



Joseph Frank Moravek

Machinist's Mate 3/C
Equipment Operator
62nd Naval Construction Battalion
United States Naval Reserve
19 October 1942 - 13 January 1946

**Our Debt to the heroic men
and valiant women in the
service of our country can
never be repaid. They have
earned our undying
gratitude. America will
never forget their sacrifices.**

President Harry S. Truman





December 1942 - January 1946



Navy Recruiting Station

Chicago, Illinois

19 October 1942

Activated into service 5 December 1942

Camp Endicott

Naval Construction Training Center

Davisville, Rhode Island

6 December 1942 - 25 February 1943

Assigned to 62nd Construction Battalion, Company D, Platoon 4 on 30 December 1942. Completed boot camp and advanced training while at Camp Endicott.

Transferred on 25 February to Camp Rousseau.



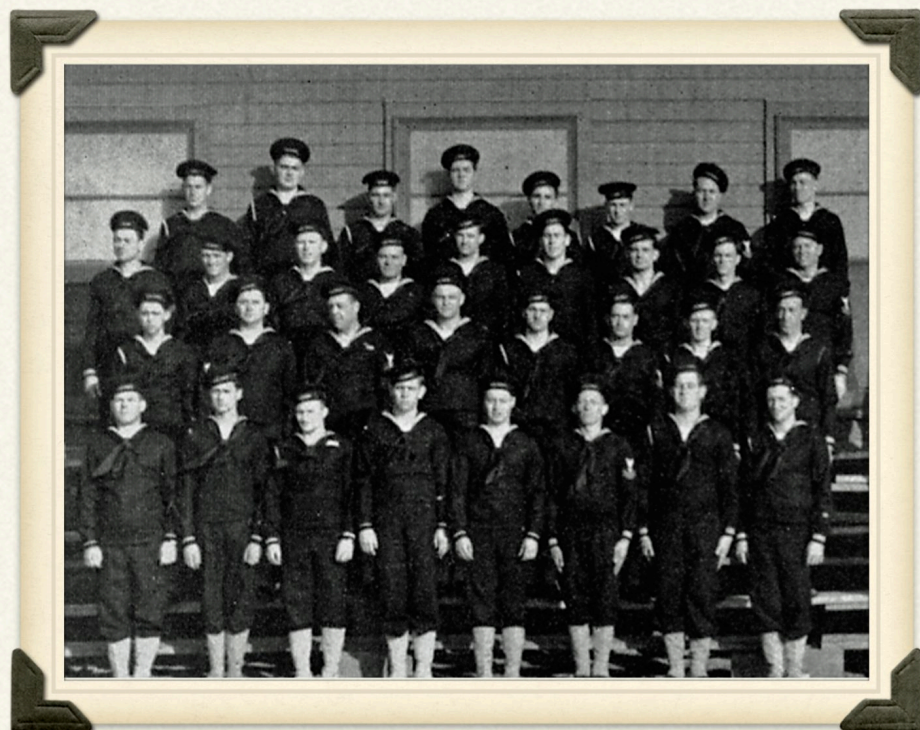
Left: Camp Endicott, home of the 62nd Naval Construction Battalion
Right: Camp Endicott barracks



Seabees

“We Build, We Fight”

After the 7 December 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and the United States entry into the war, the use of civilian labor in war zones became impractical. The need for a militarized Naval Construction Force to build advance bases in the war zone was evident. On 28 December 1941 Rear Admiral Ben Morell requested authority to activate, organize and man Navy construction units. On 5 January 1942 he got authority to recruit men from the construction trades. This was the beginning of the Seabees, who obtained their designation from the initial letters of Construction Battalion.



