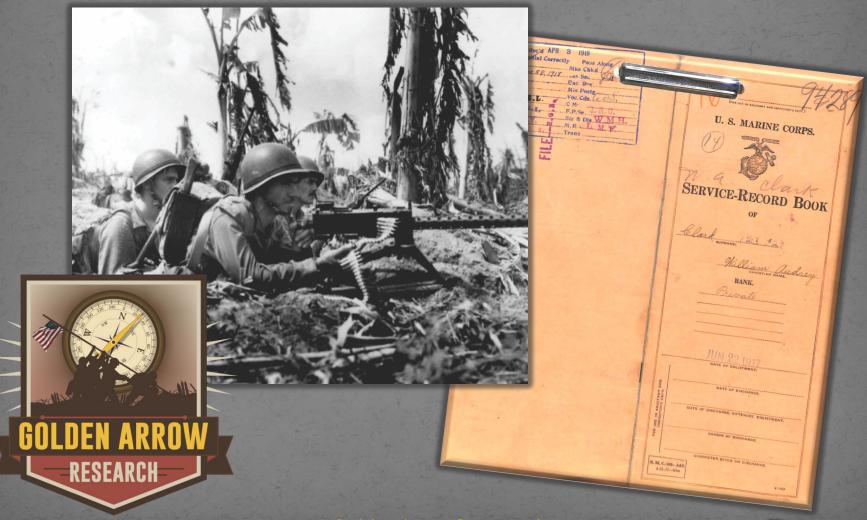
# USMC OMPF FILE



# **USING THE USMC OMPF FILE**

This presentation takes a close look at the documents generally found in a USMC Official Military Personnel File. While the file is primarily useful for discovering a veteran's service details, it contains a surprising amount of information that can help to further your personal family research.

SERVICE	FAMILY	PERSONAL
<ul> <li>Units</li> <li>Battles</li> <li>Awards</li> <li>Promotions</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Names</li> <li>Relationships</li> <li>Addresses</li> <li>Medical Records</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Photos</li> <li>Locations and Dates</li> <li>Correspondence</li> </ul>

### ENLISTMENT DOCUMENT

This is the first form completed when a recruit entered the service and is found in almost every USMC file. Valuable information from this form includes a physical description of the recruit, family details, and current address at time of enlistment.	<form></form>
the duties of a marine, and that his personal description is as follows. <u>Grey</u> eyes, <u>Dk.Bwn.</u> hair, <u>Fair</u> con weight <u>124</u> pounds, mean circumference <u>33</u> vision (Snellen) right <u>20/20</u> , left <u>16 / 20.</u> , indelible PM base r.neck. PS1/4"d upper abdomen. HM left thigh. PM between thorax. PS1/4"d between scap thigh back.	68     inches,       inches, expansion     4       inches,     inches,       or permanent marks upon his person:     Recenter       thigh. BLK3x2" upper left

# **USMC SERVICE BOOK**

The Service Book is the heart of a Marine Personnel File. Roughly 4x10 inches, it accompanied the Marine everywhere to record events.

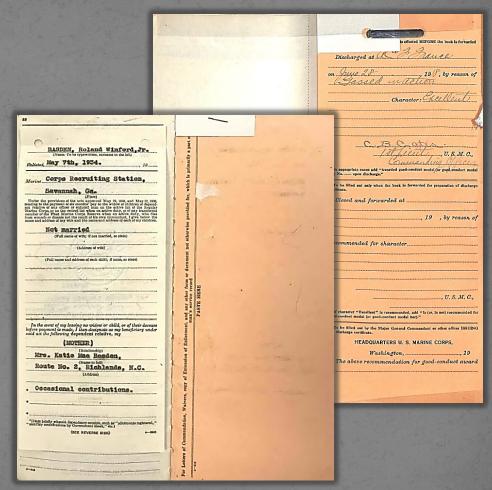
Each book consists of preprinted pages for pay, stations, personal information, and qualification entries. Other papers were pasted directly into the book as needed.

