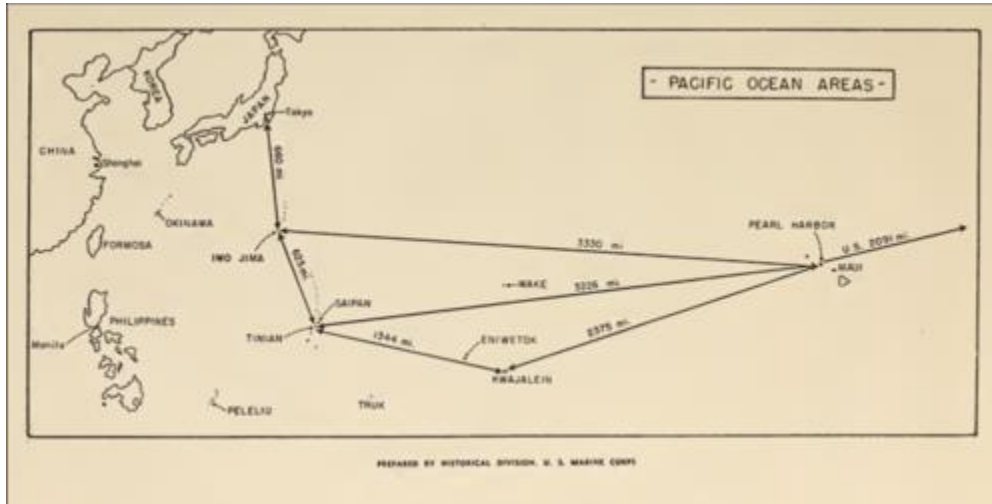


## PMM BLOG ARCHIVE

February 18, 2021

### Iwo Jima, a Pennsylvania Story

(T. Gum, Site Admin., Pennsylvania Military Museum)



Operation Detachment is the official name of the Battle of Iwo Jima, in 1945. During this period of time, US forces captured the Marshall Islands along with the Marianas Islands, and the island of Truk Atoll was devastated by the many bombing raids, forcing the Imperial Japanese Army to reinforce areas to thereby counter the American Offensive.

The goal of Operation Detachment was to capture the island of Iwo Jima, including the three airfields. Further, the operation had two key objectives; establish a staging area for further attacks on the Japanese islands, and to destroy the ends, ways, and means that provided strategic capabilities of Japanese interceptor planes.

From the perspective of many Marines, including Mr. Samuel Holubec of Bellefonte, PA, the battle for the island would be hard-fought, a clear distinction from the peaceful hills of Centre County.

Holubec enlisted in the United States Marines in March of 1944, as part of Company B, Signal Corps Battalion, HQ Troops but would find himself attached to 3rd Battalion, 13th Artillery Regiment, V Amphibious Group (5th Marine Division) during the battle.

Discharged (hon) marine 8/16/46. Points: 0663

**REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after January 1, 1922 and on or before June 30, 1924)**

SERIAL NUMBER N	1. NAME (Print) Samuel T. Holubec		ORDER NUMBER 19991
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) R.D. 3 Bellefonte Centre Pa.			
3. MAILING ADDRESS Same			
4. TELEPHONE Bellefonte 6242	5. AGE IN YEARS 18	6. PLACE OF BIRTH Pleasant Gap Pa.	
DATE OF BIRTH June 2 1924			
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mrs. Mrs. Holubec - R.D. 3 - Bellefonte - Pa.			
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS Unemployed			
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS			

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

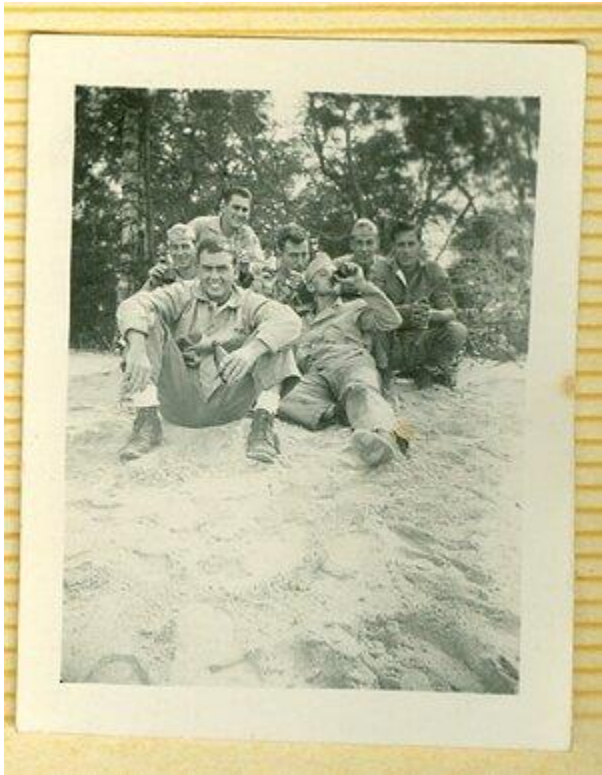
D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 6-1-42) (over) e16-21630-3 Samuel Holubec (Registrant's signature)