Left: Joseph Moravek - top row, 4th from left
Right: 62nd Naval Construction Battalion flag



Camp Rousseau

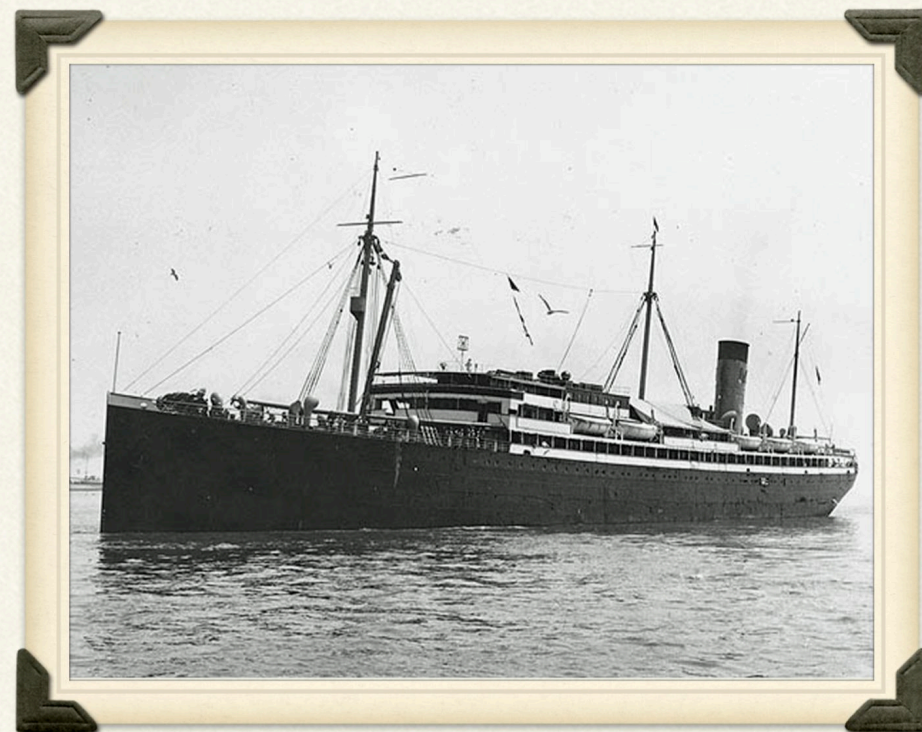
Advanced Base Depot
Port Hueneme, California
1 March 1943 - 22 March 1943

The 62nd refined their construction and military skills while at Camp Rousseau. They also formed working units and familiarized themselves with the equipment that would accompany them overseas.

Camp Parks

Dublin, California
22 March 1943 - 24 March 1943

On 24 March the 62nd set sail for Pearl Harbor on the USS Matsonia.



Left: Camp Rousseau
Right: USS Matsonia



Hawaii

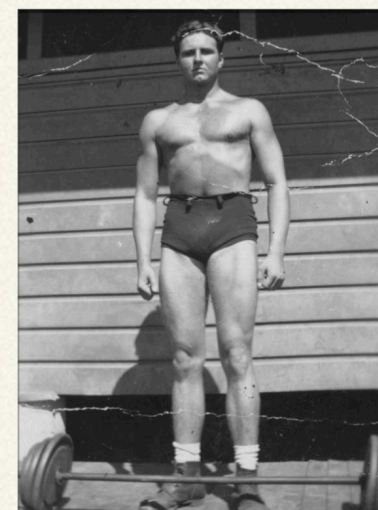
Pearl Harbor

Aiea and Red Hill, Island of Oahu

29 March 1943 - 30 October 1944

The seabees were sent to Pearl Harbor to rebuild America's most important Pacific Naval Base. Their first task was to construct the repair and servicing facilities for submarines at the Pearl Harbor submarine base. The 62nd also built barracks, mess halls, warehouses, roads, an asphalt plant, dismantled/reassembled massive oil storage tanks, landing craft and camp facilities at Waipio Point, and the advance base reshipment depot at Iroquois Point. In September of 44 the jobs at Pearl Harbor came to an end and the 62nd went to the Kahana Valley for two weeks of jungle training.

