

MARVIN HUBERT THOMPSON, MASTER TECHNICAL SERGEANT  
UNITED STATE MARINE CORP  
SERVICE SQUADRON 31, MAG 31 4<sup>th</sup> MARINE BASE DEFENSE  
ID #382096

On April 14, 1942 when Marvin was 19 he entered the Marine Corp; it was wartime and the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor and he felt it was time for him to go. He bought a ticket to Raleigh from the local bus company to report in with other guys from North Carolina. There he had a physical examination and continued on to the Marine Corp Training Center at Paris Island, South Carolina. He had another physical, a haircut and shots; the training was rigorous and he worked very hard.

After three months of basic training, Marvin was sent to Quantico, Virginia, he was there less than a month; from there to the Naval Armory School at Toledo, Ohio for 90 days. It was at Toledo he studied Naval Storekeeping i. e. record keeping, ordering supplies and parts; upon graduating from the Naval Armory School Marvin was promoted to Private First Class. Then he was sent to Cherry Point Marine Base, Cherry Point, North Carolina and was assigned to a Marine Craft Group/Aviation Supply. Marvin was at Cherry Point for one year working as record keeper, typing, storekeeping and general work. The Marine Craft Group was preparing to ship out and, indeed, they did ship out in October 1943 to Camp Miramar, San Diego, CA.

Marvin stayed a month in San Diego, CA before shipping out to the Marshall Islands. Many of the islands were occupied by the Japanese but the United States Marines kept them subdued. His first island was the Samoa; while staying there a few months, his group, the Aviation Supply supported Marine Aircraft Group 41. From Samoa he was shipped to Wallace Island, he was there one month; the United States had not taken Kwajaline Atoll as yet, therefore, it was occupied by the Japanese. Marvin left Wallace Island and stayed off shore of Kwajaline Atoll for two to three days until the battle was finished and then went in with support. Kwajaline Atoll is the largest island and there are about 8 to 10 small islands in the Kwajaline group. He was stationed at Kwajaline Atoll for one year furnishing supplies to the Marine Air Group and to Air Squadrons. Upon leaving Kwajaline Atoll Marvin went to Roi Namur and it was here that Marvin was made Master Technical Sergeant; he was called in individually for the promotion in Rank. His group was called Quarter Master Service Squadron and in the group were supply clerks, mechanics and various support jobs for the Aircraft group.

January 1945 he was transferred to San Francisco and then on to the Marine Air Base, Quantico, VA. While at Quantico, VA, Marvin was in charge of an Aviation Shop for several months, also, while at Quantico, VA, the atomic bomb was dropped; Marvin was transferred to Cherry Point, NC and discharged October 18, 1945.

Written by Edith Thompson

## Marvin's World War II Military Medals and Meaning

Top left: Photograph of Marvin in his USMC uniform on enlistment when he was 19 years old.

Top right: Three service cap Marine insignias. Designed in 1868 the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor is the official emblem of the United States Marine Corps. The globe represents the Western Hemisphere, the eagle represents service worldwide, and the anchor represents the amphibious nature of a Marine's duties.

Second row right: USMC Honorable Discharge Button for honorable service.

Third row right: Military ribbons awarded and worn on the uniform:

- 1- USMC Combat Action ribbon
- 2- Asiatic-Pacific Campaign ribbon with 3 bronze stars
- 3- WW II Victory ribbon
- 4- USMC Overseas Service ribbon

Center medals:

- 1- USMC Combat Action Medal- established in 1969 and awarded retroactively for participation in combat action during WW II.
- 2- Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal- for service in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater during WW II and in active combat against the enemy. Bronze Stars represent participation in additional campaigns (battles).
- 3- World War II Victory Medal- for service within the Asiatic-Pacific Theater during WW II.
- 4- USMC Overseas Service Medal- established in 1987 and presented retroactively to honor all USMC who served in an overseas theater outside the US for more than 30 days.

Bottom center: Rifle Marksmanship Badge- awarded for training and qualification of firearms.

Bottom center (button): Honorable Service Lapel Pin (Ruptured Duck): presented for serving honorably. Origins of name "Ruptured Duck" is not known.

Bottom left: Combat Service Commemorative Coin

Bottom center: Dates of service in USMC

Bottom right: Overseas Service Commemorative Coin



RIFLE MARKSMAN



MARVIN JEREMY THOMPSON  
U.S. MARINE CORPS  
14 APR 1942 - 18 OCT 1945



01/28/2007

Marvin Thompson  
Military Medals