



# The Black Sands

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## 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF IWO JIMA

18-22 Feb - Arlington, VA - Reunion and Symposium

\*\*\*\*Attention\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*This is will be your only notice\*\*\*

On February 19, 2014, the Washington area was blanketed with a thick layer of snow and unfortunately our 69th Anniversary Reunion was interrupted! We missed getting many of our veterans who were trapped in airports all over the continental U.S. to the reunion.

Mother Nature *wouldn't dare* inflict another round of snow on us two years in a row! Take this time to register and get your registration complete. We are planning many special events to honor the veterans of Iwo Jima and we need a complete count of participants so we can plan accordingly.

The registration information for the February 18-21 symposium is on **page 17** of this newsletter.

Registration **will end** on January, 21 2015. ***Register now!***

Semper Fi

Shayne Jarosz

**Executive Director**

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## Reunion of Honor brings veterans back to Iwo Jima for 69<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

By Lisa Tourtelot - Stars and Stripes



L-R - Kurt Tong, deputy chief of mission for the U.S. Embassy in Japan; Lawrence Snowden and Gen. James Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, lay a wreath during the 19th Annual Reunion of Honor on Iwo Jima, March 19, 2014

**IWO JIMA, Japan** — Eight U.S. veterans recently returned to the scene of one of the bloodiest battles of World War II as part of the 19th annual Reunion of Honor ceremony on Iwo Jima.

For 36 days in 1945, U.S. Marines and soldiers battled 20,000 dug-in Japanese soldiers for control of the remote island, which America wanted to secure for its strategic location and the use of its runway for bombing runs. At the end of the fighting, more than 6,800 Americans and 18,000 Japanese troops had fallen.

Each year since 1995, retired Lt. Gen. Lawrence Snowden, a veteran of the battle, has organized the Reunion of Honor tour, which has hosted veterans and descendants from both sides of the battle to honor the sacrifices made on the black sand island.

This year, the event was held on March 19.

Dignitaries and distinguished guests laid wreaths on their respective sides of the Reunion of Honor memorial, and the Japanese guests also performed a traditional water blessing on the site.

In a smaller ceremony, two men quietly laid to rest a 69-year chapter in their lives. Owen Agenbroad, a Marine veteran of the battle,

found Yoshikazu Higuichi, the son of a Japanese soldier who fought and died on Iwo Jima. A few weeks after Agenbroad had been on the island, he found a Japanese straight razor, shaving kit and tin cup in a Japanese fighting position, or pill box.

Agenbroad kept the items in a shadowbox in his



Dayton, Idaho, home for decades before he had the writing on the razor translated. A few contacts with Japanese government officials later, and Agenbroad had found Higuichi, a retired school principal.

The men spoke briefly through a translator, Higuichi smiling and thanking Agenbroad for bringing these pieces of his father home.

“We are bound by a common history and common values,” said retired Lt. Gen. Lawrence Snowden, founder of the Reunion of Honor. “Our countries have overcome a difficult past to embracing a promising future.”

## JAPANESE ARTIFACTS AND WAR SOUVENIRS

Iwo Jima Veterans, and family members

The old Japanese souvenirs and artifacts gathering dust in your attic, may be thrown out in the future, as not having any particular significance to your children or grandchildren.

However, they may be very meaningful for a Japanese child or grandchild, who never heard the details of the soldiers death, or when and where he died.

Next year will be the 70th Anniversary of that savage battle on the "Black Sands" in 1945. We are trying to locate as many of these souvenirs as possible to carry back to the families.



Especially important are flags or letters, anything that has Japanese writing on it. MANY of the young Japanese soldiers going into battle carried a flag with the name of his family and friends written on it. They are VERY meaningful to that family. We have taken these back before, and have ALWAYS been thanked very much!

If you want credit, just include your name and address. Try to identify the island location where these items were picked up.

You can mail them to:

Iwo Jima Association of America  
PO Box 680  
Quantico, VA 22134

## SEEKING PAST REUNION OF HONOR MEMORIES AND PHOTOS

The Iwo Jima Association of America is documenting the history of the Reunion of Honor ceremonies on Iwo Jima since the first was held in 1985. Everyone is encouraged to share personal remembrances and/or photos from any of the past events (but especially from 1985).

Please send to IJAA Communications Director Mark Stevens, 14629 SE 198th St, Renton, WA 98058, or email to [stevensm@yahoo.com](mailto:stevensm@yahoo.com)

## REUNION OF HONOR ALMOST FULL

**16-23 March Reunion of Honor—Guam and Iwo Jima**

Since it's the 70th Anniversary of Iwo Jima, they are pulling out all stops to be sure its not just successful but "Alliance Binding", as they refer to the historical occasion. Many dignitaries will be invited from both the US and Japan. General Snowden has already invited General Joe Dunford, USMC, who will assume his new duties as Commandant of the Marine Corps on 17 October 2014. That's the good news.

The bad news is that the cap is 2 planes of 140 each for a total of 280 max. To date, we have approximately 226 pre registered. When they're gone, they're gone! The load factor can't be increased.

Just a friendly reminder, if you plan to attend the Reunion of Honor on Guam and Iwo Jima 16 - 23 March 2015, you should get your reservations in ASAP. You can register on line at: [www.miltours.com](http://www.miltours.com) or call at 703-590-1295.

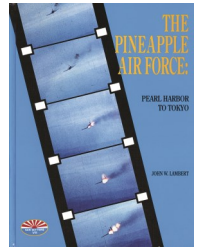


## Night of the Samurai

### 26 March 1945 Banzai Attack on Airfield #2

(as told by the Air Force Personnel who survived it )

by John W. Lambert (as published in the book "The Pineapple Air Force")



By 25 March 1945 the Marines were pulling out of Iwo Jima, marching past their massive divisional cemeteries in final tribute to the comrades they would leave behind. An Army garrison unit, the **147th Infantry Regiment**, replaced the invasion force.

Ken Powell's **21st Fighter Group** began sharing CAP duties with the 15th even as they organized a



tent city and settled into their acre of volcanic dirt and trash just west of Airfield No. 2.

**Captain Howard Russell, 72nd Squadron:** "We were appalled by what we saw on arrival at Iwo. The destruction, filth, and total lack of vegetation were unbelievable. Our camp was set up just west and downhill from the middle airstrip and consisted of pyramidal tents, row on row, which were to be considered luxurious compared to our later combat quarters. Our operations tent on the airfield was next to the remains of a concrete structure which was the surface building of a three to four level cave dwelling reportedly used by the Japanese as a hospital. The Marines had done a nice job of sealing it and we felt confident that any Japs inside were there to stay. We were ready to go. Visits to the 15th group on the lower airfield brought us up to date and renewed old friendships with our former sky mates.

Sleep was hard coming and each night skirmishes

with the enemy not far north of our camp made us keep one eye and both ears open. Food was "C " ration heated in a trash can of water, and sometimes "K" ration was issued. The Marines had better food and we often bartered for their one gallon cans of good stuff."

**Colonel Ken Powell, CO, 21st Fighter Group:** "I was standing in a chow line at a field kitchen when a young Navy officer approached me. He was one of my YMCA camp boys from Washington State and had heard I was on Iwo. He invited me to join him for dinner and I didn't waste any time dropping my mess kit. He took me to his screened mess tent, with mess attendants, where I was served steak and all the trimmings. He was a lieutenant in charge of a couple of PBYs and I was a colonel with 100 fighter planes eating from a mess kit while sitting on a crate. The Navy really lived right. "



Despite the shuttling of troops and the appearance of serenity, Paul Schurr and his **531st Squadron** tent mates had an uneasy feeling and spent the day digging a foxhole, using the material to fill sandbags which were placed around their tent and the top of the hole.

Schurr and John Galbraith bartered with departing Marines for a Garand rifle, a Carbine and several belts of ammo. The pilots had arrived on Iwo armed only with .45 caliber pistols. They spent the evening cleaning their new arsenal by lantern light.