The 62nd left for Maui on 30 October.



Left: Heavy Equipment Operators - Joseph Moravek - 3rd row from the bottom, far right

Top Right: Pearl Harbor

Bottom Right: Joseph Moravek



Hawaii

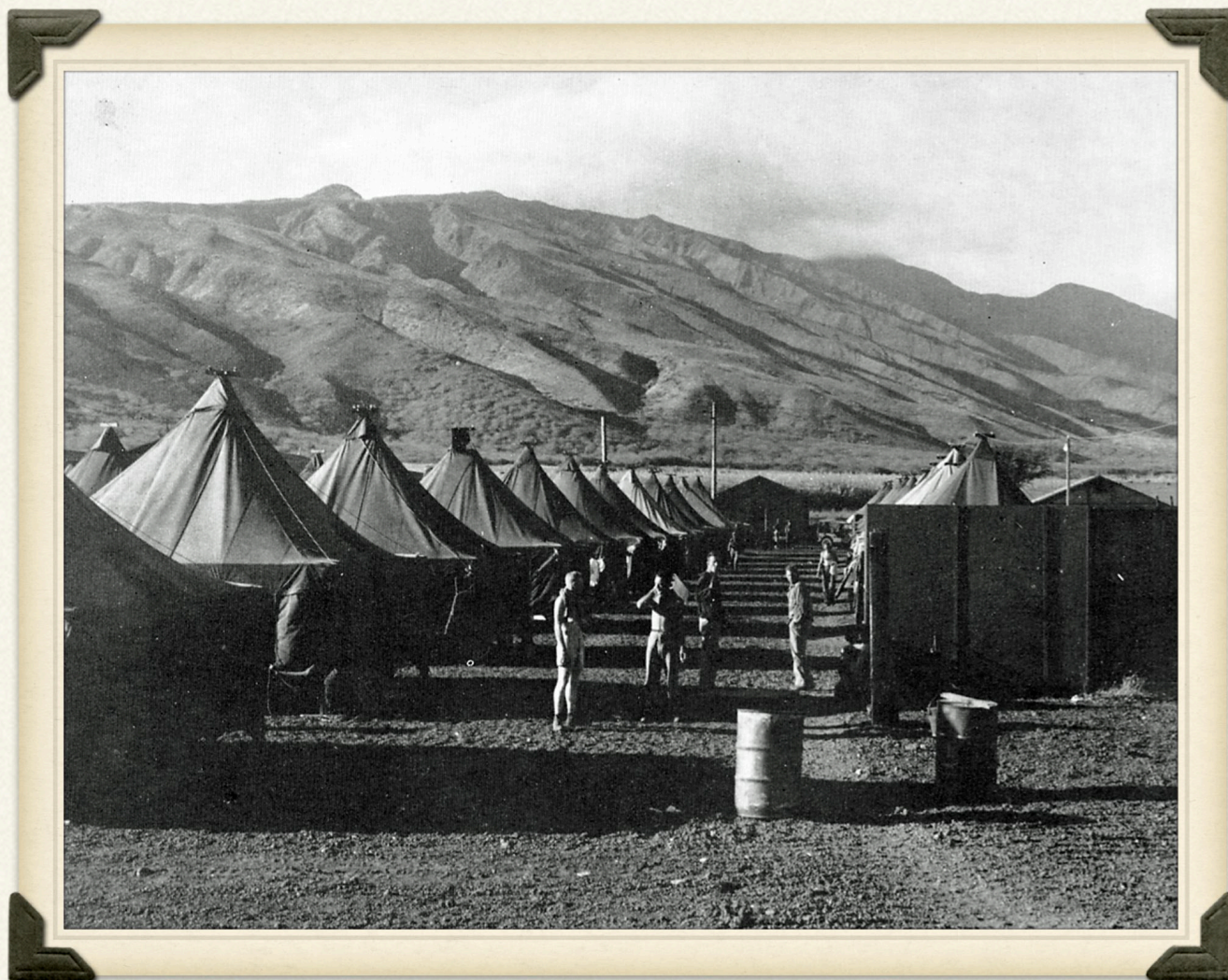
Island of Maui

2 November 1944 - 24 January 1945

The seabees were sent to Maui for two more months of Jungle Training. This training consisted of physical training, marine training, rifle practice, weapons training and mock debarkations and amphibious landings.

