

The summary also appears in *Our Family In World War II* (WWIIFamily.docx).

Summary of Lloyd Joyce's World War II Story

Lloyd Joyce is the father of my son-in-law, Rex Joyce. Lloyd was born at home in 1921 on the family farm near Garden City, Kansas and as a young man remained at home working in the family farming operation.

Lloyd entered the army in September 1942 and trained for four months at Fort Reilly in Kansas, training as a mechanic rather than advanced infantry. In January Lloyd boarded a ship for a 22-day journey to New Caledonia in the South Pacific where he joined F Troop, 2nd Squadron of the 112th Cavalry Regiment as a replacement.

Lloyd served as a rifleman and flamethrower operator. Later he was transferred to G troop and still later to the assault platoon in the 2nd Squadron headquarters troop.

The 112th Cavalry Regiment fought in the New Guinea area at two locations:

- ▲ At Arawe on the south coast of New Britain in late 1943.
- ▲ At the Battle of the Driniumor River on the north central coast of New Guinea in the middle of 1944.

Subsequently the 112th fought in the Philippines Campaign:

- ▲ On the island of Leyte in late 1944.
- ▲ In Luzon in early 1945.

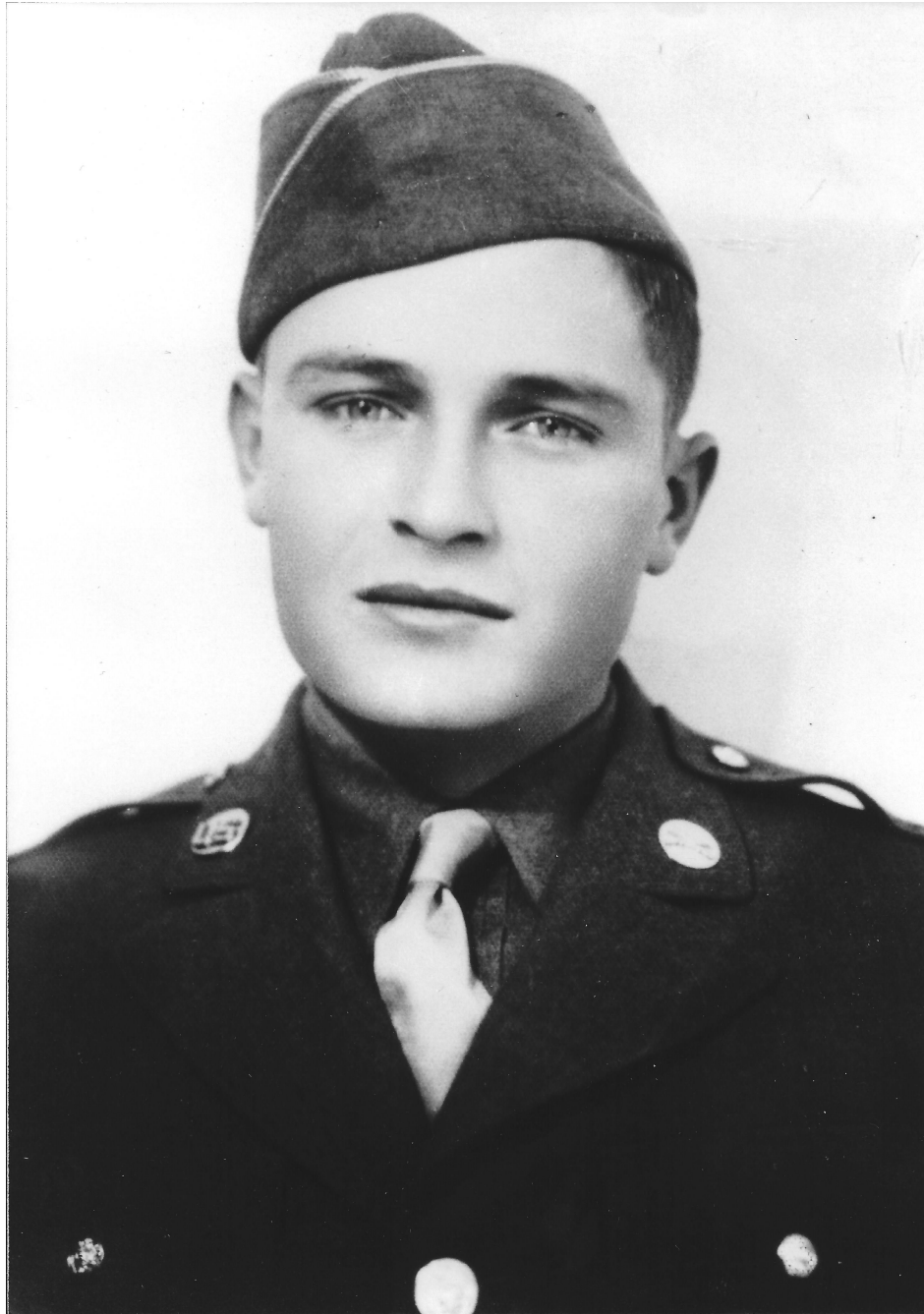
However, Lloyd was in hospital in the Admiralty Islands recovering from wounds received on Leyte during part of the Philippines Campaign.

