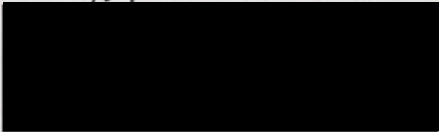


DEAR SIR,
AFTER ALL THESE OTHER
50 YEAR CELEBRATIONS ARE
OVER (D-DAY NORMANDY, GUAM
SIAPAN, IWO) ETC PLEASE DO
NOT LET PELELIU BE LEFT
UNNOTICED.

THANKS,


Melsa pegged for memorial on Peleliu

By William C. Bayne
The Commercial Appeal

A Memphis man has been tapped to design and erect a memorial on Peleliu to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the U.S. assault on the Japanese-held island Sept. 15, 1944.

Otto Melsa, a member of the 1st Marine Division Association, is responsible for the design, construction, transportation and erection of the memorial. It will mark the site of the fierce two-week battle in which 1,600 Marines and sailors were killed and more than 6,000 wounded.

All of the money for the memorial will come through private funds.

Navy Seabees have volunteered for construction work.

Peleliu is a small island, 3 miles wide by 5 miles long, in the Palau chain in the western Pacific Ocean. It is inhabited by 100 to 200 natives.

The Naval Air Station on Guam supervises activities on Peleliu and other regional islands.

Melsa was a Marine private first class with the 1st Marine Division when the assault was made. He was discharged from the Marines in 1945 and joined the Tennessee Army National Guard in 1947. He retired from the National Guard as a colonel in 1978.

Contact Person:

Memphis, TN 38118

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PELELIU VETERANS MEMORIALIZE
(Second Announcement)

in preparation for the 50th anniversary ceremonies on Peleliu Island on September 15, 1994 , a group of First Marine Division Veterans are making progress to visit Peleliu as they did D-day.

Their effort is to erect and dedicate appropriate plaques in remembrance of those who perished or were wounded during the climactic first 10-days of the battle.

The First Marine Division Association in conjunction with First Signal Company Veterans of the First Marine Division are sponsoring the ceremonial events.

[REDACTED] has been pegged by his fellow marines to carry out the mission of designing, construction, transportation, erection and dedication of one or more plaques on the 3-mile by 5-mile island. "We are well-along in preparation for the Sept. 15, 1994 ceremonies and we will meet our deadlines," [REDACTED] said.

Cooperation between the First Marine Division Association, Naval

forces on Guam, Seabees, U.S. Navy leadership in Hawaii, the Return to Peleliu planning committee and the small group of Semper Fi (50 year) veterans of the D-day landings has been dedicated and outstanding.

"Returning again to those beaches, " [REDACTED] said, "will be a somber tribute to the 1,600 plus who died and 6,000 plus who were wounded."

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Contact Person:

Memphis, TN 38118

Peleliu Veterans Memorialize

Information Data:

Contracts have been negotiated with Mr. George Crone, Monuments, 811 So. Dudley St., Memphis, TN, to manufacture three (3) bronze plaques to be attached to the First Marine Division Association Memorial located on Peleliu Island as follows:

#1 Plaque: 30" x 42" with the Presidential Unit Citation engraved in block lettering.

#2 Plaque: 24" x 30" with names of Peleliu Congressional Medal of Honor winners engraved in block lettering.

#3 Plaque: 24" x 30" with recognition and a tribute for individual duties, assignments and/or job performance acts by personnel during the Peleliu Campaign.

(Note: Each plaque will have appropriate symbols, emblems, insignias, medals, etc. engraved.)

The Schedule of Planned Events:

25 April 94	Authority by First Marine Division Association for Peleliu Commemorative Committee to conduct plaque installation project.
28 April 94	Contract completed to manufacture three (3) plaques in Memphis, TN.
15 June 94	We must approve final.

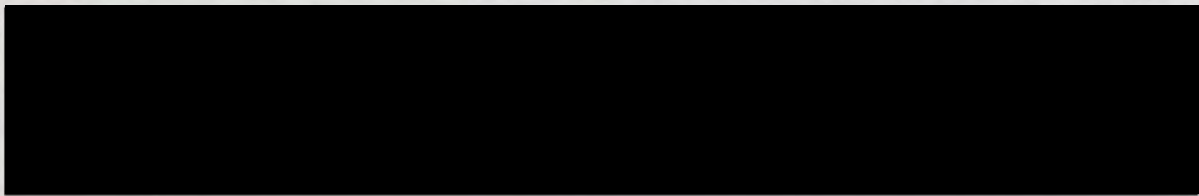
Peleliu Veterans Memorialize
Page 2

- 1 August 94 Plaques ready and prepared for shipment to Peleliu.
- 15 August 94 Plaques arrival on Guam to be forwarded to Peleliu.
- 1 September 94 Plaques arrival on Peleliu to be installed on current First Marine
Division Association Memorial.
- 15 September 94 The 50 Year Commemorative Committee dedicates the plaques on
Peleliu on behalf of the First Marine Division Association and conducts
re-dedication ceremonies at the current Memorial.