In early January a majority of the 62nd started loading the ships that would take them to Iwo Jima. The seabees had been assigned one attack transport ship (APA), two landing ship - tank (LST) and one attack cargo ship (AKA).

The 62nd left Hawaii for Iwo Jima on 24 January.



Left: Jungle training camp
 Top Right: Training a beach assault
 Bottom Right: Jungle training obstacle



Iwo Jima

19 February 1945 - 29 April 1945

The Seabee ships arrived in Saipan on 11 February to prepare for the assault on Iwo Jima. Iwo Jima would provide the U.S. a landing and refueling site for B-29 bombers and long range fighter plane escorts on missions to and from Japan. Iwo Jima was designated a crucial emergency landing point for the B-29s carrying the atomic bombs destined for Japan. By taking Iwo Jima the B-29s carrying the atomic bombs would not be picked up by Japanese radar or attacked by the Japanese fighter planes stationed there.

The Seabee ships left Saipan on 16 February and arrived off Red Beach on 19 February, D-day. On 19 and 21 February the 62nd's LSTs came under Kamikaze attack from Japanese planes but were not damaged.

On 24 February Joseph Moravek landed on Iwo Jima.



Left: TBM Avenger flying over Iwo Jima
Top Right: Map showing Iwo Jima
Bottom Right: Flag raising on Mt. Suribachi