The 112th lost 224 men during World War II. Total casualties were much higher.

After World War II Lloyd returned to Garden City and resumed farming. He married Pauline Greathouse in 1947 and had four children.

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Lloyd Joyce enlisted in the United States Army at Pueblo, Colorado on September 11, 1942. At the time he weighed in at 154 pounds on 5 foot 10 inch frame. Here is a photo of Lloyd taken at the time:



After induction, Lloyd Joyce was sent to Fort Riley, Kansas for four months of training. Lloyd told me that he was trained as a mechanic and did not receive advanced infantry training.

One of Lloyd's favorite memories from his months at Fort Riley was eating two quarts of ice cream while on KP (kitchen police) duty on Christmas Eve.

After his training Lloyd was sent to the embarkation center on Angel Island in San Francisco Bay. On January 24, 1943 Lloyd left the mainland on a Danish ship, which I believe was the *Perida*, previously known as the *Marchen Maersk*, bound for the South Pacific. After a journey of 22 days, including a brief stop in Fiji, Lloyd arrived in New Caledonia in the South Pacific on February 14, 1943. In New Caledonia Lloyd was assigned as a replacement in F Troop, 2nd Squadron, of the 112th Cavalry Regiment.

The 112th Cavalry Regiment before the South Pacific

The 112th Cavalry Regiment was a unit of the Texas National Guard, and had been called to active duty in February 1941 along with all Guard units in the United States.

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and other American and British installations on December 7, 1941, the 112th was stationed in Fort Clark, Brackettville, Texas, east of Del Rio.

On July 21, 1942 the 1500 men in the 112th left San Francisco Bay on the SS *President Grant*, a liner owned by the American President Lines. On August 11th the *President Grant* arrived at Noumea, New Caledonia in the South Pacific.

Incidentally, the *President Grant* remained permanently in the South Pacific after World War II ended, having run aground and then abandoned on a reef near Milne Bay, New Guinea on February 26, 1944.

Unlike infantry regiments, which consisted of three battalions, cavalry regiments in World War II consisted of two squadrons. Also the cavalry equivalent of a company was a troop.

Early Phases of World War II in the South Pacific (updated Mar '14)

In early 1942 Japanese forces overran much of the Southwest Pacific and Southeast Asia, giving the Japanese Empire access to the resources of this vast area and threatening to isolate Australia and New Zealand. The Japanese set up their major South Pacific base on the eastern tip of New Britain at Rabaul, the capital of Northeast New Guinea, shown in the middle of the later *Operation Cartwheel* map.

Fearing that Japanese forces would continue their southward advance, American military planners gave priority to building a military presence on New Caledonia, a French colony which had broken away from German-dominated Vichy France and allied itself with Charles de Gaulle's Free French movement. On the following map:

- New Caledonia is the island above the letters "TR" in the TROPIC OF CAPRICORN.
- New Guinea is the very large island above Australia. Note that western New Guinea is part of Indonesia, which in World War II was the Netherlands East Indies.
- New Britain is the largest island between New Guinea and the "O" in OCEANIA.

In a priority operation early in 1942, three National Guard regiments were sent to New Caledonia, arriving early in March 1942. These regiments formed the core of the Americal Division. The Americal Division first saw combat in the fall of 1942 when it moved to Guadalcanal to augment the 1st Marine Division.



Southwest Pacific map courtesy of WorldAtlas.com

Three events stopped the Japanese advance in the South Pacific:

- **May 1942:** The Battle of the Coral Sea when a Japanese naval force planning to invade Port Moresby in southeastern New Guinea was turned back.
- **Jul-Sep 1942:** The successful Australian defense, both of Port Moresby from an overland invasion from Buna, and of Milne Bay on the eastern tip of New Guinea from an amphibious attack. Thus the Allies were able to retain footholds on New Guinea.
- **Aug '42-Jan '43:** Recapture of Guadalcanal and the associated naval battles nearby in the Solomon Islands. During these naval battles, often fought at night in confusing circumstances against a better-trained enemy, the Allies lost forty ships and the Japanese fifty.

In addition, in June 1942 in the Central Pacific Japan's offensive capability was blunted when it lost four aircraft carriers at the Battle of Midway.

The 112th Cavalry Regiment in the South Pacific Before Combat

- ☆ 11 Aug 1942: The 112th Cavalry Regiment arrives at Noumea, New Caledonia to supplement the Americal Division.
- ☆ 14 Feb 1943: Lloyd Joyce arrives in New Caledonia as a replacement with F Troop in the Second Squadron.
- ☆ May 1943: The 112th gives up its horses. The horses, of Australian origin, are sent to Burma, where some of them end up serving in north Burma with Merrill's Marauders. (I understand that some of them were also served to Merrill's Marauders, who were often on short rations.)
- ☆ 17 May 1943: The 112th arrives in Townsville in northeastern Australia and is assigned to Walter Krueger's 6th Army. It has now left the South Pacific Theatre, headquartered on New Caledonia but directed from Pearl Harbor by Admiral Chester Nimitz, for General Douglas MacArthur's Southwest Pacific Theatre, headquartered in Australia.
- ☆ 21 Jun 1943: The 112th arrives in Milne Bay on the eastern tip of New Guinea.
- ☆ 30 Jun 1943: In a preliminary Operation Cartwheel action, the 112th provides the infantry forces for the invasion of Woodlark Island east of eastern New Guinea. The invasion is unopposed.
- ☆ About 1 Dec 1943: The 112th is transferred to Goodenough Island for training.

