

Rough Timeline of Fred Oerly's Military Service

Ship from San Diego, CA to the S. Pacific took 38 days, serpentine across the ocean to avoid enemy attack.

New Caledonia
Guadalcanal
New Caledonia
Guadalcanal
Bougainville
Guadalcanal
Guam
Guadalcanal
Saipan & Tinian
Guadalcanal
Okinawa
Guadalcanal

That's six times on Guadalcanal before catching the ship home to San Diego

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| September 1942 | Enlisted in US Marines - Following Boot Camp, Fred attended 12 weeks of training in Los Angeles |
| Mid January, 1943 | Boarded ship for 38 day trip to New Caledonia (crossed equator 6 times) |
| Late February, 1943 | Fred arrives in New Caledonia and spends around 3 months wiring the island – they strung 20 pair telephone line from one end of the island to the other. |
| Late June, 1943 | Fred's first stay on Guadalcanal lasts approximately four months. |
| October, 1943 | Fred makes his first amphibian landing (in Higgins boats) on Bougainville. He fought for approximately three weeks. When the fighting was over, he had blood poisoning (poisoned bamboo pit) and was flown to Guadalcanal |
| Nov. – Dec., 1943 | Fred spends approximately two months in hospital recovering. |
| Spring(?) 1944 | Fred catches up with his brother, Sam, on Guadalcanal and serves under Sam briefly. |
| July, 1944 | Fred lands on Guam as part of the 3 rd Division and spends more than six months on Guam – stayed a while on Guam after the fighting because there were US civilians on the island to protest. |

Per this web site's history of the sixth division, the division was created in September 1944: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/6th Marine Division \(United States\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/6th_Marine_Division_(United_States)) "The sixth division trained on [Guadalcanal](#) before it was sailed 6,000 miles to land with the [III Amphibious Corps](#) on the island of [Okinawa](#) on 1 April 1945"

Dec. (?), 1944 Fred returns to Guadalcanal – at this point the Sixth division of the Marines was created and when it was created Fred was part of the Sixth JASU (Joint Assault Signal Corps)

Saipan & Tinian ----did Fred Land on these islands or was he just on standby???

Fred was on standby to make landings on several islands including Peleliu, and Tarawa.

Note: re: Peleliu -- Between September and November 1944, it was the site of an incredibly [fierce battle](#) between US and Japanese armed forces. Peleliu island is about 14 square miles of terrain; during the three months of fighting, the casualty rate worked out at just under 1,000 men killed per square mile of island. Close to 1,800 American servicemen died; of the 11,000 Japanese soldiers defending the island, only 202 were captured alive. Source: <http://thewiredjester.co.uk/2009/04/11/thousand-yard-stares-ruins-and-ghosts-of-the-battle-of-peleliu-1944-2008/>

April 1, 1945 Landing on Okinawa (Easter Sunday). Navy frogmen and the naval observers would go onto the island first for reconnaissance. Fred witnessed the Marines trying to land on the Cliffs. So many men were trapped that the water was full of bodies.

2 September 1945 Surrender of Japan occurred aboard the battleship USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay .