



The Iwo Jima Flag Raisers

Chaos, Controversy and World War II

U.S. Marine Corps Personnel Records



Bryan McGraw

The personnel named in the historic Rosenthal photo of the flag raising on Iwo Jima were recently corrected by the U.S. Marine Corps (USMC). From their official military personnel files (OMPFs) of the USMC, Bryan McGraw will provide an overview of the events associated with the flag raising, and what types of material can be found in a USMC OMPF of this period.



Bryan McGraw

Access Coordinator
St. Louis and Midwest
National Archives

Bryan McGraw joined the National Archives in 2004 and was selected to his current position in 2012. Mr. McGraw is responsible for and oversees the day-to-day operations of five federal archives, in Chicago, Denver, Fort Worth, Kansas City, and St. Louis. Previously Mr. McGraw has served in various positions in civilian and military organizations, and received numerous awards and decorations throughout his career. Mr. McGraw's education includes a B.S. degree from Southeast Missouri State University, M.P.A. from the University of Oklahoma, and a Ph.D. (all but the dissertation) in Public Policy from Saint Louis University. He is also a Senior Fellow and graduate of the Partnership for Public Service Excellence in Government Fellowship Program.

The Iwo Jima Flag Raisers: Chaos, Controversy & World War II U.S. Marine Corps Personnel Records



Bryan K. McGraw

Access Coordinator — St. Louis & Midwest

National Archives and Records Administration

Photograph of Flag Raising on Iwo Jima, 02/23/1945 (NWDNS-80-G-413988; National Archives Identifier: 520748); General Photographic File of the Department of Navy, 1943–1958; General Records of the Department of the Navy, 1804–1958; Record Group 80; National Archives.

Agenda

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- Battle for Iwo Jima
- Flag Raising
 - Who Raised the Flag in the Famous Photo?
 - They Got It Wrong - Twice
 - Setting the Record Straight
- The Official Military Personnel Files of the Flag Raisers
- World War II Marine Corps OMPFs
- Why the Historical Record Matters
- Q & A