Japanese aircraft had been making nighttime feints at Iwo for weeks, each causing an air raid alert. In every case P-61s of the night fighter force had been directed toward the bogies by ground control but failed to make contact as the enemy planes retreated. The Japanese may have exhibited reluctance to bomb Iwo while the Island was still being contested by their stubborn ground forces. When Iwo's commander, General Tadamichi Kuribayashi, sent his last radio message to Chichi Jima, bidding that garrison "goodbye" on 23 March, it was apparent in Tokyo that the battle was over. Japanese bombers came down in some force the night of 25 March.

Two Black Widows of the **6th Night Fighter Squadron** were on the first CAP shift. Captain Ernest Thomas, who took off at dusk, relates the dual problems of sleeplessness and cold faced by the night fighter crews on Iwo:



P-61 Night Fighter on Iwo Jima

Between flying two nights and two sleepless nights off, combat air patrol for two or three hours while drowsy was worse than driving while sleepy. There was no place to pull over and catch a few minutes of rest. I was afraid to put the plane on autopilot and take the chance of falling asleep. I used to wish for a Jap raid so I could get my mind off the cold and how sleepy I was. It was very cold on Iwo Jima. We had not brought the proper clothing. When flying, it was worse. The aircraft heaters didn't work and there were no parts available. We had no warm flight clothing and no gloves. It was often below freezing when flying at altitude. We usually patrolled at 15,000 to 18,000 feet.

As several bogies appeared on ground radar at 2030, the island went on air raid alert, and Thomas' P-61 with RO John Acre and Corporal Jesse Tew aboard, began a long pursuit.

**Captain Ernest Thomas, 6th Night Fighter Squadron:** "Agate Base put us on a bogie at 2045... We closed to minimum range in four minutes, but even with fuel tanks dropped, flaps down, throttles closed and flying 95 mph, I still overshot the target.

Making a 360 degree turn we obtained another air radar contact and tried to make a visual identification without ramming. I overshot again, but this time Tew identified the plane as a Betty. After another 360, closing to minimum range, I finally achieved a visual. There I was flying formation with the enemy aircraft, staring through the top of the canopy, unable to bring my gun sight to bear. I tried S-ing to drop behind but stalled out, lost altitude and my visual."

Ground control vectored Thomas back toward Iwo Jima and considered ordering him to land, but Jimmy Alford, who was monitoring the action, said he wanted to keep this

veteran crew on station. Soon another target appeared on Iwo radar and again Thomas and his crew began the deadly cat and mouse game in the inky skies.

This time the P-61 was vectored onto a Betty that apparently navigated wide of Iwo and was turning and climbing as it headed back north for a bombing run. Acre established radar contact and Tew spotted the Betty but three more times Thomas overran his slow moving quarry as it climbed from 14,000 to 19,000 feet.

**Captain Ernest Thomas, 6th Squadron:** "On our fourth interception he had leveled off and was indicating about 155 mph, so I closed behind him without difficulty and established visual contact out of the corner of my eyes at about 600 feet range. Acre, continuing his radar directions, called out the range as we closed... I fired a quick burst of all

guns, pulling the sight through his left engine. As I passed directly under the Betty, almost ramming it, his left engine burst into flames.

I broke away sharp to the right passing within 200 feet of the enemy plane. Then I went back on instruments in order to orient myself. I had barely focused on the instrument panel when the entire sky lit up from a tremendous explosion."

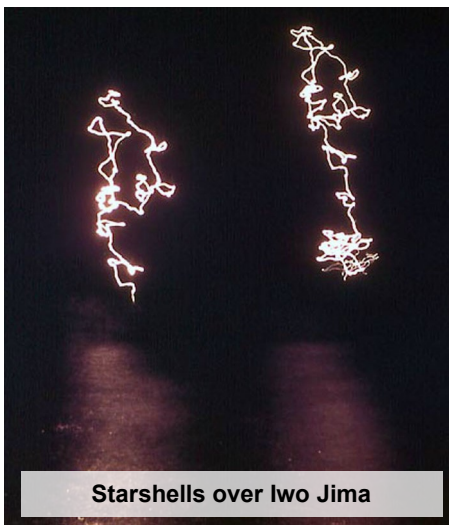
Acre and Tew watched the Betty explode and burn as it fell, and Thomas, now 95 miles from Iwo, was vectored back to a tense, unlighted landing. The P-61 touched down after four grueling hours of exhaustive pursuit.

In the other patrolling P-61, Lieutenant Myrle McCumber splashed a second Japanese bomber and a third, perhaps discouraged by the fate of the others, turned back.

**Lieutenant Colonel Jimmy Alford, VII Fighter Command:** "General Moore patted me on the back and complimented the night fighters on a thorough job.

I said, "General, don't assume we can do that every night. If there had been a lot of them we couldn't have stopped them from bombing Iwo."

The failed effort of the Japanese raiders had, however, succeeded in an imperceptible way. During the long night of repeated detection and



interception an air raid alert had been imposed. No star shells were fired to illuminate the landscape, as had been the nightly routine. As American guards crouched tensely in their foxholes this

night, a ghostly army was emerging from beneath the surface of Iwo Jima.

Over 300 Japanese survivors had been given specific objectives, and were dispatched from their underground lair for a last suicide stand. The final field order read:

*Tonight this Brigade will attack the enemy on the Western Beach parallel to Chidori Airfield.*

*The officers and men of each unit will fight courageously to the end, sacrificing their lives for their country*

It was 0400 in the camp of the **21st Fighter Group**, and despite some distant small arms fire the only people stirring were Major Lloyd Whitely, 531st Ops Officer, Lieutenant Earl Crutchfield, 531st OD, and Captain Tim Foohey, Group OD. While Crutchfield went off to awaken people, Whitely, who would lead the dawn CAP, prepared for the mission. On the way to his Jeep with Captain William Benton, Whitely became aware of furtive figures running through the darkness. Armed with a Carbine, he shot at the intruders and instantly both he and Benton became involved in a fire fight with only the Jeep as protection.

With mortar rounds fluting out of the blackened sky and rifle bullets snapping tent canvas, the bivouac of the 21st was suddenly under siege.

**Captain Harry Crim, 531st Squadron:** "An early mortar fragment hit a mess kit hanging on our center tent pole and made an awful racket that woke me. I yelled at a tentmate, "What the hell are you doing stumbling around in the dark?"

"I'm in bed not doing anything."

Before his explanation ended I was aware of more explosions and the crack of rifles nearby."

**Second Lieutenant Clarence H. "Bud" Bell, 72nd Squadron:** "There was very close rifle fire and someone shouting that people had been hit...Then I heard someone running behind my tent, there was a shot and a body hit the back of the tent by my bed. I jumped up and was getting into my flight suit when a grenade hit the top of the tent and started rolling down the side. I fell flat, along with my tent mates,

and the grenade went off, rupturing air mattresses and sleeping bags...

I tried to get out of the tent so I could see what was going on, but every time I started out I drew fire, so I dug a hole and got in it. "

**Captain Felix Scott, 46th Squadron:** "I thought we were being shelled from the sea. I figured they had their distance computed exactly on our tent for the explosives were hitting the tent, rolling off and exploding.

There was a bomb crater about four feet from our tent, so I yelled for everyone to leave the tent and get in the crater. Then I realized what was happening: the Japs were in the bomb craters all around the pilots lobbing grenades on our tents...You could hear all the Japs chattering, then a "Banzai" and one of them would charge the tent and slash it with a sword so they could throw the grenades inside.

