

WILSON

STEPHEN L. "DICK" BOYKIN SR., 79, Nov. 19.
Arrangements by Joyner's Funeral Home.

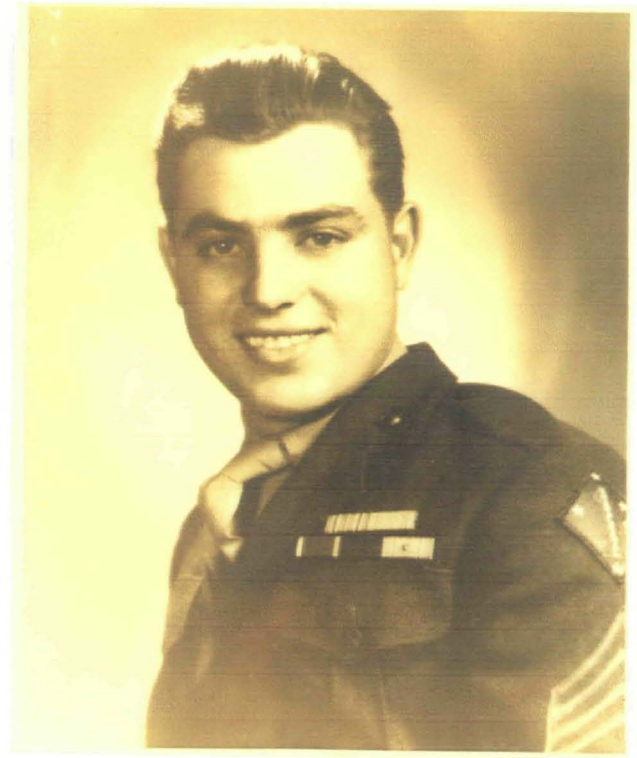
OCT. 3, 1924 - NOV. 19, 2003

Stephen Leland "Dick" Boykin, Sr., age 79, died Wednesday, November 19, 2003 following a short illness. He was a life long Wilson resident born October 3, 1924 to the late Stephen Ransom Boykin and Nannie Davis Boykin. Graveside services with military honors will be conducted by the Rev. Rusty Russell at 11 a.m. Friday in Maplewood Cemetery.

A decorated Marine Corp Veteran of WWII, Dick suffered severe wounds during the battle of the Solomon Islands Guadalcanal Campaign while serving in "H" Company Second Battalion First Marine Division in August 1942. He was discharged in the invalid corp in 1944 after two years of hospital treatment for his wounds. He remained active in the VFW, American Legion, DAV and 1st Marine Division Reunions for over 60 years. Dick retired from Watson Electrical Construction Company with 32 years of service.

Survivors include: two daughters, Joann B. Lamm of Wilson and Barbara Jean Boykin of Kenly; a son, Stephen L. Boykin, Jr. of Wilson; two sisters, Janice Arthur of Wilson and Marie "Tootsie" Bowden of Norfolk, VA; seven grandchildren, Tammy Boykin Ellis, Tracey B. Woodruff and Melanie B. Kyle all of Kenly, Emily Boykin and Greg Lamm, both of Wilson, Nancy Jo Boykin of Italy and Jody Lamm of Sims; and seven great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends from 7-8:30 p.m. tonight at Joyner's Funeral Home, 4100 US 264-A West and at other times the family will be at the home of Joann and Quentin Lamm, Jr., 5445 Claudie Rd., Wilson.



FIDELI CERTA MERCES

Know ye, That STEPHEN LELAND ROYKIN
a Sergeant of the U. S. Marine Corps, ----- who was
enlisted at DHS, Raleigh, N. C. on the 16th day of
August, 19 40, to serve FOUR years, is hereby

HONORABLY DISCHARGED

"UPON REPORT OF MEDICAL

SURVEY FOR DISABILITY", AUTH CMC LTR, MC SERIAL 291018, 2 August 1944

Said Stephen Leland Boykin was born
3 October, 1921, at Wilson County, N.C. and when
enlisted was 68 inches high, with Blue eyes, Brown hair,
Reddish complexion; citizenship, U.S.

[illegible]

Dr. Josephine M. Allen, Chairman, The S. M. K. Co., Chairman

DELIVERED at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina this 23rd day
of August 1944

Character: EXCELLENT

PHILIP L. THWING

Lieutenant Colonel _____ U. S. M. C., Commanding Marines.

MILITARY HISTORY

Previous service: NONE

Promotions and reductions: Promoted to PFC on 17May41; to rank from 17May41; promoted to Corporal on 9Mar42; to rank from 9Mar42; promoted to Sergeant on 25May43; to rank from 19May43.

Infantry.

(Weapons qualifications: SHARPSHOOTER)

Special military qualifications: _____ NONE

Sea service: NONE

Foreign service: 14Jun42 - 4Nov42

Wichtige Kennzahlen:

Participated in action against the Japanese at Guadalcanal, British Solomon Islands from 7 August 1942 to 21 August 1942 :::

Remarks: Disability was not the result of own misconduct

RECOMMENDATIONS: NONE

Married or single: Married Objections to reenlistment: By reason of medical survey

xPewaks xadknooKmoorigapn X

Paid in full eighty two & 58/100 Dollars. \$100- MOP

Signature of marine: STEPHEN LELAND BOYKIN

I CERTIFY that this is the actual print of the right index finger of the man herein named.

PHILIP L. THWING

Lieutenant Colonel _____ U. S. M. C., Commanding Marines.

အစီအစဉ်အရ အသက် ၁၈ နှစ်အောက် ကလေးများကို အသက် ၁၈ နှစ်အထိ အသက်အရွယ် အတိုင်း အသုံးပြုရန် အမည်ပေးရန် လိုအပ်ပါသည်။ အသက် ၁၈ နှစ်အထက် ကလေးများကို အသက် ၁၈ နှစ်အထက် အသက်အရွယ် အတိုင်း အသုံးပြုရန် အမည်ပေးရန် လိုအပ်ပါသည်။ အသက် ၁၈ နှစ်အထက် ကလေးများကို အသက် ၁၈ နှစ်အထက် အသက်အရွယ် အတိုင်း အသုံးပြုရန် အမည်ပေးရန် လိုအပ်ပါသည်။

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NORTH CAROLINA WILSON COUNTY

Filed for registration this 24 day of August, 1944 at 10-50 o'clock A. M., and registered.

