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Subject Files - ND016 (Wars - Conflicts)

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456595

**THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET**

ID# 456595
PAGE 1

DATE RECEIVED: 03/21/2001

ND016

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

SUBJECT: ENCLOSURE LETTER FROM JOHN BIGWOOD, NATIONAL VICE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, CONCERNING CARLSON'S MARINE RAIDERS OF WORLD WAR 2 (WWII).

		ACTION		DISPOSITION		
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C D	COMPLETED YY/MM/DD
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS	NICK CALIO	ORG	2001/03/21	nc	A	01/04/18
ACTION COMMENTS: ✓ DOD A 010425 01/04/18						
ACTION COMMENTS: DOS 010425 01/05/02						
ACTION COMMENTS: 						
ACTION COMMENTS: 						

COMMENTS

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: 0

MEDIA: LETTER

INDIVIDUAL CODES:

REPORT CODES:

USER CODE:

S

ACTION CODES:

A - APPROPRIATE ACTION
C - COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION
D - DRAFT RESPONSE
F - FURNISH FACT SHEET
I - INFO COPY/NO ACT NECESSARY
R - DIRECT REPLY W/ COPY
S - FOR SIGNATURE
X - INTERIM REPLY

DISPOSITION CODES:

A - ANSWERED
B - NON-SEPC-REFERRAL
C - COMPLETED
S - SUSPENDED

OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

TYPE RESP = INITIALS OF SIGNER
CODE = A
COMPLETED = DATE OF OUTGOING

**SCANNED
BY
ORM**

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT (ROOM 72, OEOB) EXT-62590

KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT.

April 18, 2001

Dear Representative Lipinski:

Thank you for your recent letter, forwarding a letter from John M. Bigwood regarding his search for the 12 U.S. Marine Raiders who went missing behind Japanese lines on August 17th, 1942.

Because the President receives an extraordinary number of requests to intervene in matters similar to Mr. Bigwood's, it is simply not possible for him to attend to each piece of correspondence personally. In particular, when the subject matter falls within the jurisdiction of a specific government agency, the correspondence is sent to the President's advisors at that agency for attention. Mr. Bigwood's case has been forwarded to the appropriate advisors for careful review.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Nicholas E. Calio
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs

The Honorable William O. Lipinski
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Bcc w/ copy for appropriate action: DOD
For Information: DOS



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
1000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

2 May 2001

MR JOHN M BIGWOOD
PO BOX 3070
MERRIFIELD VA 22116-3070

Dear Mr. Bigwood:

Thank you for your letter to President Bush concerning the nine members of the U.S. Marine Corps' 2nd Raider Battalion lost during military actions against Japanese forces at Makin Island on 17 August 1942. I am answering on behalf of the President.

The U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory Hawaii (CILHI) is responsible for resolving cases of American military personnel unaccounted for from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and other conflicts and contingencies. The CILHI is aggressively taking steps to locate the burial site of the nine Marine Raiders captured, and later executed, during the Makin Raid.

On 16 October 1942, according to records of the Naval War Crimes Commission, nine allied prisoners thought to be the missing Raiders were beheaded on Kwajalein Atoll as part of the Yasakuni Shrine Festival, a Japanese holiday honoring departed heroes. The location of the beheadings and the burial site of these Marines on Kwajalein are unknown. The CILHI has conceded that it is possible that the six-day allied bombardment that preceded American landings on Kwajalein in 1944, as well as air base construction on the island over the past 50 years, could have scattered the Raider's remains beyond recovery. However, with the recent discovery of the records of Vice Admiral Koso Abe, the Japanese officer executed for war crimes because of the beheadings, the CILHI is hopeful that a burial site may be identified soon and an excavation made possible in the near future.

CILHI will continue to search for the remainder of the Makin Raiders so that they may be brought home to be reunited with their comrades and families. The actions by the CILHI contributes to the ongoing effort by the Department of Defense to locate and identify more than 88,000 American servicemembers

W00556-01

who remain missing in action from World War II, the Cold War, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. If you have additional questions about the CILHI's efforts to locate and identify the nine missing Makin Raiders you may contact the CILHI at (808) 449-5260.

Again, thank you for writing to the President.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "C. Rouin", is positioned above the typed name.

CHRISTOPHER J. ROUIN
Director, White House Liaison Office
Office of the Secretary of the Navy

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

2001 APR 30 AM 8:59

OSD
WHITE HOUSE SECTION

April 25, 2001

APR 26 2001

TO: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

ACTION REQUESTED: APPROPRIATE ACTION

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 456595

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED MAR 07, 2001

TO: PRESIDENT BUSH

FROM: THE HONORABLE WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

SUBJECT: ENCLOSURES LETTER FROM JOHN BIGWOOD, NATIONAL VICE COMMANDANT OF THE
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, CONCERNING CARLSON'S MARINE RAIDERS OF WORLD
WAR 2 (WWII).

**PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING
DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE UNDERSIGNED AT 456-2590.**

**RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE (OR DRAFT) TO:
RECORDS MANAGEMENT, ROOM 72, THE WHITE HOUSE, 20500**

OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT - THE WHITE HOUSE

W00556 01

William O. Lipinski
3d District, Illinois

COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
RANKING DEMOCRATIC MEMBER,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION
SUBCOMMITTEE ON GROUND TRANSPORTATION
DEMOCRATIC STEERING COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

456595
OFFICES:
1501 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1303
(202) 225-5701
5832 SOUTH ARCHER AVENUE
CHICAGO, IL 60638
(312) 886-0481
5239 W. 95TH STREET
OAK LAWN, IL 60453
(708) 952-0860
19 W. HILLGROVE
LA GRANGE, IL 60525
(708) 352-0524

March 7, 2001

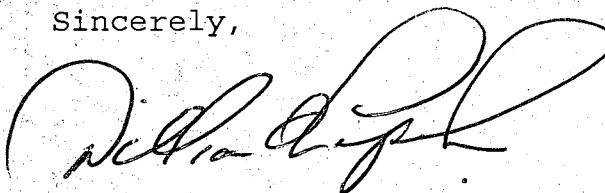
President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush:

For your review, please find enclosed a letter from John Bigwood, National Vice Commandant of the Marine Corps League, concerning Carlson's Marine Raiders of WW II.

