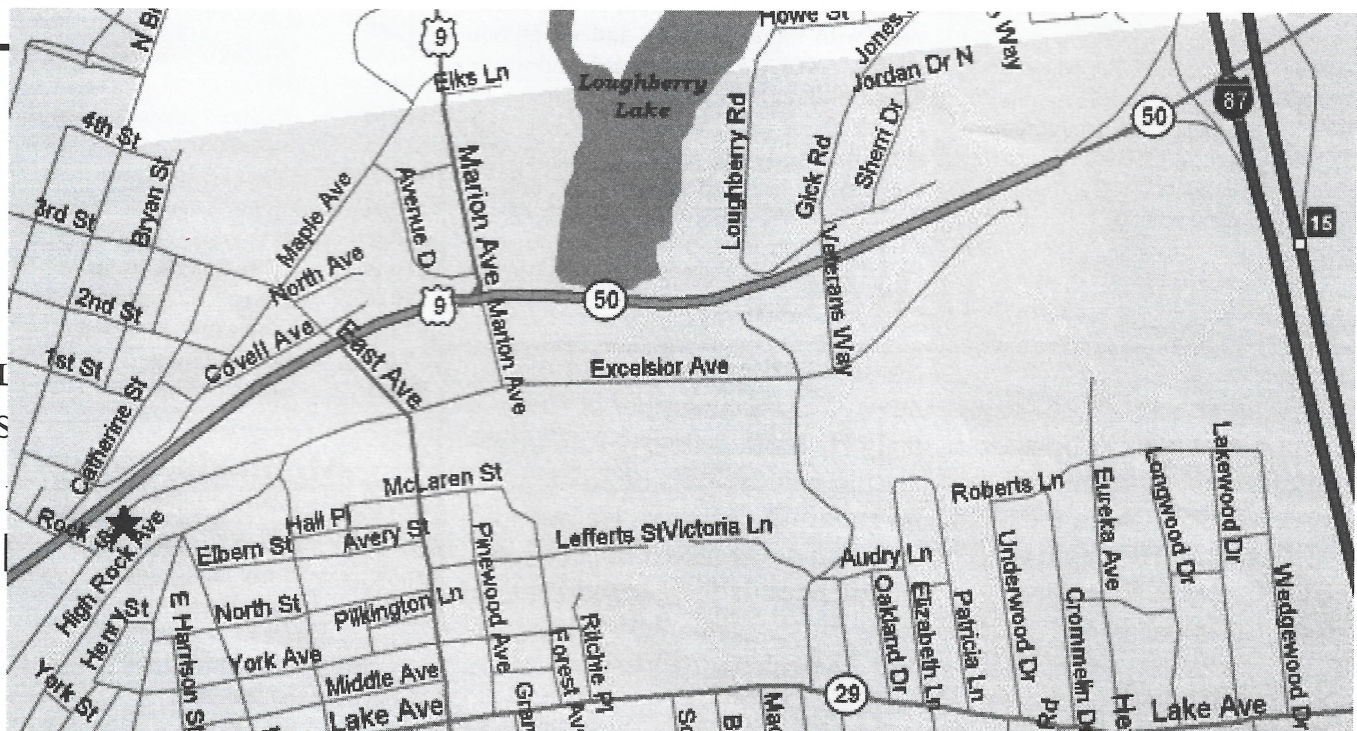
From the New York State Thruway: Exit 24
 Take Route 87 North towards Saratoga Springs
 25 Miles Take

EXIT 15- toward SARATOGA SPRINGS /
 GANSEVOORT Route 50

Turn LEFT onto NY-50 / CV WHITNEY
 MEMORIAL HWY. 1.7 Miles

Turn Left onto Rock Street

Turn Left onto Excelsior



Co E 106th Infantry in Saipan

(Continued from page 3)

Co. thru the ridge-line on the right of the valley. Late in the afternoon, we were ordered to cross an open field where some of the 3rd. Battalion were pinned down, proceed up a draw and secure a piece of high ground. Just before we moved out in the open we were fired on by a field piece and our take off was delayed a short while as we reorganized. We finally took off into the open and had not covered more than 200 yards before we were fired on by snipers and a machinegun located on our flanks. We made our objective and coordinated with the 3rd. Bn. and G Co. who had followed us out of the woods, and established our perimeter. A few grenades were thrown during the night but did no damage. Casualties, 1 Officer killed, 2 enlisted men killed and 6 enlisted men wounded. Jimmie Eader, Co. Executive Officer was killed. He was hit in the head and never knew what hit him and died approximately 1800 that day.

