

Soldier's Story

Walter Kozlar

World War II

Roi-Namur • Saipan • Tinian • Iwo Jima



U.S.M.C. Rifleman

Company "K"

3rd Battalion, 25th Marines

4th Marine Division

Soldier's Story #37

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Soldier's Story research is based
on information from documented
sources and shares a bit of
Walter's life and World War II
experiences.

It was in the early morning hours of February 19, 1945. The pre-landing bombardment on Iwo Jima was a terrifying yet awesome sight. Dense smoke and violent destruction could be seen in the distance. Regardless, the Japanese would be waiting. As Walter prepared to go over the ships gunwales into the awaiting Amtrac landing craft and face mortal danger, the chaplain asked for a moment of silence and recited the 23rd Psalm.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;

He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul:

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:

for thou art with me; Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:

And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.



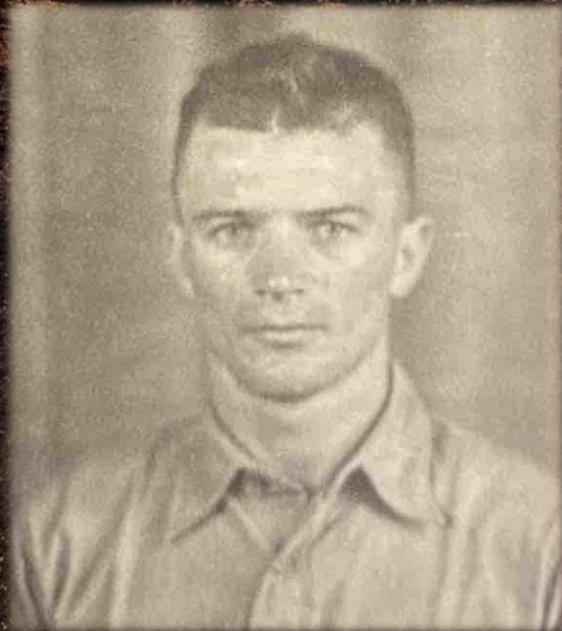
Walter Koziar was born on May 26, 1921, in Shamokin, Pennsylvania. Shamokin had an anthracite coal-mining industry, and Walter's father worked long and dangerous hours as a coal miner. Walter had an older sister Gene, and three older brothers, Ametro, Myron, and Theodore. He also had a younger brother and sister, Leon and Helen. During the war, Myron was a Marine Corps Raider wounded at Guadalcanal by a Japanese sniper. Myron is listed in Ripley's "Believe It or Not" because the bullet entered the left side of his face and removed his tonsils better than a surgeon could as it passed through.

Pictured above left is Independence Street in Shamokin, which would have been familiar to Walter. Above right is the house Walter was raised in at 914 N Vine Street in Shamokin.

In 1932, the family moved to Newark, New Jersey. As a young man, at 5'10 and 152 pounds, Walter could be described as having blue eyes, brown hair, and a light complexion. In high school, Walter excelled in sports, ran track, played football and baseball, and was on the swim team. His hobbies included horseback riding and photography. He could also speak Russian reasonably well.

Walter graduated from high school in 1940 and worked as a salesman selling and installing automobile seat covers. He then worked as a Radio Equipment Assembler at Western Electric in Kearny, New Jersey (pictured below). He assembled and soldered radios, radar antennae, and telephone equipment panels wired from blueprints.





In New York, on October 2, 1942, Walter (pictured above left) voluntarily enlisted as a Private in the Marine Corps Reserve. By October 3, he was with the Ninth Recruit Battalion at Recruit Depot in the Marine Barracks on Parris Island (above right), South Carolina, where he qualified with the bayonet. He was transferred to Camp Lejeune on New River, North Carolina, and on November 22, he qualified as a sharpshooter. Walter wanted to be assigned to communication repair because of his background in radio equipment at Western Electric. His classification officer recommended that he be trained to become a Radio Operator. But that didn't happen, and Walter was to become a Rifleman.

By January 1943, Walter was attached to Company "K," 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marines, 4th Marine Division, but failed to return from leave on January 6 and was punished with a two-week restriction and warning from his Commanding Officer. Nevertheless, he excelled as a Rifleman, and his superiors noted that he was a soldier of excellent character. On March 5, he was promoted to Private First Class. On March 15, he completed the Chemical Warfare course with an excellent score. On May 3, he started the 6-week Weapons School Rifle Company course, where he was graded in proficiency with the Thompson submachine gun, the Reising submachine gun, the Browning machine gun, the M1 carbine, along with hand and rifle grenades. He completed the course ranking 8 out of 58 with a score of 99.16%. A few days later, Walter was promoted to Corporal and became an Assistant Squad Leader. In May, he also joined Company "K" of the newly formed 3rd Battalion, 25th Marines (3/25), 4th Marine Division. In July 1943, Walter completed his qualification as a marksman.



In October 1943, Walter and the 3/25 were relocated to Camp Pendleton in Oceanside, California. Training in December consisted of field problems, pillbox assaults, maneuvers, and landings. Walter and the 3/25 participated in a full-scale landing at San Clemente Island, California, on January 2-3, 1944. Brigadier General James L. Underhill, assistant division commander, said everything that could go wrong went wrong. But there was simply no time to fix the difficulties. Operation Flintlock was about to begin.

On January 10, 1944, Walter and the 3/25 boarded USS William P. Biddle (APA-8), pictured above, in San Diego. Walter could only feel confident looking around and seeing the other massive ships in the V Amphibious Corps (VAC) convoy.

On January 21, they reached Hawaii and anchored off Maui for a day. Walter would hear the ship talk about their objective, the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands. The last Atoll landing at Tarawa was rumored to have been a disastrous bloodbath. No doubt, Walter hoped his first combat landing would go much better.



After 18 days at sea, on January 31, 1944, the USS William P. Biddle arrived at Ennumennet, an island in the Kwajalein Atoll. Walter was awakened in the early morning to unusually rough seas and gusty wind, producing whitecaps on the water. Walter had a breakfast likely similar to that of the 1st Battalion, which consisted of fruit juice, cold meat, and hot coffee. After inspecting his equipment and making final preparations, he would descend the rope nets into an awaiting amphibious tracked vehicle (LVT), also known as an Amtrac landing craft.

Pictured at left, Marines and Navy Corpsmen (white circle on their helmet) debark off the USS William P. Biddle.



The turbulent sea and the strong wind gusts tossed Walter's Amtrac up and down, forcefully splashing the cold salty sea on the Marines making many seasick. Walter and his equipment were drenched before reaching land.

As an Assistant Squad Leader in the Company "K" Rifle Company, Corporal Walter Koziar would help lead the riflemen as they landed on Ennumennet Island at 0830 and then on Ennugarret Island at 1800. These islands would be captured and secured quickly with little resistance and immediately utilized as artillery sites against the Roi-Namur Islands, the next target.

The following day, February 1, at 1155, Walter and the 3/25 were ordered to capture Namur Island. Immediate problems arose when his Amtrac stopped short of the beach instead of moving inland as initially planned. Walter would have ensured his squad climbed over the landing craft, jumped into the shallow sea, and hit the beach for cover like the Marines pictured above at Namur. Lucky for them, the resistance on the beach was minimal, so they could easily reach the dense jungle.

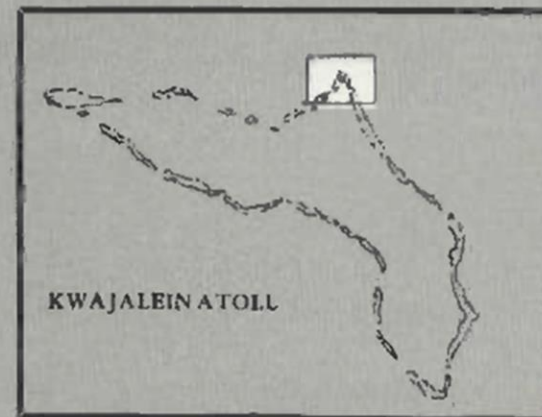
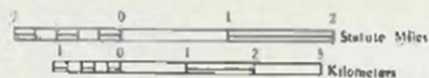


But in the jungle, Walter had to confront the enemy's numerous camouflaged, well-armed fortifications similar to the Japanese 13mm Model 93 anti-aircraft machine-gun crew of the Naval Landing Troops, pictured above, who would have turned their heavy guns towards Walter and the 3/25.

