

COMPANY ROSTER

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TINIAN: JIG DAY

BANZAI

J+1

J+2

J+3

J+4

J+5

J+6

J+7

J+8

J+9

MOP UP

AFTER ACTION REPORT

This is a rough approximation of Able Company's strength and assignments when they landed on Tinian.

The number of casualties suffered by the company led to reshuffling of squads and some changes in leadership, which are not necessarily recorded on the muster rolls. In some cases, I have made my best-educated guess.

Names in *italics* were temporarily assigned from the Second Marine Division.

Able Company strength: 114

Temporary Attachments: 24

Total Strength: 138

COMPANY HEADQUARTERS

Captain [Irving Schechter](#) (Commanding Officer)
Gunnery Sergeant [Walter Russell](#)
Sergeant [Kenneth Gann](#)
Corporal [Virgil Cawood](#) (Driver)
Corporal [Richard Smart](#) (MOS 937)
PFC [Sylvan McKinley](#) (Cobbler)
PFC [Richard Raisner](#) (Intelligence Observer)
PFC [Robert Walton](#) (MOS 500)

Cooks

2nd Lt. [Paul Rossi](#)
Chief Cook [Henry Hufnagle](#)
Chief Cook [John Gibson](#)

Field Music Section

FM1c [Harold Fritz](#)
FM1c [Lester Spangler](#)

Duty Section

Sergeant [Joseph Leitch](#)
Corporal [Philip Hutson](#)
Corporal [Jeff Jowers](#)
PFC [George Hall](#)
PFC [James McAdams](#)
PFC [Leo Polverini](#)
PFC [Henry Purdy](#)
PFC [Willard Roberts](#)
PFC [Henry Schramm](#)
PFC [Herman Schwabl](#)
PFC [Edward Sheridan](#)
Private [Cyril Rail](#)
Private [Charles Smith](#)
Private [Raymond VanDam](#)

MORTAR SECTION

Sergeant [Wilbur Plitt](#) (Squad Leader)
Corporal [Howard Haff](#) (Squad Leader)
Corporal [Claude Henderson](#) (Squad Leader)

PFC [John Franey](#) (Gunner)
PFC [Frank Gosiewski](#) (Gunner)
PFC [Leo Ksiekievicz](#) (Gunner)
PFC [Edward Lykins](#) (Gunner)

PFC [Richard Powell](#) (Gunner)
PFC [Bartholomew Wanagaitis](#) (Gunner)

PFC [Ronald Bartels](#) (Ammunition Carrier)
PFC [Ronald Palmer](#) (Ammunition Carrier)
PFC [Donald Peters](#) (Ammunition Carrier)
PFC [Philip Procida](#) (Ammunition Carrier)
PFC [Joe Roff](#) (Ammunition Carrier)
PFC [Kenneth Shea](#) (Ammunition Carrier)
PFC [James Schultz](#) (Ammunition Carrier)

RIFLE PLATOONS

1st Lt. [Roy Wood](#) (Third Platoon)
2nd Lt. [James Cuddihy](#) (*Platoon Leader*)
2nd Lt. [Leonard Hancock](#) (*Platoon Leader*)

Platoon Sergeant [Parker McBride](#)
Platoon Sergeant [Stephen Vinczi](#)

Messengers

Cpl [Robert Fleischauer](#)
Cpl [William Loutzenhiser](#)
PFC [Paul Scanlon](#)

Squad and Fire Team Leaders

Sergeant [Michael Frihauf](#)
Sergeant [Randall Glawe](#)
Sergeant [Oscar Hanson](#)
Sergeant [Edward Horan](#)
Sergeant [William Linkins](#)
Sergeant [George Lowry](#)
Sergeant [Leo Mann](#)
Corporal [James Chvatal](#)
Corporal [Henry Denson](#)
Corporal [Paul Geckle](#)
Corporal [Donald Hart](#)
Corporal [LeRoy Miller](#)
Corporal [Howard Smith](#)

Riflemen

Cpl [Leon Roquet](#)
Cpl [Clyde Yates](#)
PFC [James Adams](#)