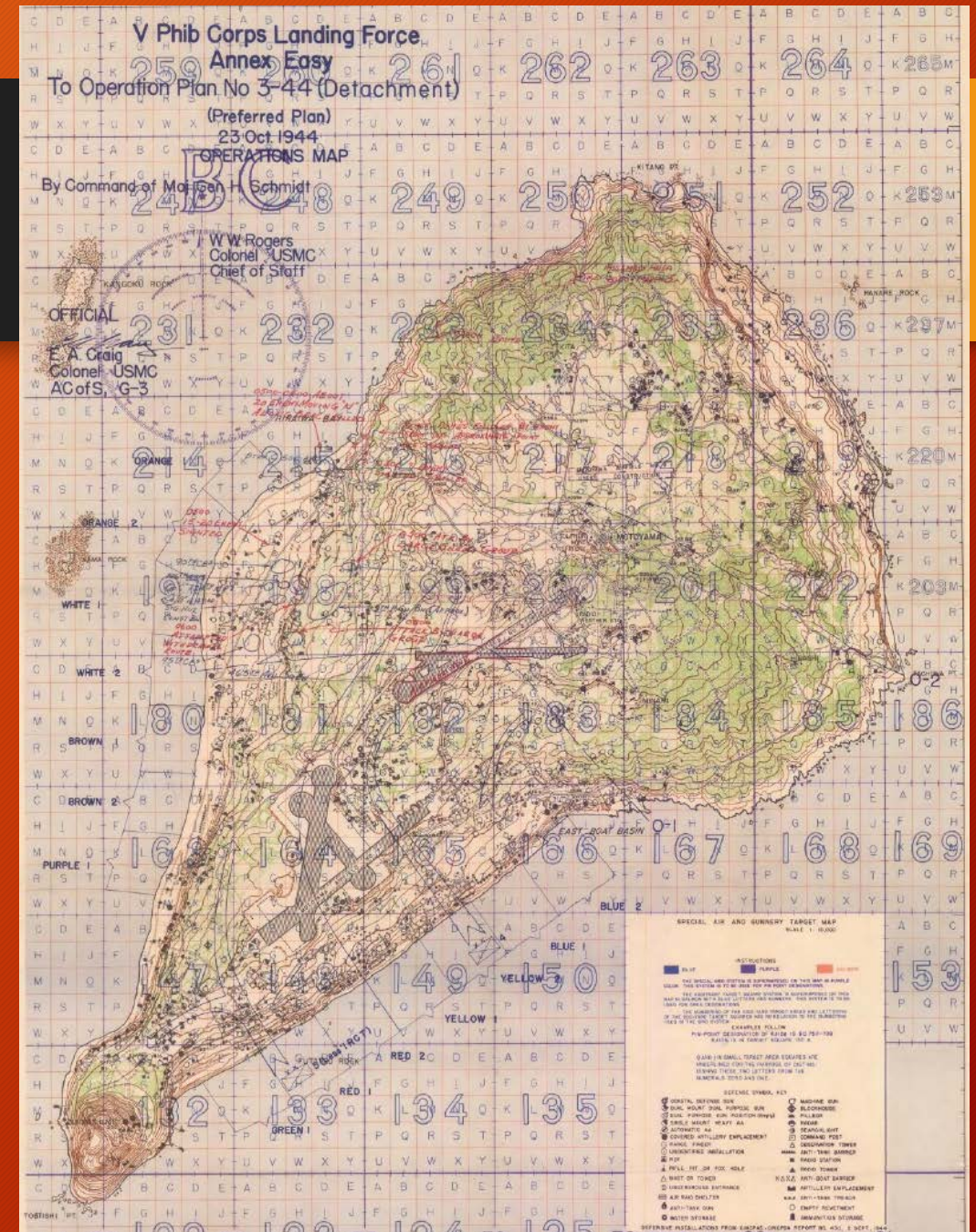
Battle for Iwo Jima

5

- “Operation Detachment” (invasion of Iwo Jima) lasted from February 19, 1945 to March 26, 1945
 - Goal was to capture island and its 3 airfields to protect US forces in the region & acquire a location to support air operations against mainland Japan
- Island only 4-2/3 miles long and 2-1/2 miles wide
- ~ 70,000 U.S. Marines from 3rd, 4th, 5th Marine Divisions and 147th Infantry Regiment along with units from 7th Air Force & Navy’s 5th Fleet opposed ~21,000 Dug in Japanese of the 109th Imperial Japanese Army
- Most intense fighting up to that point in the war
 - U.S. suffered nearly 7,000 Killed In Action (KIA) & over 19,000 wounded
 - Japanese lost all but 216 which were taken prisoner

Battle for Iwo Jima (continued)

- Map showing terrain, airstrips and known Japanese defenses prior to the invasion
- Mt. Suribachi is on the extreme southern end of the island
- The island was bombarded by air & naval forces for over 70 days prior to the invasion to “soften it up”
- Most Japanese forces were secure in caves and fortifications underground





National Archives Identifier: 32607059

Creator(s): Department of Defense. Department of the Navy. Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. 9/18/1947- (Most Recent)
 Department of Defense. Department of the Navy. Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. Office of Naval Records and Library. 9/1947-3/10/1949 (Predecessor)

From: File Unit: U.S. Marine Corps Iwo Jima Operation, Volume 1, 1945 - 1945

Series: World War II Navy Command Files , 1942-1967

Record Group 38: Records of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, 1875-2006



National Archives Identifier: 532542

Local Identifier: 127-N-110104

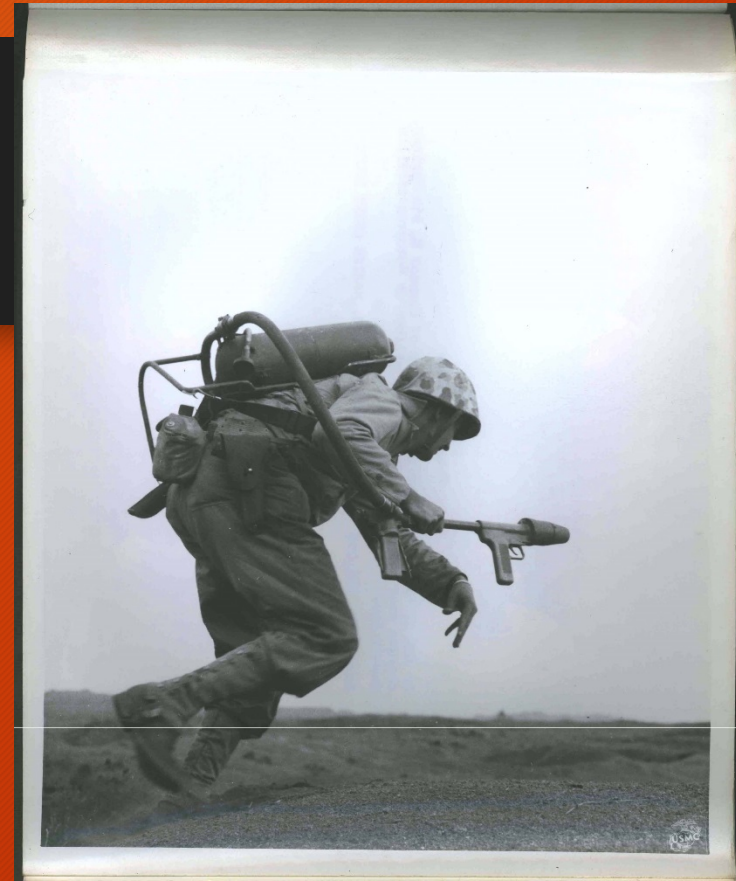
Creator(s): Department of Defense. Department of the Navy. U.S. Marine Corps. 9/18/1947- (Most Recent)

From: Series: General Photograph File of the U.S. Marine Corps, 1927-1981

Record Group 127: Records of the U.S. Marine Corps, 1775 - dog



National Archives Identifier: 32607224 Container Identifier: 71 HMS Entry Number(s): UD-11W 42, UD-11W 41
 Creators: Department of Defense. Department of the Navy. Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. Office of Naval Records and Library. 9/1947–3/10/1949; Department of Defense. Department of the Navy. Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. 9/18/1947