Walter fought in Namur until February 7 and soon learned the Japanese did not surrender but instead took their own lives. From February 8 - 28, 1944, he was part of the Garrison force before boarding the USS Heywood and returning to Hawaii.

ROI-NAMUR 1944

--> Walter's Route January 31 - February 7



Roi Island
(Burlesque)

Namur Island
(Camouflage)

Ennugarret Island

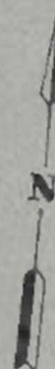
Ennumennet Island

Ennuebing Island

Ennubirr Island

Alton Island

Obella Island





Corporal Walter Koziar and Company "K" arrived at Maui, Hawaii, on March 8, 1944, overjoyed to be on friendly soil again and finally off the crowded ship. Camp Maui, pictured left, would be their home while preparing for the next campaign. Training would include pillbox assault techniques and field exercises alongside tanks. In mid-April, Walter and the 3/25 participated in amphibious maneuvers and, in May, made practice landings at Maalaea Bay, Maui, and Kahoolawe, Hawaii.

In the Kahoolawe landing, Walter would have smelled the smoke and felt the ground tremor from live naval gunfire and aircraft strafing.

On May 12, Walter boarded the USS Leonard Wood (APA-12) in Maui and sailed back into the war zone on May 29. It was here where Walter would have learned the 3/25 would be making an assault landing on an island located on the inner perimeter of the Japanese defense line, just 1,270 miles from Tokyo. He now knew that the hostile island he was to capture was Saipan, located in the Mariana Islands.

The objective of the 4th Marine Division in Saipan was to secure the island's southern end, including Aslito airfield, then turn north and sweep up the island, with its right flank on the eastern coast. The center of the landing zone for the 25th Marines was the town of Charan Kanoa, located on the lower western side of the island.

At 0840 on June 15, 1944, the 1/25 and 2/25 climbed down the ship's nets into the waiting landing crafts and began the assault landings on the Yellow Beaches. After waiting in reserve briefly, Walter and the 3/25 would follow the 1/25 to Yellow Beach 2.

The 1/25 was pinned down under heavy enemy fire and needed immediate assistance. About 1200 yards out from the beach, Walter's LVT (similar to Marines assaulting Saipan below) took on a barrage of enemy fire from automatic weapons, anti-boat guns, artillery, and mortars. Surrounding LVTs lit up in flames and black smoke as they sank from direct hits, screams of terror quelled by the deafening battle.





As Walter sat with his squad on the Amtrac's pull-down bench, he could smell the pungent stench of diesel fuel and vomit and hear the engines grind and moan louder each time the craft bumped and rolled over a shallow section of the hard coral reef as the bursts of Japanese fire significantly increased 300 yards from Yellow Beach 2 with the whistling of bullets and high-angle explosive shells.

As they reached the beach, the LVT lowered its ramp. It would have been hard to control the sickeningly intense butterflies that are only felt when the shadow of death is close by. "Finally," Walter must have thought, "Thank God, let's get this job done and over with!" Walter and his squad would have hit the Saipan beach like the Marines in the above photograph, which helped the 1/25 by taking on the brunt of redirected firepower from the beehive of Japanese installations on Agingan Point.



The 3/25 swept east to Magicienne Bay, where the enemy attacked from the caves that honeycombed along the shoreline. On June 20, Walter and Company "K" fought through the jungle along the eastern coast towards Hill 500, similar to the Marines battling in Saipan above. Walter sweated profusely in the brutal heat. As they crossed flat terrain, the artillery shelled smoke for cover, which made breathing even more difficult. After digging in for the night, Walter found sleeping impossible because of random, uncoordinated enemy attacks. Any sound he heard could be a Japanese soldier concealed by darkness, creeping into his foxhole to slice his throat. At sunrise, the bodies of dead Japanese soldiers killed during the night's attacks were scattered everywhere. With little to no sleep, Walter was ordered to clear the enemy out of the caves on Hill 500.

As the battle for Hill 500 continued into June 22, Walter and Company "K" were located on the left flank of the 3rd Battalion when they were suddenly attacked. Japanese soldiers charged forward out of the dense jungle camouflage, like the Japanese advance below, while firing from their bayoneted rifles and throwing grenades. Walter was now in survival mode and could only fight with everything he had as the suffering cries of his fellow Marines could be heard when they fell, often to their death, during the hand-to-hand combat.

Once the hill was taken by the 3/25, they continued their advance until intense enemy machine gun fire stopped them. All during the night, the Japanese attacked and even tried to infiltrate the Marines by pretending to be dislodged civilians wandering in the roads in darkness.





While on the newly captured Hill 500 during the early morning of June 26, Walter jumped into action, like the Marines fighting in Saipan above, as hundreds of enemy soldiers of the 317th Independent Infantry Battalion attacked in a fierce firefight. Determined to take back the hill, the Japanese soldiers fanatically screamed, "Shichi Sei Hoku" (seven lives for one's country) as they fired their rifles and machine guns and lobbed hand grenades. The assault lasted all night, but the 3/25 did not let them retake the hill. Walter was thankful to finally see the dawn sunlight splintering streams of light across the darkness. The smoky stench of battle mixed with the putrid smells of death. Enemy bodies lay scattered everywhere, and the whimpering cries of the mortally wounded would forever haunt the living.



By July 2, the 25th Marines had rejoined the 4th Marine Division and were attacking west to assist the Army's 27th Division in north central Saipan, where there was significant enemy resistance. Walter and the 3rd Battalion were positioned in the very center of the front line, where the combat was the most fierce. They suffered so many casualties that their commander, Lieutenant Colonel Chambers, reduced the 3rd Battalion to only two companies.

On July 6, Walter fought the enemy along the cliffs of the 417-foot Mount Petosukara, located on the island's northeast, with close combat conditions in the rocky terrain.

The end nearing, the Japanese struck with a massive banzai charge, which caused severe losses for the 3/25. On July 9, the 25th Marines, 24th Marines, and 2nd Marines took Marpi Point, which was the last objective on the island's northern tip. Sadly, Walter would witness hundreds of Japanese, including civilians, committing suicide. Some shot themselves while most jumped from the cliffs into the sea.

Pictured at left are dead Japanese soldiers lying half-buried in a muddy Saipan shell hole.





Tinian and its airfields were the next objective. It was an island 3 1/2 miles south of Saipan. Its landscape was primarily flat, besides the steep cliffs surrounding it. The highest point was Mount Lasso, which rose 564 feet. Tinian's sugar cane fields covered most of the island.

Walter rose early on July 24, 1944. After eating a hearty breakfast and checking his equipment in the morning darkness, he boarded his designated Amtrac. By 0600, it reached the assigned staging area offshore. As dawn broke, Walter could see Tinian's White Beach 2 in the distance (pictured above). At 0717, the LVTs began the long and harrowing final 3,000 yards as a column of companies towards the 160-yard beachhead. Enemy artillery shells and bullets hit the assault waves, sinking many in flames of burning men and rancid-smelling diesel smoke.



Under withering blockhouse machine gun fire, Walter helped get his squad out of their Amtrac into the waist-high sea and onto the beach (similar to the Marines above landing on Tinian). Unlike other landing beaches, White Beach 2 was loaded with mines, booby traps, and pillboxes (pictured at left), which significantly slowed the Marines.

Once off the beach, the 3/25 charged inland to attack the high ground towards 390-foot Mount Maga.

It was still on the first day of the invasion. By 1630, they were ordered to halt the advance, set up defenses, dig foxholes, and string barbed wire in preparation for the inevitable counterattack.



Along with Walter, Company "K" also had PFC Orville Hartley Showers, Corporal Alfred Joseph Daigle, PFC Frederick Carlo, Corporal Henry Leon Haberski, and PFC James Chester Yeaple doing their best to dig foxholes in preparation for a banzai counterattack. They could only dig so deep because the ground was hard. Daigle was a machine gunner; his tin box ammunition handler was Showers, a Canadian. Even though he was an ammunition handler, Yeaple was in his foxhole with a machine gun. They were next to Carlo, a rifleman, and Haberski, a Polish kid, who was an automatic rifleman.

As the night set in, no one was to leave their foxhole, and there was no place to go to the toilet, so it was a mess. Each Marine was so exhausted that they would start dozing off to sleep, but one man had to stay alert for an hour before waking up the other guy. His turn for sleep, Carlo was startled awake by machine gun fire and voices. It was 0230 on July 25, and the anticipated Japanese counterattack had started. The Japanese 135th Infantry and its tanks hit the perimeter between the 24th and 25th Marines where Walter and Company "K" had dug in.