PFC [Kenneth Boylan](#)
PFC [Richard Brodnicki](#)
PFC [Bernard Elissagaray](#)
PFC [Charles Fischer](#)
PFC [Wallace Holt](#)
PFC [Junior Jones](#)
PFC [Clyde Mason](#)
PFC [Hubert Mauney](#)
PFC [Eugene Morris](#)
PFC [Jerome Quimby](#)
PFC [George Raspotnik](#)
PFC [Donald Roxburgh](#)
PFC [Stanley Rudolewicz](#)
PFC [Lionel Salazar](#)
PFC [Robert Santerre](#)
PFC [Charles Seader](#)
PFC [George Secor](#)
PFC [Alexander Selle](#)
PFC [Kenneth Wilson](#)
PFC [Leonard Yush](#)
Private [Earl Crom](#)
Private [Claude Godwin](#)
Private [Edwin Groot](#)
Private [Johnny Haynes](#)
Private [Rafaello Salvato](#)
Private [John Schoeberlin](#)
Private [Albert Siebenaler](#)
Private [Robert Sievertson](#)
Private [Joseph Sexson](#)
Private [Albert Smith](#)
Private [Cecil Tolley](#)

Automatic Riflemen (BAR)

PFC [James Davis](#)
PFC [John Donnelly](#)
PFC [Robert Gamboa](#)
PFC [Armand Guyot](#)
PFC [Robert Harris](#)
PFC [Cecil Hendershot](#)
PFC [Robert Larson](#)
PFC [Joe Locke](#)
PFC [George Marion](#)
PFC [Virgil McNutt](#)
PFC [Gustave Pappas](#)

PFC [Robert Price](#)
PFC [William Rewerts](#)
PFC [Raymond Roche](#)
PFC [Edward Solak](#)
PFC [Peteus Staeyert](#)
PFC [Roger Trimble](#)
PFC [Alva Perry](#) (Scout)
PFC [Frederic Preite](#) (Scout)
PFC [Kenneth Whitehurst](#)
Private [Charles Shearer](#)

MACHINE GUN PLATOON

Gunnery Sergeant [Thomas Drake](#)

Sergeant [John Donahue](#) (Section Leader)
Corporal [Luther Diehl](#) (Ammunition NCO)
PFC [William Peck](#) (Messenger)
PFC [James Pritchett](#) (Messenger)

Sergeant [Thomas Hurley](#) (Squad Leader)
Corporal [George Svoboda](#) (Squad Leader)
Corporal [Edward DuBeck](#) (Squad Leader)

PFC [Peter Colombo](#) (Gunner)
PFC [John Cuthbertson](#) (Gunner)
PFC [Glen Doster](#) (Gunner)
PFC [Richard Grosch](#) (Gunner)
PFC [Peter Pecori](#) (Gunner)
PFC [Louis Pendleton](#) (Gunner)
PFC [Joseph Peterpaul](#) (Gunner)

PFC [Theodore Droszcz](#) (Ammunition Carrier)
PFC [Merle Geesaman](#) (Ammunition Carrier)
PFC [Amedeo Izzo](#) (Ammunition Carrier)
PFC [Howard Kerr](#) (Ammunition Carrier)
PFC [William Pettyjohn](#) (Ammunition Carrier)

The Battle of Tinian: July 25, 1944

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AFTER ACTION REPORT

The 4th Marine Division shook itself off and peered out of its foxholes. Behind them, perhaps one hundred Marines stumbled back to their aid stations, or were carried back on stretchers. Before them lay 1,241 Japanese bodies and the smoking hulks of five tanks. In one impetuous assault, Japanese commander Colonel Ogata had destroyed a seventh of his garrison, and nearly half his tanks. The 23rd, 24th, and 25th Marines, along with 1/8, had scored an overwhelming victory.

The Marines collected themselves, took care of their wounded and bade farewell to the dead. They were so low on ammunition that the order to advance was delayed three hours until 1000. The remainder of the day was to be spent landing the 2nd Division, and expanding the beachhead.

The first elements of the 2nd Division - the balance of the 8th Marines - began landing shortly after 0900. 1/8 was attached to the 24th Marines, and replaced the battered companies of 1/24 on the front lines. The rest of the division landed piecemeal over the small White beaches over the rest of the day.

The 4th Division began to move inland. The 23rd Marines faced only light opposition, while the 25th Marines ran into a more serious fight on Mt. Maga. The assault was coordinated with heavy mortars and tanks - the wide open plains of Tinian made for excellent teamwork between the tankers and the infantry - and by afternoon they had overrun one of the island's most intimidating natural obstacles.

The 24th, meanwhile, broke out in two different directions; 2/24 headed to the south, while 3/24 made for the east coast. 1/24, badly mangled the night before, stayed in reserve. The two assault battalions moved forward with a thin line of skirmishers closely following tanks. They would repeat this highly effective tactic each day for the rest of the campaign.