National Archives Identifier: 32607314 Container Identifier: 71 HMS Entry Number(s): UD-11W 42, UD-11W 41
 Creators: Department of Defense. Department of the Navy. Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. Office of Naval Records and Library. 9/1947–3/10/1949; Department of Defense. Department of the Navy. Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. 9/18/1947

The Flag Raising

9



National Archives Identifier: 520748

Local Identifier: 1221

Creator(s): Department of Defense. Department of the Navy. Naval Photographic Center. (12/1/1959 - ca. 1998) (Most Recent)

From: Series: General Photographic File of the Department of Navy, 1943–1958

Record Group 80: General Records of the Department of the Navy, 1804–1983

Flag Raising: Who Raised the Flag?

10

- There were actually two separate flag raisings:
 - 1020 hours on 23 February 1945 – a small 54" x 28" U.S. flag by members of the 3rd platoon, E Company, 2nd Battalion, 28th Marine Regiment, 5th Marine Division
 - 1Lt Harold Schrier, Sgt. Henry Hansen, Cpl. Charles Lindberg, PFCs Louis Charlo and James Michels
 - Photographed by Sgt. Louis Lowery, *Leatherneck* magazine
 - Battalion commander ordered a second flag raising as the first flag was too small
 - Second and most famous flag raising occurred shortly thereafter by a different group of Marines from same unit, hoisting a 96" x 54" flag they had obtained from a Landing Ship, Tank (LST) anchored off-shore
 - Cpl. Harlon Block, Navy Pharmacist's Mate John Bradley, Cpl. Rene Gagnon, PFC Franklin Sousley, Sgt. Michael Strank & Cpl. Ira Hayes
 - Photo taken by AP Photographer Joseph Rosenthal
 - Went on to become most iconic photo in World War II & source for USMC Monument in Arlington

But...

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- By 1947 controversy and questions began to emerge as to who was really in this iconic photo
- For decades the Pentagon, U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Government officials refuted any challenges to the true identify of the individuals in the photograph
- In 2013, amateur historian Eric Krelle, along with his friend Stephen Foley, began in-depth research into this photograph
 - Foley was recovering from surgery and read in-depth about Iwo Jima & scrutinized the photos
 - USN Corpsman John Bradley was clearly seen in first, less-famous photo but didn't look like the individual in the second, most famous photograph
 - Led to publication in 2014 that Bradley was not in the photo

Flag Raising Controversy

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- After widespread media coverage of the photo error claims, Commandant of the USMC established a review panel to determine - once and for all - who was in the photo
- Findings showed, John Bradley, was in first flag raising photo but not in the second
- USMC also investigated the first flag raising photo again and discovered additional errors:
 - PFC Louis Charlo & PFC James Michels were not among the men in the first flag raising
 - Charlo was part of a reconnaissance team & Michels was part of a security detail for the first flag raising
 - First flag raising included: 1Lt Harold Schrier, Plt. Sgt. Ernest Thomas, Sgt. Henry Hansen, Cpl. Charles Lindberg, Pharmacist Mate 2nd Class John Bradley & Pvt. Philip Ward
 - (Updated on August 24, 2016, on www.marines.mil/news/press-releases)

First Flag Raising Photo

Omaha World-Herald, *New
Mystery Arises From Iconic Iwo
Jima Image*, 11/23/2014



In a photo taken after the famous flag-raising, John Bradley, left, wears cuffed pants, with leggings and boots visible. Contrast those with the pants worn by the figure said to be Bradley in the famous Joe Rosenthal photo.



Joe Rosenthal's famous photo of the second flag raising on Mount Suribachi. On Feb. 23, 1945, in the middle of one of the fiercest battles of World War II, a group of U.S. Marines carried a flag up the highest peak on the Pacific island of Iwo Jima and planted it there. Since 1947, the Marine Corps has attached six names to the famous flag-raising photo taken that day. And it says the case is closed.