Hundreds of Japanese charged, firing their rifles and tossing grenades at Company "K" in the early morning darkness like the Japanese soldiers shown above during a banzai charge. Overwhelmed, Carlo emptied his M1 carbine of about 15 shots, and that was when he and Haberski retreated down the hill to the nearby flanking company.

It was pitch-black darkness except for the flickering light from the burning flames and flares overhead. The stench of heavy, sordid smoke was everywhere. Deep, chilling fear, known only to those facing death, strangled the mind. There were so many Japanese soldiers in the advance that many were able to overrun the 3/25 Company "K" foxholes of Showers, Daigle, and Yeaple, who fought for their lives in mortal hand-to-hand combat. Showers and Daigle were found dead with several Japanese, big guys, lying bleeding and dead on top of them.

Showers, Daigle, and Yeaple would be buried side by side at graves #116, #117, and #118 at the Marine Cemetery on Tinian.

200 Japanese troops had broken through the 3/25 front line and split into two groups. One attacked the 2nd Battalion, 14th Marines, who had to fight as infantry. The second enemy group reached the rear of the 25th Marines. The attacking enemy was destroyed by sunrise.

Pictured at right are two dead Marines in their foxhole, with the bodies of six dead Japanese around them. The Marines died as they sought to stop this banzai counterattack on Tinian in the early morning hours of darkness on July 25, 1944.





Even after the traumatic loss of his buddies just a few hours earlier, Walter and Company "K" were assembled and ordered to move out to the next objective for July 25, Mount Maga. The 2/25 took up position directly in front of the 390-foot hill. At the same time, the 1/25 and Walter's 3/25 encircled it from the east and west like the above Tinian photograph. Murderous enemy fire tore into the advancing Marines, who put their 81mm mortars and tanks into action against suspected enemy positions, allowing its capture.

Raining often, on July 26, the 3/25 moved south into central Tinian towards the 540-foot Mount Lasso and attacked at 0800 after the artillery softened the terrain. Soaking wet and tired, Walter would have slipped repeatedly on the muddy upward slope. Fortunately, the enemy had retreated, allowing Mount Lasso to be taken without opposition, and many Marines lived one more day.

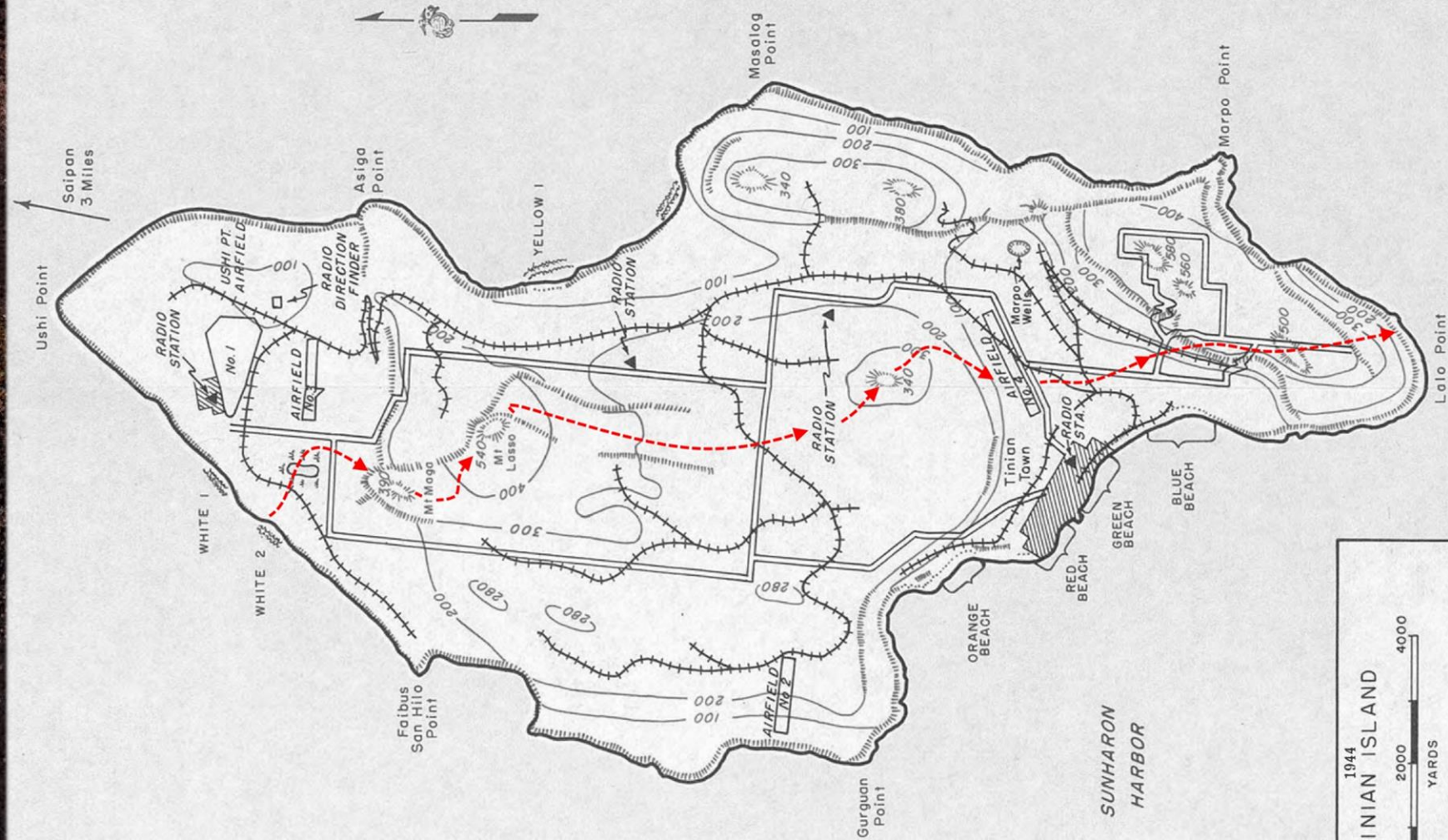
As the 3/25 continued rapidly marching south through a landscape of hills and sugar cane fields with occasional wooded patches on July 27-28, they encountered little enemy resistance. Still, they suffered incessantly cold rain driven by gusty winds from an offshore typhoon.



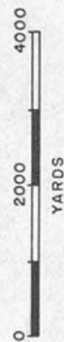
The 3/25 passed unchallenged through the enemy's abandoned radio station. Then suddenly, Walter and Company "K" ran headlong into dug-in enemy troops that burst into a firefight that lasted until the Japanese forces were destroyed. The day ended with the 3/25 in defensive positions outside Tinian Town (seen in the distance in the above photograph). The falling rain and mortar shells ensured little rest for Walter during the night. The next day, still heading south, they passed through Airfield No. 4 without resistance. On July 31, Walter and the 3/25 were attached to the 23rd Marines and were ordered to protect their left flank.

As the Marines neared the end of the island, resistance stiffened. The final drive was made on August 1, 1944, when the 23rd and 24th Marines spearheaded to the island's southern tip, stopping at Lalo Point. Tinian was declared secure, although mopping up patrols would continue for many months.

Walter boarded the USAT Anabelle Lykes on August 5. Between Saipan and Tinian, he lost count of his missing buddies. He could not say much about it; that's just how it was. The transport arrived at Maui, Hawaii, on August 22. Each day alive was a good day. The worst was yet to come.



1944
TINIAN ISLAND



→ Walter's Approximate Route July 24 - August 3

Walter and Company "K" of the 3/25 Marines were happily back at Camp Maui (pictured below). As if a great protector, the towering volcano, Haleakala, looked down on them. It was a familiar place and very comforting after the Saipan and Tinian killing fields. These Marines lived for the moment. The long hours of training each day kept their minds from thinking too much about their lost brothers. They only knew their next objective was Island "X".

Each day at Camp Maui began with an early morning bugle call of reveille. Walter would then spend numerous hours on combat-related field problems likely to be encountered on Island "X". At the end of each day, the mud-covered Marines would drop into the luxurious comfort of their cots. Buses and trucks drove those with liberty to the nearby towns of Makawao, Haiku, Kahului, and Wailuku. The rest had to be satisfied with the daily ration of two bottles of beer and the nightly outdoor movie. Still, it was miraculous how a few beers and a movie could ease the gnawing uncertainties of war. The camaraderie that bound them together forged a brotherhood that united even unto the shadows of death. Walter was promoted to Sergeant on December 7, 1944, but being in the field, he would have to wait to sew the new rank on his Blues.

