

## World War II - 1945 Pacific Push

As the war claimed more troops, the system of draft exemptions, discharge point qualification, and similar rules changed to create more draftees and hold men in service. Even vets were subject to the draft.

Private First Class **Joseph George Kolinsky** was born Mar 17, 1905, in Bayshore, Long Island, NY, but he didn't stay there. Oct 1924, he made a big change in his life - he joined the United States Marine Corps.

The Marines gave Kolinsky a good job through the depression, mostly driving trucks. The job took him around the world. He started in Norfolk, VA, coming back with assignments at Hampton Roads, Quantico, and Norfolk. He was stationed at Philadelphia, Parris Island (SC), San Diego, and Annapolis. He was attached to the USS *Arizona*, when it was stationed at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. He saw history happen: in Nicaragua and the Panama Canal Zone, and 1931 in Shanghai, China, when Japanese troops invaded Manchuria. He was stationed at the Marine Barracks, Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii, Oct 1931-Aug 1934. The place appealed to him and he was back in Dec. 1934.

Along the way he got married. Maybe that had something to do with his 1935 decision to leave the Marines, at his "own convenience." He chose discharge in Hawaii. Kolinsky joined 616 in 1932 and kept up his Elks dues until Uncle Sam reached out Feb 1942 and drafted him into the US Army. Ouch! That must have been hard on a seasoned Marine.

Mar 25, 1945, when 616 dropped Kolinsky from the membership rolls, the Lodge had not heard from him since Jan 1943. Barely a month later, Apr 20, 1945, Elk Kolinsky was killed in action on Okinawa serving with the 106th Infantry Regiment, 27th Infantry Division. The Battle of Okinawa, Apr 1-Jun 22, 1945, was the largest amphibious assault in the Pacific war. Seasoned Marine and now Army Private First Class Joseph George Kolinsky was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. Months later 616 received word of his death and his name was added to the Plaque in the Lodge Room. Somehow his name was never brought forward for a Lodge of Sorrow.

Elk Joseph George Kolinsky got his wish to stay in Hawaii. He's in Grave P631 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. Truck drivers and Marines are welcome to stop by and talk over the business. Oh, and somebody ask him why in all those years of service he never ranked above Private! Must be a REALLY good story.....

Anita Manning, 616 Lodge Historian

### References:

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