28 June - With the 3rd. Bn. on the left and E Co. the inside Bn. we moved out at 0645 for a distance of 500 yards where we entered a tree line running across the valley. We stopped there, organized a line, ate, drank, repositioned and waited for further orders. The Bn. Commander came up about 1230 and was just about to issue his order when the entire Bn. was taken under fire from a concealed tank. We were fired on for about 5 minutes. The fire was from machinegun and 37mm. We spent the balance of that day in the area and dug in for the night in a

Bn. perimeter. The night was uneventful. It was another bad day for E. Co., 1 Officer and 5 enlisted men killed, 18 enlisted men wounded. Cassidy, with E Co. was our second Officer fatality. The place was called "Bloody Hill".

29 June - We moved out again with the Co. in reserve. The jump off was at 1400 after a heavy machinegun preparation fired by both the 1st and 2nd Battalions. The 3rd. Bn. was put in reserve. We followed F Co. and after being held up for a while by machinegun fire we advanced 300 yards and dug in around a rocky hill. The night was uneventful. Casualties, 2 killed.

30 June - The Co. was on the right this day and moved out at 1000. We had not gone 50 yards through the woods when we were hit by machinegun fire, well directed and it kept our noses in the ground. We had to get up and go however, and dashed across open ground. To stay in our present location met F Co. was exposed on it's right. The dash across the open ground was accomplished without casualties. We reorganized in a wooded draw and were just extending our line in preparation to moving off when we ran into some 11 Japs who had been giving F Co. hell from the rear. We sent in a strong combat patrol, complete with flame-throwers and wiped out all 11. We pushed forward and once again, although taken under machinegun fire at about dusk, dug in as a Bn. and spent an uneventful night. Casualties for the day, 1 enlisted man killed and 2

wounded.

1 July - This day we moved unopposed for a distance of 600 yards. Most of our time was spent waiting for the 105th on our right flank, to come up. We finally decided to move ahead without them. We did so reaching a piece of high ground. A large food and Ammo dump was the site of our

(Continued on page 8)

New Members

Welcome Aboard!

Mr. Robert W. Benson
Mr. Wayne Anthony Donnelly
MSG Edwin H. Schneider
Mr. Anatole G Babykin

Gallivanter Fund

Our grateful thanks to the following contributors:

\$25.00	Clara Gillard
\$25.00	Bill W. Ellsworth
\$20.00	Joseph Collins
\$20.00	"Phil Salerni
\$15.00	Nick Cavallaro
\$15.00	John Cotton
\$15.00	Edward H. Redfield
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\$5.00	Edward F. O'Brien
\$5.00	Joan A. Sorg
\$5.00	Robert Wheeler

Memorial Fund

\$20.00	Felice Franko (Phil) Salerni In memory of my buddy Joe DeSimone
\$15.00	Mrs. Hazel Greene In memory of Hoyle W. Greene, Sr.
\$10.00	Mrs Ann Lipka In memory of my husband, Edward.

MAILBAG

Albert Ruggiero—

"I am seeking information either through personal recollections or company files about my uncle's military service. He was a recipient of the Gallivanter. His name was Michael R Onofrio. His address was 804 Russell St. , New Haven, CT. 06513. He participated in the following battles: Kwajalein - Ie

Shima - Makin - Saipan & Okinawa. He was amember of Company H, 106th Infantry. Any information you can pass on to me will be gratefully recieved. He was my hero and never talked much about experiences. Is there any thing you folks can do for me? Sincerely, Albert J Ruggiero, 22 Vermont Ave., Milford, CT 06460"

Membership Renewal Forms

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 Date: From _____ To _____ Rank (Optional) _____

*Make remittance (\$10.00) payable to: The 27th Division Association, Inc.
 Send to: Attn: Sec/Treas; P.O. Box 2522, Syracuse, NY 13220*

I desire to become a member of the Women's Auxiliary of the 27th Division Association Inc., and pay herewith \$2.00 for one year membership dues for the year 2005.