On January 6, 1945, Walter and the 3/25 sailed to Maalaea Bay, Maui, to take part in a practice amphibious landing. Then, on January 9, he traveled to Pearl Harbor to spend precious liberty hours in Honolulu. From January 13-18, Walter was back at Maalaea Bay for a full-gear invasion rehearsal. He would soon learn that Island "X" was Iwo Jima.





Sergeant Walter Koziar boarded LST 684 on January 19, 1945. Iwo Jima was an ugly pork chop-shaped island fuming with sulfur air covered by dark volcanic sand. Legend called it the devil's playground. The island is anchored at its narrow southern tip by Mount Suribachi, a 550-foot-high extinct volcano.

Iwo Jima was one of the strongest island fortresses in the world. It was defended by 21,000 of the most loyal Japanese soldiers sworn to their "Courageous Battle Vows". Miles of trenches, caves, and tunnels honeycombed its volcanic rock. Numerous concrete bunkers and pillboxes were located around the island, each armed with Japan's most deadly weapons. It appeared to be unconquerable.

The nights grew colder as the 800-ship convoy steamed north towards Iwo Jima. Frequent school sessions occurred on board, and the Marines were taught all aspects and landmarks of the island, but no amount of lectures or studies could have prepared them for the ferocity of the coming battle.



D-Day on Iwo Jima, February 19, 1945. After an early breakfast of steak and eggs, Walter and Company "K" of the 3/25, led by Lieutenant Colonel Chambers, retrieved their weapons and packs below deck and reported to their landing stations. A chaplain asked for a moment of silence and recited the 23rd Psalm.

After they climbed over the gunwales and down the rope nets into the awaiting Amtrac, a Navy guy yelled down, "You guys will be back for noon chow. Nothing's alive on that island!". After all the naval bombardment, the island was unusually quiet; there was no noise or firing, and so the Marines probably thought he was right.



Ten minutes after 0900 in the second wave, Walter landed on the far right of Blue Beach 1, almost into Blue Beach 2. Once the jaw of the Amtrac opened, he could only see mounds of black volcanic sand. The beach was quiet, with nothing going on. There was no action. Some of the Company "K" LVT's had to unload five-gallon cans of water, boxes of ammunition, and ponchos and toss them on the beach for later use. The extra water and ammunition made sense, but the Marines must have wondered why all the ponchos. That would be answered within the next few hours. When Walter jumped out of the Amtrac, the soft volcanic sand reached his ankles and made walking tough.

As 3/25 Company "K" BAR rifleman PFC Bill Hudson later recalled after the Marines were all on the beach, "All of a sudden, about five to ten minutes later, a big flare went up, and that was a signal for the Japanese to open fire." Looking back on that day, machine gunner Corporal Andrew H. Christian, also in Company "K," said, "Something happened. They cut loose as soon as we got on the beach."

It was an absolute chaotic nightmare. The Marines were easy targets. Walter was under enemy fire from artillery, mortar, machine gun, tank, and sniper rifle. All the officers in Company "K" were killed or wounded in the first hours of the fighting. Company "K" PFC Bill Hudson recalled, "My lieutenant was next to me, five feet away from me. A sniper pulled a bullet right in his head. One shot killed him. I pulled him close to me to be sure he was dead. It was the first time I'd seen a dead person who I knew. He was my platoon leader, my Second Lieutenant. I knew he was dead, and it kind of shook me up, but he had a .45 automatic pistol, and I took it from him to supplement my BAR, because I knew he didn't need that anymore. I had a .45 automatic pistol with me in addition to my BAR during the battle. Everybody was scared because you didn't know what was going to happen. You didn't know what was going to happen next. The fear of not knowing."

As Company "K" Corporal Andrew H. Christian saw it, "I think the worst was that first day when we got on the beach and couldn't move for the whole day. We were just sitting there in a hole on the beach in the sand. Dropping mortar shells all around."

Whenever Walter saw a pile of burning laundry or maybe a smoking boot, that was a Marine who had been hit by a mortar shell or artillery shell. It was where a Marine stood moments earlier, but now he was in little pieces and would later be classified as missing in action. Walter would have seen dead, wounded, and blown-apart Marines. Arms, legs, and body parts were scattered everywhere. Heavy, fog-like dark smoke and terrible noises of constant screaming and yelling were in this absolute chaos.





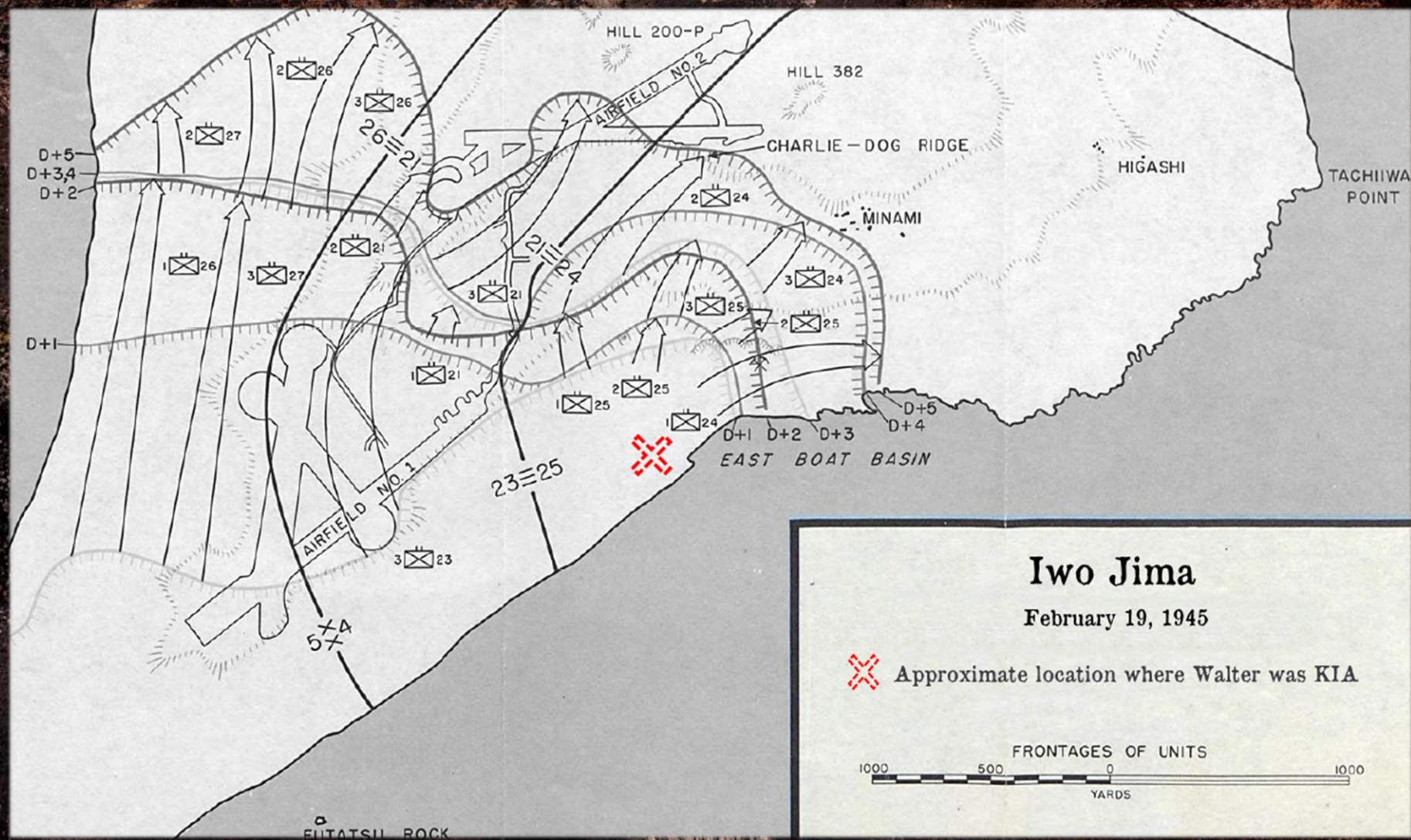
As a Sergeant, Walter would have done his best to get his men off the beach to move inland, which was difficult because directly in front were three Japanese tanks that had been buried up to their turrets. On their extreme right flank was a small cliff, and above it were unseen enemy defenders in cleverly camouflaged pillbox bunkers. They swept the beach with deadly fire, inflicting destructive Marine carnage. Walter knew that if they could take out one of these bunkers, his squad could reach their objective: the Quarry. He had only to summon the fearless courage and show his men the way forward.



It was time to act. Sergeant Walter Koziar attacked the closet bunker by directing his men and controlling their fire. While bravely leading the beachhead pillbox assault, he was struck down by enemy gunshot wounds to his chest.

Walter's young life was now in its final moments. Each breath was a triumph. The volcanic sand, once recalcitrant, was now embracing. Perhaps his thoughts drifted to that peaceful childhood in Shamokin or his joyful sports-filled days growing up in Newark. No doubt his mother would miss him dearly. He could do nothing now but gracefully let go into the Father's gentle hands.

After taking on murderous enemy fire, the 3/25 successfully reached the Quarry, but they had been decimated. Of the 900 Marines that landed that morning, over half were dead, wounded, or missing.





The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the **BRONZE STAR MEDAL** posthumously to **SERGEANT WALTER KOZIAR, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE**, for service as set forth in the following **CITATION**:

"For heroic service as a Machine-gun Squad Leader, serving with Company K, Third Battalion, Twenty-Fifth Marines, Fourth Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, on 19 February 1945. Undaunted by intense enemy fire, Sergeant Koziar repeatedly exposed himself to hostile barrages in order to better direct his men and control their fire against strong Japanese beach defenses. Although mortally wounded while leading an assault on a fanatically defended enemy bunker, his inspirational leadership enabled his men to successfully complete the crucial attack. His fearless determination and unyielding devotion to duty reflect the highest credit upon Sergeant Koziar and the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life in the service of his country."



Sergeant Walter Koziar was buried on March 1, 1945, at the 4th Marine Division Cemetery on Iwo Jima (pictured left) in Plot #1, Row #11, Grave #530.

A Hero's Welcome

Time to come home dear brother

*Your tour of duty through
You've given as much as anyone*

Could be expected to do.

*Just a few steps further
The smoke will start to clear*

Others here will guide you

You have no need to fear.

You have not failed your brothers

*You dearly gave it all
And through your selfless actions*

*Others will hear the call.
So, take your place of honor*

Among those who have gone before

And know you will be remembered

For now, and evermore.

Appendix of Sources

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10. Find a Grave. 1300 West Traverse Parkway. Lehi, UT 84043.
11. Two Jima: This Shall Not Be in Vain by Al Hemingway. WWII History. Fall 2019. Sovereign Media, 6731 Whittier Ave., Suite A-100, McLean, VA 22101.
12. Rights in the Authorized King James Bible Version in the United Kingdom are vested in the Crown. Published by Cambridge University Press.
13. The Courier-News. Bridgewater, New Jersey. Thu, Feb 13, 1969. Page 24. Myron Koziar.
14. Year: 1930; Census Place: Shamokin, Northumberland, Pennsylvania; Page: 2A; Enumeration District: 0061; FHL microfilm: 2341825.
15. Walter Koziar, Official Military Personnel File (OMPF), National Personnel Records Center. 1 Archives Drive. St. Louis, MO 63138.
16. Big Mountain - The History of a Coal Patch Town. www.facebook.com/BigMtnHx.
17. Photograph 914 N Vine St, Shamokin, PA 17872. Courtesy David O'leary.
18. Library Company of Philadelphia Print Department. Aero Service (P.8990.6595).
19. 4th Marine Division in the Marshall Islands: First Time Under Fire by Cleve C. Barkley. WWII History. August 2015. Sovereign Media, 6731 Whittier Ave., Suite A-100, McLean, VA 22101.
20. Giggle Hill by Peter T. Young. 7050 Avondale Road, Fort Collins, Colorado 80525. April 2019.
21. The Seizure of Tinian by Major Carl W. Hoffman, USMC. 1951.
22. Hudson, William Alfred, Nancy Dahl, and Talking With A Life Remembered. William Alfred Hudson Collection. 1943. Personal Narrative. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, www.loc.gov/item/afc2001001.96379/-. Andrew Henry Christian:
23. Christian, Scott S, and Andrew Henry Christian. Andrew Henry Christian Collection. 1943. Personal Narrative. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, www.loc.gov/item/afc2001001.30901/-.
24. Bell, Ralph D, Ronald Ziegler, and Frederick Carlo. Frederick Carlo Collection. 1944. Personal Narrative. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, www.loc.gov/item/afc2001001.37806/-.
25. Hudson, William Alfred, Nancy Dahl, and Talking With A Life Remembered. William Alfred Hudson Collection. 1943. Personal Narrative. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, www.loc.gov/item/afc2001001.96379/-.
26. Christian, Scott S, and Andrew Henry Christian. Andrew Henry Christian Collection. 1943. Personal Narrative. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, www.loc.gov/item/afc2001001.30901/-.
27. Naval History and Heritage Command. Official U.S. Navy Photograph 80-G-412517, now in the collections of the National Archives.
28. A Hero's Welcome by Robert Longley.

Appendix of Artifacts

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after February 17, 1897 and on or before December 31, 1921)

SERIAL NUMBER 245 1. NAME (Print) WALTER KOZIAR. ORDER NUMBER T 10,841

2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) 192-16 Ave Newark, Essex, N.J.
(Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)

[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]

3. MAILING ADDRESS Same
(Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same)

4. TELEPHONE none. 5. AGE IN YEARS 20 - 6. PLACE OF BIRTH Shamokin, Pa.
(Exchange) (Number) (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.) (Town or county) (State or country)

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mrs. Helen Kozian - 192-16 Ave Newark, N.J.

8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS Modern Electric -

9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS 100 Central Ave. Kearney, Hudson, N.J.
(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 1-1-42) ☆ GPO 16-21630-1 Walter Kozian (Registrant's signature)

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

RACE	HEIGHT (Approx.)	WEIGHT (Approx.)	COMPLEXION
White	5'10"	152	Sallow
	EYES	HAIR	Light
Negro	Blue	Blonde	Ruddy
	Gray	Red	Dark
Oriental	Hazel	Brown	Freckled
	Brown	Black	Light brown
Indian	Black	Gray	Dark brown
		Bald	Black
Filipino			

Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification

None.

I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Registrar for Local Board 36
(Number) (City or county) (State)
Date of registration Feb 16-1922

LOCAL BOARD No. 36
For Essex County
45 Branford Place
Newark 2, N. J.
(STAMP OF LOCAL BOARD)

(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the registrant shall be placed in the above space)



MARINE CORPS RESERVE

472657

I, Walter none KOZIAR, desiring
 (First name) (Middle name, if any) (Surname, in capitals)
 to enlist in the UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE for the DURATION OF THE NATIONAL
 EMERGENCY, do declare that I was born 26th May 1921

at SHAMOKIN, in the State of PENNA.; that I have
 neither wife nor child and that there is nobody dependent upon me for support beyond my ability to contribute from the
 pay of a private; 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, Coast Guard, or Revenue Cutter Service, 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; that I am by present
 occupation a WIREMAN; 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, and if discharged by sentence
 of court martial or for bad conduct, undesirability, unfitness, or inaptitude, I agree to surrender my uniform in exchange
 for civilian clothing.

Given at SDHS, NEWARK, N.J., this 2nd day of OCTOBER, 19 42.
 ACCEPTED AND SIGNATURE WITNESSED: *
 WITNESS: * John J. Parker 1st Sgt., U. S. M. C. R(f)
Walter Koziar
 (Signature of applicant, in full)

DATE AND NATURE OF ANY WAIVER

Transferred 2nd October, 19 42 to MR. FARRIS ISLAND, S. O.
 I, Walter None KOZIAR, do hereby acknowledge
 to have voluntarily enlisted as a PRIVATE in the VOLUNTEER MARINE CORPS RESERVE for the DURATION OF THE
 NATIONAL EMERGENCY, unless sooner discharged by competent authority; and I do obligate myself during such
 enlistment to serve in the Marine Corps in time of war or during the existence of a national emergency declared by the
 President. And I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the United States of America;
 that I will serve them honestly and faithfully against all their enemies whomsoever; and that I will obey the orders of the
 President of the United States, and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to the Rules and Articles for the
 Government of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps of the United States. And I do further swear (or affirm) that all
 statements made by me, as now given in this record, are correct.