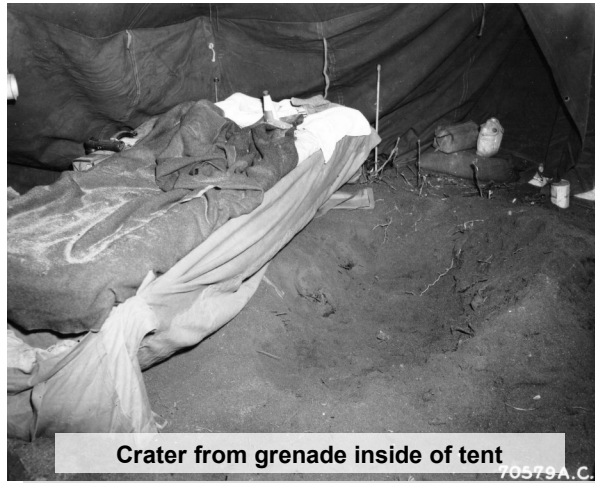
That's when we would shoot them with our .45s. "

**Captain Jim VanNada, 72nd Squadron:** "We were awakened by hand grenade explosions in and around our tent. The first landed outside, shredding the back panel, and the second went off directly under my cot. I took a lot of shrapnel in the left leg and knee joint."

**Second Lieutenant Paul Schurr, 531st Squadron:** "Seymour and I dressed and slipped into our sandbagged foxhole to have a look around. We saw some vague movements in the vacant area north of our tent and getting no response to our challenges, I decided to fire a clip of M-1 ammo above the figures. In so doing I inadvertently used a clip of tracers. The answer was a fusillade of grenades, none of which, thank God, landed in the hole with us. While I was trying to dig in a bit deeper, Seymour left for parts south, as I learned when the shape next to me wouldn't answer my suggestion

that we'd better leave. The shape was a sandbag he'd left in his place."

**Second Lieutenant Jack Wilson, 531st Squadron:** "This night the normal sporadic firing seemed to pick up and become much closer. I don't remember any automatic weapons fire, but a new and harsher sound, the crack of grenades, and then mortar shells adding to the din. There was some shouting, but it wasn't understandable, and we didn't know what the hell was going on."



In pitch darkness the confused and lightly armed pilots found themselves engaged in a desperate close quarter battle with a fanatic enemy who seemed to be on all sides.

Tim Foohey called the Garrison Force OD requesting aid, then worked his way to Colonel Powell's tent. Harry Crim also braved the hail storm of bullets to reach the CO's quarters.

It was a hell of a mess. They had all been hit by grenade fragments and there was blood all over. Ken Powell had been raked with shrapnel from ankle to waist and was bleeding profusely.

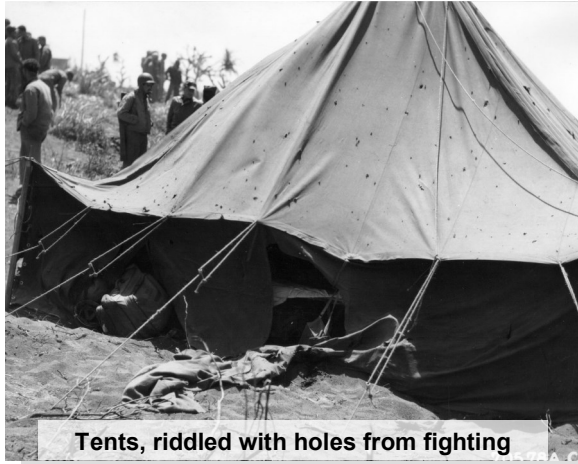
Surrounded and outgunned, the pilots began to react in diverse ways.

**Captain Ben Warren, 46th Squadron:** "I only had my Colt .45 and maybe two clips, but I started firing at everything that went past. I could see the Japs running up and down the tent rows, slashing tents with swords and throwing grenades into them."

**Captain Jim VanNada, 72nd Squadron:** "Our first thought was to get clear of the tent which seemed to be a primary target...We didn't know where we were going because it was still dark and we weren't sure from which direction the attack was coming. Three of the pilots (Howard, Rodgers, and Canfield) made it outside the tent, but as Ralph



Bruner and I got to the tent door a grenade landed about three feet in front of us. Bruner instinctively grabbed a helmet from a wash stand and held it in front of his face. The grenade had a tremendous concussion effect and we were both knocked out and blown back into the tent from the explosion. When we came to we were both lying on the tent floor bleeding from head wounds."



Tents, riddled with holes from fighting

The three who left the tent were met by a hail of fire and Second Lieutenant Donald J. Howard fell mortally wounded. First Lieutenant Frank Rodgers and Second Lieutenant George E. Canfield, both wounded, stumbled back into the tent where VanNada, Bruner and Fox were assembling a rampart of B-4 bags and ammunition crates.

**Captain Jim Van Nada, 72nd Squadron:** "From behind our barricade we could see the Japs running past our tent firing their rifles and throwing grenades. We were hoping they were moving out of our area, but the firing and the yelling continued just outside our tent. I lifted the bottom of the tent flap on the side from where the voices came and saw at least six Japs entrenched in a depression about four feet away..Our decision to hold out in the tent probably saved our lives.

Except for the fact that it was getting lighter, it seemed that time was standing still. Canfield and Rodgers were making a lot of noise because of their wounds, and when Rodgers shouted, "Is everyone dead in here?" we caught another grenade in the middle of the tent floor. Except for the concussion effect, we didn't pick up any shrapnel behind the barricade."

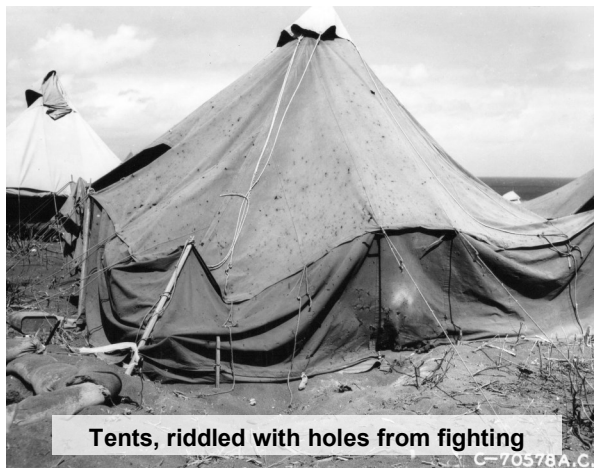
**Captain Jack Garnett, 46th Squadron:** "I was firing a Colt .45 loaded with tracers at two Japs behind an oil drum about 40 feet away and missing. Grenades from another direction seemed to follow each shot, so I soon quit shooting. "

**Second Lieutenant Jack Wilson, 531st Squadron:** "Seven of us in our tent were down in the sand under our folding cots...about 0500, still dark outside, there were thudding footsteps of a man running. He stopped in front of the tent opposite ours, and we heard Floyd Manning shout, "Halt! Who is it?" A brief pause, no answer

except heavy panting, then the crash of Manning's .45 as he shot... Then the tragically late answer, "I'm American - Japs all over." The man shot was one of our panicked sentries [Pvt. John F. Wilson] who groaned out a painful explanation that he thought he had seen someone moving between the tents.

Manning called out several times for medical help, "Dammit, we have a man dying here!" We finally

heard a reply from some distance away, " We have wounded men here too." "



Tents, riddled with holes from fighting

**Second Lieutenant Paul Schurr, 531st Squadron:** "I had returned to the inside of the tent, taking the Northwest corner (blown open by a

grenade) to defend while John Galbraith, with the carbine, laid bare assed behind some sandbags and water cans at the tent entrance. Shortly thereafter, three Japs appeared at my corner. I emptied my .45 pistol at them, one falling and the others running east... "



The Japs took over the tent at the Northeast corner of our camp and from this would run to a bomb crater a bit south, between the road and our tents, from which they attacked. As they would run to the bomb crater Galbraith would pick them wielders.

**Captain Harry Crim, 531st Squadron:** "After checking on Colonel Powell, I collected a helmet and an M-1 and ran up a bank 30 yards away, jumped into a hole to try to observe what was happening and the source of the trouble.

