

Darrell D Long

U.S. Marines 8th Divisions



Darrell D. C. Long
With 8th Marines In The Pacific

I volunteered for the Marine Corps in January 1944 and completed boot camp at MCRD, San Diego, California. After boot camp, I was sent to Camp Pendleton, California for further training. Later, we shipped out as 27th replacements with a small detachment of Marines. When we arrived on Guam, it had already been secured. Our duties were to ride 'shot gun' for the Seabees who were building an airstrip for B-29's. They were to bomb the Japanese homeland and were receiving nuisance attacks of sniper fire from Japanese soldiers that had fled to the hills instead of surrendering.

Leaving Guam, we were flown to Saipan and the Second Division where I was attached to the Eighth Marines. On April Fool's Day, code name "Love Day", the Second Division and other Marine and Army Divisions made landings for the invasion of Okinawa, 300 miles from Japan. The Second Division made two feint landings. We returned to ship and sailed around in the East China Sea in an effort

to draw out Japanese battleships. They finally decided that the risk was too great and we returned to Saipan.

Only a short time later, the Eighth Marines got the call from the U.S. Tenth Army, under the command of Lt. General Simon Bolivar Buckner, to invade Iheya Shimma and set up radar. The Japanese kamikazes were inflicting severe casualties on Navy shipping in and around Okinawa. The Eighth Marines boarded LST's for Iheya Shimma and found only rain, mud and sand fleas. So we returned Saipan.

Again the Tenth Army sent for the Eighth Marines. We came under the command of the First marine Division to relieve the Seventh Marines on Okinawa. Colonel Waldorf commanded the Eighth Marines and Okinawa was secured on June 22, 1945. After the second atomic bomb was dropped on August 9, 1945, Japan surrendered. The Second Marine Division went on to occupy Japan and I served in Nagasaki, Japan for six months. I was discharged and home in April, 1946.

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