**IMPERIAL DOMAIN OF THE GOLDEN DRAGON**

This is to certify that  
Holubec, Samuel T. Pvt. 939157

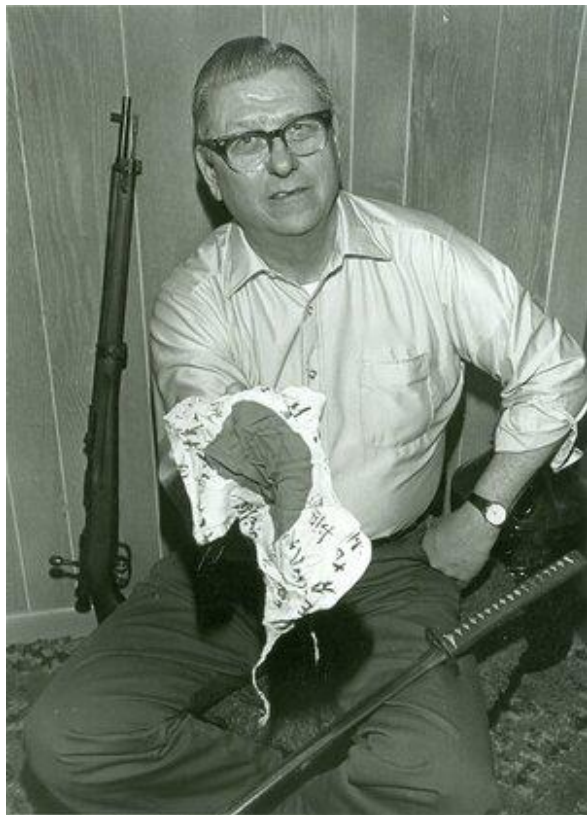
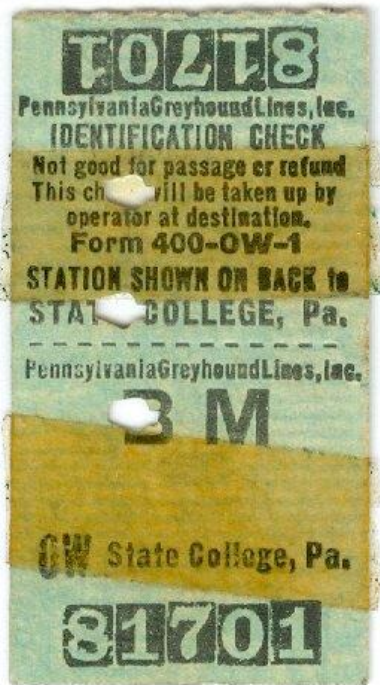
was duly inducted into the  
**SILENT MYSTERIES OF THE FAR EAST**  
having crossed the 180th Meridian  
this 29<sup>th</sup> Day 9<sup>th</sup> Month 45<sup>th</sup> Year  
in Latitude 19° 06' N on board  
the U. S. S. RENATE (AKA-36) enroute to Saipan

(Seal) Ruler of the 180th Meridian









The adjacent artifacts are part of the permanent collection of the Pennsylvania Military Museum, donated by Mr. Holubec after the War. Worth noting, in its entirety, the collection allows us to follow him from enlistment, through the battle and returning home – including his bus tickets from the final trip home. Also part of the collection is his personal photographs.



Holubec arrived on Iwo Jima aboard LST #782, as part of the 5th Marines. Over the course of the subsequent weeks, Holubec and his brothers-in-arms would fight tenaciously for control of the island.

In the end, there were 26,040 US casualties, including 6,821 troopers killed in action. Years later, the battle of Iwo Jima would play a significant role in studies of strategic objectives, use of manpower and assets, and lead many to wonder... was it worth it?