

NAME: Not Available

RANK: Not Available

ORGANIZATION: 2nd Marine Division

OVERSEAS WARTIME SERVICE: Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations

- The following text is directly from original wartime photo annotations written by an unknown Marine. These annotations and the accompanying photos are the only items related to this unknown Marine in the site curator's possession.
- The following text is presented under fair use provisions for educational purposes.
- No controversial material has been omitted from the following text aside from edited racial slurs and profanity for the protection of younger readers. No grammatical or spelling errors have been corrected.

An unknown Marine annotates photos from the Battle of Tarawa that he is sending to a friend:

Photo #1 – “This use to be a j _ p Radar...Our dive bombers, battleships, Crusiers & xxxxxx destroyers sure done a good job on it, didn't they?...”

Photo #2 – “This use to be the J _ ps headquarters bldg. until our dive bombers battleships, etc. got to it. It is made of about 5ft. reinforced Concrete & steel. Notice the two J _ p tanks that were knocked out. One is right along side of the blockhouse & the other just to the rear The Island is sure a wreck, isn't it...Notice the coconut trees & stuff how they are all blown to h _ _ l...”

Photo #3 – “This is one of the lighter scenes of the beaches on Tarawa. Just a few hundred yards down the beach, hundreds of Marine bodies lay on the beach & were floating in the water. There were several hundred dead J _ ps laying around too. (Note the dead J _ p's bodies in the lower left hand corner of this picture.)...”

Photo #4 – “This is how we must have looked when we charged across the airstrip on Tarawa on Nov. 22 (Monday afternoon) Our entire Company went acrossed at once under sniper & machine gun fire, but not one man was hurt...”

Photo #5 – “This is a picture of the burial service for the dead Marines which took place on Thanksgiving day Nov. 25, 1943. I spent all Thanksgiving day pulling dead Marines out of the water where they had been floating for 3 or 4 days, & burying them. God what a job...I hope I never have another job like it...”

-
- It is not known whether or not this unknown Marine made it through the Second World War.
 - **For visual context, this link connects to an original wartime film in the public domain that covers Tarawa operations and the unknown Marine's organization (viewer discretion advised):**
<https://archive.org/details/WiththeMarinesatTarawa>
 - **For additional detail, this link connects to the Wikipedia article that covers the unknown**

Marine's wartime organization, the 2nd Marine Division (reader discretion advised):
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2nd_Marine_Division_\(United_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2nd_Marine_Division_(United_States))