Occasionally information in these books is permanently obscured by these glued portions. For the safety of the documents, this glue is not usually removable.



## A NOTE ABOUT USMC SERVICE BOOKS

Marine Corps records are generally intact and unaffected by the 1973 fire which occurred at the Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, MO. While every individual file contains the same basic components, there are differences based on the time the file was produced.



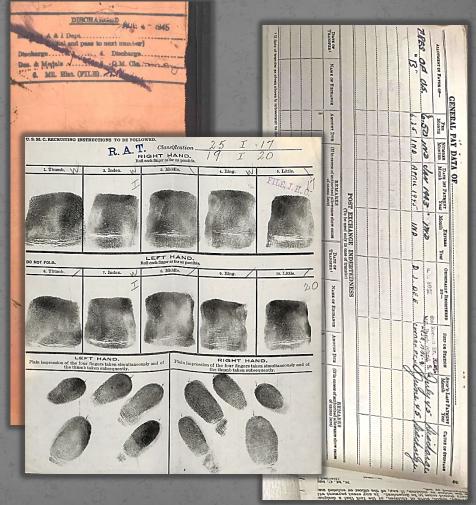
### A NOTE ABOUT USMC SERVICE BOOKS

A WWI era book is usually thinner than a WWII era book. Earlier books covered a shorter time period, while WWII service books allowed space for three year enlistments. Added bulk is in the form of extra blank pages and some expanded detail. WWII era books generally include more pasted slips and document copies as well.

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(MOTHER)	
Mrs. Katie Mae Basden.	
Route No. 2, Bichlands, N.C.	In the columns below draw one line in black lnk under those occupations at which you have worked; draw two lines under those at which you are an capert. After each underlined occupation write in years column
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# A NOTE ABOUT USMC SERVICE BOOKS

The books are simple tape or thread binding construction with heavy cardstock covers. Rarely do they lie completely flat, making them a challenge to photograph safely. When viewing a scan of a service book expect to find some distortion on the pages.



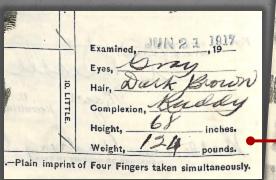
# **SERVICE BOOK: PERSONAL PAGES**

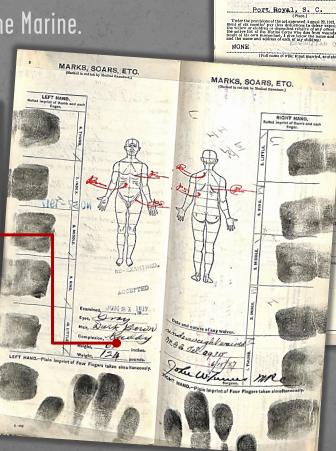
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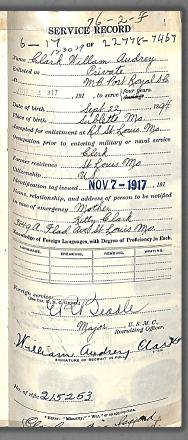
Barracks

JUN 22 19

Personal Information pages found in the Service Book allowed for accurate and rapid identification of the Marine.

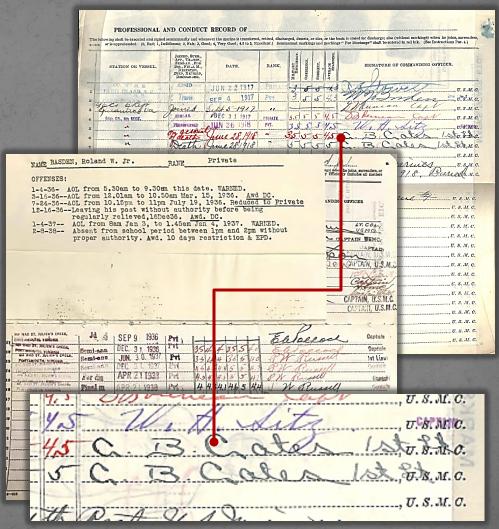






# **SERVICE BOOK: CONDUCT RECORDS**

When a Marine was moved to a new unit, his officer notated a conduct record which details the general performance level of the Marine. Historical service clues can also be found on these pages. Some officers went on to become famous and wellresearched figures in the Marine Corps. If your Marine served with them, it's possible that more detailed information on their time in the service is readily available.