You can find Woodlark and Goodenough Islands on the map on the following page near the bottom center. Also shown are Arawe, on the south coast of New Britain, where the 112th first experienced combat, and Wewak on the north coast of New Guinea, headquarters of the 18th Japanese Army, which the 112th confronted in mid 1944.

Operation Cartwheel, the Isolation of Rabaul

By the end of January 1943 the Allies had recaptured the Buna area on the north shore of eastern New Guinea at the cost of 3,000 allied dead, while Japanese forces had withdrawn from Guadalcanal to the east. Thus, the stage was set for Operation Cartwheel.

Operation Cartwheel, the encircling of the Japanese base at Rabaul, began in the middle of 1943 and lasted into the first several months of 1944. It consisted of three parts:

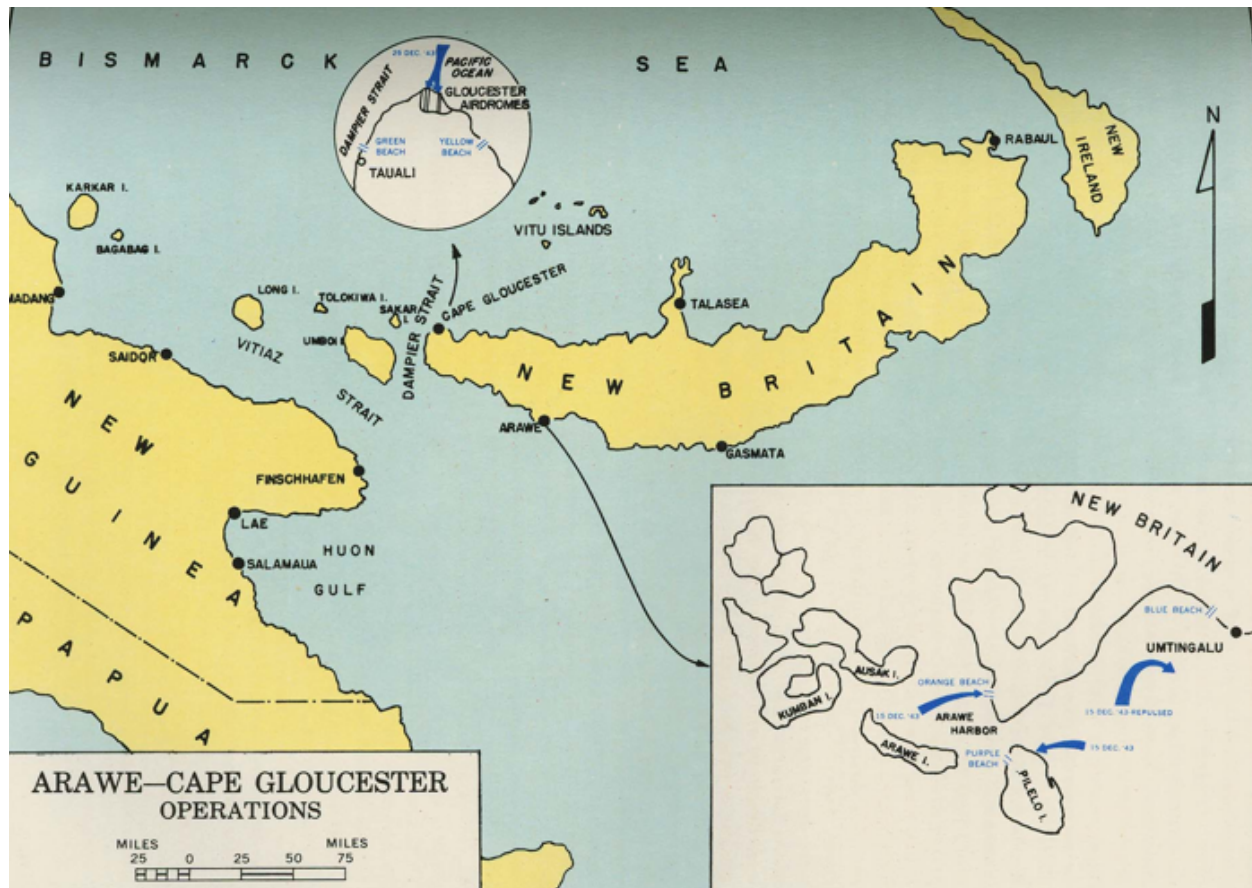
- ◆ In the South Pacific Theatre, directed from Admiral Nimitz's headquarters in Pearl Harbor, Marine and Army forces moved northwest through the Solomon Islands, finally landing on the island of Bougainville in November 1943.

It was during the Solomon Islands portion of Operation Cartwheel that future president John F. Kennedy lost his boat, PT-109, to a Japanese destroyer in August 1943.

- ◆ Nearly a thousand miles to the west, in MacArthur's Southwest Pacific Theatre, forces moved northwest along the northern coast of eastern New Guinea, finally capturing Madang in April 1944.
- ◆ Starting late in 1943, forces from both theatres of operations invaded western New Britain and the Admiralty Islands, completing the encirclement of Rabaul.