TEMPLE J. BATTON

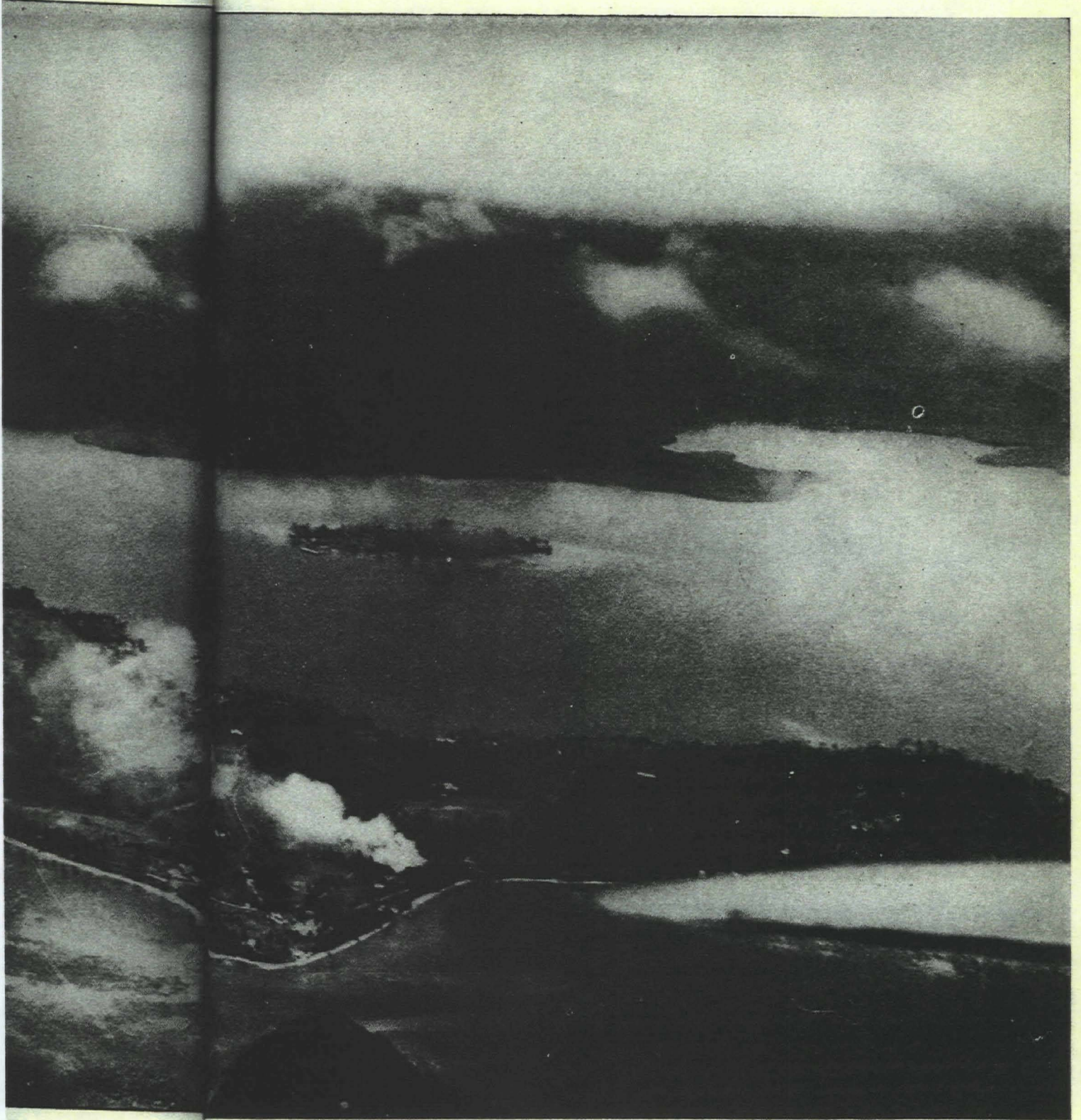
Register of Deeds

How Tulagi Island looked down a Navy bomb sight

BATTLE OF THE SOLOMONS.

This is the famous Tulagi Island (center foreground), stronghold of the Japanese forces in the Solomon Islands. Fires can be seen burning (right center) after American carrier-based dive bombers paid their first visit with bombs. In addition to fortifications, anti-aircraft batteries and radio station the Japanese had a small golf course on the island, but the unexpected arrival of U.S. Navy bombers gave them no time to yell "FORE" to Tokio. The operation in the Solomons inaugurated a series of offensive moves in the Pacific which continued for several months. The enemy occupation of the Islands permitted him the use of advance air and naval bases from which to attack the allies long Pacific supply line and the north coast of Australia. On August 7, 1942, therefore, United States Navy and Marine forces seized beachheads on Guadalcanal and Florida Island and occupied Tulagi. The highly prized Henderson airfield on Guadalcanal was held by the Marines against a long series of heavy air, sea and ground assaults by the enemy. The resolute defense of these marines under Major General (now Lieutenant General) Alexander A. Vandegrift and the desperate gallantry of our naval task forces marked the turning point in the Pacific.





Prelude to invasion of the Solomons

August 7, 1942

Camouflage



ENEMY STRONGHOLD BLASTED. Guns and planes of the Pacific fleet blast tiny Tanambogo Island, enemy stronghold in the Solomons, just prior to its capture by the Marines, on August 7. In the foreground is the famous causeway connecting with Gavut Island, which marines crossed under heavy machine gun fire. In the meantime, at Guadalcanal, the American transports engaged in unloading stores and equipment were attacked about midday by enemy planes, and shortly after midnight an enemy naval force, never clearly identified, appeared on the scene and managed to get between the outer defense task force, stationed near Savo Island and an inner guard lying close to the transports. Flares were dropped by

enemy planes on fire. In this sudden American cruisers to destroy or damage picture above, thick foliage, the Reisling

Death on the battlefield and death by hari-kari



DEATH IN THE MORNING. The rising sun reveals the corpses of these Japanese jungle fighters, half buried in the tidal sands of the Tenaru River where they fell in their vicious night attempt to dislodge the U.S. Marines from Guadalcanal Island. Note the bullet hole in right eyebrow of the Japanese in foreground. These troops were part of the enemy reinforcements which arrived on Guadalcanal during the night of August 10-11 and came out second-best in hand to hand encounters with the United States Marines. The landings were made mostly at night and when American planes could not operate from Henderson Field, still in process of being constructed. The Japanese had started the building of Henderson Field but were interrupted by the American landings on Guadalcanal.



BATTLEFIELD.
are shown stre



THE JAPANESE
These two Ja
trigger with t
South Pacific



BATTLEFIELD. Bodies of Japanese who succeeded in crossing the mouth of the Tenaru during the action are shown strewn along the sands the day after the battle. Losses on both sides were extremely heavy.



THE JAPANESE WAY. Many Japanese preferred suicide to surrender which they believe is dishonorable. These two Japanese Marines placed the muzzle of their rifles against their foreheads and pushed the trigger with their toes. One of them (background) still has his toe on the trigger. In the early days of the South Pacific campaign the Japanese preferred death this way to surrender, but as the campaign progressed, more and more of the enemy allowed themselves to be taken prisoner.