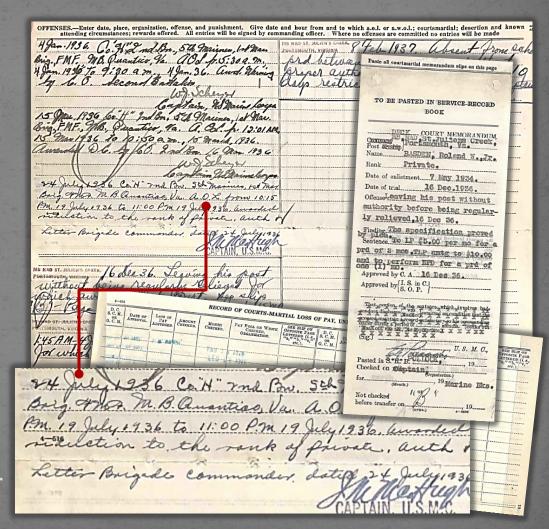


# **SERVICE BOOK: DISCIPLINE**

Details of offenses and punishments are found on these pages.

Discipline was swift, with the vast majority handled by the immediate commanding officer. Common punishments were extra duty, docked pay, and rank reduction.

A summary courts martial can appear here, while a more formal proceeding before a tribunal may be recorded as a separate case file.



# **SERVICE BOOK: BATTLE CREDITS**

This page contains details of a Marine's battle engagements and service credit.

Wounds received in action and commendations can appear here. This document provides a general map pointing to other documents which contain greater detail, such as unit orders and citation letters.

SERVICE, LETTERS OF COMMENDATION,

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# SERVICE BOOK: ARMS TRAINING

All Marines were required to be proficient with basic weapons. The arms training pages offer a record of extra skills acquired from special training courses. Skills acquired were then used in determining duty assignments. Training slips can also be found tucked elsewhere in the OMPF.

Qualified 2nd Class Swimmer

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# **SERVICE BOOK: PAY RECORDS**

Marines were generally paid on a regular schedule determined by their station. Active deployment and combat conditions sometimes caused a delay in payments. Pay records can be used to confirm a Marine's unit and location at a specific time.

JULIEN'S CREEK

AD ST. JULIEN'S CREEK

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### PHOTOGRAPHS

Upon enlistment, a Marine was fingerprinted for identification. Starting in the early part of the Twentieth century they were also photographed. While these photos are found in almost all post-WWII era USMC files, many earlier personnel files also contain a picture of the veteran. Marine files of those who served long term usually contain more than one photo taken at different points in their career.



# **VITAL RECORDS**

Both certified and original copies of vital records are sometimes found in the USMC OMPF file. Birth certificates and marriage licenses were presented for benefit changes and proof of age. Death certificates were issued by the Marine Corps.

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## **BENEFICIARY SLIPS**

A Marine selected a beneficiary for their standard life insurance policy upon enlistment. Most frequently this was a parent, but a spouse or sibling could be named.

These single sheet forms were also filed when a Marine wished to change their beneficiary. They are useful for tracking changes in a family due to marriage, divorce or death.