The first grey light of dawn was just showing and I could see and hear Japanese gathered in another depression 20 yards away. I put my helmet up on the lip of the bank and peeked over at another spot. They immediately started shooting at the helmet and I fired back emptying two clips."

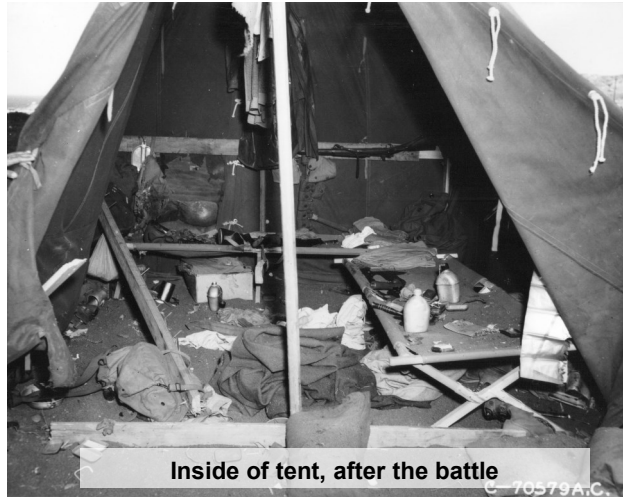
Small clumps of men in each tent stoutly resisted, but the situation was hopeless for a tent at the extreme Northeast corner of the bivouac. The initial fury of the attack had fallen on this shelter occupied by five officers of the **531st Squadron**. Lieutenants Woods and Mattill were killed in the first flurry of exploding grenades and Lieutenants Cheney, Wailes and Miller were all badly wounded. The tent was soon taken by Japanese officers who established a command post. The groans of Cheney and Wailes attracted the Japanese who cut their throats with sabers. Walter Miller feigned death for hours and eventually survived the ordeal.

While isolated pockets of resistance tightened, impromptu rescue efforts and breakouts, born of desperation, began to occur in the 21st camp. Colonel Powell was helped from his tent and Floyd Manning secured aid in getting Private Wilson to the rear. Captain George Hart, Flight Surgeon for the 46th Squadron, helped bring in some of the first wounded, then he set up an aid station in a refuse

pit south of the tent camp where he worked medical miracles under fire.

**Second Lieutenant Jack Wilson, 531st Squadron:** "The firing seemed to

slacken...Someone yelled, "Get the hell out of there, the Japs are holed up behind you." We joined a mad exodus to the south, men running, falling and sprawling as they tried to pick their way through the interlaced tent ropes. My pistol was still in the tent, helmet lost on this last run. Most of us found individual shell holes to drop into."



**Second Lieutenant Bud**

**Bell, 72nd Squadron:** "When it got light enough, I evacuated the tent and made it to the top of a rise in the ground adjacent to the enlisted mens' tents, and was able to offer covering fire so other officers could get out...I was using a Garand rifle that a Marine had given me a couple of days before. He had showed me how to load it and that was all. It shot well and I had knocked down two Japanese. When I shot the last round and the clip flew out it scared me to death. I threw the rifle away thinking it had blown up, didn't know it was supposed to work that way..."

**Captain Ben Warren, 46th Squadron:** "A voice from outside our tent called to us saying all who were able, on the count of three, run for the garbage pit behind Group Headquarters. I ran, stopping to see if I could help a 531st friend in a burning tent, but he was dead. We all felt so foolish in the pit - scared, no weapons, nothing we could do except wait and patch up the wounded."

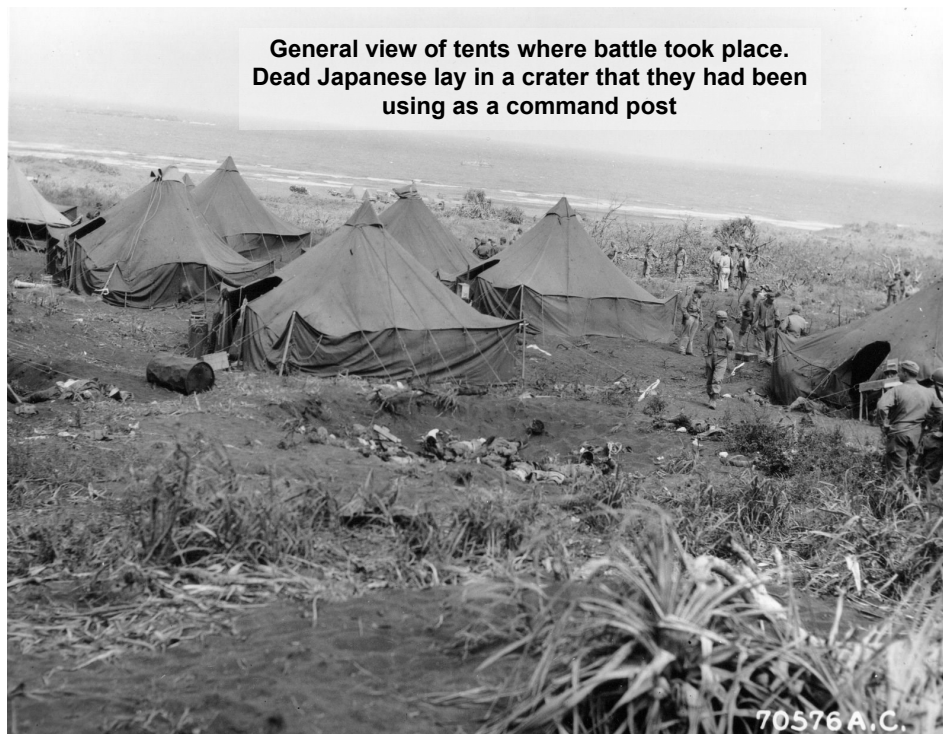
Disorganized, frustrated and ill-armed, the officers of the 21st finally got some relief about 0630. Captain Robert J. Munro, of the nearby **5th Pioneer Battalion** arrived with a handful of his Marine engineers and a truckload of grenades, rifles, and automatic weapons. With the cry, "Let's

go get the yellow bellied bastards!" Munro lead the officers and enlisted men of the 21st on a systematic, tent by tent sweep from the refuse pit north through the camp. Now armed to the teeth and in a cold rage, pilots and mechanics became a deadly infantry force.

**Captain Harry Crim, 531st Squadron:** "We could see the Japs among our tents and were hesitant to fire. With Major Sam Hudson and Lt. Henry Koke we began to evacuate tents with great care. We would ease up a tent flap and call out for Americans. At the last three tents there was no response."

**Captain Jim VanNada, 72nd Squadron:**

"We could see our troops running between the tents, then one of our guys squeezed off several rounds from a BAR right into our tent, but he fired high and none of us were hit. This prompted Bruner to yell that there were still pilots alive in the back row, the first tents the Japs hit. We got a response from our troops telling us to try to make it forward while they covered us. A lot of rifle fire started pouring into the Japs next to our tent and we took the opportunity to leave. I helped Canfield to his feet but because of my leg injury he managed to beat me...At least three Americans were firing continually as we covered the fifty or so yards where we dived into a pit of discarded cans, causing some cut feet but no complaints."



General view of tents where battle took place.  
Dead Japanese lay in a crater that they had been  
using as a command post

**Second Lieutenant Paul Schurr, 531st Squadron:** "By loudspeaker we were told to evacuate south and it was during this that I caught a piece of grenade fragment in my back. Again, thanks to God, this turned out to be rather superficial, a bit faster run and it would have only dented the skin.

It caused my delivery to a hospital, and I remember hollering to Army troops along the road"

**Second Lieutenant Bud Bell, 72nd Squadron:** "About this time a Marine Major appeared and said

he needed a couple of men to go with him to "beat the hell out of the Japanese".