Source:
www.marines.mil/news/news-display

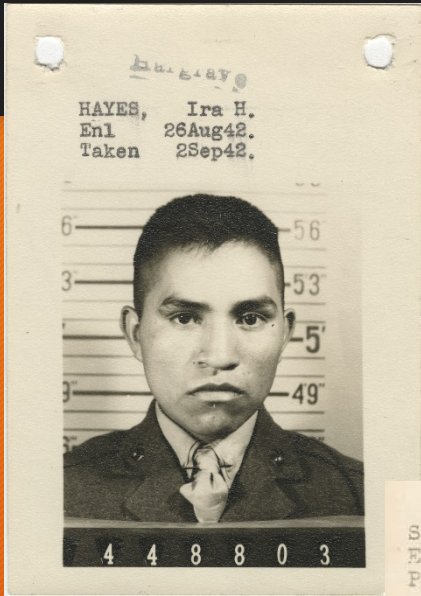
Flag Raising Controversy

15

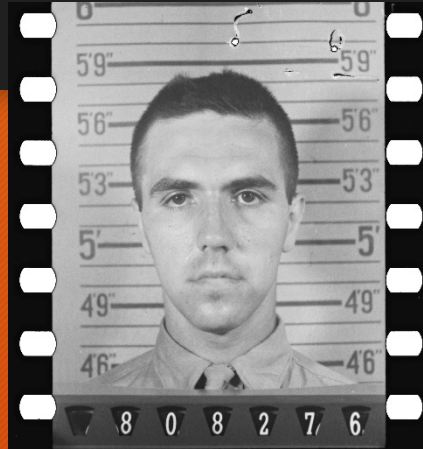
- USMC concluded on June 23, 2016 that, John Bradley, was in fact, NOT in the iconic photo taken by Joe Rosenthal
 - Determined that PFC Harold Schultz was in the photo in place of Bradley
- Second flag raising team was:
 - Cpl. Harlon Block, PFC Rene Gagnon, PFC Ira Hayes, PFC Harold Schultz, PFC Franklin Sousley & Sgt. Michael Strank
- We should take a look at some of these records and see what they tells us from both a historic & genealogical perspective

The Flag Raisers

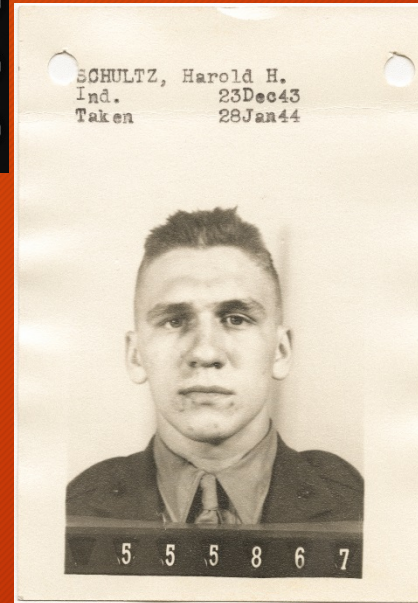
16



Ira Hayes



Rene Gagnon



Harold Schultz



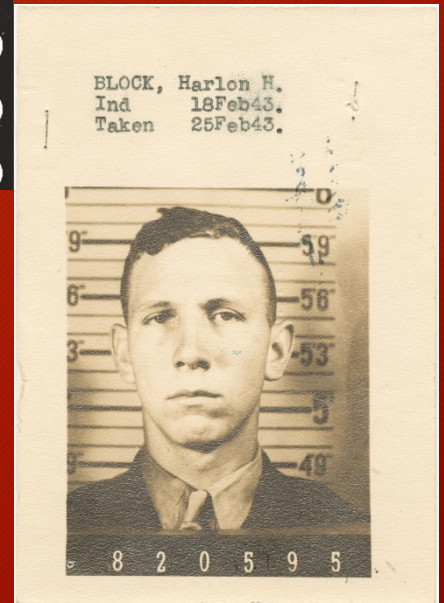
Franklin Sousley



Michael Strank



John Bradley



Harlon Block

CONSENT OF PARENTS OR GUARDIAN TO ENLISTMENT OF A MINOR IN THE MARINE CORPS

Reserve CI III (a)

*We ☒ Joe E. Hayes and Nancy W. Hayes
residing in Bapchule, County of Pinal
and State of Arizona, do freely consent to the enlistment
of Ira Hamilton HAYES in the United States Marine Corps as a
(Name in full)
PRIVATE, to serve YEARS, unless sooner discharged, subject to all the requirements and lawful
DURATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY
commands of the officers who may, from time to time, be placed over him; do hereby relinquish all claim to
his service, and to any wages or compensation for the same, and do hereby certify that he was born
in Sacaton, Arizona on the 12th day of January
1923

And ☒ we do solemnly swear (or affirm) that Ira Hamilton HAYES, that he has no other legal guardian, and that he has never
(Name in full)
been married, had military service, or been convicted of any crime: So help me God.

* ☒ we are the parents
~~we are the mother and only surviving parent~~
~~we are the mother and only surviving parent~~
~~we are the legally appointed guardian~~
of the said
Joe E. Hayes
(Signature of father or guardian)
Nancy W. Hayes
(Signature of mother)

Address (with street and number) Bapchule, Arizona.

Personally appeared before me JOE E. HAYES and
NANCY W. HAYES, residents of BAPCHULE in the county of
PINAL, and State of ARIZONA, each of whom is well known
to me as a credible person, and made oath that the foregoing statement is correct and true, and signed the
same in my presence this 25th day of AUGUST, 1942.

My Commission Expires April 20, 1946

*Strike out words which do not apply.