Subscribed and duly sworn to before me at RS, NEW YORK, N. Y.
 this 2nd day of OCTOBER, A. D. 19 42, and
 I CERTIFY, that I minutely inspected the above-named man previous to his enlistment, and that he was entirely sober when
 enlisted; that, to the best of my judgment and belief, he fulfills all legal requirements; that, after fully informing him of the
 nature of the service he is to perform, I have enlisted him into the service of the United States under this contract of enlistment
 as duly qualified to perform the duties of an able-bodied marine, and in doing so have strictly observed the regulations which
 govern the recruiting service; also that the prior service as shown on the reverse side has been verified by me personally from
 the man's discharge certificates, and that I am satisfied that his status as to citizenship is U.S.

RESERVE

R.S. WARD
Capt. U.S.M.C.

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

Name and address of person to be notified in case of emergency, giving degree of relationship; if friend, so state:

MIRON AND HELEN KOZIAR, 182, 16th Avenue, Newark, N.J. Parents
 (Name) (Address, including name of street and number of house) (Relationship)

Home or residence, with street and number 182, 16th Ave., Newark, Essex, N.J.

*To be signed by the officer or noncommissioned officer witnessing signature.

†Native born, use initials U. S.; naturalized, N. U. S.

DIED

1. Rec'd in A. & I Dept. JUN 22 1945
(initial and pass to next number)
2. Casualty *ch* 3. QM. Olo.
4. Mtl. Hist. (FILE) ... *ER*

RESERVE

CLASSIFIED

Cp. "K" No. *472657*

U. S. MARINE CORPS



SERVICE-RECORD BOOK
OF

KOZIAR
(SURNAME)

WALTER
(CHRISTIAN NAME)

RANK

PVT.

PFC

CORP

SGT. (TW)

OCT 2 1942
(DATE OF ENLISTMENT)

PREVIOUS SERVICE (ACTIVE)

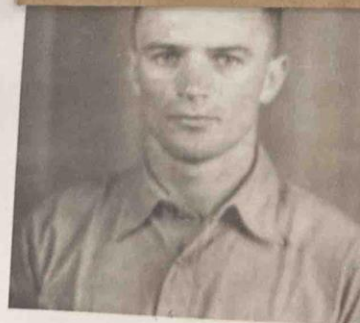
0 Years *0* Months *0* Days

DATE OF EXPIRATION OF EACH EXTENSION

N.M.C. 100-A & I
3-25-42-100M

This book is to accompany him. Entries shall be concerned as to accordance with entries shall be the administrative. Neatness, served. No forms, letters in this book.

KC
En
Ph



Name

Walter Koziar

Roll No.

1-3-25

Amount, \$

SERVICE RECORD

OF

Name *KOZIAR, WALTER*
Citizenship *U.S.*
Date of birth *26 MAY 1921*
Place of birth *SHAMOKIN, PA.*
Legal residence *182-16TH AVENUE, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY.*
Name, relationship, and address of person to be notified in case of emergency *MIROV + HELEN KOZIAR (FATHER + MOTHER) 182 16TH AVE, NEWARK, N.J.*
Accepted for enlistment at *A.S. Newark, N.J.*
Enlisted as *PRIVATE*
RS. NEW YORK, N. Y.
At *OCT 2 1942* Duration of National Emergencies, 19 to serve during minority.
Foreign shore service last enlistment (months):
From to
Sea service last enlistment (months):
From to
RS Ward
R. S. WARD
Capt. U.S.M.C.R., U.S.M.C., Recruiting Officer.
Walter Koziar
(SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT IN FULL)

Identification tag issued _____, 19____
10-5547-1

Identification Card No. *546* issued *OCT 30 1942*

Battalion Personnel Officer.

THIRD BATTALION, TWENTY-FIFTH MARINES,
FOURTH MARINE DIVISION, FLEET MARINE FORCE,
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

Served as member of Garrison Forces, Kwajalein Atoll,
Marshall Islands, during period 8-28 February, 1944.

N. C. Smyle
N. C. SMYLE

2dLt., USMC.

Battalion Personnel Officer.

16-9547

MEDALS (including good-conduct medals and bars, but excluding those awarded for qualification with infantry weapons), BADGES, AND DECORATIONS
RANGE NUMBER AND DATE AWARDED

THIRD BATTALION, TWENTY-FIFTH MARINES,
FOURTH MARINE DIVISION, FLEET MARINE FORCE,
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

10 January, 1944 embarked aboard the USS BIDDLE at San Diego,
Calif. 13-30 January, 1944 enroute, 31 January, 1944 disembarked
at ENJUNEMENT ISLAND. 31 January to 7 February, 1944 participated
in the battle of POI and NAMUR, KWAJALEIN ATOLL, Marshall Islands.

N. C. Smyle
N. C. SMYLE

2dLt., USMC.

Battalion Personnel Officer.

Hdqtrs, 3rdBr

Active
Marshall Isl
Asiatic-Paci

THIRD BATTALION, TWENTY FIFTH MARINES,
FOURTH MARINE DIVISION, FLEET MARINE FORCE,
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

Embarked on board U.S.S. LEONARD WOOD, 12 May, 1944, at Maui, T. H., sailed from Territory of Hawaii, 29 May, 1944. Disembarked 15 June, 1944, at Saipan Island, Marianas Islands.

15 June, 1944 to 9 July, 1944, participated in the Battle of Saipan Island, Marianas Islands.

24 July, 1944, to 3 August, 1944, participated in the Battle of Tinian Island, Marianas Islands.

Embarked on board U.S.A.T. ADABELLE LYES, 5 August, 1944 at Tinian Island, Marianas Islands, sailed therefrom 7 August, 1944. Disembarked 22 August, 1944 at Maui, T. H.

N. C. Smyle
N. C. SMYLE,
1st Lt., USMC,
Adj. & Personnel O.

16-9547

MEDALS (including good-conduct medals and bars, but excluding those awarded for qualification with infantry weapons), BADGES, AND DECORATIONS; MEDAL OR BADGE NUMBER AND DATE AWARDED

LETTERS OF COMMENDATION (Pasted on page 23)

SUBJECT	DATE	BY WHOM ISSUED

16-9547-1

13

Hdqtrs, 3rdB

Active
Marshall Is
Asiatic-Pac

THIRD BATTALION, TWENTY-FIFTH MARINES,
FOURTH MARINE DIVISION, FLEET MARINE FORCE,
THIRD BATTALION, TWENTY-FIFTH MARINES,
FOURTH MARINE DIVISION, FLEET MARINE FORCE,
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

Embarked on board LST No. 684, 19 January, 1945, at Maui, T. H., sailed
from Territory of Hawaii, 22 January, 1945. Disembarked 19 February, 1945, at
Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands.

19 February, 1945 ^{only} ~~to 16 March, 1945~~, participated in the Battle of Iwo Jima,
Volcano Islands.

N. C. Smyle

N. C. SMYLE,

1stLt., USMC,

Adj & Bn Personnel O.

N. C. SMYLE,

1stLt., USMC,

Adj. & Personnel O.

16-9547

MEDALS (including good-conduct medals and bars, but excluding those awarded for qualification with infantry weapons), BADGES, AND DECORATIONS; MEDAL OR
BAR NUMBER AND DATE AWARDED

HEADQUARTERS, THIRD BATTALION,
TWENTY-FIFTH MARINES, FOURTH MARINE DIVISION,
FLEET MARINE FORCE, c/o FLEET POST OFFICE,
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

Recommended for award of the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious
achievement in action against the enemy on Iwo Jima, Volcano
Islands. See Letter and Citation on Page 73.

N. C. Smyle

N. C. SMYLE, 1stLt., USMC,

Adjutant & Personnel O.