A budget of \$7,000.00 has been adopted to support costs of \$2,000.00 per plaque plus \$1,000.00 for transportation costs of the three (3) plaques from Memphis, TN to Peleliu. Living First Signal Company Peleliu Veterans of the First Marine Division Association are sponsoring the erection of the three (3) plaques. Donations and contributions are being accepted by Dan Allen (Editor and Publisher of The First Signal Company Communicator), P. O. Box 6801, Louisville, KY 40206-0801.

Some 400 veterans, spouses and friends plan to visit the 3-mile by 5-mile Island of Peleliu for the 50-Year Commemorative Ceremonies on September 15, 1994. The dedication of the three (3) new plaques and the re-dedication honors for those who served so valiantly will be a somber tribute to the 1,600 plus who died and 6,000 plus who were wounded during the first ten days of the Peleliu Campaign.

SEMPER FI



FROM

PHONE NO. :

P02

PLATE #1
24" X 30"
(ON ONE SIDE)



The First Marine Division Association

Department of Defense World War II Commemorative Community

Rededicated this Memorial on the
50th Anniversary of the landing on Peleliu.

15 September 1994

"In Every Clime and Place
and Never Lost Our Nerve"

MEDAL OF HONOR

Corporal Lewis K. Bausell*
1st Battalion, 5th Marines - Washington, D. C.

Private First Class Arthur J. Jackson
3rd Battalion, 7th Marines - Oregon

Private First Class Richard E. Kraus*
8th Amphibian Tractor Battalion - Minnesota

Private First Class John D. New*
2nd Battalion, 7th Marines - Alabama

Private First Class Wesley Phelps*
3rd Battalion, 7th Marines - Kentucky

Captain Everett C. Pope
1st Battalion, 1st Marines - Massachusetts

Private First Class Charles R. Roan*
2nd Battalion, 7th Marines - Texas

First Lieutenant Carlton R. Rouh
1st Battalion, 5th Marines - New Jersey

*Killed in Action

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the
PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION to the

FIRST MARINE DIVISION (REINFORCED)

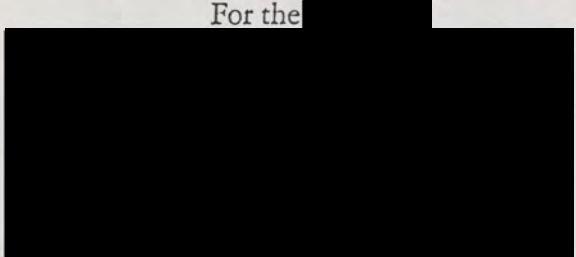
consisting of FIRST Marine Division; First Amphibian Tractor Battalion, FMF; U. S. Navy Flame Thrower Unit Attached; Sixth Amphibian Tractor Battalion (Provisional), FMF; Third Armored Amphibian Battalion (Provisional), FMF; Detachment Eighth Amphibian Tractor Battalion, FMF; 454th Amphibian Truck Company, U. S. Army; 456th Amphibian Truck Company, U. S. Army; Fourth Joint Assault Signal Company, FMF; Fifth Separate Wire Platoon, FMF; Sixth Separate Wire Platoon, FMF,

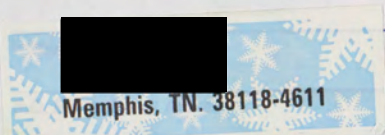
for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For extraordinary heroism in action against enemy Japanese forces at Peleliu and Ngesebus from September 15 to 29, 1944. Landing over a treacherous coral reef against hostile mortar and artillery fire, the FIRST Marine Division, Reinforced, seized a narrow, heavily mined beachhead and advanced foot by foot in the face of relentless enfilade fire through rainforests and mangrove swamps toward the air strip, the key to the enemy defenses of the southern Palaus. Opposed all the way by thoroughly disciplined, veteran Japanese troops heavily entrenched in caves and in reinforced concrete pillboxes which honeycombed the high ground throughout the island, the officers and men of the Division fought with undiminished spirit and courage despite heavy losses, exhausting heat and difficult terrain, seizing and holding a highly strategic air and land base for future operations in the Western Pacific. By their individual acts of heroism, their aggressiveness and their fortitude, the men of the FIRST Marine Division, Reinforced, upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

For the





Apt. Number

City

State

Zip Code



ATTN:
MR. LAMB

C-SPAN
400 NORTH CAPITOL
WASHINGTON,
D.C. 20001