Walter E. Jackson
(Signature of officer administering oath)
NOTARY PUBLIC

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 4-3057

Parental Consent for Enlistment Form

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Ira Hayes was a minor and required the consent of his parents to enlist in the Marine Corps

- He enlisted in the Reserves of the USMC but was activated for the war

Serial No. 808276

USMCR, "SS-Class III(c)"



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

I, Rene Arthur GAGNON, desiring to enlist in the
(first name) (middle name, if any) (surname, in capital)
plus six months
duration of war /
(insert period of enlistment)UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS, for plus six months, do declare that I was
(insert period of enlistment)born 7 March, 1925, at Manchester,
(p)New Hampshire

in the State of New Hampshire; that I know of nothing wrong with my health or body that the doctor did not find when he examined me; that I am of good habits and character; that no judge or jury has ever found me guilty of a crime; that I have never deserted from the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard and have never been discharged therefrom with a dishonorable, bad conduct, undesirable or inaptitude discharge, or for disability, and that I have never served therein except as stated to the Recruiting Officer and recorded on the reverse side of this contract; and that I am a citizen of the United States. I agree to accept from the United States such bounty, pay, rations and clothing as are or may be established by law.

I further state that, if enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve, I hereby waive, as of the date of my enlistment and assignment to active duty all or any rights that I have to any pension, disability allowance, disability compensation or retired pay, which I may be currently receiving or entitled to receive from the Government of the United States for the period of such enlistment and active duty therein. I, am not receiving such monies in
(am) (am not)
the amount of \$ None
(per month)

I further agree that the authorities concerned are authorized to use the information set forth herein below as may be required for the following purposes:

1. To carry out the provisions of the acts approved June 4, 1920; May 22, 1928; May 12, 1930 and March 17, 1941, or acts amendatory thereof, pertaining to the payment of a gratuity equal to six (6) months' pay to widow or children or dependents of officers and enlisted men, I give below the names and addresses of my wife and children:

Not Married.

(Full name of wife; if not married, so state)

(Address of wife)

No Children.

(Full name and address of each child; if none, so state)

In the event of my leaving no widow or child, or of their decease before payment is made, I then designate as my beneficiary under said acts the following relative (father, mother, brother, or sister),

Mother

(Relationship)

Irene Gagnon

(Name in full)

43 Hollis Street,

(Address)

Manchester, New Hampshire.

In the event that payment cannot be made to the above named relative, I then designate as my beneficiary under said acts the following dependent relative,

None

(Relationship)

(Name in full)

(Address)

* State briefly wherein dependency consists.

2. To carry out the provisions of the act of March 7, 1942, pertaining to allotments of pay for support of dependents of those missing, interned or captured by the enemy, I wish my

Mother

(State relationship)

Irene Gagnon

(Full name)

of 43 Hollis Street, Manchester, New Hampshire
(Address)

to receive:

(a) Approximately 100 % of my pay.(b) ~~xxxxxx dollars (\$xxxxxx) per month of my pay~~Given at Manchester, N.H. this 6th day of May, 1943.
(Show place of acceptance)

*Accepted and signature witnessed:

Rene Arthur Gagnon
Rene (Signature of applicant in full) GAGNON

*Witness:

N. J. E. O'Malley
N. J. E. O'MALLEY
Captain,

U. S. M. C. R., Recruiting Officer.

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Rene Gagnon Enlistment Document

- He enlisted in the active duty USMC
- Reserve enlistments used a different form

Marriage License - Rene Gagnon

Some OMPFs can
contain vital
record material
such as a
Marriage License

GOOD ONLY IN BALTIMORE CITY

Marriage License

STATE OF MARYLAND
BALTIMORE CITY

No. **487**

I Hereby Certify, That on this 7th day of July Nineteen hundred and forty five
the below, were by me united in marriage at the Cathedral in accordance with the License issued by the
Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas herein indicated.

APPLICATION 1695

RENE ARTHUR GAGNON and PAULINE GEORGETTE HARNOIS
(Name of Groom) (Name of Bride)

Residence of Groom MANCHESTER N.H. Age 21 Color WH Nativity MANCHESTER N H
(State or Country)

Occupation SOLDIER and who is SINGLE
(State here whether single, widower or divorced as the case may be)

Residence of Bride HOOKSETTE N.H. Age 19 Color WH Nativity HOOKSETTE N.H.
(State or Country)

Occupation DEF. WORK and who is SINGLE
(State here whether single, widow or divorced as the case may be)

Name of Person consenting if Groom is a Minor _____
(Parent or Guardian)

Name of Person consenting if Bride is a Minor _____
(Parent or Guardian)

NONE
(State here whether the contracting parties are in any way related)

MW 10607

Rev. Joseph Manns
Signature of Officiating Clergyman
Vice-chancellor - Archdioc. of Balt
Official Character
408 N. Charles St.
Address
Baltimore - 1, Md.

1945 JUL 6 PM 2 59

© This Certificate to be given to the Contracting Parties.

PROFESSIONAL AND CONDUCT RECORD OF

BLOCK, Harlon Henry

The following shall be executed and signed semiannually and whenever the marine is transferred, retired, discharged, deserts, or dies, or the book is closed for discharge; also (without markings) when he joins, surrenders, or is apprehended. (0, Bad; 1, Indifferent; 2, Fair; 3, Good; 3.5, Very Good; 4.3 to 5, Excellent.) Semiannual markings and markings "For Discharge" shall be entered in red ink. Military Efficiency includes all matters relating to the duties of a marine other than Neatness and Military Bearing, Intelligence, Obedience, and Sobriety.