16-9547-1

13

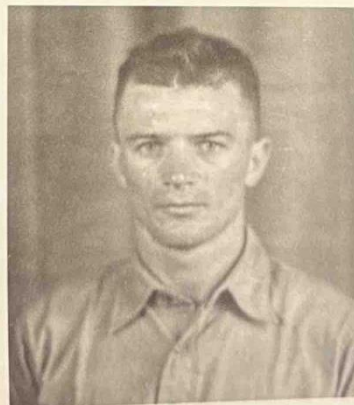
RECORD OF SMALL ARMS INSPECTION

ORGANIZATION

REASON FOR INSPECTION

SIGNATURE OF INSPECTOR

KOZIAR(472657)Walter (n)
Enl 20Oct42
Photo Taken 10Oct42



20

16-547-1

11812 MCS QUANTICO, VA. 9-1-42-400

WEAPONS SCHOOL
RIFLE RANGE DETACHMENT
MARINE BARRACKS, NEW RIVER, N.C.
11 June, 1943

This is to certify that the below-named man

Walter. Koziar

has satisfactorily completed the
RIFLE COMPANY COURSE

of six weeks from 3 May, 1943
to 11 June, 1943 and has
achieved the following grades in the indicated subjects:

U.S. RIFLE, CAL. .30, M1903	100%
U.S. RIFLE, CAL. .30, M1	97%
U.S. CARBINE, CAL. .30, M1	100%
BROWNING AUTOMATIC RIFLE, CAL. .30, M1918A2	97%
BROWNING MACHINE GUN, CAL. .30, M1919A4	100%
AUTOMATIC PISTOL, CAL. .45, M1911, M1911A1	100%
THOMPSON SUBMACHINE GUN, CAL. .45, M1928A1	100%
REISING SUBMACHINE GUN, CAL. .45, M50, 55 AND 60	100%
60mm MORTAR, M2	100%
HAND GRENADES	98%
RIFLE GRENADES	99%
SCOUTING	XXXX
RAILROADING	XXXX
COMBAT TROOP EXERCISES	XXXX
TECHNIQUE OF FIRE	XXXX
BAYONET (PERSONAL COMBAT)	QUAL
Johnson Light Machine Gun, Cal..30	99%
AVERAGE GRADE	99.16%
STANDING IN CLASS OF 58 , 8	
PASSING GRADE 85%	

James G. Feltri, 1429 USMC
Officer in Charge, Weapons School

RATED OR D

20 APR

20 APR 43-A

19057

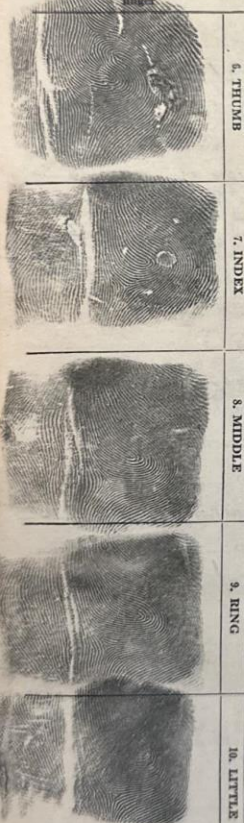
16-547-1

MARKS, SCARS, ETC.

(Marked in red ink by Medical Examiner)

LEFT HAND

Rolled imprint of thumb and each finger



OCT 2 1942

Examined _____, 19____

Eyes BlueHair Dark BrownComplexion RuddyHeight 68 3/4 inches.Weight 145 pounds.

LEFT HAND—Plain imprint of Four Fingers taken simultaneously

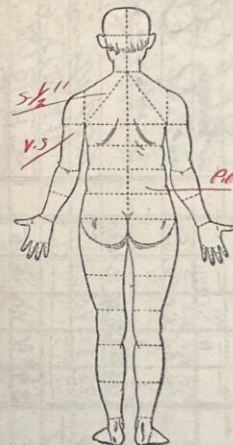


MARKS, SCARS, ETC.

(Marked in red ink by Medical Examiner)

RIGHT HAND

Rolled imprint of thumb and each finger



Date and nature of any waiver

NONE

John P. Gulevich
 Lt. Colonel (MC), USN
 Surgeon.

RIGHT HAND—Plain imprint of Four Fingers taken simultaneously



30 38 1 0 SF 7 4 2 1 0 PPEV MIL XP (21)										SF 7 4 2 1 0 HUNDREDS										SF 7 4 2 1 0 TENS										SF 7 4 2 1 0 UNITS									
(5) MAR. ST.										(10) NAVAL DISTRICT										(27) MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALIST																			
(1) - (C) NAME KOZIAR WALTER (NONE)										REG. RES. LINE 472657										INCHES 71 LBS. 156 RACE W																			
(2) BIRTHPLACE OF MARINE SHAMOKIN, PA HOW LONG IN U.S. — YEARS										(13) - (D) MAIN OCCUPATION RADIO EQUIPMENT ASSEMBLER										SPECIAL. YEARS AT IT WKLY. WAGE 1 \$3500																			
(3) - (C) DATE OF BIRTH OF MARINE MAY 26 1921										(13) - (D) TRADE TEST INDICATED 4-98.050										SPEC. SER. NO. — DEGREE OF SKILL —																			
(4) CITIZEN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAKEN OUT FIRST PAPERS <input type="checkbox"/> NON-CITIZEN <input type="checkbox"/>										JUST WHAT DID YOU DO? ASSEMBLED RADIO & TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT PANELS. INCLUDED WIRING FROM BLUE PRINTS. ALSO ASSEMBLED & SOLDERED RADAR ANTENNA'S. DID NOT TEST.										(13) CIVILIAN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>																			
(5) - (C) MARITAL STATUS S NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS 0										LAST DATE OF EMPLOYMENT SEPTEMBER 1942										EMPLOYER WESTERN ELECTRIC CO.																			
(6) BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER AUSTRIA										ADDRESS OF EMPLOYER KEARNY, NJ										DEPT., SHOP OR BRANCH ASSEMBLY KIND OF BUSINESS RADIO-INST.																			
(7) BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER SHAMOKIN, PA										(14) - (D) SECOND BEST OCCUPATION SALESMAN										SPECIFICATION SERIAL NO. 321																			
(8) - (C) EDUCATION YEAR LEFT SCHOOL 1940 NON-E. <input type="checkbox"/> L-7 ILLITERATE <input type="checkbox"/> L-11										JUST WHAT DID YOU DO? SOLD AUTOMOBILE SEAT COVERS TO WHOLESALE TRADE. SOME INSTALLATION.										(14) CIVILIAN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>																			
SCHOOL										NAME AND LOCATIONS OF INSTITUTIONS ATTENDED										MAJOR SUBJECT OR SPECIALIZATION										DEGREE AND DATE RECEIVED									
L (SF1) GRAMMAR SCHOOL 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										NEWARK, NJ										—										1936									
(SF2) HIGH SCHOOL 4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										NEWARK, NJ										ACAD										1940									
(1-2) COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY										—										THRU SOLID GEOM MECH DRAW										—									
(4-1) POST GRADUATE										—										—										—									
(4-2) TRADE, NIGHT OR BUSINESS SCHOOL 3/12 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										CHAMBERLAIN HERO SCH. NEWARK, NJ										AVN SHEET METAL										1940									
(9) - (C) LANGUAGES (CHECK APPROPRIATE SPACES) S—SPEAKS R—READS W—WRITES										OTHER LANGUAGES (n) RUSSIAN										OTHER Horseback Riding																			
SPANISH (n)										FRENCH (n)										GERMAN (n)										OTHER LANGUAGES (n)									
FAIRLY WELL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										—										—										—									
FLUENTLY (n)										—										—										—									
(10) - (C) NAVAL DISTRICT OF ENLISTMENT OR INDUCTION 3										(16) - (C) ARMY GENERAL CLASSIFICATION TEST										(17) - (C) APTITUDE TESTS										(18) - (C) OTHER TESTS									
(11) - (C) SPORTS IN WHICH QUALIFIED										EXCELLS TRACK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BASE BALL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOOT BALL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										BASKET BALL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOFT BALL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TENNIS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										BOXING <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WRESTLING <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>									
SCHOOL OR TEAM HIGH SCHOOL										—										—										—									
(12) - (C) TALENT FOR FURNISHING PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT										MUSICAL INSTRUMENT <input type="checkbox"/> L-27 SINGING <input type="checkbox"/> L-28 THEATRICAL <input type="checkbox"/> L-29										HIGHEST POSITION OF LEADERSHIP (INCLUDING MILITARY)										—									

NOTE: DO NOT ATTEMPT TO FILL OUT THIS CARD WITHOUT FIRST READING INSTRUCTIONS
CONTAINED IN ARMY REGULATIONS 615-25 AND U.S.M.C. SUPPLEMENT VERY CAREFULLY.