94289	
CLARK William Audrey	and the second second
Enlisted JUN 221917 191	
Marine Barracks	In the clease of the death of the above-named dependent relative before perment is made. I then desirate as my bendent relative said act the following dependent relative, my Nodependent relative.
Port Royal, S. C.	Nodependent relative
(Place.)	(Relationship.)
Under the provisions of the act approved Aurent 22, 312, relating to the pay- ment of six mealther pay (tess deductions to define y argues of thetements by the widow or childran or dependent relative of any officer or emilisted mana em- tis active list of the Marine Corps who dies from wounds or disease not the result of his own misconduct, I give below the name and address of my will and the name and address of scene of only children:	(Name in full.)
NONE	*(Address.)
(Full name of wife; if not married, so state.)	*
NONE (Address of wrfe.)	
(Full name and address of each child; if none, so state.)	201-1
("un nation and nodress of eleft entitit, it none, so state.)	*State briefly wherein dependency consists.
2000 200	I do solemnly even (or aftrm) that the facts stated and disclosed in the foregoing beneficiary slip are true to the best of my knowledge and ber
rtyauro	My
DATOPIO	Marliam Gendrey Class Private
	Private
	(Rauk.) U. S. Marine Corps.
	Subscribed and morn to before me this
In the event of my leaving no widow or child, or of their decease before payment is made, I then designate as my beneficiary under said act the following dependent relative, my	any oy, 191
	[SEAL.]
Mother (Relationship.)	Major U. S. M. C.
Kitty Clark (Name in full.)	Executive Officer
3849A Flad Ave.,	It must affirmatively appear hereouther the earny before whom the above in was made had authority to addinate or addinate of the second before the second be
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*(State briefly wherein dependency consists, such as "allotments registered," "monthly contributions by Government check," etc.)	Hard Trans The form the form the form of the form o
(SEE REVERSE SIDE.)	
e—2951	

### **INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS**

Each Marine was offered a standard military war risk insurance policy. They could choose to augment the policy by purchasing extra coverage. Additionally, they could elect to have a portion of their pay directed to the support of a family member or toward the purchase of war bonds. These forms and the changes to them give us a glimpse into the Marine's responsibilities and family situation outside of the military.

	VETERANE JOHNSTATION #32	+ f
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BUYAN TARA PYTA PI 1944	573 Plymouth St., Wilkes Barre Pa.	This application must be sent to the War Department, Navy Department, or Marine Corps, as indicated in instructions, depending on whether your last service was in the Afray, Navy, Coast Guard,
I, BHIAN, James Loon 'V', U.S.M. C.R. First pay't: Month <u>1978</u> , Your <u>1948</u> (Burnaw) (Burladia same), U.S.M. C.R. First pay't: Month <u>1978</u> , Your <u>1948</u> do allot the sum stated above per month of my pay: Number of mos. Indefinite	B. I WAS Car, two, or post office State Day of month Musch Year Approved Solar AT Wilkes Barre Pa 15 June 1923 20	or Marine Corps. Use the envelope provided for this purpose, with the proper address frinted on it.
do allot the sum stated above per month of my pay; Number of mos. Indefinite	rson may carry a combined amount of National Service Life Insurance and U. S. Jovernment Life Insurance in excess of \$10,000 at any one time)	READ INSTRUCTIONS OVER CAREFULLY Application
and do appoint the person named below my attorney Enlistment Allotment	PULL NAME OF RENETICIARY Balainshin Amount for Protociliant	the Secretary of Way or Secretary of the Navy. 94299
	ed woman, her own first and middle name and husband's last name must be stated) (Number and street, city, town, or post office)	The following statements are made by me in support of my claim for Adjusted Compensa-
Allottee, the table of the	and the second	n under the provisions of the World War Adjusted Compensation Act:
Veterans Administration Jan	Victoria Petroski Mother 10.000 573 Plymouth St.	Name of veteran:
Washington, D. C. Feb.	Wilkes-Barre, Pa	- Clark, William andrey Serial No.
Date of registry: MAY 5 1944 Mar.	"likes-parre, ra	
x Jumes Lean Bryan Apr	Clemen & Petroski Brother same	Present address of votoren or dependent 3.7.189 Concisiona aus
Degistered:		St. Louis musouri
June July an NOTICE	Permitted class of beneficiaries: Husband or wife, child, parent, brother or sister of the insured. (See reverse side, Paragraph 4.)	- Dato of birth of veteran dist 33, 1893 at Sublette, 3210
ALLOTMENT STOP NOTICE	S Wilkee Barre, Pa	(Month) (Day) (Yaar) (Cayy (Bate)
		4. Original entry into World War service in the Army, Navy, Ceast Guard, or Marine Corps
A Non-Contract that my allotment, as described hereon, be stopped by reason of     BRVAIL James LeOn     BRVAIL (All search and described hereon)     A Non-Contract and described hereon.     BRVAIL Search and described hereon.     BRVAIL Sea	5 commonsy Clemen of Petrocki Brother same	Was as a Private on June 22, 1917
U. S. Discharge 274pr46 SERIAL No. 556970	Permised class of headdactor: Rushed for with shift, parent, bother or shife of the parent. Gas reverse side, Perspecific L.)	a St. Louis mo.
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(Resident of pression) AMOUNT - July 1944	Construction and allocated or excitationing for deviations for secondary protocols that means it use primiting in deviation with a speciatary sector approximation of the speciation and indiced protocols are made and the special second protocols are made and the special second protocols are as made as a special second protocol are as a special second protocol	( (182)
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ENTERED in activity with a sector with a sec	AND	from to \$
Personnel-Officer (Use by Alistinian County)	H. W. COULTER, Jr. Communication of the second state of the second	from to
C To: Marine Corps Allotment Officer.		
CTo: Marine Corps Automatic	HOTA. Accounts for fixed is scenaring for and re-account that here a very very of a formation (1,000 w 33,000 for and imprimentant). Descenare will be forcided for the second or the specified or formant, detailed for the second or the specified or formant. (1,01, and UE), Network of all all here in the forcided for the specified or formant. (1,01, and UE), Network of all here in the force in the specified or formation (1,000 for a second or for all here in the force in the specified or formation).	8. Character given on discharge certificate
page is requested by reason of Discharge	DO NOT USE THIS SPACE	Item 9 will be filled in only by men whose service or part of whose service was in the Marine Corps
Copy fornished custodian of service record book. E. C. FORD.     (NO(PH)USMC.	Effective Age Amt, 8 Premium: Me. 8 Qr. 8 . A. 8	
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### CORRESPONDENCE