STA	JOINED, SURRENDER, APP., TRANSF., SEMI-AN., FOR DIS., FINAL M., DESERTED, DIED, RETIRED, DISCHARGED, TRANSF. TO RESERVE	DATE	RANK	MILITARY EFFICIENCY	NEATNESS AND MILITARY BEARING	INTELLIGENCE	OBEEDIENCE	SOBRIETY	AVERAGE STANDING	SIGNATURE OF COMMANDING OFFICER
1 <i>PHIPS</i> San Antonio, Texas	Ind. & Trans.	FEB 18 1943	PRIVATE							<i>Indo</i> CAPT. USMC R
2 <i>RD-2ndRBn</i>	Joined	FEB 21 1943	Private							<i>Indo</i> 2d Lt. USMCR
3 <i>RD-2ndRBn</i>	Joined	APR 14 1943	Private	3.5	3.5	3.5	5	5		<i>Indo</i> 2d Lt. USMCR
4 <i>Co "B" Para Trng S,</i>	JOINED	APR 14 1943	PVT							<i>Indo</i> CAPTAIN USMCR
5 <i>Co "B" Para Trng S,</i>	TRANS	JUN 2 1943	PFC	4	4	4	5	5		<i>Indo</i> CAPTAIN USMCR
6 <i>PARA REPL CO, TC,</i>	JOINED	JUN 2 1943	PFC	1	1	1	1	1		<i>Indo</i> 2nd LT. USMC
7 <i>CAMP ELLIOTT, SAN DIEGO, CALIF.</i>	<i>Semi-An</i>	JUN 30 1943	PFC	4.2	4.2	4.2	5	5		<i>Indo</i> 2nd LT. USMC
8 <i>Camp Elliott, San Diego, Calif.</i>	TRANS	OCT 20 1943	PFC	4.3	4.3	4.3	5	5		<i>Indo</i> CAPT. USMC
9 <i>EMETC Camp Elliott, Calif.</i>	Joined	OCT 20 1943	Pfc							<i>Indo</i> Major, USMC
10 <i>29 Regt. Bn</i>	Trans	NOV 20 1943	Pfc							<i>Indo</i> Major, USMC
11 <i>H.S. Co. 1st Para Regt</i>	<i>Id</i>	NOV 24 1943	Pfc							<i>Indo</i> W.O.V.S.M.C.
12 <i>H.S. Co. 1st Para Regt</i>	<i>Id</i>	DEC 22 1943	Pfc	4.3	4.3	4.3	5	5		<i>Indo</i> W.O.V.S.M.C.
13 <i>H.Q. Co. 3d PARABN, 1 MAC</i>	<i>Id</i>	DEC 22 1943	PFC							<i>Indo</i> W.O.V.S.M.C.
14 <i>H.Q. Co. 3d PARABN, 1 MAC</i>	SEMI-AN	DEC 31 1943	PFC	4.4	4.4	4.4	5	5		<i>Indo</i> 1st Lt
15 <i>H.Q. Co. 3d Para Bn</i>	T.R.	FEB 29 1944	PFC	4.4	4.4	4.4	5	5		<i>Indo</i> 1st Lt
16 <i>Co. E 28th</i>	JOINED	MAR 1 1944	PFC							<i>Indo</i> 2d Lt. USMCR
17 <i>Co. E 28th</i>	SEMI-AN	JUN 30 1944	PFC	4.4	4.3	4.4	5	5		<i>Indo</i> 2d Lt. USMCR
18 <i>Co. E 28th</i>	<i>Semi-An</i>	DEC 31 1944	CORP	4.8	4.9	4.8	5	5		<i>Indo</i> 1st Lt. USMCR
19 <i>Co. E 28th</i>	Killed in Action	MAR 1 1945	Corp	5	5	5	5	5		<i>Indo</i> 1st Lt. USMCR
20 <i>Co. E 28th</i>	Final M	MAR 1 1945	Corp	4.5	4.5	4.5	5	5		<i>Indo</i> 1st Lt. USMCR
21				4.5					5 476	
22	1 March 1945 killed in action against enemy Japanese forces at Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands.									
23	5 March 1945 buried in 5th Marine Division Cemetery, Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands in									
24	Row 4, Row 6, Grave # 912 Character: Excellent									
25										
26										

Service Record Book

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Professional & Conduct Record Extract from Service Record Book - Harlon Block

- Shows his assignment history from beginning to his death & burial on Iwo Jima

Navy Cross Citation for John Bradley

For his heroism in treating wounded Marines 2 days prior to the flag raising

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UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HEADQUARTERS
FLEET MARINE FORCE, PACIFIC
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE, SAN FRANCISCO

In the name of the President of the United States, the Commanding General,
Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, takes pleasure in awarding the **NAVY CROSS** to