The Operation Cartwheel Area



Arawe - Cape Gloucester Operations (Courtesy of lib.utexas.edu)

The 112th Cavalry Regiment at Arawe, New Britain

The 112th was the first unit to participate in the final phase of Operation Cartwheel when it landed at Arawe on the south coast of New Britain.

- ☆ 15 Dec 1943: The 112th, which had been training on Goodenough Island, is the first unit ashore at Arawe on the south coast of western New Britain Island. This landing was intended as a diversion to the First Marine Division's subsequent December 26 landing at Cape Gloucester to the west.

One of the three landings shown on the above inset fails, with A Troop of the 1st Squadron suffering major losses.

The U.S.S. Shaw a destroyer damaged during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor two years earlier helped save A Troop's survivors. An iconic photo from the December 7 Pearl Harbor attack shows the forward magazine of the Shaw exploding. As of 2014 this photo is available at en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:USS_SHAW_exploding_Pearl_Harbor_Nara_80-G-16871_2.jpg

- ☆ 17 Jan 1944: Combat operations end at Arawe. American deaths for the Battle of Arawe total 118.

The Western New Guinea Campaign

The Allies began offensive action in New Guinea in November 1942. By April 1944, nearly a year and a half later, only the eastern quarter of New Guinea was in Allied hands.

Then in a series of amphibious operations from April to July of 1944 the Allies leapfrogged to the western end of New Guinea, bypassing Japanese troop concentrations. (I have not yet found a good map showing the overall operations.)

The 112th Cavalry Regiment at the Driniumor River

The 112th Cavalry Regiment suffered greatly at the Battle of the Driniumor River because of these Japanese forces left to wither on the vine.

The Battle of the Driniumor River:

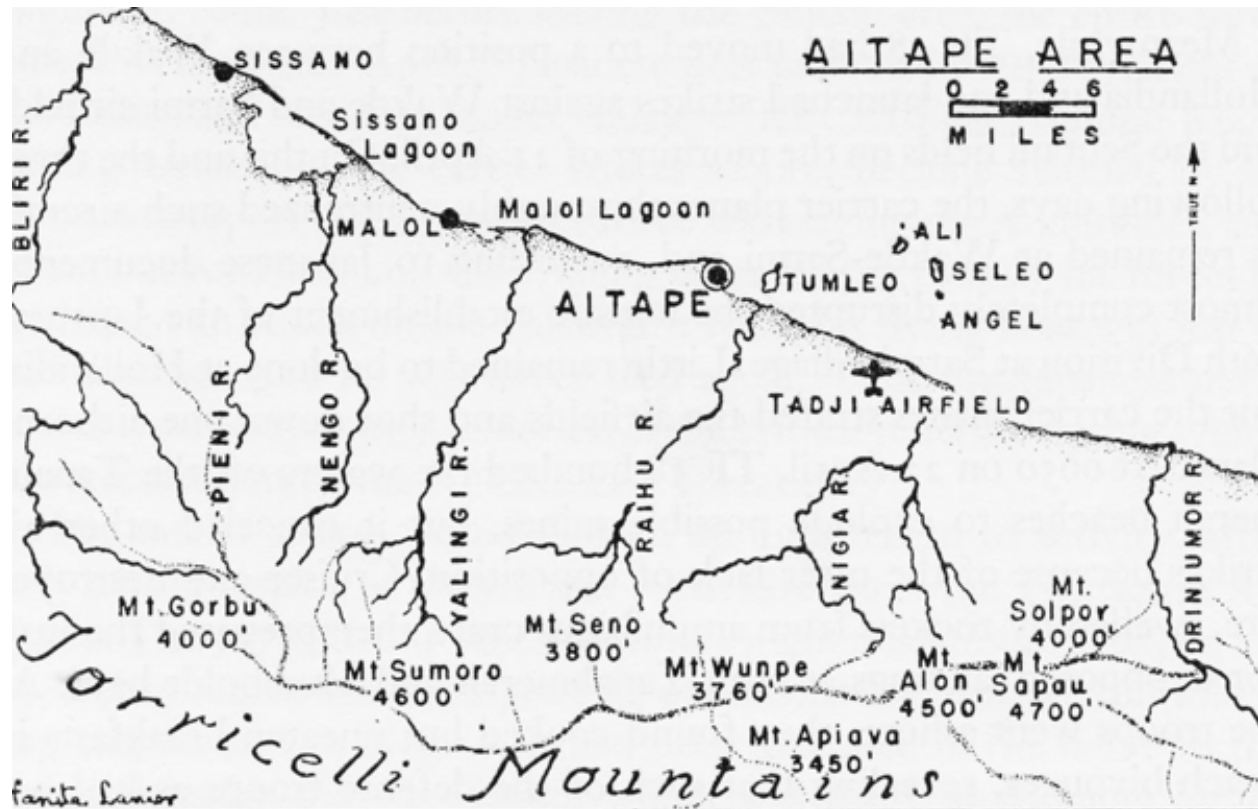
- ☆ 22 Apr 1944: The 6th Army occupies Hollandia and Aitape on the north central coast of New Guinea, isolating the 18th Japanese Army in the Wewak area to the east.