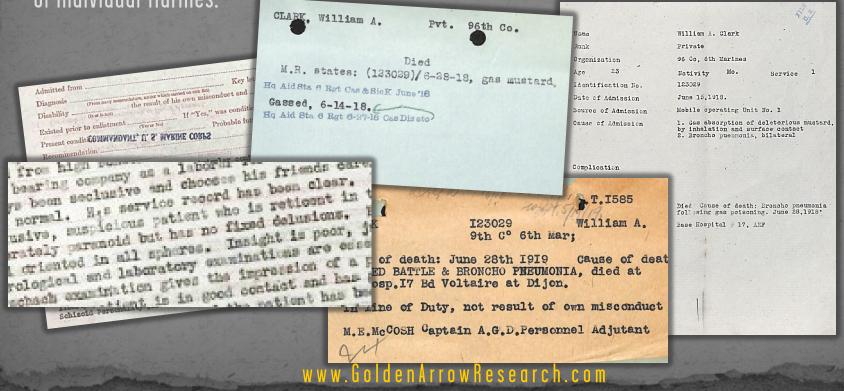
A wide variety of letters appear in an OMPF. Handwritten letters frequently appear stored with copies of official responses. The subjects vary widely, as do the writers. Family and friends requesting news or providing information are common, as are clergy or professionals writing on behalf of the family. These are among the most personal of documents in an OMPF.