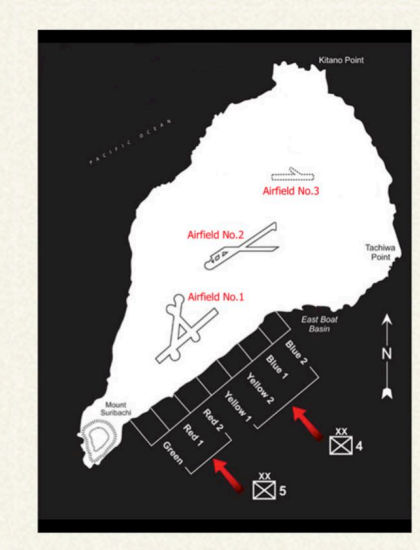
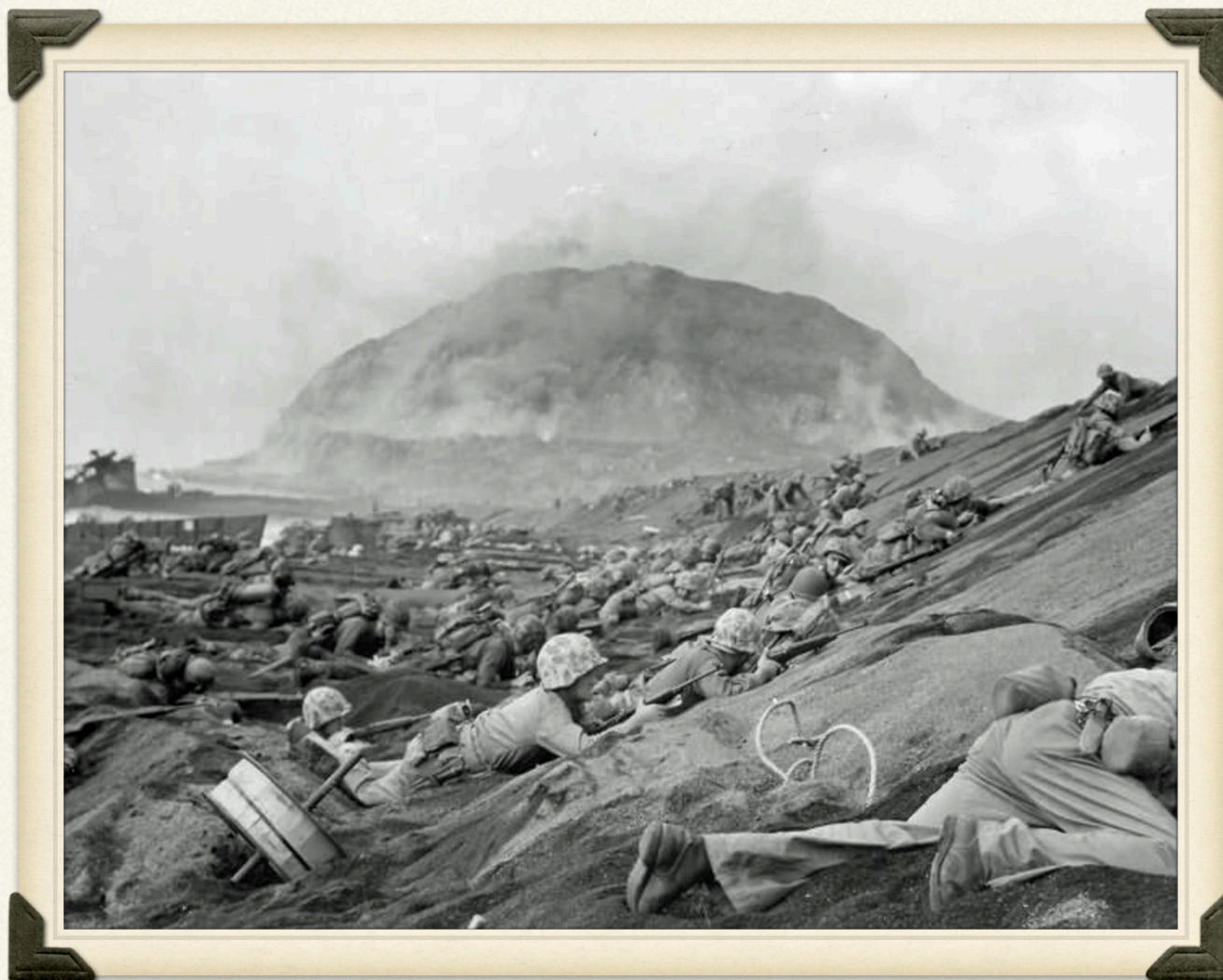
Iwo Jima

19 February 1945 - 29 April 1945

The heavy equipment operators started work on airfield 1 the day they landed. The operators had to fight off banzai attacks, sniper fire and mortar fire as they worked. On 5 March a crippled B-29 coming back from a raid on Tokyo made an emergency landing on airfield 1. From that time on the airfield was used to capacity.

The 62nd did many small jobs while on Iwo Jima but their main job was the central airfield. Work began on the central airfield on 6 March. On 18 March a Navy Liberator was the first plane to land. The following day a B29 landed and from that time on the airfield was used to capacity. On 30 March a group of remaining Japanese launched a 3 day attack on the central airfield. During five months of work on the airfield the seabees built 2 main landing strips, 2 refueling strips with taxi-ways and parking areas.

Joseph Moravek left Iwo Jima on 29 April for San Francisco.



Left: Beach landing area on Iwo Jima
 Top Right: Landing map showing airfields
 Bottom Right: 62nd Seabees foxhole camp on Iwo Jima



San Francisco

24 May 1945 - 26 May 1945

Joseph Moravek went on leave 26 May and reported to the receiving station in Chicago on 28 June. He left Chicago on 2 July for Camp Parks.