Wewak is shown on the earlier Operation Cartwheel Area map.

Hollandia, now known as Jayapura, was about 250 miles west of Wewak and was the capital of Netherlands New Guinea. Hollandia became a major supply base for the Philippines invasion later in 1944.

Aitape, shown on the following map, was midway between Hollandia and Wewak. Hollandia was overly distant from the Allied airfields to the east and MacArthur's 7th fleet did not yet have an adequate supply of aircraft carriers. Thus the allies needed the airfield near Aitape.

- ☆ 9 Jun 1944: The 112th Cavalry Regiment arrives in Finschhafen, New Guinea from Arawe, New Britain for rest and refitting.
- ☆ 28 Jun 1944: Intelligence indicates that the Japanese 18th Army is planning to break out to the west.
The 112th is sent to Aitape and is assigned to the left flank of the 32nd Infantry Division along the Driniumor River east of Aitape.
- ☆ 10 Jul - 25 Aug 1944: The Battle of the Driniumor River. Elements of the Japanese 18th Army attempt to break through the American line, resulting in a vicious and protracted battle fought in miserable conditions. Eventually the Japanese survivors withdraw.
During the battle of the Driniumor River, the 112th suffers around 30% battle casualties and, because of exposure and tropical diseases, around 60% overall casualties. Total American deaths are 440, with 2,560 wounded.
While in the Aitape area, Lloyd contracted malaria. His malaria recurred late in 1945, and again in 1952.
- ☆ August 1944: Lloyd Joyce is transferred from F Troop to G Troop, still in the Second Squadron.
- ☆ November 1944: The 6th Australian Division is brought in to further weaken the Japanese 18th Army. The remaining 13,000 Japanese in the 18th Army, which once numbered 140,000 surrendered after World War II ended.



World War II Aitape Area Map
 (courtesy of ibiblio.org)

The Philippines Campaign – Overview (23 Dec '13)

The Philippine Islands in the Southwest Pacific became a United States possession after the Spanish American War in 1898. In the five months after the United States entered World War II in December 1941, Japanese forces overran the Philippines in a military disaster without parallel in American history.

The Japanese advance in the Central Pacific ended with the Battle of Midway in June 1942. The U.S. offensive campaign in the Central Pacific began with the invasion of Tarawa in November 1943 and culminated in the capture of the Mariana Islands, nearly 2,000 miles to the northwest, in June-August 1944. Three Mariana Islands, Saipan, Guam and Tinian, provided bases for the subsequent long-range bombing of Japan using B-29 bombers.

Severing of the supply lines linking the resource-poor Japanese home islands with the resource-rich Southeastern Asia area was vital to the ultimate defeat of Japan. To achieve this goal military strategists contemplated invading Formosa (now known as Taiwan), Okinawa, or the Philippine Islands. MacArthur, having been the military commander in the Philippines before their loss 2 ½ years earlier, argued for the Philippines invasion and his view carried the day.

The Philippine Campaign began with a landing by MacArthur's 6th Army on the island of Leyte on October 20, 1944. The 7th Fleet supported the Leyte landing. See the map on the next page.

The Leyte landing was followed by the Battle of Leyte Gulf, the last major naval battle of World War II, and perhaps of history, on October 23-26. This battle was actually a collection of four battles and a fifth smaller action, mostly fought outside of Leyte Gulf. Overall the Battle of Leyte Gulf was arguably the largest naval battle in history and was an overwhelming victory for the United States. However, disaster was narrowly averted when, during the Battle Off Samar on October 25, the Japanese Central Force nearly broke through Task Force 77, the 7th Fleet's contingent of escort carriers and destroyers.

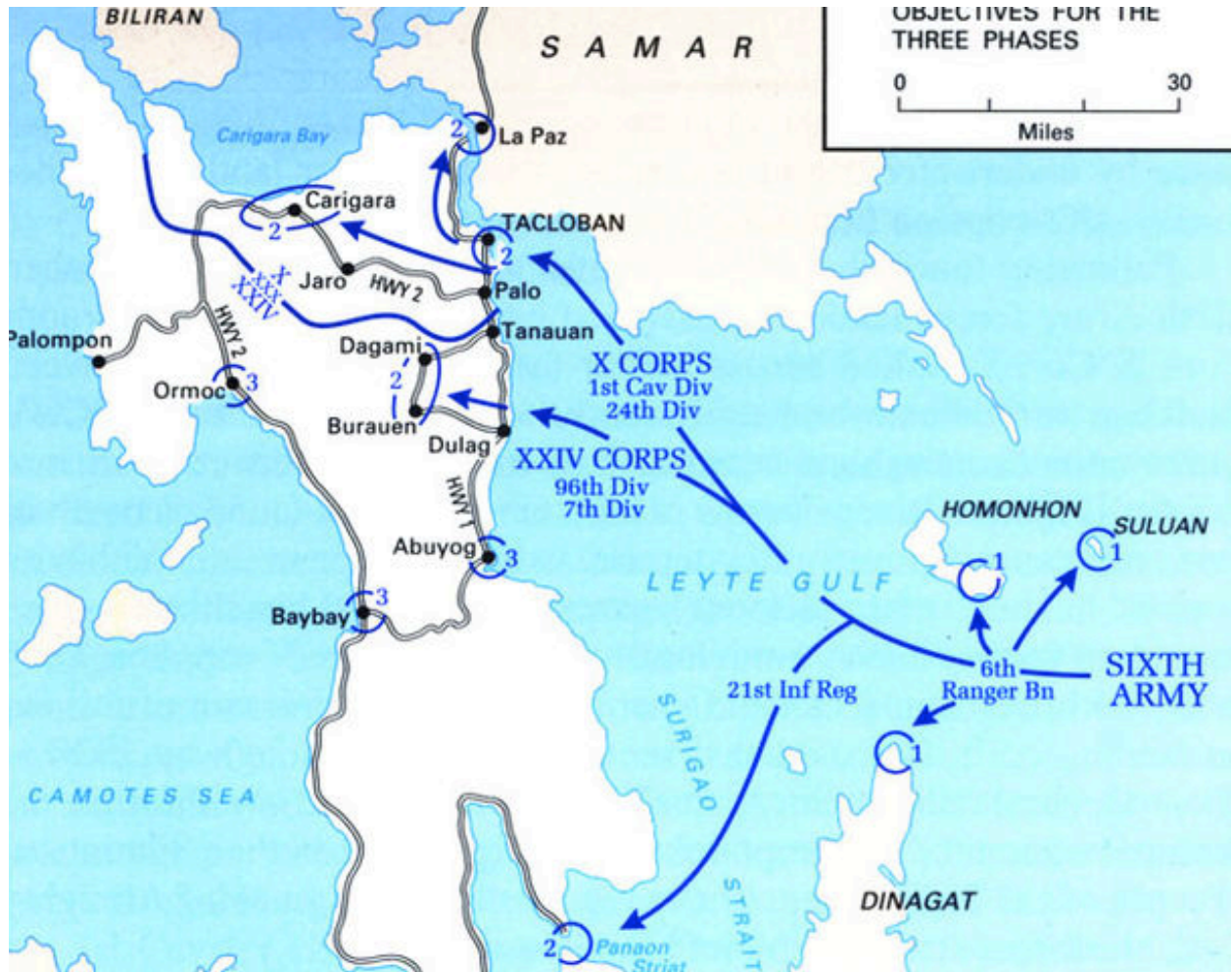
Much of Leyte was mountainous, with a poorly developed road system. The 6th Army's grand strategy was to bypass the central mountains using X Corps on the north and XXIV Corps on the south, with the two corps meeting near Ormoc. However, the fighting on Leyte took longer than expected, partly because of the difficult terrain and partly because the Japanese managed to shift additional troops to the island. In the end all of the 6th Army's reserves were committed to Leyte.

Two months after the Leyte invasion, Leyte was secured. Subsequently the 6th Army landed at Lingayen Gulf on the main Philippine island of Luzon on January 9, 1945. Nearly two months of hard fighting following, especially in the city of Manila, where 100,000 civilians died.

After the Philippines Campaign two other major campaigns, Iwo Jima and Okinawa, remained before two atomic bombs were dropped on the Japanese home islands, Russia entered the war with Japan, and World War II ended.

The 112th Cavalry Regiment and the Philippines Campaign - Leyte

- ☆ 20 Oct 1944: The liberation of the Philippines begins with the 6th Army's invasion of Leyte.



The Invasion of Leyte in the Philippine Islands, 20 Oct 1944
(courtesy of Wikipedia.org)

- ☆ 23-26 Oct 1944: The Battle of Leyte Gulf, actually five separate engagements, takes place.
- ☆ 31 Oct 1944: The bulk of the 112th Cavalry Regiment, 942 men, leave Aitape on an army transport for Leyte, Philippines.
Just before leaving Aitape, Lloyd Joyce had come down with malaria. He was afraid that if he reported sick, he would be left behind when the 112th left for the Philippines. Thus he waited to seek treatment until he was on ship.
- ☆ 14 Nov 1944: The 112th arrives in Leyte Gulf and is attached to the 1st Cavalry Division in northern Leyte.