Captain Adolph Bregar and I picked up a Carbine each and went down the incline with the Major.

We were doing good and I had knocked down three more when a grenade exploded in front of me. I

was hit in the right shoulder and my arm lost all feeling. I saw that the grenade had come from a tent in front of us, so using my left hand I emptied the clip of my Carbine and saw one Japanese fall out of the tent opening.

Since I could not reload, I retreated to see how badly I was hit. The wound was not serious and the feeling started coming back to my arm, so I got more ammunition and went back."

As the final tents were cleared, the Japanese dug in for a last ditch defense at a pillbox and connecting

trench just north of the 21st area. Troops of the **147th Infantry** were arriving and brought with them a flame throwing tank. The deadly weapon was torching tents that had been cleared of pilots and suspected of harboring the enemy. Second Lieutenant Walter Miller, who had hung on despite 50 wounds, surrounded by Japanese, heard the clatter of tank treads and chanced a peek under his tent flap. In six terror filled hours he had his worst moment as he saw the fire snorting tank. For some reason it bypassed his tattered tent and Miller was rescued.

**Captain Harry Crim, 531st Squadron:** "After our skirmish line had swept the camp and cleared the last of the tents, I joined Marines throwing 5 1/2 second grenades at Japs in a trench. We held the grenades until the last second to get an air burst over the ditch.

The sun was just coming up as we hit the trench. I was ten feet away when a Jap soldier jumped up and threw a grenade right at me. I rolled and it went off blowing up a lot of sand and tearing my pants, but it never touched me. I called for a grenade and tossed it over on the Jap, returning the favor. We continued that way until the enemy in the trench was silenced."

The 549th Night Fighter Squadron's camp had also been hit by the night marauders, and suffered the loss of six enlisted men.

The balance of the Command went largely untouched by the Japanese attack and like veteran soldiers, took their rest as fortune permitted. "I slept despite an awareness of a distant fire fight," said Emerson Johnson of the **15th Group**, "in the realization that no holes were appearing in my tent roof."

Jimmy Alford was contacted by the 548th advising that the last night air patrol had not yet been relieved. (Whitely's flight had never left the ground.) Hearing the sounds of battle near Airfield

No. 2, Alford worried about his classmate, Sam Hudson, as he called the 15th Fighter Group to provide a scratch dawn CAP. Sam had lost two fingers of his left hand while leading a portion of the final assault.

Jim VandeHey, leading an early 78th sortie to Chichi Jima, was likewise disturbed by the smoke he could see hanging over the 21st bivouac.

By 0930 the battle was over and the **21st Fighter Group's** ordeal had ended. Displays of courage were numberless, from Lloyd Whitely, who perhaps fired the first shots and was killed by return fire, to Staff Sergeant John A. Roberts, who was at the forefront of the counter attack and died of a second and fatal wound near the end of the battle.

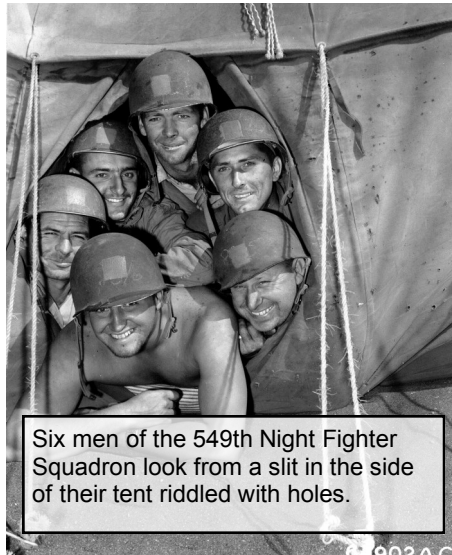
The enemy force of over 300 had been wiped out with only a handful taken prisoner. Though Japanese stragglers would prowl the caves and tunnels of Iwo Jima until July, the assault of 26 March

was their last offensive action.

Overall the 21st suffered fifteen killed and 50 wounded in the ground action. The most seriously injured were evacuated to Guam and some to Honolulu. Although they had fought like infantry, the only active aviation unit of World War II to be so engaged, and had done so with great esprit de corps, the ground action left an emotional scar.

**Second Lieutenant Bud Bell, 72nd Squadron:** "All of this seemed like a bad dream as the action settled down and a quiet came over the area. There was a feeling of disbelief that the attack had taken place...I had not prepared myself mentally, nor had many others, for ground combat. We were poorly prepared to resist an attack of this type...but after burying our dead and reorganizing we were again a flying fighting unit."

**Captain Howard Russell, 72nd Squadron:** "The carnage was terrible. In the hole behind our tent we



Six men of the 549th Night Fighter Squadron look from a slit in the side of their tent riddled with holes.

counted 33 dead Japanese. Most of the American casualties had been removed or covered with blankets. I remember seeing a shivering Cocker Spaniel lying on the end of a stretcher which had a blanket covered body on it. I knew the dog's owner and lifting a corner of the blanket, I sadly confirmed that Major Whitely was indeed there, shot through the neck."

**Captain Felix Scott, 46th Squadron:** "After the attack we went into foxholes with pup tents and stood our own guard...Garnett and I slept in the same pup tent. I walked in my sleep so the first night, when I crawled out of our foxhole, Jack caught me by the foot and woke me. From then on he tied my toe to the pole in our tent."

**Captain Jack Garnett, 46th Squadron:** "It was several years before I could talk about the attack without my hands getting shaky and my stomach getting a funny feeling."

**Brigadier General Mickey Moore, CO, VII Fighter Command:** "I was deeply saddened by the losses but mighty proud of the way those boys rallied and became instant infantry."

It was testimony to the determination and courage of the organization that they were flying over Japan only two weeks later. Some of those seriously wounded had guaranteed tickets back home, but many who could still don a parachute and mount a Mustang connived to return to Iwo Jima, fulfilling the destiny of the Pineapple Air Force, to carry the war to Japan. "



Services for the men killed during a Banzai attack of 26 March 1945 are held in the 4th Marine Division Cemetery, Iwo Jima, 1 April 1945.



# A TOMB CALLED IWO JIMA

by Dan King

Book Review by Masashi Nagadoi  
(as retrieved from Amazon.com)

Dan King's new book, "A Tomb Called Iwo Jima: Firsthand Accounts from Japanese Survivors" is a wonderful and much needed addition to books written about World War II, and specifically, about the battle for Iwo Jima. As I was flipping the pages gingerly, gently, I couldn't help but feel the occasional shiver down my spine at the most moving of the passages.

The book features firsthand accounts from Japanese soldiers, sailors and pilots who fought in the battle for Iwo Jima and survived to tell their stories. Some were evacuated before the U.S. Marines landed and others were taken as Prisoners-of-War. The Japanese army and navy combatants are given a voice to share their experiences in the battle that coined the phrase, "Uncommon valor was a common virtue."

I was so moved not just because the work portrays the unbearable tense and grueling conditions of the war zone that was the island of Iwo Jima, but that it almost emerged in front of you, the stories so real that you can see the action and feel the hopes and fears of these young men. It also demonstrates the miraculous human spirit, and forces the reader to reexamine the value of life, comrades, family, nation, loyalty, tradition, philosophy and, above all...peace.

I believe that war is anything but glorifying to the

human condition. It's beyond my imagination the horror and the disheartening reality that these soldiers and sailors confronted. This work, written from the perspective of the defeated army and navy, makes it clear that we shouldn't repeat the same tragic mistakes of war over and over again.

For me, the battle of Iwo Jima became something personal that I could no longer ignore when I was cast to play Admiral Ichimaru in the Clint Eastwood film "Letters from Iwo Jima." It was an honorable role but at the same time it was an immense responsibility because the film was based on a crucial historical event that played a significant part in determining the fate of both nations and that ended up costing an enormous number of human

lives.

