

James Leslie “Les” Gadbury

US. Marines

3rd Marine Division, 9th Regiment, C Company-(Rifle Company, Machine Gunner)



James L. Gadbury
U.S. Marines
3rd Div., 9th Regiment, C Company

Les Gadbury enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in January 1942 at the U.S. Marine Recruit Depot in San Diego. He was trained at Camp Elliott and Camp Pendleton. Les traveled to New Zealand in January of 1943 and ultimately landed in Guadalcanal in June of 1943. The “Striking Ninth” landed on Bougainville on November 1, 1943 and returned to Guadalcanal on January 1, 1944. On July 21, 1944, the “Striking Ninth” landed on Guam. The C Company landed on Iwo Jima on February 24, 1945 and returned to the United States in late May of

Les was assigned to Washington D. C. Monu-

ment Detail of the original Iwo Jima statue with sculptor Felix de Weldon from June to November of 1945. This statue was dedicated on November 10, 1945 in honor of the Marine Corps 170th Anniversary. Les was discharged from the Marine Corps in January of 1946.

Les and his wife, Norma (Gregory), of Moweaqua, Illinois, both graduated from Illinois State University. They married in 1949 and had five children. Les and Norma currently reside in Monticello, Illinois. He has written his own personal accounts of the Liberation of Guam, the Battle for Bougainville, and Iwo Jima.

Submitted By:
Gloria Smith (Daughter)