I submit the following information to be included with my record:

Full Name _____
 (First) (Middle) (Last)
 Address _____
 (House Number and Street) (City) (Zone) (State) (Zip)

My son, husband, brother, father served in World War I-II
 _____ Battalion

With Company, Battery or Troop _____
*Make remittance (\$2.00) payable to:
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 Send to: Attn: Esther Gardner Sec/Treas;
 126 Sergeant Street, Johnson City, NY 13790-1922*

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Current Phone: _____
 E-Mail Address _____

Post No. _____ or Check if member At Large _____

Age Please check <30 \$200 _____ 31-40 \$190 _____ 41-50 \$170 _____
 51-60 \$150 _____ 61-70 \$120 _____ 71-80 \$90 _____ 81 & up \$60 _____

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Syracuse, NY 13220

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The Orion Gallivanter, Attn: Sec/Editor
P.O. Box 2522, Syracuse, NY 13220-2522

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KENMORE, NY 14217-2429



www.27thinfantry.com

VOL. XLVII SEPTEMBER 2006 NO. 3

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(Continued from page 6)

perimeter for this night. The whole Bn. dug in for the night. The night was uneventful but we did nail two Japs who walked blissfully into our perimeter. Casualties none.

2 July - The Co. was on the right in assault again and moved off at approximately 1100. The 105th had come up on our right. We moved forward through a draw and up on a small nose of ground. It was there that we ran into 15 Japs well dug in and concealed on the opposite side of the hill from us. After suffering a few casualties we summoned the M9 tank and flame-thrower and eliminated them all. We reorganized and then, with the Co. still on the right, moved on at 1630 for a distance of 400 yards and there established a Bn. perimeter once again. The night was uneventful except for a few early morning hours, at 0500, when 6 Japs with a heavy machinegun walked right up to our perimeter. We mowed them down. Casualties for the day, 2 enlisted men killed and 4 wounded

3 July - This day found the Co. in reserve. The Bn. moved forward and after being held up for a few hours by machinegun fire pushed ahead for a distance of about 700 yards. This push forward found us on the high ground overlooking FLORES SEAPLANE BASE. Some of the boys went out on patrol and we suffered 3 casualties that day.

4 July - E Co. was on the right once again with orders to contact the 105th. Contact was made and the whole line moved forward at about 0900. We moved thru the densely wooded area down hill and came out into the open just over the flat ground and about 500 yards from the ocean. Orders were received from the Bn. to push off at 1400 hours with E Co. again on the right and we moved searching out everything in front. We reached the water at 1445. The Bn. pulled back about 100 yards from the water and organized for the night. We were told that we were to be given a few days rest. It was a happy 4th of July, no casualties.

5-6 July - Spent time in reserve area resting and cleaning equipment.

7 July - Early in the morning, we were called out to stop a counter attack and break through that had occurred in the 105th area. We started up the beach with E Co. in front, then plans were changed and with F. Co. in front, we headed back for the high ground and with the 1st. Bn. on the left and E. Co. on the right of the 2nd. Bn., we formed a long skirmish line from the sea to the high ground. We dug in for the night and really put everything we had on the line. Light and heavy machineguns, 37mm, Eng's, etc. We knew that there would be another attempted breakthrough and our orders were to hold at all costs. The Japs started in about 0300 and from then until daylight the firing was continuous, however not a Jap got through

and it was estimated that the two Bn's got about 2100 that night. E Co. had about 200 in front of its area. Our casualties for the 24-hour period 0700, 7 July to 0700, 8 July were 2 killed and 2 wounded.

8 July- Relived on the line by the Marines and moved to a rest area.

9 July Moved by marching to a Regimental bivouac area where we set up our pup—tents and kitchen. We were notified that the Island had been secured at 1630, this date.

10-12 July Anti sniper patrols:

Casualties 23 June to July 8, 1944:

Killed in action: Wounded in action:

2 Officers	2 Officers
21 Enlisted men	57 Enlisted men

David M. Waterson
Captain Infantry
Commanding

Recopied: 12-5-94