Thank you for your time and attention given to this matter.

Sincerely,



WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI
Member of Congress

WOL/jt

Enclosures

P.O. Box 3070
Merrifield, VA 22116-3070



(703) 207-9588
(703) 207-9589
(800) MCL-1775
FAX: (703) 207-0047

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

National Headquarters

March 5, 2001

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

On 17 August 1942, 222 Officers and men of the Carlson's Marine Raiders, under the command of Lt. Col. Evans F. Carlson and his Executive Officer Maj. James Roosevelt, son of Franklin D. Roosevelt, executed a hit/run raid from 2 submarines, the Nautilus and the Argonaut.

After killing 83 known Japanese, the raiding party withdrew on 17-18 August, 1942, as planned, as the raid's objective was to divert Japanese ships, planes, men and material from the Guadalcanal life and death struggle which commenced on 7 August 1942.

18 Marine Raiders were killed in fire fights on 17 August 1942. 12 more Raiders were declared missing after having been strafed between the island and the submarines. They were drowned or somehow lost returning to the submarines.

It was subsequently learned from a Kwajalein native that 9 of the 12 missing Marine Raiders, who surrendered under the rules of the Geneva Convention, were beheaded on October 16, 1942 by order of Rear Admiral Abe, area Commander of Japanese forces.

Over these past 58 years, many efforts by the US Marine Raider Association have attempted to have the Japanese divulge the names and location of these beheaded heroes.

To date, absolutely nothing has been forthcoming from the Japanese Government.

The enclosed resolution that was passed at the 77th National Convention of the Marine Corps League on 17 August 2000 in New Orleans, Louisiana requested that the Congress of the United States of America secure the following information from the Japanese Government.

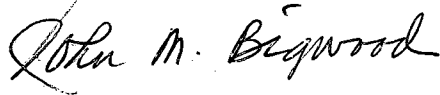
- The identification, by name, of the nine (9) U.S. Marine Raiders who were beheaded.

"Once a Marine, always a Marine"

Address for packages, express mail: 8626 Lee Highway, Suite 201, Fairfax, VA 22031

- The disposition and location of the burial site of those nine (9) U.S. Marine Raiders to repatriate those remains for interment at Arlington National Cemetery in August, 2001 with the remains of their fellow Raiders recovered from Makin Island.
- An apology, from the Japanese Government, for this inhumane atrocity to the next of kin, the United States, and the United States Marine Corps.
- The remains of these nine (9) U. S. Marine Raiders for honored burial by next of kin and/or the United States Government.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John M. Bigwood". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

John M. Bigwood
National Vice Commandant
Central Division
Marine Corps League

By direction of Diana Dils, National Commandant of the Marine Corps League.

Encl: 77th National Convention of the Marine Corps League Resolution

IN THE NATIONAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED
77TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, INC.,
17 AUGUST 2000
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

REMAINS OF NINE U.S. MARINE RAIDERS
FROM ASSAULT ON MAKIN ISLAND
ON AUGUST 17, 1942

WHEREAS; after the U.S. Marine Raider assault of Makin Island on August 17, 1942, as members of this unit were returning to two U. S. Navy submarines waiting for them off the coast for evacuation, seven (7) Marine Raiders lost their way between Makin Island and the submarine; five (5) other Marine Raiders were carried by the ocean current to a nearby island after their rubber boat sank from being strafed and bombed by Japanese aircraft. The seven (7) Marine Raiders who lost their way were listed as "Missing in Action;" the five (5) Marine raiders whose rubber boat sank were presumed dead, and

WHEREAS; of these twelve (12) U.S. Marine Raiders, nine (9) were subsequently captured by the Japanese and then beheaded on Kwajaleen during the Fall of 1942 by order of Japanese Admiral Abe, who was later court-martialed on Guam in 1950 and sentenced to be hanged for this inhumane atrocity, and

WHEREAS; the President of the United States said on 25 August 1992, "I will honor your service by carrying on your tireless struggle to account for every person who has served this country. . . . America must never leave its warriors on the battlefield." And then again on 14 September 1994 stated "We reaffirm our national commitment to securing the return of all Americans who may be held against their will and to repatriating all recoverable remains of those who died in service to our country."; therefore,

BE IT NOW, THEREFORE RESOLVED BY the Marine Corps League, Inc., at its 77th National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana in August 2000, that the Marine Corps League urge the Congress of the United States of America to secure from the Japanese government:

- The identification, by name, of the nine (9) U.S. Marine Raiders who were beheaded.
- The disposition and location of the burial site of those nine (9) U.S. Marine Raiders.

- An apology, from the Japanese government, for this inhumane atrocity to the next of kin, the United States, and the United States Marine Corps.
- The remains of these nine (9) U.S. Marine Raiders for honored burial by next of kin and/or the United States Government, and

BE IT NOW FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the Chairman of the Personnel Subcommittee, Senate Armed Services Committee, the Chairman of the Military Personnel Subcommittee, House Armed Services Committee, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/Missing Persons, Office of the Secretary of Defense.

END OF RESOLUTION