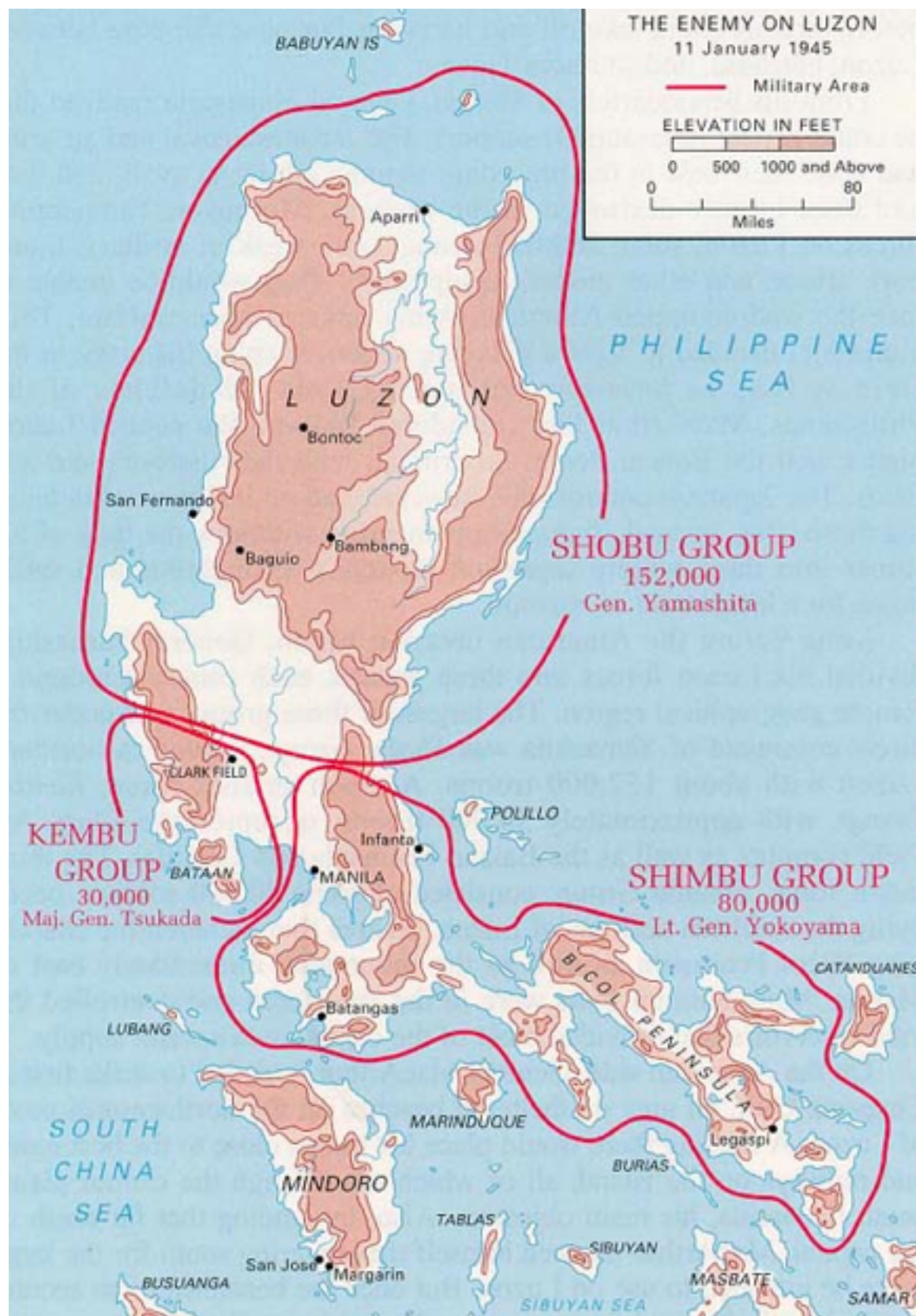


**Northern Leyte - Limon area near Carigara Bay
(Tacloban on right, Ormoc on bottom)
(courtesy of Google.com)**

- ☆ 30 Nov 1944: A fortified ridge about three miles southeast of Limon stops the 112th. Shrapnel from a Japanese shell wounds Lloyd Joyce near the right shoulder blade.
- ☆ ? Dec 1944: Lloyd Joyce is transferred to the Hospital Ship U.S.S. Hope.
Digression – On December 3, while the U.S.S. Hope was en route to Leyte to evacuate Lloyd Joyce and many others, a Japanese plane attempted to torpedo the Hope.
- ☆ 11 Dec 1944: Hope arrives Seeadler Bay, Manus Island, Admiralty Islands, about 400 miles north of New Guinea. Lloyd is transferred to 59th Station Hospital on nearby Los Negros Island.
- ☆ 25 Dec 1944: Leyte declared secure. About 3,500 Americans and 49,000 Japanese died during combat on the island.

The 112th and the Philippines Campaign – Central Luzon
(See the Luzon map on the following page, which is courtesy of
history.army.mil/brochures/luzon/map1.JPG.)