Camp Parks

Dublin, California
5 July 1945 - 2 January 1946

On 29 December Joseph requested to be discharged from service. He left Camp Parks on 2 January. He arrived at the U.S Navy Separation Center at Great Lakes Illinois on 11 January 1946.

Joseph Frank Moravek was discharged from United States Naval Service on 13 January 1946.



Medals



*Navy Good
Conduct*



*American
Campaign*



Seabee shoulder patch



Machinist's Mate 3rd Class



*Asiatic Pacific
Campaign*



*WWII
Victory*



Ruptured Duck Patch



*Honorable Discharge
Lapel Pin*



*Navy Unit
Commendation*



*Navy Combat Action
Ribbon*



*Honorable Service
Lapel Pin*

Navy Good Conduct Medal

Awarded to enlisted personnel of the United States Navy and Naval Reserve for creditable, above average professional performance, military behavior, leadership, military appearance and adaptability based on good conduct and faithful service for three-year periods of continuous active service.

- Awarded for active service in the United States Naval Reserve (19 October 1942 – 13 January 1946).

American Campaign Medal

Awarded to individuals who served in the American Theater of Operations from 7 December 1941 to 2 March 1946.

- Awarded for thirty consecutive days outside the continental United States (Pearl Harbor - Hawaii).

Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal

Awarded to individuals who served thirty consecutive days within the Asiatic-Pacific Theater from 7 December 1941 to 2 March 1946.

- Battle star for Iwo Jima Campaign (19 February 1945 – 29 April 1945).

WWII Victory Medal - Awarded to all members of the Armed Forces who served at least one day of service from 7 December 1941 to 31 December 1946.

Navy Unit Commendation - Awarded to units that distinguish themselves by outstanding heroism in action against the enemy.

- The Secretary of the Navy awarded this to the 62nd Construction Battalion as a support unit of the Fifth Amphibious Corp, U.S. Fleet Marine Force.
- “For outstanding heroism in support of military operations during the seizure of enemy Japanese-held Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands 19 to 28 February 1945”.

Navy Combat Action Ribbon – Awarded for active participation in ground or surface combat subsequent to December 6, 1941.

Seabee Shoulder Patch – A Patch worn on the uniform of the Naval Construction Battalion personnel.

Machinist’s Mate 3rd Class Patch – Became a Machinist’s Mate on 16 April 1945.

Ruptured Duck Patch – A Patch worn on the uniform of returning veterans.

Honorable Service Lapel Pin – Awarded to military service members who were discharged under honorable conditions during WWII.

Honorable Discharge Lapel Pin – Awarded to Naval personnel who are entitled to an honorable discharge and completed their enlistment.



Awards and Documents

U. S. NAVY RECRUITING STATION
225 So. Clark Street
Chicago, Illinois

NL21/P16-4/QR

~~19 October 1942.~~

CONSTRUCTION

From: Officer in Charge.
To : **MORAVEK, Joseph Frank, 725-52-22, S2c, V-6, USNR**
(Worker)
Subject: Enlistment in Naval Reserve and Transfer to
Inactive duty.

1. You have this date enlisted in the Naval Reserve, Class **V-6**, and you are hereby released to inactive duty, in accordance with Recruiting Circular Letter No. 17-42.

2. You are advised of the necessity of keeping yourself in readiness for immediate recall for active duty; that you must at all times keep the Officer in Charge, U. S. Navy Recruiting Station, 225 So. Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois, advised of your home address; that you must answer promptly all letters addressed to you by the proper authority; that you must inform the Officer in Charge of any change in your health which might prevent service at sea in time of war.

3. Your home address is:

~~2416 S. 58th Court~~
~~Cicero, Illinois~~

DAVID GOLDENSON

**“Among the Americans who served on Iwo Jima,
uncommon valor was a common virtue. We intend to
honor those words and those men. This is our heritage.”**

Fleet Admiral Chester A. Nimitz

Joseph F. Moravsek

VETERAN OF IWO JIMA, 1945

**ON THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE
FLAG RAISINGS ON MOUNT SURIBACHI**

**February 23, 2005
Daley Civic Center
City of Chicago**



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF CHICAGO

RICHARD M. DALEY
MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, during a crucial stage of World War II, the 28th Regiment, 5th Marine Division, U.S. Marines set out to capture Mount Suribachi on the island of Iwo Jima; and

WHEREAS, the battle for Iwo Jima lasted thirty-six days, of which four days were spent at Mount Suribachi, with Navy battleships, cruisers and carrier aircraft together with ground troops of Marines coming ashore, resulting in the bloodiest battle of the Pacific as our Armed Services suffered 6,800 killed and more than 18,000 wounded; and

WHEREAS, twenty-six participants in the Battle of Iwo Jima earned the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest number awarded in any battle; among these are Captain Robert Hugo Dunlap from Illinois, Second Lieutenant John Harold Leims from Chicago and Captain Joseph Jeremiah McCarthy from Chicago, stationed from the 2nd Battalion, 24th Marines; and

WHEREAS, at 8:00 a.m. on February 23, 1945, a patrol of forty men from the 3rd Platoon, E Company, 2nd Battalion, 28th Marines, assembled at the base of Mount Suribachi with the mission of taking the crater of Suribachi's peak and raising the United States flag; and

WHEREAS, at approximately 10:20 a.m., the American flag, hoisted on a steel pipe above the island by six marines, flew over Japanese territory for the first time during World War II; and

WHEREAS, this first flag-raising on Iwo Jima was accomplished by Marines: Private First Class Louis Charlo, Sergeant Henry Hansen, Corporal Charles Lindberg, Lieutenant Harold Schrier, Platoon Sergeant Ernest Thomas and Private First Class James Michels, a native of Chicago's Bridgeport neighborhood, whose wife and family is today present at the City of Chicago's commemoration of this event; and

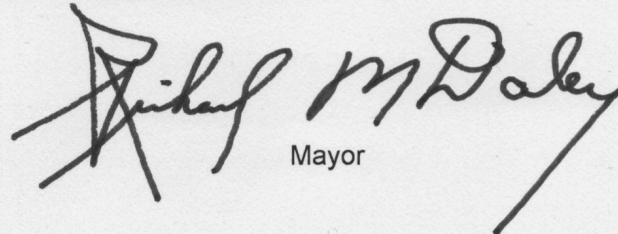
WHEREAS, a larger flag was later brought and raised by five Marines and one Navy Corpsman: Corporal Harlan Block, Private First Class Rene Gagnon, Private First Class Ira Hayes, Private First Class Franklin Sousley, Sergeant Michael Strank and Navy Pharmacist's Mate Second Class John Bradley, an event immortalized by photographer Joe Rosenthal; and

WHEREAS, survivors of the Battle of Iwo Jima are with us today, a reminder of Fleet Admiral Nimitz's comment: "Among the Americans who served on Iwo Jima, uncommon valor was a common virtue. We intend to honor those words and those men. This is our heritage"; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago pauses to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of this battle and the historic flag raisings in a ceremony of remembrance at the Richard J. Daley Civic Center in Chicago at noon:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD M. DALEY, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, do hereby proclaim February 23, 2005, to be IWO JIMA DAY IN CHICAGO in honor of all those service personnel who fought and made the ultimate sacrifice in the cause of freedom.

Dated this 23rd day of February, 2005.



Mayor

SIXTY-SECOND NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

Care Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

8 March 1945.

From: Commander, Landing Force Air Support Control
Unit No. 1.

To: The Commanding General, Fifth Amphibious
Corps.

Subject: Services rendered by 62nd Naval Construction
Battalion, appreciation of.

1. It is the desire of the undersigned to express his appreciation to the officers and men of the 62nd Naval Construction Battalion for their splendid cooperation in maintaining operations at MOTOYAMA Airfield No. 1, IWO JIMA.