U.S.M.C. ENLISTED MAN'S QUALIFICATION CARD

(21) - (1) PREVIOUS MILITARY EXPERIENCE								(29) RECORD OF CURRENT SERVICE					
ARM OR SERVICE	YEARS IN EACH	HIGHEST GRADE	CATEGORY USMC ARMY NAVY C. & OTHER	LAST DIS. CHARGE (YEAR)	SPECIAL TRAINING RECEIVED				DATE	ORGANIZATION	GRADE	PRINCIPAL DUTY	SURGEON'S O.K. (LIMITED SERVICE ONLY)
					SPECIFIC NATURE	YEARS	MO'S.	LAST DATE (YEAR)					
									10/15/42	988N NB PTSC.	PVT	BASIC	
									22NDV42	3-K-23-4/MAR DIV	PVT	RIFLEMAN	
									1/MAY/43	3-K-25-2-4 DIV.	SGT	RIFLE NCO 737	
									3/15/43	CoK, 3d Bn, 25Mar, NR	PFC	Asst. Sqd. Ldr.	
									19 Feb 45 - Killed in action against the enemy in battle of Iwo Jima. Remains interred in 4th Mar Div Cemetery, Iwo Jima Island, Plot #1, Row #11, Grave #530				
(22) - (2) SERVICE SCHOOLS, ARM. OR SERVICE			NUMBER OF WEEKS	COURSE		YEAR GRADUATED	SCHOOL RATING	DECEASED					
1. WPA, SCH. R.R. DET. NR NO 6			6	RIFLE CO. COURSE		43	99.16%						
2.													
3.													
4.													
(23) DUTY DESIRED						(24) LIMITED SERVICE							
FIRST CHOICE Comm (REPAIR)						CLASS IV <input type="checkbox"/>							
SECOND CHOICE SD.						CLASS V <input type="checkbox"/>							
(25) - (2) ASSIGNMENT RECOMMENDED BY CLASSIFICATION OFFICER						RADIO OPR 45							
(27) - (2) CLASSIFICATION IN MILITARY SPECIALTIES													
DESIGNATION				SPEC. SERIAL NO.	DATE OF CLASSIFICATION								
Assistant Squad Leader				653	6/15/43								
RIFLE NCO (PRIM)				737	5 SEP 44								
(28) REMARKS								PEC - 5 MAR 43 CORP - 11 JUN 43 SGT - 7 DEC 44					
RIFLE SCORE - 281 - 16 JUL 43.													
13 th REG. SCH - 3 WKS. - CHEM. WAR. - 1943 - EXCEL.													
(29) RECORD OF CURRENT SERVICE								(30) - (2) DATE OF (CROSS OUT ONE) ENLISTMENT INDUCTION OCT 2, 1942 DATE OF INTERVIEW February 26, 1943 STATION Camp Sycamore, New River, Pa. SIGNATURES INTERVIEWER Robert D. Park, Pfc CLASSIFIER Sebastian Holsala, Sgt MARINE Walter K. Jones, Pfc					
LEFT U.S. JAN 13 1944													
RELIGION C. X M. I. HEB. I. Y													

FORM NO. MMC 940A & S
REV. 1942

IMPORTANT -- UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL THIS CARD BE FOLDED, ROLLED, OR CREASED

MCBEE REYSORT U. S. PAT. NO. 2,213,407 95960

U S M C CASUALTY REPORT				DATE	CARD	CAS. NO.
NAME KOZIAR, Walter		RANK Sgt	CLASS USMCR	IDENT. NO. 472657		
ORGANIZATION CoK, 3Bn, 25Mars, 4MarDiv, FMF		TYPE OF CASUALTY KIA	AREA Pac	DATE OF CASUALTY 19Feb45		
DATE APPT./ENLIST 20Oct42	PLACE OF APPT./ENLIST New York, N.Y.	DATE ACTIVE DUTY 20Oct42	PRIOR SER. No	MISC. STA.	MARITAL S	RACE W
DATE OF BIRTH 26May21	PLACE OF BIRTH Shamokin, Pa	LEGAL RESIDENCE Newark, N.J.			AVCAD X	
NEXT OF KIN Mr. & Mrs. Miron K oziar		RELATION Prnt	ADDRESS OF KIN 182, 16th Ave. Newark, N. Jersey			
BENEFICIARY (Name and Address) DGB: Mr. Miron Koziar, Father, Address above.						
PLACE OF CASUALTY Iwo, Volcano Is		NATURE OF WOUND ***GSW, chest		PRESENT STATUS		
REMARKS (Additional Information - Disposition of Remains) Buried in Grave #530, Plot #1, Row #11, 4thMarDiv Cemetery (Temp), Iwo, Volcano Is. * 1 Mar 45						
DATE AND SOURCE OF REPORT 4MARDIV REP#2 RAD#130235 CD#58298 FECG FMFPAC TO MARCORPS REC'D 14Mar45. REC'D CASDIV 15Mar45				CHECKER rs		
NAME KOZIAR, Walter		RANK Sgt	CLASS USMCR	IDENT. NO. 472657		

*AdmCasRep #2-IJ fr CG HQ 4thMarDiv FMF to SECNAV dtd 2Mar45, rec'd 13Mar45. (ref)
 Service Record Book received **JUN 23 1945** (afm)
 ***Cert of death fr Bu M&S rec'd Cas Div 27Jul45. (bm)
 % Father req. remains ret to Lytwyn & Lytwyn-Home for Serv., 801 Springfield Ave., Irvington, N.J., for pvt burial in Evergreen Cem, Hillside, N.J. Appl dtd 22Oct47. (mcg)

TELEGRAM

(KIA)

IDENTIFICATION
NUMBER 472657

DGU-296-
hms

FROM: COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

TO: MR & MRS MIRON KOZIAR (PARENTS)

182 SIXTEENTH AVENUE

NEWARK NEW JERSEY

DEEPLY REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT YOUR

RELATIONSHIP }
RANK-NAME }
CLASSIFICATION } SON SERGEANT WALTER KOZIAR USMCR

WAS KILLED IN ACTION

(DATE-LOCATION)

19 FEBRUARY 1945 AT IWO JIMA VOLCANO ISLANDS
IN THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS DUTY AND SERVICE OF HIS COUNTRY. WHEN
INFORMATION IS RECEIVED REGARDING BURIAL YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED. TO
PREVENT POSSIBLE AID TO OUR ENEMIES DO NOT DIVULGE THE NAME OF HIS
SHIP OR STATION. PLEASE ACCEPT MY HEARTFELT SYMPATHY. LETTER
FOLLOWS.

RELEASED BY M G CRAIG

DATE 22 MARCH 1945

A A VANDEGRIFT
LIEUT GENERAL USMC
COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

020881

Lw

472657
DGU-296-wmm

R E C E I P T

9/8/45

(Date)

I, Miron Kozlar, father of the late Sergeant Walter
Kozlar, U. S. Marine Corps Reserve,

do hereby acknowledge receipt of the following personal effects belonging
to him:

1 Song Book.
1 Newspaper Clipping.
1 Newspaper.
1 Red Cross Card.
1 Picture.
2 Note Books.
1 Set of Chop Sticks.
1 Knife.
4 Fountain Pens.
1 Pencil.
1 Spoon.
1 Nail File.
7 Foreign Coins.
2 Religious Medals.
Japanese Papers and Cards.
Personal Cards.
Personal Letters.
Envelopes.
Part of one Rosary.
Japanese Souvenirs.



Miron Kozlar

INITIALS

Asst
CMC
Secy
Legal
Aide
PGP
QM
P M
Avia
Pub Rel
Dir
Pers
Exec
Off
Dir MCWR
Div of Res
Exec Div
Research
Rehab
Proc Div
Chief
Perf Br
Off
Perf
Enl
Ref
Disch
Mil Hist
Prom
Disc
Dec & Med
Tar Prac
Cas
Morale
Insp & Ex
Invest
Mess
Mgmt
Chief
Detail Br
Off
Detail
Enl
Detail
Class
Chief
Rec Stat Br
Stat
Ident
Hist
Mail &
File
War Bond

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the BRONZE STAR MEDAL posthumously to

SERGEANT WALTER KOZIAR,
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For heroic service as a Machine-gun Squad Leader, serving with Company K, Third Battalion, Twenty-Fifth Marines, Fourth Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, on 19 February 1945. Undaunted by intense enemy fire, Sergeant Koziar repeatedly exposed himself to hostile barrages in order to better direct his men and control their fire against strong Japanese beach defenses. Although mortally wounded while leading an assault on a fanatically defended enemy bunker, his inspirational leadership enabled his men to successfully complete the crucial attack. His fearless determination and unyielding devotion to duty reflect the highest credit upon Sergeant Koziar and the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life in the service of his country."

For the President,
JAMES FORRESTAL

Secretary of the Navy.

R-Newark, New Jersey,
Shamokin, Pennsylvania.

NO PUBLICITY TO BE GIVEN
UNTIL NOTIFICATION OF
PRESENTATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED.