Birmingham Boy On Iwo Jima Relates His Experiences Of First Hour Of Fighting; His Partner And Officers Are Killed

Writing to Harold Giles, 245 S. Woodward avenue, today George Lintz, resident here several years, related his first battle experiences on Iwo Jima. George tells of the death of his partner of his hour of fighting and of terrible loss of life in the first day's fighting.

His letter follows:

"I was in the third wave of the assault troops landing on Green beach 1, Iwo Jima, my landing craft hit the beach at exactly 0912, H-hour was 0900, February 19, 1945.

"The noise was terrific and shells and bullets were every where, I was operating with A-co. with my partner Ray N. Dougherty, a man who was like a brother to me.

"Well, we hit the beach and disembarked as quickly as possible, my job was to find a route of approach for tanks, trucks, or any other machinery that would be coming in with the first troops. I hit the deck, or ground to you, and started locating myself on my map.

Radio Man Hit

"This took but a matter of seconds; I wrote out my first and only message of the day and when I hailed a radio man, I found that he had already had a leg blown off and was dying. I put the message in my pocket and started up the beach. The fire was so terrific that I had to stop, and as I again hit the deck a mortar shell landed very close in front of me, covering me with dust and volcanic ash. I had never been so close to a blast like that and didn't fully realize just how close I had come to being hit.

"That was enough for me, I decided to move inland, so I discarded my shattered gas mask and, took off. I'll never know why we didn't get hit because people were being killed and wounded all around us. We had gone possibly 200 yards just starting out when an amphibious jeep was blown up by a direct hit not 20 feet from us, we were knocked flat and showered with debris. We couldn't stay there so again we started inland. Bullets were singing all around us, and we were so tired from running in knee deep volcanic ash, that it was impossible for us to move faster than a walk.

Terrible Sights

"We finally reached the top of the second terrace and stopped for breath. Men were lying everywhere, some dead, and others dying. A terribly inhuman sight.

"We asked where A-co extended to and someone pointed toward the west beach and down toward Suribachi, again we started out in the direction of A-co. We had gone perhaps 100 yards when we discovered that we were alone, this is a horrible feeling in itself but then we found that it was impossible to go back because of the intense fire. So we could do nothing but go on, which we did. Dodging from shell crater to crater and receiving fire each time we moved.

"All this time I had not seen a single Jap so you can understand why when we jumped into one of the shell holes and saw a Jap, both of us put a couple of bullets into him before we found that he was already dead, and had been dead long enough to draw flies. The odor was too much for us here, we looked for another place of shelter.

"About 20 yards away we found another hole, and at this time I saw my first live Jap. He was running from one pill box to another, I sighted on him and pulled the trigger but my rifle wouldn't fire, I aged 10 years in that second, but Ray had also seen him, and while I was trying to clear my weapon, Ray saw him again and his rifle worked. He hit the Jap on the run and he sprawled out as dead as he could be. I felt much better when I saw that, but we had to move because we were drawing too much fire.

"We moved on to another hole and we were now about 500 yards in front of the lines and about 150 yards from the other side of the island, and giving our situation a great deal of thought when I saw a man running toward us, was just going to shoot when I discovered that he was a Marine, he fell into the hole and immediately we exchanged stories, he was B-co's commanding officer. We decided to go after this machine gun so we looked around for a place where we could fire on it.

Partner Killed

"We saw a trench and ran for it, it was a very neat trap, it was shaped like a Y and was completely covered by rifle and machine gun fire. We couldn't go back so decided to defend ourselves as best we could. First we used our grenades on a pillbox, then we started firing back with our rifles. This lasted for a couple of minutes and got us no where, we were afraid they would charge so each of us took a section of the trench, in doing this I tried to cover Ray while he got into position, I could see at an angle out in front of him so that is where I aimed my weapon, he was in a crawling position about four or five feet from me when I saw a Jap pointing his rifle at that point of our trench, I aimed and fired, but he fired first and although my aim had been true, so had his and my best friend and and buddy was dead, hit in the head and killed instantly. I was numb and couldn't believe it. Now the machine gun opened up again and raked the trench from end to end.

"Capt. Mears and I looked at each other, it looked pretty bad. Every time we moved they would cut loose with everything in the book, and we knew it would only be a matter of time until they got us. They couldn't quite reach us with grenades although they threw many of them.

"We finally decided to make a run for it and take our chances, so we emptied our rifles in the general direction of them and ran back to the large hole with machine gun and rifle bullets kicking up sand all around us.

"We reached the hole safely and were very thankful. Here we were joined by a lieutentant named Tucker who had seen our plight and had come to help. We were not given any relief because now they were using mortars on us.

Fishermen Find That Poorly Fed Fish Are Slowing Up Fishing

Some Birmingham fishermen have returned from their annual trips to the lakes and streams a bit of a distance away from the much fished areas with word that "the fish just aren't there any more." Some bring news that "the fish just were not biting." Especially has this word came back to Birmingham with the trout fishermen.

A bit of inquiry among conservation department men has revealed that because of the food shortage at the fish hatcheries, trout have not been growing as rapidly as normal and as a result not as many legal length trout have been planted in the streams. This slowed-up growth rate of trout in Michigan fish hatchery ponds reflects wartime difficulty in securing meat by-products that normally are a major item of their diet. Consequently, conservation department hatchery employes may continue stream plantings of legal-size trout after the August 15 deadline of recent seasons.

More than 30,000 brook trout are being sorted at the Oden hatchery now, perparatory to planting, and this delayed activity is reported from other hatcheries.

Delayed plantings will be undertaken to clear ponds and forestall carry-over of legal fish which would add to the department's feeding troubles.

Packing houses which furnish meat by-products have been making greatly reduced deliveries on a day-to-day basis over a period of months.

Beautiful But Dumb

Miss Filmer (puzzled)—A line in the script runs: "It seems I must do it, willy nilky." What's that mean?

Director—That means it's a case of nolens volens.

Miss Filmer—Oh!

YOUR WASTE PAPER MAKES SHELL CASES —HAS TOJO TREMBLING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Zoning Board of Southfield Township, Oakland County, Michigan, will hold a public hearing in the Arnold Lathrup School, located on Southfield Road, between Eleven and Twelve Mile Roads, at 7:00 P. M. Central War Time, August 7, 1945 on a proposed Zoning Ordinance for Southfield Township as provided in Act Number 184 of the Public Acts of 1943. At this meeting regulations and proposed provisions of this proposed Ordinance will be discussed which concern that part of the Township of Southfield bounded as follows:

Twelve Mile Road on the North, Greenfield Road on the East, Eight Mile Road on the South, Evergreen on the West.

SOUTHFIELD TOWNSHIP
ZONING BOARD,
George I. Goodwin, Chairman.
19

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Zoning Board of Southfield Township, Oakland County, Michigan, will hold a public hearing in the Frace School, located at 21705 Evergreen Road, at 7:00 P. M. Central War Time, August 23, 1945 on a proposed Zoning Ordinance for Southfield Township as provided in Act Number 184 of the Public Acts of 1943. At this meeting regulations and proposed provisions of this proposed Ordinance will be discussed which concern that part of the Township of Southfield bounded as follows:

Ten Mile Road on the North, Evergreen Road on the East, Eight Mile Road on the South, Telegraph Road on the West.

SOUTHFIELD TOWNSHIP
ZONING BOARD,
George I. Goodwin, Chairman.
19-20-21

No. 85,393

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac, in said County, on the 26th day of July, A. D. 1945.

Present: Hon. Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of Bessie K. Wix, Deceased.

Lee E. Joslyn, Jr., administrator with Will Annexed of said estate, having filed in said court a petition praying that the time for the presentation of claims against said estate be limited and that a time and place be appointed to receive, examine and adjust all claims and demands against said deceased by and before said court.

It is Ordered, that two months from this date be allowed for creditors to present claims against said estate.

It is Further Ordered, that the 1st day of October, 1945, at eight o'clock in the forenoon, Central War Time, at said probate office, be and is hereby appointed for the examination and adjustment of all claims against said deceased.

ARTHUR E. MOORE,
Judge of Probate.

JOSLYN, JOSLYN & JOSLYN,
Attorneys at Law,
1750 Buhl Building,
Detroit 26, Michigan.
19-20-21

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