94289 ACC-fnk Thanking you for the information 556970 DGU-893-sat if available . Repetfully yurs. 25 June. 1945. September 29, 1936. Each M& Grunt. 406 8.8het Joseph . Dear Sir: Topelaa Har This office has been informed of the change of address of Mrs. Kitty A. Olark, mother of milliam Audrey Olark, decembed, from 4022 Lafayatte avenue, to 3718a Louisiana Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri. une 30;1920 My dear Mr. and Mrs. Bryan: A brief report has just been received that your son, Frivate First Class Janes L. Bryan, USMCR, is suf-faring from combat fatigue. The report further states that he was transferred for medical treatment on 6 June, last Mrs. Clark's application for adjusted compensation was certified to your bureau on May 8, 1928, under number A-64,729. Headquarters U.S. Mairie Carpe. 1945. Adjitant and Duspeter Rept. Sincerely yours, Your anxiety is realized, and you may be sure that any additional detials or information received will be forwarded to you at the earliest possible moment. Please notify this office of any change in your address. Mar Dira . I would greatly R. H. JESCHKE, Major, Asst. Adjutant & Inspector, U. S. Marine Corps. appreciate the address of the neverthe Sincerely yours, 10r 8 1850 CIGNOOHDI. Jein of Pat. W.a. Clarke of 96 Co. 67 68236 Mairice who was killed as near as D. ROUTH, Lieut. Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps. I can accertain constring in fune 1914 in the Chateau Sheery sector . Hispan 12 6 W1 2 10 026 I felieve lived in At Louis. Mo. at WARINE CORPS. Director of Insurance, U. S. Teterans Administration, Washington, D. C. that time . HITE - C'E'T Mr. and Mrs. Leon H. Bryan, 321 Third Street, Mreka, California. 91

# **MEDICAL DOCUMENTS**

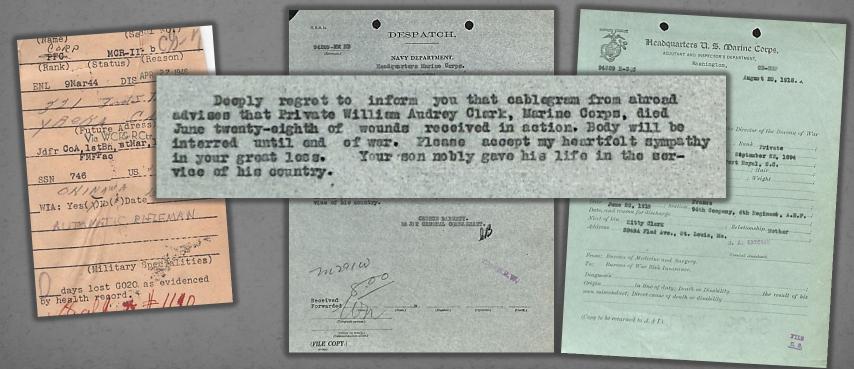
Medical records are often found inside the OMPF. Medical records can include physicals, field hospital routing slips, and physician reports. They also provide locations where treatment was given. Typically, these records detail a medical discharge or wounds received in action. More complete medical records are found in the separate medical files

of individual Marines.



# CASUALTY RECORDS

In military terms 'casualty' refers to illness, injury, loss or death. Each event generated various types of records commonly found in the OMPF file. Notification letters, telegrams, hospital receipts, and more offer details of casualties. For Marines who were killed in action, further information can be found in a separate burial case file.



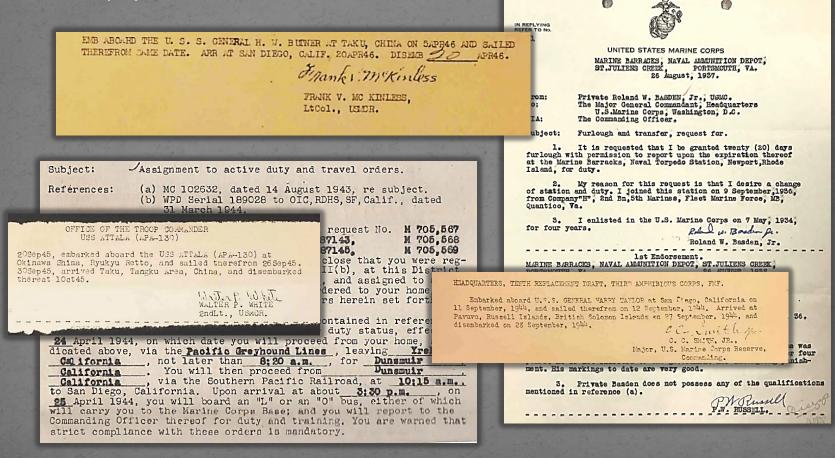
# **UNIT ORDERS**

Orders are frequently included in the USMC OMPF file. These records document status changes such as promotions, special assignments, or separation from the service. Unit orders often contain lists of men who served in the same unit. These rosters can be used as potential leads for further research.