One of my most vivid memories on the set that stays with me to this day was the casual conversation among my fellow Japanese actors. "Can you believe it?" we said. "This war was happened about a half century ago, really only one generation back...and now we are making an American film together with a mostly American crew and Clint Eastwood."

As I prepared for my scenes, I felt the presence of the desperate souls of those soldiers and sailors who had perished, and I felt the pain of the ultimate



sacrifice they made defending their country. Sometimes, it felt as though I could hear their footsteps, approaching from the sky. In my mind, they became our guardians. Thinking of those guardians, I couldn't help but wonder what they were feeling in their final moments. Does it ever make sense to wage war in the name of peace? And all these years later, should we rejoice in this rare collaborative filmmaking that we were all working together to make a success? It was absolutely mind-boggling, and I have to admit that on a few occasions I was overwhelmed by so many conflicting thoughts running through my mind.

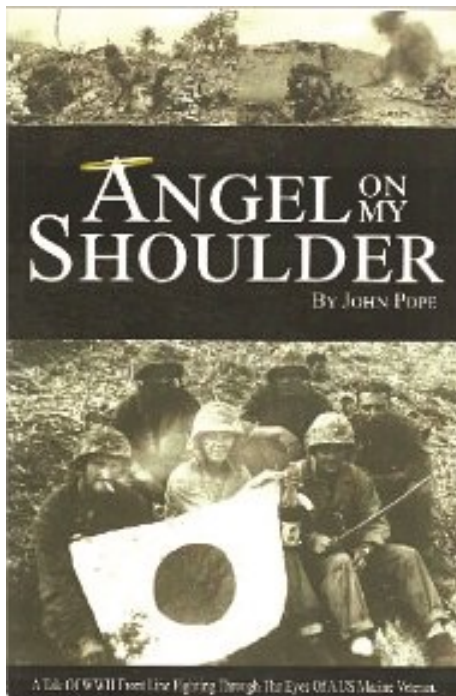
I had always thought that peace is a given, the natural state of humanity, but historically speaking, I was dead wrong. And given our collective history, it seems like quite a daunting task for humans to overcome their differences, fears, hates, prejudices, preconceptions and misunderstandings in order to live in true peace and to realize the preciousness that such a state provides.

I have the greatest respect for Dan's dedicated efforts, his detailed research, and his interviewing skills, all put to such good use in order to preserve the Japanese point of view of Iwo Jima to history. His proficiency with the Japanese language and his deep understanding and knowledge of Japanese culture and tradition, especially in the military field, are a key element to the intensity and the emotion of the story he tells.

My hope is that by telling this story to future generations it may one day lead to a greater chance of peace between nation states. This is an excruciating war story but is simply too important to not tell both sides of the story. I believe this book is invaluable and a true testament of friendship. It is a worthy bridge to the long-lasting peace between the United States and Japan, and perhaps it will provide some solace for the spirits of those soldiers and sailors who reside forever on the island of Iwo

## ANGEL ON MY SHOULDER by John Pope

Book review by Mark Stevens



So many times, veterans keep their wartime experiences to themselves. When you have encountered the horrors like the battle of Iwo Jima, this is very understandable.

John, decided late in life that he should write down his memories and share them with his family, and fortunate for us, he also decided to share them with us in the form of an e-book.

Not only do we get the raw and personal recollections of a soldier fighting a tenacious enemy, but by including memories of his childhood and early life in the Marine Corp., he helps make the story a more personal one.

I became so immersed in his journey, I almost felt I knew John personally, and after finishing the book I reached out to him to give him my gratitude for writing it and invited him to join IJAA.

If you have a chance to read his book, please send John a note and tell him thanks. His e-mail is [jcpopesr@yahoo.com](mailto:jcpopesr@yahoo.com)

**Please**, if you haven't done so already, get your memories down on paper. It is so important that we don't forget the sacrifices that so many young men made so that we can be free.

## **IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (IJAA)**

### **Board of Directors Meeting**

**0730 – Sunday, 16 February 2014**

**Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel, Arlington, Virginia**

*Chairman Emeritus – LtGen “Larry” Snowden, USMC (Ret)*

#### **I. Call to Order/Welcome**

The Board of Directors meeting of the Iwo Jima Association of America, Inc. was called to order at 0730 on Sunday, 16 February, 2014, in Arlington, Virginia, by LtGen Norman “Norm” Smith, USMC (Ret)

#### **II. Roll Call**

Present: LtGen Snowden, LtGen Smith, Ira Rigger, Bonnie Haynes, William Rockey, John Butler, Doug Meny, Chris Johnson, Gene Bell, Warren Weidhahn, Kevin Jarvis, Shayne Jarosz, Rosemary Wright

Missing board members due to weather/ Early Flights: LtGen Stackpole, Ivan Hammond, Ray Elliot, Laura Leppert

#### **III. Opening Remarks**

LtGen Smith welcome remarks that despite the weather obstacles that the IJAA turned out to be a successful reunion. Attendees, speakers participated and were great. Shayne and staff golf shirts were a good trick. Information and initiatives should be given to the board even though we do not get together physically. Requests board members to stay in touch with updates, recommendations, etc.

#### **IV. Reports**

Introduction of Mrs. Susan Smith. Turned over to Shayne. We will vote today on a couple new members of the board.

COL Weidhahn introduces 3 potential board members.

Kevin Jarvis son of Iwo Jima Vet. His father was a MSgt at Iwo at 37 years old and was there for 37 days. He worked with the Seabees. Took his father to many reunions over the years. Father is now in nursing home. He was in for 4 ½ years and then reserve time. Served in Africa, Brazil, and Panama. Retired as Federal Agent for 20 years Immigration Customs in Boston, MA. Works with veterans in Walden, WA. Works at a private museum of WWII. His goal is to bring 2 or 3 veterans back to the reunion.

Chris Johnson from NYC. Father was wounded at Iwo Jima. Father ended up at Bethesda. Became a police officer and then lawyer. Graduate of Manhattan College worked with internal affairs police in New York. Works on Wall Street with civil litigation in NYC.

Laura Leopard is the 3rd nominee. Wife of former mayor of Dallas. Works with honor flights and taking veterans back to Iwo Jima.

Moved by members of the board to swear in. LtGen Smith ayed. Gen Snowden 2nd

COL Weidhahn swore in Kevin and Chris.

**IV. Reports Cont.**

Col Weidhahn made Introduction of each board member to the new members.

Doug sent out financial report last week. Great year for IJAA. Revenue was 2nd highest since 2008. Made profit from 2013 symposium. Looking forward to next year. Financial report will be signed into the minutes. Military History Tours and IJAA have an agreement. Looking forward to gaining more income from fund-raisers at Globe and Laurel, the Band, etc. during summer of 2014.

Move from treasures report by Bonnie Haines and Seconded Gen Snowden.

Shayne Jarosz golf shirts paid for themselves. The Wine is going to be real close if we broke even. Weather made a huge impact. The van versus bus will figure out the expenditures from AFRI. Col Weidhahn thanked Shayne profusely.

Symposium was excellent. The synergy that went on in the symposium was excellent.

Everyone echoed that Shayne did a great job.

Col Weidhahn - Reunion of Honor is outside IJAA. Began in 1994 in Tokyo by LtGen Snowden. Japan government, young bureaucrats, did not want the US IJAA to visit as a win and then there were afraid of illness and being responsible. Gen Snowden wants the dead on both sides to be honored. Minister of Foreign Affairs and Ambassador Mondale. Iwo Jima association of Japan is mainly descendents. Tokyo has closed the island unless they go with Iwo Jima Association of Japan. Japan is very protective of entry into Iwo Jima. 140 plane load of IJAA. This will be a political visit. The 70th anniversary, the Cmdt, USMC will attend. Both sides are predicted to be represented. Ambassador Sasae desires to attend 70th anniversary.