/s/V. E. MEGEE

V. E. MEGEE

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

HEADQUARTERS, V AMPHIBIOUS CORPS LANDING FORCE, IN THE FIELD

9 March, 1945.

From: The Commanding General.

To: The Commanding Officer, 62nd N. C. Battalion.

Via: The Commanding General, Garrison Force.

Subject: Services rendered by 62nd Naval Construction
Battalion, appreciation of.

1. Forwarded with pleasure.

/s/W. W. ROGERS,

W. W. ROGERS,

By direction.

In reply address not the signer of this letter, but Bureau of Naval Personnel, Navy Department, Washington 25, D. C.

Refer to No. Pers-10

NAVY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



28 FEB 1947

To: Mr. Joseph F. Moravek, Ex-MM3, 725 52 22, USNR
2416 S. 58th St.
Cicero, Ill.

rbf

Subject: Navy Unit Commendation awarded Support Units of the Fifth Amphibious Corps, U.S. Fleet Marine Force.

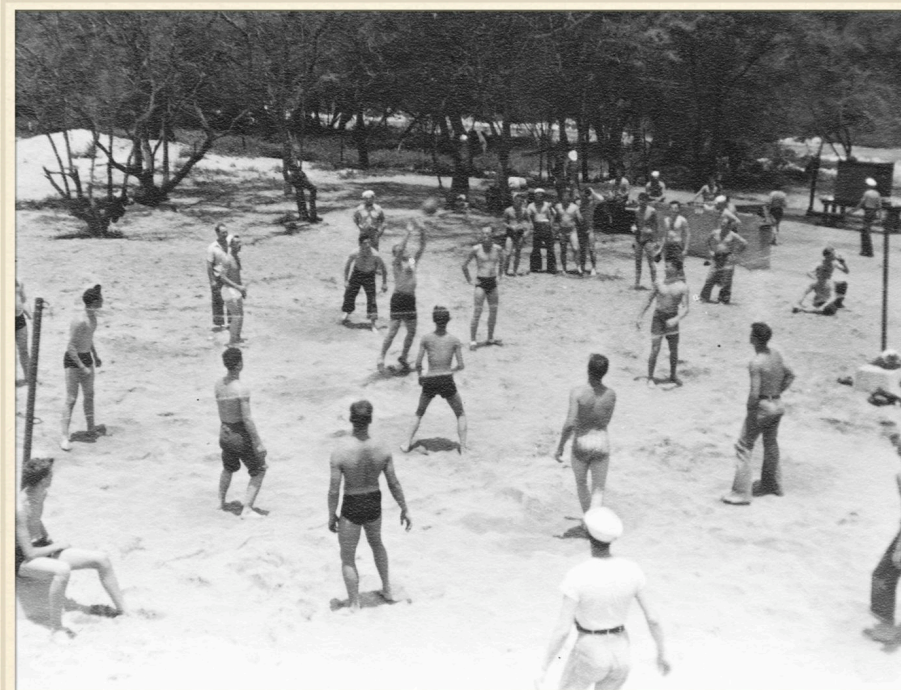
1. The Secretary of the Navy awarded the Navy Unit Commendation to Support Units of the Fifth Amphibious Corps, U.S. Fleet Marine Force, for outstanding heroism in support of military operations during the seizure of enemy Japanese-held Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, 19 to 28 February 1945.
2. By virtue of your service in one of the Support Units entitled to participate in this award during the period mentioned above, you are hereby authorized to wear as part of your uniform a Navy Unit Commendation ribbon, one of which is transmitted herewith.
3. This authorization has been made a part of your official record in the Bureau of Naval Personnel.

By direction of Chief of Naval Personnel:

JOE FLOYD
Lieut. Comdr., U. S. N.
FINISHED FILE

Assistant to Director,
Medals and Awards.

Encl:
1. NUC Ribbon.







Created by Greg Hertz - 2011