PIRST MANUTA ATREASUARTERS SQUAREN	1990-30-65-35 FIRST PATUALION, FIRST MARINES,
PIRST MANUTA ATREASUT VINO, FLET MARINE FORDE	028/106 FIVED MARINE DIVISION, FLETE MARINE GORDE,
CARE OF FLET FORT OFFICE, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA	21 December, 1944.
1 July, 1944.	PATUALION PROMOTION ORDER) - Promotions, line duty, temporary,
SQUARCH FRONTION CREEN	NUMBER 37-44)
JULANCE FOOL FOR THE FORMATION FOR THE STATE OF THE STATE	USMCR       1-HQCO-23.         USMCR       1-HQCO-23.         USMCR       1-A-23.         USMCR       1-A-23.         USMCR       1-A-23.         USMCR       1-A-23.         USMCR       1-C-23.         USMCR       2-HQCO-23.         USMCR       2-HQCO-23.         USMCR       2-HQCO-23.         USMCR       2-HQCO-23.         USMCR       2-HC23.         USMCR       2-HC3.         USMCR       2-HC3.         USMCR       2-F-23.         USMCR       2-F-23.

# TRAVEL AND FURLOUGH

A Marine's time in the service was fully accounted for, including time off. Travel papers can be used to pinpoint locations and dates.



# SERVICE SUMMARIES

These useful documents provide a comprehensive look at a Marine's service details. The larger cards were used for reference during active duty and include information on education, civilian occupation, family, personal interests and skills. It contains rich detail about a Marine's pre-enlistment life.

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# SERVICE SUMMARIES

The summary slips were provided as documentation of service for post-discharge use.

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	CAUSTLD FOR PERIOD OF WAR
BASDEN,	CLARK,
Roland Winford, Jr.	William Audrey
BORN: 5 June 1915	BORN:22_September 1004
AT:Richlands,N.C.	June 6-1917
NEXT OF KIN: Katic M. Basden-MOTHER	AT:St_Louis, Ho.
Rte #2, Richlands, N.C.	ENLISTED: June 99 1015
APPLIED: MR.Y. 7, 1934.	AT: PORT ROYAL, S. C.
AT:Savanneh, Ge.	
ENLISTED May 7, 1934.	PRIOR SERVICE.
AT: Savennah, Ca. MB Parris I., S.C. Rizestri	
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96th Go.QUANTICO, NA. Sharoshooter 8-17-17 M QO.167 Series 1917 FURLO DEC 2 2 1917 TO DEC 3 1 1917 Imbarked Henderson Jan InFrance Serve with Army from Feb 8, 18 DIFD. JUN 28 1918 of wounds received in ection. Buried at Dijon Cote D. or Municipal Cam. of Pejoces. Polygoner #4 Grover \$311, France

# **RANK AND PROMOTION DOCUMENTS**

Documentation of a Marine's rank changes appears in multiple places in an OMPF file. Always noted in the service book, more detail can be found in certificates and orders. Enlisted personnel historically form the bulk of the Marine Corps, either as volunteers or draftees. Non-Commissioned Warrant Officers are drawn from enlisted ranks, based on time and experience. Commissioned officers enter the Marine Corps as officers, after completing post-secondary education. Battlefield promotions from enlisted to officer are rare, and were temporary unless permanently confirmed. Both the highest and final ranks appear on separation documents.

FIRST MARIES AIRCRAFT WING, FLEET MARINE FORCE CARE OF FLEET POST OFFICE, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNI	N.M. C. IIId-Adi United States Marine Corps Eostquarters, First Strine Brigade.	VIATICN munication, Line, Mes. etc.) 560, da ted 1Mar43. TO RANK FROM Manual or M. G. C. in. (data) 31 July, 1043.
SQUADRON PROMOTION CRDER)	From: Commanding Officer.	2165-15-50-5/awm OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER MARTINE CORFS RASE SAN DUROP, ACO ALTORNIA
Seference:       (a) Ltr HC-190704, dated 278044.         (b) Ltr HC-153207, dated 23N0v43.         1.       In accordance with the suthority contained reference (a) and (b), the below named mea re hereby protothe rank indicated, effective this date, to rank from same the rank indicated.         Model:       OBPORAL (AVIATION DUTY) "TEMPORARY":         1.       FFG LAUR, Robert E.         2.       FFG LAUR, Robert E.	To: Private Beland & BASLER, Jr., U.S.N.C. You are hereby appointed a PRIVATE FIRST CLASS in Clinited States Marine Corps from and including this date. Auth NOC 1tr 2165-15/7-555, ACL-rrk, dated 4 May, 1356. FIRELATE FOR THE MAJOR OFFICE & OFFICE Str. BELGES.	26 April, 1946. Base Promotion Order ) Fusher
3. PFC MAULDIN, Fred G. 476036 4. PFC JOHNSTON, Winston D. 458947 5. PFC CONADETTI, William L. 458852		No. Rank Promoted Mane Serial Type of Warrant

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# AWARDS AND CITATIONS

In addition to notations in the service book, separate detailed award documentation is sometimes found in the OMPF. These documents can provide a detailed description of heroics performed in combat as well as the medals to which the Marine was entitled for gallantry in action.

"A valiant rifleman who put several enemy snipers out of action. try Medd with ribbon, together to. as indicates below, to which the of the late Privits William A. iment, W.S. Marines: Was an example of bravery and coolness." Cense Battle Clasp Sector Battle Clasp Subject: During the engagement against the enemy at St. mihiel on the 12th of ark cher -Sept. 1918, Sgt. Ople L Waggoner was zeriously wounded in the right Enclosures: chest by a fragment of high explosive. This authorizes the wearing of two wound chevrons in accordance with GO 110 GHQ AEF Series 1918. 1 re-res no direction of t Divisio 78th Co. 6th Reg. sain entitle as next of kin of the late Private During the engagement against th 96th Company, 6th Regiment, U.S. Marines: morning of June 14, 1918 Sgt. Diam the face by a piece of shraphne gas. 1 Aisne Defense Battle Clasp During the engagement against Sept. 1918, Sgt. Ople L Waggone 1 Defensive Sector Battle Clasp chest by a fragment of high exp of two wound chevrons in accord 2 Bronze Stars "A valiant rifleman who put several enemy snipers out of action. .R. Mueller, Lt. MC.USN. Was an example of bravery and coolness. www.GoldenArrowResearch.com

November 27, 1920.

# THE SEPARATION DOCUMENT

A Marine received several forms upon separation from the Marine Corps. The most important of these was the Report of Separation. It contains a brief summary of enlistment, training, battle credit, military occupational specialty, and personal details. This document

determined access to military benefits when active duty ended.

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# **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

If you are interested in researching a US Marine Corps veteran, please visit us at goldenarrowresearch.com to request the records of your Marine.

Every scrap of information in a Marine Corp OMPF file leads to other potential resources. Some items are available on the internet, while others are found only among the holdings of various archives and military organizations.

Golden Arrow specializes in identifying and locating these records. Additional records for researching your Marine Corps veteran include

Individual Deceased Personnel File (IDPF) WWI Burial File Pension File Medical Records Unit Records





I hope that you found this presentation helpful. If you think that others may be interested in learning more about researching a family member who served in the US Military, please share this video on social media and let others know about the services we provide!

"Every veteran has a unique story. The mission of Golden Arrow Research is to document your individual veteran's wartime experiences, allowing you to better understand and also preserve the history of their military service. Our expert research team is on-site daily at multiple archival facilities. We use our exclusive research process to trace your individual veteran, showing you where they were and what they did during the war. Let us help you to tell your veteran's story."