100th anniversary consolidation/merger due the vet and children have an advocate for IJAA. The core should be based in Washington, DC

**V. New Business**

Rocky comment on presentation need improvement and will e-mail. LtGen Snowden the presenters missed an opportunity. Charts were complex. Ex. JPAC female presenter there was an emergency and someone was called in at the last minute. Rehearsals are difficult to bring about. Visual and presenters need to be better.

LtGen Smith read LtGen Stackpole recommendation for the Pacific War Memorial in Hawaii to become an auxiliary of IJAA. Col Weidhahn believes this should be studied due to the size of this project before committing. Staffing support, legal, and financial consideration should be taken into account. IJAA currently cannot support this undertaking. LtGen Smith will speak with LtGen Stackpole reference this subject.

Approve the contractor Ann and \$1500.00 Motion to approve the contractor at MHT. Gen Smith approved and Gene Bell seconded and everyone aye'd.

Ira Rigger set up concert to raise funds and subsidize veterans to return to Iwo Jima and scholarships. David Scott has volunteered to bring people together and raise funds.

IJAA publicity is beginning to work.

**VI. Adjournment**

LtGen Smith proposes end of meeting and thanks everyone for continued support. Meeting adjourned at 0932 hrs.





**IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
70TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION & SYMPOSIUM  
FEBRUARY 18-22, 2015  
ARLINGTON, WASHINGTON, DC & QUANTICO, VA**

**Schedule of Events :**

**Wednesday, 18 February**

2:00pm—6:00pm Reunion Registration Open  
6:00pm—8:00pm Welcome Reception



**Thursday, 19 February**

7:30am—8:00am Reunion Registration Open  
8:15am Board Bus for Marine Barracks 8th & I  
9:00am—9:30am 70th Commemoration Memorial Service  
10:00am—11:30am National Museum of the U.S. Navy  
11:45 am—12:45pm Lunch Marine Barracks 8th & I  
1pm—1:45pm Wreath Laying Ceremony at the WWII Monument  
2pm—2:45pm Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Marine Corps War Memorial  
3:30pm Return to Hotel Sheraton Pentagon City  
5:00pm—6:00pm Reunion Registration Open  
6:00pm—8:00pm Hospitality Room Open



**Friday, 20 February**

8:30am—3:00pm National Museum of the Marine Corps (NMMC)  
5:00pm—6:00pm Reunion Registration Open  
6:00pm—8:00pm No Host Cocktail Reception and "Show & Tell"



**Saturday, 21 February**

8:30am—3:30pm Symposium and Panel Discussion  
12:00pm—1:00pm Lunch briefing by a **Senior Marine Representative**  
5:00pm—6:00pm Cash Bar Reception  
6:00pm—11:00pm Official Banquet invited GOH **36th Commandant of the Marine Corps**



**Sunday, 22 February**

Farewells and Departures

P.O. Box 680 Quantico, VA 22134

703-212-8128 / [Director@lwojimaassociation.org](mailto:Director@lwojimaassociation.org) / [www.lwojimaassociation.org](http://www.lwojimaassociation.org)

**IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA REUNION ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM**

Listed below is the registration cost for the Reunion and Symposium. Please enter how many people will be participating and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Returned checks will be charged a \$20 fee. You may also register online and pay by credit card at [www.afr-reg.com/ijaa2015](http://www.afr-reg.com/ijaa2015). All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before **January 21, 2015**. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form.

**Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.**  
**322 Madison Mews**  
**Norfolk, VA 23510**  
**ATTN: IJAA**

**OFFICE USE ONLY**

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received \_\_\_\_\_  
 Inputted \_\_\_\_\_ New ☐ Revision/Addition ☐

<b>CUT-OFF DATE IS 1/21/15</b>	<b>Price Per</b>	<b># of People</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>TOURS</b>			
Thursday, 2/19: Memorial Service & Wreath Laying Ceremonies	\$ 48		\$
Friday, 2/20: National Museum of the Marine Corps	\$ 43		
<b>MEALS</b>			
SATURDAY: SYMPOSIUM LUNCH	\$ 38		\$
SATURDAY: BANQUET <i>(Please select your entrée below)</i>			
Sliced London Broil	\$ 48		\$
Chicken Piccata	\$ 48		\$
<b>Mandatory Per Person Registration Fee</b>	\$ 15		\$
Total Amount Payable to <b>Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.</b>			\$

**PLEASE PRINT NAME**

**Note: Correct names and addresses are very important because of the prominent position of some of our guests. You will be required to go through metal detectors at the Museum.**

FIRST \_\_\_\_\_ LAST \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE NAME (IF ATTENDING) \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST NAMES \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, ST, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PH. NUMBER (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

*(Sleeping room requirements must be conveyed by attendee directly with hotel)*

MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONTO THE BUS WHILE SEATED IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS? ☐ YES ☐ NO **(PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY).**

EMERGENCY CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_ PH. NUMBER (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

ARRIVAL DATE \_\_\_\_\_ DEPARTURE DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU STAYING AT THE HOTEL? YES ☐ NO ☐ ARE YOU FLYING? ☐ DRIVING? ☐ RV? ☐

For refunds and cancellations please refer to our policies outlined at the bottom of the reunion program. **CANCELLATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00am-5:00pm EASTERN TIME (excluding holidays).** Call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion.

You may also register online and pay by credit card at [www.afr-reg.com/ijaa2015](http://www.afr-reg.com/ijaa2015)

**SHERATON PENTAGON CITY HOTEL (formerly Sheraton National) – ARLINGTON, VA**  
**Please call and mention the IJAA Reunion (888) 627-8210 / (703) 521-1900**

The Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel is located at 900 S Orme Street, Arlington, VA 22204. The hotel is approximately 5 miles away from Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) and 27 miles away from Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD). Call the hotel directly for accurate driving directions. The hotel is on high elevation overlooking many Washington, D.C. famous landmarks and is just blocks from the Metro, The Pentagon, Ft. Myer, and Arlington Cemetery. Downtown Washington, The Kennedy Center, Crystal City, and the National Airport are just five minutes away. Complimentary shuttle van service departs every 30 minutes to and from Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, Metro at The Pentagon, and Pentagon City Fashion Center. The hotel has handicapped accessible rooms which are based on availability. Please request these special accommodations when making your reservation. We recommend that you reconfirm these special requests before arriving at the hotel.

The Sheraton Pentagon City has 408 deluxe guest rooms with individual climate controls; an HD TV with in-room movies, and video check-out. Rooms offer in-room coffee makers, hair dryers, and irons/ironing boards. Guests can enjoy a rooftop indoor swimming pool (9:00am-10:00pm weekdays, 9:00am-9:00pm weekends) and an exercise room. The exercise room features Stairmaster, LifeCycle, and weight resistance equipment. The hotel is offering complimentary parking for all reunion attendees who are registered hotel guests. There are 390 parking spaces available with a six-foot ceiling height. Check-in time is 3:00pm; check-out is 12:00 noon.

The Potomac Restaurant, with seating for over 200 features unique culinary creations for breakfast, lunch, and dinner from prime steak to fresh seafood and exotic desserts, we will dazzle you with the best dining experience in Washington, D.C. Open from 2pm until midnight, the Potomac Lounge, adjacent to the restaurant, offers an inviting and social atmosphere for lunch, dinner or light fare. Catch your favorite game or the latest news on one of two large elevated flat screen televisions or the 42" plasma television positioned behind the bar. When you feel like staying in, you can enjoy a great meal from the privacy of your room with our delectable in-room dining options 6:30am-11:00pm.

Complimentary shuttle service departs every 30 minutes from 5:00am-12:15am to and from Washington-Reagan National Airport. Go to the Ground Transportation area of the airport to catch the shuttle. SuperShuttle offers transportation from Dulles International Airport and Baltimore/Washington International Airport. Please contact them at (202) 296-6662 or (800) BLUE-VAN for more information and/or reservations. Complimentary shuttle service is also available to the Pentagon City Metro Station 5:00am-12:15am.