PHARMACIST MATE SECOND CLASS JOHN E. BRADLEY
UNITED STATES NAVY

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy at IWO JIMA, VOLCANO ISLANDS, on 21 February, 1945 as a hospital corpsman attached to a Marine rifle platoon. During a furious assault by his company upon a strongly defended enemy zone at the base of Mount Suribachi, Pharmacist Mate Second Class BRADLEY observed a Marine infantryman fall wounded in an open area under a pounding barrage by mortars, interlaced with a merciless cross-fire from machine guns. With complete disregard for his own safety, he ran through the intense fire to the side of the fallen Marine, examined his wounds and ascertained that an immediate administration of plasma was necessary to save the man's life. Unwilling to subject any of his comrades to the danger to which he had so valiantly exposed himself, he signaled would-be assistants to remain where they were. Placing himself in a position to shield the wounded man, he tied a plasma unit to a rifle planted upright in the sand and continued his life-saving mission. The Marine's wounds bandaged, and the condition of shock relieved by plasma, BRADLEY pulled the man thirty yards through intense enemy fire to a position of safety. His indomitable spirit, dauntless initiative, and heroic devotion to duty were an inspiration to those with whom he served, and were in keeping with the highest tradition of the United States Naval Service."

A. H. TURNAGE,
Lieutenant General,
U. S. Marine Corps.

Temporary Citation

Harold Schultz Separation Document

Prior to the establishment of the Defense Department in 1947 & creation of the DD Form 214, each military service department had their own unique Report of Separation form

U. S. MARINE CORPS REPORT OF SEPARATION
NAVMC 78-PD.

1. LAST NAME SCHULTZ	FIRST NAME Harold	MIDDLE NAMES Henry	2. RANK Corp	3. PAY GRADE 5	4. SERIAL NUMBER 555867
5. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES 235 Boyd Ave., Detroit, Mich			6. RACE W	7. SEX M	8. CITIZEN X YES NO
10. ADDRESS FROM WHICH PERSON WILL SEEK EMPLOYMENT 235 Boyd Ave., Detroit, Mich			11. MARRIED NO YES X	12. NO. OF DEP. None	9. DATE OF BIRTH 23Jan26
13. PLACE OF BIRTH Wayne Detroit, Mich.					

RECORD OF MARINE CORPS SERVICE

14. REGISTERED X YES NO	15. ADDRESS AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE 235 Boyd St., Detroit 9, Mich.	16. SEL. SER. BD. NO. —	17. COUNTY & STATE —
18. MEANS OF ENTRY X ENLISTED — INDUCTED — COMMISSIONED	19. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE Detroit, Mich.	20. DATE OF ENTRY 23Dec23	21. COMPONENT REG. X RES.
22. PENSION CLAIM FILED X YES NO	23. PLACE OF SEPARATION FROM ACTIVE SERVICE MB, NTC, Great Lakes, Ill.	24. DATE OF SEPARATION 17Oct45	25. PRESENT POSITION MB, NTC, GL.
26. TYPE OF DISCHARGE CERT. Honorable		27. LENGTH OF FOREIGN AND/OR SEA SERVICE — YEARS — MOS. 6 DAYS 26	

28. MILITARY SPECIALTIES
Mortar Crewman-607

29. SERVICE SCHOOLS ATTENDED
00

30. PRINCIPAL MILITARY DUTY
Mortar Crewman-607

EMPLOYMENT AND NON-SERVICE EDUCATIONAL DATA

31. CIVILIAN OCCUPATION (TITLE) Student, Voc.	D.O.T. NUMBER 4-X	NO. YRS. —	LAST EMPLOYED —
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JOB SUMMARY

32. SECONDARY OCCUPATION (TITLE) —	D.O.T. NUMBER —	NO. YRS. —	LAST EMPLOYED —
--	---------------------------	----------------------	---------------------------

33. LAST EMPLOYER BEFORE ENTRY INTO SERVICE
— DATE LEFT
—

34. JOB AID DESIRED
X YES **NO**

35. EDUCATION IN YEARS
GRAMMAR **8** HIGH SCHOOL **4** COLLEGE **—** DEGREE **—**

36. MAJOR COURSES
Vocational

37. TRADE COURSES
**Radio Oper. 1 Yr.
Machine Shop 2 Yrs.**

38. COURSES OF GREATEST INTEREST
History, English

39. LAST SCHOOL ATTENDED
**Southwestern High School,
Detroit, Mich.**

PREFERENCES

40. PREFERENCE FOR ADDITIONAL TRAINING
—

41. JOB PREFERENCE
Civil Service (Postal) REASON
—

42. LOCALITY PREFERENCE
Michigan REASON
Home territory

I certify that all information on this form pertaining to the Naval Service of the above named individual is in accordance with the records of the U. S. Marine Corps and that a copy of this form has been delivered to him in person.

43. SIGNATURE OF OFF. OR EMP.
G. C. STOUT, 2nd Lt., USMC
TYPE IN NAME OF OFF. & RANK

44. SIGNATURE OF DISCHARGE
Harold H. Schultz DATE
11Oct45

TO: HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS
Washington 25, D. C.

REDIFORM-PATD.-AMERICAN SALES BOOK CO., INC., NAGARA FALLS, N. Y.

