



Newsletter Issue 27, April 2015

Peleliu: Monument in the Pacific



On September 15th, 1944, the United States 1st Marine Division landed on the beaches of Peleliu, a South Pacific Island with an airfield needed to protect General Douglas MacArthur's right flank during the retaking of the Philippines. Unknown to the Americans, the Japanese had changed their defense strategy from an all out beach defense to a main force dug into elaborate systems of bunkers and caves in the island's interior. This change proved wise for the Japanese as the island, which was expected to be taken within four days, was taken only after two months of grueling battle and immense casualties. The 1st Marine Division lost roughly 1,300 men and had nearly 5,450 wounded. In such hard fought battle, one thing is made clear, the commitment of a Marine toward his fellow Marines. This commitment is personified through the actions of eight men who were awarded

the Medal of Honor on the island of Peleliu: Cpl Lewis Bausell, Pfc Arthur Jackson, Pfc Richard Kraus, Pfc John New, Pfc Wesley Phelps, Capt Everett Pope, Pfc Charles Roan, and 1stLt Carlton Rouh. These eight men, and all the brave men of the 1st Marine Division are remembered through a monument dedicated on the 50th anniversary of the landings by the 1st Marine Division Association, on Peleliu's "Bloody Nose Ridge."

Eleanor Bradley Peters: Gold Star Mother



First Lieutenant Edward McClure Peters was killed in action on March 3rd, 1918 while serving with a machine gun battalion in the 1st Infantry Division. After the armistice, his mother, Eleanor Bradley Peters, left her elegant New York home to see her son's grave in the St. Mihiel American Cemetery in Thiaucourt, France. The 53 year-old went to France and never came back. She bought a small apartment in Thiaucourt and stayed there, as close as she could be to Edward's gravesite, until her death on November 1st, 1941. This ultimate Gold Star Mother was buried in the Thiaucourt Town Cemetery under a headstone identical to that of her beloved son.

About American War Memorials Overseas

AWMO recognizes summer intern Cadet Joseph Krivda from the University of Notre Dame Army ROTC Program. Joe is a rising Sophomore and is majoring in Neuroscience with a minor in Poverty Studies. He is working with AWMO for six weeks to help expand our database.

Like us on

Facebook!



Please consider a donation to help us continue our important work