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Montford Point
Marine Association, Inc.

Seizing the Mariana Islands Saipan, Tinian, and Guam



Sergeant Ezra Kelly

A Montford Point Marine



Press



Release

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Mop-up on Guam

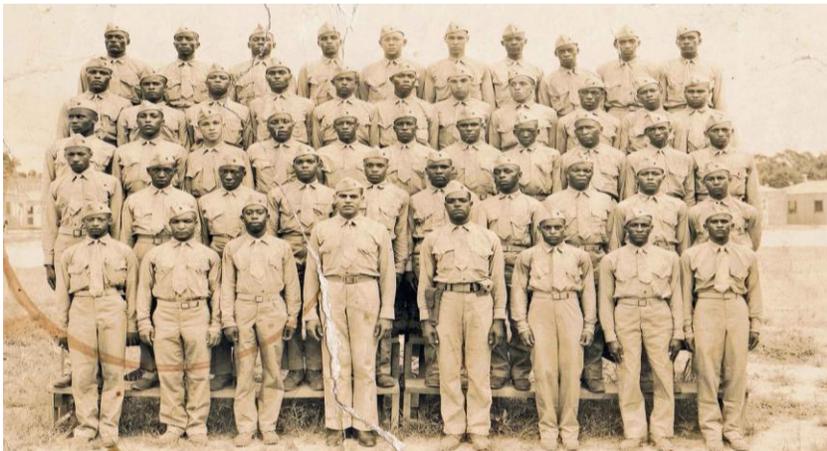
On 1 April, Sergeant Ezra Kelly killed one of two Japanese discovered within a thousand yards of the camp. Subsequent probes of the jungle during April killed two more Japanese and wounded one of the Marines, Private First Class Ernest J. Calland.

During the summer of 1945, the 52d Defense Battalion — the rest of the unit had reached Guam early in May — prepared to deploy to Okinawa, where aircraft based in Japan still posed a threat. Loading had already begun when, on 9 July, orders were changed; the unit would remain on Guam.



Sgt Ezra Kelly shown here his Official Elks attire

According to Private First Class John Griffin, "morale dropped 99 percent, for the next week or ten days the men stayed around their tents writing letters and what not. Instead of being a Defense Unit, we turned out to be nothing more than a working battalion." The procession of trucks roaring into the area to take working parties to the harbor startled, "Hashmark" Johnson, taking over as sergeant major of what he thought was a combat unit. He persuaded Lieutenant Colonel Moore to resume aggressive patrolling, as much to restore unit morale as to eliminate the die-hard Japanese. During this activity, Ezra Kelly added to his toll, killing a total of six Japanese on Guam; he received promotion to platoon sergeant, and earned high marks from Johnson, who described him as "really gun ho. Absolutely fearless." Like Kelly, Johnson led patrols into the boondocks and set up successful ambushes.



In this Boot Camp photograph (Left) provided by Ezra Kelly's daughter Ms. Cynthia Kelly Strong (SSgt USMC Ret), he (Ezra Kelly) is in the top row, the third man from the left.

More can be researched at: The NPS.GOV ([The Right To Fight](#)) By Bernard C. Nalty.