Released From Hospital



NOT ADMITTED
PERMISSION OF
OFFICE OF DAY

CORP. STEPHEN LELAND BOYKIN

Pictured above is Corp. Stephen Leland Boykin, of Wilson, following his release from the Naval Hospital at San Francisco where he received treatment for injuries suffered in fighting at Guadalcanal. A story of Corp. Boykin's experiences was carried in a recent issue of the Daily Times. He is now visiting relatives at New Bern. (U. S. Marine Photo.)

Wilson Boy Helped Stop Jap Attack in Solomon

San Francisco, Dec. 23.—(AP)—His chest gashed by a bayonet, his left leg torn by a grenade blast, 21-year-old Corp. Stephen Leland Boykin of Wilson, N. C., crawled and ducked for eight hours under a hail of rifle bullets and a barrage of mortar shells through Jap-infested territory to the safety of the Marine-held American lines in Guadalcanal.

The young machine-gun squad leader, who convalesced at a Naval hospital near here, described his grueling experience during the Battle of Tenu River in which 1,300 crack Jap troops were slain in an abortive attempt to recapture Guadalcanal Airport. He has not been released from the hospital.

Gun Nest on Beach

"We had set up our machine-gun nest on the beach at the corner where the Tenu River runs into the sea. About one a. m. I was awakened by a grenade explosion nearby and jumped to my gun, already manned by the two men on watch.

"It was pitch dark and we couldn't see even a few yards in front, but in the distance we saw a Jap stand out in the glow of a flare and we gave him a burst. At that moment four Japs who had apparently filtered through our position hurled themselves at us. I managed to get

one with my Reising Gun and, he fell on me, I threw the gun at the other Japs.

"I fell back into the machine-gun dugout, and lay still while the Japs kept slashing through the darkness at me. One of them jabbed me the chest, but I didn't feel much pain then and kept still.

Grenade Bounced In

"They let up a minute and I hoped they were gone, but a grenade bounced in, exploded and got me in the left leg. Again there was immediate pain and I kept quiet.

"It seems funny now, but in the darkness I couldn't find my leg because it was numb and without feeling.

"Then I saw another grenade, the fuse sparkling, within reach of my hand. Without thinking I pushed a half-loaded ammunition box over it and when the grenade went off it scattered the machine-gun shells in every direction but I got off with just a few splinters.

"I lay there for some while the fire of my buddies and the Japs sang over my head. When daylight came, I could hear Marines coming up to my direction so I grabbed a rifle, which still held three shells in it, and fired at some Japs. A Marine came up, pulled me out of the dugout, piled me on his shoulders, car-

See BOYKIN, Page Two.

Nov 5, 42

Mrs. Grace Boykin, of this city, has been advised by Captain C. P. Lancaster, of the United States Marine Corps Headquarters, Washington, D. C., that her husband, Corporal Stephen L. Boykin, "received shot gun wounds in both legs in action against the enemy on August 21, 1942, and has been evacuated."

The letter continued "should any further casualty reports regarding your husband be received you will be informed promptly."

Corporal Boykin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ransom Boykin, of New Bern, entered the service two years ago last August. Mrs. Boykin heard from her husband last on August 16th at which time he stated that he was all right.

Mrs. Boykin has no idea where her husband was at the time he wrote her or at the time he was wounded.

Continued from Page One.
ried me back about 25 yards gave me first aid and propped me up behind a coconut tree.
Watched Battle
For almost two hours I sat there watching the battle going on about me. Then the Japs started shelling the area of my grandstand seat with mortar shells. Soon another Marine pulled me into a foxhole from where I finally managed to crawl back to our lines, eight hours after the Japs jumped us by the river.
Corporal Boykin was told three days later at the Field Hospital that his machine gun nest was found with dead Japs lying all around it, and he isn't sure now whether they were killed by other members of his machine gun crew or by the grenade-scattered ammunition.
"There's no such thing as giving quarter out there," Boykin asserted. "It's virtually impossible to take a Jap alive and, when you do, he is usually up to some trick that will kill his captors along with himself."
"Nor do the Japs take prisoners. I saw Japs stick their bayonets into the body of a Marine lying on the ground to make sure he was dead. They're fanatical soldiers, but when you get right down to it, they're not so tough as our boys."
Corporal Boykin is a native of Wilson, N. C., where his wife, Grace, lives. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen R. Boykin, recently moved to New Bern, N. C. He joined the Marines in 1940 and participated in the landing on Guadalcanal.
"When we reached Guadalcanal beach in our boats," Boykin recalled, "we rushed out expecting heavy fire from the Japs but, instead, we found the first wave of Marines in control of the beach, munching on coconuts."

John

12/20/07

Additional information found on "Dick Boykin".

V. Carroll Arthur