Certificate of Death – Franklin Sousley

Unfortunately 3 of the 6 Flag Raisers were killed in action a short time after the flag raising during the Battle for Iwo Jima:

Harlon Block: March 1, 1945

Michael Strank: March 1, 1945

Franklin Sousley: March 21, 1945

NMS-Form N
(1940)

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

From: 2nd.Bn., 28th Marines, 5th Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force

To: Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Navy Department, Washington, D. C.
(See Circular Letter R-6, Appendix D, Manual of the Medical Department, for instructions)

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1. Name SOUSLEY, Franklin Runyon 942297 Rank or rate Pfc. USMCR

2. Born: Place Flemingsburg, Kentucky Date 9-19-25

3. Nationality White-US Religion Protestant
(White—U. S., Colored, Samoan, etc.) (Denomination)

4. Eyes Brown Hair Brown Complexion Ruddy Height 70½" Weight 153

5. Marks, scars, etc. (noted in health record) ANT:RM rt. shoulder;
VS,LUA;RM lt arm; Sl½" lt.knee.POST:Sl½"lt back;
Bmk ½" lt.back.

FINGERPRINT 

State which finger Rt. Index
(Right index preferred)

6. Relation, name and address of next of kin or friend Mother:Goldie Price, R.R.#2,
Ewing,Ky.

7. Original admission: Place 2ndBn28thMar.5th MarDiv.FMF Date 3-21-45
(Ship or station to which attached when first admitted to sick list)

8. Died: Place Iwo Jima,Volcano Islands. Date 3-21-45 Hour --

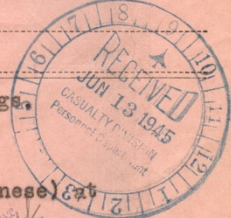
9. Cause of death { Principal WOUND,GUNSHOT,CHEST #2576 Key Letter K
Contributory

10. Death is not the result of own misconduct and is in the line of duty.
(Is or is not) (Is or is not)

11. Disposition of remains Plot 8, Row 7, Grave 2189, 5th MarDiv.Cemetery,
Iwo Jima. Buried 25 March 1945 Volcano Islands.

12. Summary of facts relative to the death: Identification by Dog Tags.

1. Within Command.
2. Work.
3. Negligence not apparent.
4. Killed in action against an organized enemy(Japanese) at
Iwo Jima,Volcano Islands.



#942297

10-15558
(Continue on back of this form)

USMC Official Military Personnel Files (OMPFs)

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- **Citation:** Record Group 127, Records of the United States Marine Corps, National Archives at St. Louis
- **National Archives Identifier:** 299715
- **Date Range:** Enlisted & Officer dates range from 1905 to the current archival date (a rolling date: today's date 62 years ago)
- **Creating Agency & Provenance:** War Department (later Department of Defense), Department of the Navy, United States Marine Corps.
- **Function & Use:** During service, the Marine Corps used the OMPF to record the member's assignments, training, advancement, separation and other matters pertinent to the member's military career

USMC OMPFs (continued)

25

- **Scope & Content:**
 - Military service dates
 - Training & certifications
 - Character of discharge
 - Entrance & separation medical information/physicals
 - Promotions
 - Performance & fitness reports
 - Awards & decorations
 - Non-judicial punishment (as appropriate)
 - Enlistment contracts & commissioning documents
 - Variety of personal information: date & place of birth, next of kin (NOK), religious preference, financial information
 - Photographs (less common)
- **Arrangement:** Filed sequentially by serial number (enlisted), by serial suffix, then serial number prefix (officers), and for newer, not yet archived OMPFs, by sequential Registry number

USMC OMPF (continued)

26

- Locating a record—please provide as much of this information as possible:
 - Complete name used while in the service
 - Service number
 - Social Security number
 - Branch of Service
 - Dates of Service
 - Date and place of birth
 - If officer or enlisted (if known)
 - If female, include maiden and married names
- Send written requests to:
National Personnel Records Center, 1 Archives Drive, St. Louis, MO 63138
- Contact the public research room if you are interested in accessing on-site at 314-801-0850
- For more information www.archives.gov/st-louis

USMC OMPFs

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- The USMC OMPFs are full of essential information on the specific veteran
- They average over 75 pages each—some more, based on actions, length of service & other factors
- These records tell the story of these Marines from the time they entered until their separation or death
- They are an excellent source of genealogical and historical material for a variety of researchers

Why it Matters

28

- The historical record is THE record for the description of events and the lessons learned for future generations
 - If you don't understand history you are doomed to repeat it
- We need to get it right!
- As citizens, taxpayers, researchers, historians, etc., it is our responsibility to set the record straight—the outcomes do matter and the future is often based on our collective past experiences

Thank you! I will now entertain any questions in the time remaining

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- Press Release. (June 23, 2016). USMC statement on Iwo Jima flag raisers. Office of U.S. Marine Corps Communications, Headquarters Marine Corps, Pentagon, Arlington, VA.
- The battle for Iwo Jima fact sheet. (Undated). The National World War II Museum, New Orleans, LA.



**Presenter didn't
get to your question?**

**You may email us at
*inquire@nara.gov***