- ☆ 29 Dec 1944: Norman Mailer joins Headquarters Company of the 112th Cavalry Regiment on Leyte. Later on Luzon Mailer transfers to the reconnaissance platoon.
- ☆ 9 Jan 1945: 6th Army invades Luzon, the major Philippine Island, at Lingayen Gulf about 120 miles north of Manila and begins the drive south towards Manila.
- ☆ 27 Jan 1945: 112th goes ashore from U.S.S. Monrovia at Lingayen Gulf.
- ☆ Jan-Mar 1945: 112th is spread out protecting left flank of the 6th Army on the central plain between Lingayen Gulf and Manila.
- ☆ about Feb 1945: Lloyd Joyce returns to the 112th from Admiralty Islands Hospital via Leyte. He and a fellow 112th member catch a ride on an LST (Landing Ship Tank) to Leyte, where they discover their regiment is now on Luzon. Then they take a second LST to Lingayen Gulf on Leyte. The second LST is overcrowded, and Lloyd and his friend have to sleep on the open deck with only a poncho and a raincoat between them.
- ☆ 3 Feb - 3 Mar 1945: Battle of Manila. 100,000 civilians die.
- ☆ Mar 1945: Major combat ends on Luzon. Scattered pockets of Japanese troops remain until the end of the war. Allied military losses were 8,300, Japanese 205,000.
- ☆ 19 Feb – 26 Mar 1945: Battle of Iwo Jima in the Western Pacific southeast of Japan.
- ☆ 1 Apr – 22 Jun 1945: Battle of Okinawa in the Western Pacific south of Japan.
- ☆ 6 and 9 Aug 1945: Atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- ☆ 9 Aug 1945: Russia enters World War II in Asia by invading Manchuria.
- ☆ 15 Aug 1945: The Japanese government surrenders.
- ☆ August 1945: Lloyd Joyce is transferred to the 2nd Squadron's Assault Platoon.
- ☆ 31 Aug 1945: Lloyd Joyce leaves the western Pacific to return to the United States. He travels on the SS Monterey, a luxury Matson liner built in 1931 and converted to a troop ship. (Don't confuse this ship with the USS Monterey, an Independence class aircraft carrier on which future president Gerald Ford served, or with a later liner also named the Monterey.) The Monterey stops off Honolulu to take on supplies, and eventually arrives in San Francisco Bay.
- ☆ 2 Sep 1945: Surrender ceremony on Battleship Missouri in Tokyo Bay is witnessed from a nearby ship by 112th troops.
- ☆ 3 Sep 1945: 112th lands in Japan to begin occupation duty.
- ☆ Sep 1945: After arriving in San Francisco Bay, Lloyd Joyce stays briefly, perhaps at Camp Stoneman in the Sacramento River estuary, before going by train in Denver. Because of the large number of returnees from the European Theatre, Lloyd has to wait in Denver for a week to be discharged.
- ☆ 1 Oct 1945: Lloyd Joyce is discharged in Denver, Colorado and returns to Garden City, Kansas.



Sources

- Manuscript - Lloyd Joyce's World War II story, written by Lloyd and his wife, Pauline (Greathouse) Joyce. I made some notes when I read this history ten years ago. However, I don't have a copy so don't know what additional information this history might contain.
- The web page texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org/112th.htm contains a World War II chronology for the 112th Cavalry Regiment.
- The article **In the Finest Traditions of the U.S. Cavalry** by Robert M. Mages, U. S. Army Military History Institute, on-line at army.mil/article/43452/, relates the role of the 112th at the Battle of the Driniumor.

The following two books deal specifically with the 112th Cavalry Regiment in World War II.

- *Jungle Combat with the 112th Cavalry: Three Texans in the Pacific in World War II* by Robert Peyton Wiggins
- *Learning Under Fire: The 112th Cavalry Regiment in World War II* by James S. Powell, 2011 (repository.tamu.edu)
- U.S. Army In World War II, The War in the Pacific, eleven volumes is a thorough and detailed source of World War II in the Pacific. The following four volumes, which cover the combat experience of the 112th and much more, are on-line at ibiblio.org/hyperwar/USA/:

For Arawe, see *Cartwheel: The Reduction of Rabaul*, p. 282.

For the Battle of the Driniumor, see *The Approach to the Philippines*, pp. 103-205.

For the Battle of Leyte, see *Leyte: The Return to the Philippines*.

For the Battle of Luzon, see *Triumph in the Philippines*.

- *TIMELINE USS "Hope" AH-7* by Colonel Thomas B. PROTZMAN, 215th Medical Hospital Ship Complement, on-line at med-dept.com/testimonies/protzman/protzman_journal_part_2.php. This illustrated diary begins with the journey Lloyd Joyce took from Leyte Harbor to the hospital in the Admiralty Islands.
- *Norman Mailer: A Double Life* by J. Michael Lennon. This describes some of the activities of the 112th Cavalry during the period when Lloyd Joyce was still in hospital.

Two books, each with a subsequent film, came from 112th Cavalry Regiment veterans:

- Norman Mailer's *The Naked and the Dead* (1948), filmed 1958.
- Francis Gwaltney's *The Day the Century Ended* (1955), filmed 1956 as *Between Heaven and Hell*.

I found the photo in my appendix of *the SS Marchen Maersk / Perida* in WikiTree.com.

Please send suggestions and corrections to rachristia@aol.com,
480.861.8404.

Appendix to Lloyd Joyce in World War II – The *Marchen Maersk* (by Robert A. Christiansen, last revised 13 Mar 2014)

Lloyd Joyce took the *SS Perida*, originally named the *Marchen Maersk*, from San Francisco Bay to Noumea, New Caledonia early in 1943. (See the following photo.)

The *Marchen Maersk* was built in Germany in 1937 for the Maersk Company of Copenhagen, Denmark, now the world's largest shipping company. (The 2009 *Maersk Alabama* hijacking was the subject of the 2013 film *Captain Phillips*.)

On April 8, 1940, as the German invasion of Denmark loomed, A. P. Møller, the Maersk Company president, notified the 38 Maersk ships at sea to take orders from the Maersk New York office and ignore orders from Denmark in event of invasion. Germany occupied Denmark the next day. Consequently these Maersk ships served with the Allies during World War II, and over half were lost. The *Marchen Maersk* was renamed the *Perida* and served primarily in the Pacific.

Today a much larger *Marchen Maersk* is at sea. As I write, the current *Marchen Maersk* is off the east coast of China.