The 8th Marines advance through Tinian's cane fields, supporting an M4 Sherman medium tank. Official USMC Photo.

The Division's artillery regiment, the 14th Marines, had their worst day of the entire campaign. Their First Battalion's fire direction center took a direct hit from enemy artillery, killing the battalion commander, the intelligence officer, the operations officer, and seven others. Fourteen were wounded. The 14th put the commanding heights of Mt. Lasso under heavy concentration, and together with supporting aircraft blasted two large guns that were frowning down on the Americans.

Marine infantry tied in securely that night along their objective line. The bulk of two divisions were ashore, and the Japanese seemingly too exhausted to try another counterattack. Occasional attempts at infiltration were handily put down. One flare-up along the right flank of the 24th Marines was later described by Lt. Victor Maghakian, commanding a recon platoon attached to the 24th:

After getting the men in position... I went on a reconnaissance.... I spotted a large enemy patrol coming down the road with a scout out in front.

After seeing that they moved into position in a cane field about 50 feet from my platoon, I crawled back and told Captain Key [commanding the division reconnaissance company] what I planned to do.

In the meantime the Japs were digging in and were making a lot of noise talking and did not suspect that we were so close.... I passed the word down the line to open up and fire rapid fire into the cane field, knee-high grazing fire, upon my signal.

...we opened up and let them have it as fast as we could pull our triggers. They began screaming... and making awful noises. Then after a few minutes I ordered my platoon to fall back to the division lines because I was afraid that maybe our own division might fire on us.

After falling back, I reported what happened, and our troops opened up... with mortar and machine gun fire.

Next morning I took my platoon back to the road junction and the cane field and found between 35 and 40 dead Japs in that area. I did not lose a man that night.

- quoted in Maj. Carl Hoffman, The Seizure of Tinian

On one of the hospital ships waiting offshore, Corporal [Howard Haff](#) was carried below decks and made comfortable. Haff had seen many of his friends in the weapons platoon wounded and killed, but had escaped injury until the Tinian landing. He was scared and alone, but the young corporal was determined not to show it. As he took stock of his surroundings, he was overjoyed to notice that he recognized the man in the bed next to him. Haff leaned over to talk to fellow corporal [Claude Henderson](#), and stopped short.

Henderson had been shot through the throat, and couldn't speak.

Howie Haff probably thought back to the time that the boys in the weapons platoon had found Claude's extra blouse in his seabag. Everyone knew that

Claude wanted to be an NCO more than anything, and sometimes he forgot that he was only a PFC like his friends. When they found the blouse with the two stripes of a corporal already sewn on, George Smith remembered, "boy, we would never let him go!" Despite all the teasing, they liked Claude, and when he was finally made a corporal they celebrated with him.

Claude Henderson died in his bed that night, strangling on his own phlegm.

Able Company Casualties, July 25, 1944

Killed:



Sergeant [William Pinkney Linkins, Jr.](#) Age 21. Fragment wound, head.



PFC [Richard Joseph Brodnicki.](#) Age 23. Bullet wound, forehead.

PFC [Charles Edward Seader.](#) Age 19.

Private [Joseph Dale Sexson.](#) Age 18.

Died of Wounds:



Corporal [Claude T. Henderson, Jr.](#) Age 24. Bullet wound, throat.

Wounded:

Sergeant [George M. Lowry](#)

Corporal [Howard F. Haff](#)

Corporal [Wallace Morgan Holt](#) (second wound)

PFC [Winston McKay Cabe](#) (second wound)

PFC [Amadeo A. Izzo](#)

PFC [Howard M. Kerr](#) (second wound)

PFC [William Ralph Pettyjohn](#)

PFC [George Raspotnik](#)

PFC [Joe Westley Roff](#) [*Roff was listed as MIA on the battalion muster rolls; evidently he had been hit and in the confusion had taken off to find medical help on his own.*]

PFC [Robert U. Santerre](#)

PFC [George W. Secor](#)

PFC [Kenneth J. Shea](#)

Field Music 1c [Harold J. Fritz](#) (not evacuated)

Private [Ronald Paul Bartels](#)

Private [Joe Preston Locke](#)

Private [Albert F. Smith](#)

Private [Edward J. Solak](#)

Private [Cecil Ray Tolley](#)

Total: 23