Oversize vehicles or RVs can park in the hotel's satellite parking lot across the street from the hotel; but if you require RV hook-ups please contact Harmony Place located on 8018 Richmond Road, Alexandria, VA 22306, which is about 8 miles from the hotel. Call (703) 360-4460 for information, reservations, and directions. There are no campgrounds in Arlington County.

Should you need to rent a wheelchair for the reunion, ScootAround rents both manual and power wheelchairs by the day and week. Please call their toll-free number at (888) 441-7575.

**Vendors, Schedules, and Prices are subject to change.**

----- CUT HERE AND MAIL TO HOTEL -----

**IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC – HOTEL RESERVATION FORM**  
**REUNION DATES: FEBRUARY 18-22, 2015**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS (if available) \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE # (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

ARRIVAL DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM DEP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ # OF ROOMS NEEDED \_\_\_\_ # OF PEOPLE IN ROOM \_\_\_\_ HANDICAP ACCESS \_\_\_\_ KING BED \_\_\_\_ 2 DOUBLE BEDS

In the event room type requested is not available, nearest room type will be assigned.

**RATE:** \$122 + tax (currently 10%)

**CUT OFF DATE: 1/25/15;** Reservations received after this date will be processed on a space available basis, at prevailing public rate.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Deposit is refundable if reservation is cancelled by 4:00pm the day prior to arrival. If guest does not check-in OR has not cancelled their reservation by 4:00pm the day prior to arrival, 1 night's room & tax will be charged to the guest's credit card.

All reservations must be guaranteed by credit card or first night's deposit, enclosed.

\_\_\_\_ AMEX \_\_\_\_ DINERS \_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_ MASTER CARD \_\_\_\_ DISCOVER

CREDIT CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE (regardless of payment method) \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel, 900 South Orme Street, Arlington, VA 22204 Attn: Reservations or make Online reservations:** <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=1410077502&key=15115E8F>



## IJAA Symposium & Reunion Register online and pay by credit card!

[www.afr-reg.com/ijaa2015](http://www.afr-reg.com/ijaa2015)

### AFR CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY FOR ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC.

For attendees canceling reunion activities prior to the cut-off date, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) shall process a full refund less the non-refundable AFR registration fee (\$10 per person). Attendees canceling reunion activities after the cut-off date will be refunded to the fullest extent that AFR's vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less the group registration fee (\$15 per person) and non-refundable AFR registration fee (\$10 per person). **Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 5:00pm Eastern Standard Time, excluding holidays.** Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion. Canceling your hotel reservation does not cancel your reunion activities. Each must be cancelled separately.



## IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

### 70th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION MEMORIAL SERVICE & MONUMENTS

#### Thursday, 19 February

On the day of the landing on Iwo Jima in 1945 the IJAA will participate with the Department of Defense (DoD) in honoring those brave Veterans of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps who participated in the epic battle of the Pacific War. We'll begin the day with a Memorial Service at Marine Barracks 8th & I to honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice before proceeding to the Marine Monument at the Washington Navy Yard Museum and have an opportunity to tour the National Museum of the U.S. Navy. We'll enjoy lunch at the Marine Barracks 8th & I. Following Lunch we will attend Wreath Laying Ceremonies at both the WWII Memorial and the Marine Corps War Memorial.



There is some walking, so please wear comfortable shoes.  
8:15am board bus, 3:30pm return to hotel.

**\$48/Person includes bus transportation, escort, and lunch**

### NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS

#### Friday, 20 February

Opened to the public on 13 November 2006, the National Museum of the Marine Corps is a lasting tribute to U.S. Marines — past, present, and future. Situated on a 135-acre site adjacent to the Marine Corps base in Quantico, Virginia, the Museum's soaring design evokes the image of the flag-raisers of Iwo Jima and beckons visitors to its 118,000-square-foot structure. World-class inter-



active exhibits using the most innovative technology will surround visitors with irreplaceable artifacts and immerse them in the sights and sounds of Marines in action. Enjoy lunch on your own in the Mess Hall or 18th Century Tun Tavern.

**Note: You will be required to pass through a metal detector before entering the museum. There is a lot of walking, so please wear comfortable shoes. 9:00am board bus, 4:00pm back at the hotel**

**\$35/Person includes bus transportation. Lunch on your own.**

Driver gratuities are not included in the tour prices. Please plan to be at the bus boarding area at least five minutes prior to the scheduled time.



We love our Iwo Jima Vets and  
are forever grateful for you!



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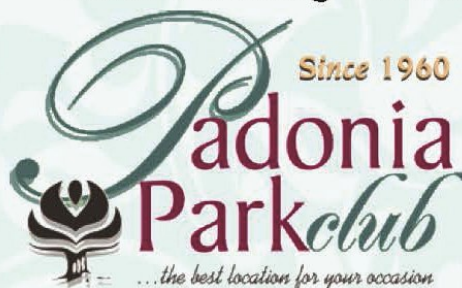
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- 31 Jan – 13 Feb Tet Offensive & Battle of Hue City
- ★ 16 – 23 Mar 70th Anniv Iwo Jima Reunion of Honor
- 5 – 17 Mar VN 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War  
USMC Landings at Red Beach, Da Nang—1965
- 7 – 16 Mar VN 2/4 Magnificent Bastards “1965—1975”
- 21 Apr – 1 May Turkey 100<sup>th</sup> Anniv of Gallipoli – Istanbul
- 30 Apr – 9 May Ireland VE Day & “WWII Irish Marines”
- 2 – 15 May VN 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War -  
1965 “Delta to the DMZ” Saigon to Hanoi
- 16 – 27 May WWI USMC Battlefields France—Belleau Wood
- 22 – 31 May Viking – MHT Seine River Cruise Normandy
- 28 May – 2 Jun Battle of the Bulge-Bastogne & Paris
- ★ 1 – 9 Jun WWII 71<sup>st</sup> Anniv of D-Day: Normandy to Paris
- ★ 6 – 19 Jun VN Special USMC I Corps “Chu Lai - DMZ”
- 18 – 24 Jun WWII 70th Anniv Battle of Okinawa
- 2 – 14 Jul WWII Russia Eastern Front
- 18 – 28 Jul WWII 2nd Mar Div Liberation of  
Saipan & Tinian plus Guam

*USMC Korean War Vets: Subsidized*





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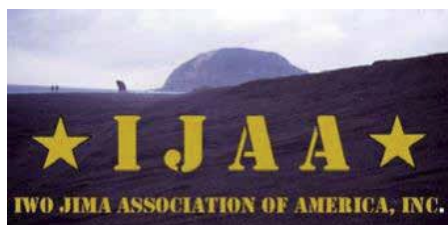
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## IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA 2014 FALL NEWSLETTER

RIGHT: CMC  
GEN "JIM"  
AMOS &  
LTGEN  
"LARRY"  
SNOWDEN AT  
CEREMONY.  
FAR RIGHT:  
5TH MARDIV  
MEMORIAL  
ON MOUNT  
SURIBACHI'S  
SUMMIT.  
BELOW:  
JOINT COLOR  
GUARD.



### 70TH IWO JIMA "REUNION OF HONOR" 16-23 MAR 2015

WASHINGTON, DC SYMPOSIUM  
18-22 FEB 2015

The Iwo Jima Association of America (IJAA) 70th "Reunion of Honor", coordinated by the IJAA's travel partner Military Historical Tours will be headquartered at the Outrigger Resort Hotel on Guam's Tumon Bay. A chartered United Airline jet will take the veterans, their families, educators, and historians back to the "Black Sands" and the very moving joint commemoration ceremony for the campaign's fallen warriors. There will be an Iwo Jima Battle Symposium & Banquet on Guam before our return. Please join us on the "Black Sands" for a stirring reunion with brethren & family.

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